



Western Washington University Associated Students
AS Executive Board
March 5th, 2021
MS Teams

Board Members: Present: Abdul Malik Ford (President), Keenan Kaemingk (VP for Activities), Zarea Lavalais (VP for Sustainability), Nicole Ballard (VP for Governmental Affairs), Carson Brock (VP for Student Services), Ranulfo Molina (VP for Diversity), and Sargun Handa (Senate Pro-Tempore).

Absent: None

Advisor: Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator), Eric Alexander (Director of the Viking Union)

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): Kurt Willis, Mario Alem

Motions:

ASB-21-W-14 To approve the AS Executive Board meeting minutes from the date of January 29th, 2021.

ASB-21-W-15 To approve the AS Executive Board meeting minutes from the date of February 5th, 2021.

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

1. January 22nd, 2021
2. January 29th, 2021
3. February 5th, 2021

MOTION ASB-21-W-14 by Brock

To approve the AS Executive Board meeting minutes from the date of January 29th, 2021.

Second: Ford

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

MOTION ASB-21-W-15 by Handa

To approve the AS Executive Board meeting minutes from the date of February 5th, 2021.

Second: Brock

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

II. Revisions to the Agenda

1. Handa requested moving the items AS Senate Pro-Tempore Job Description and STF Committee Charge & Charter from Action Items with Board to Information Items with Board.
2. Ford requested moving the Student Trustee Selection Committee Charge & Charter from Information Items with Guests to Information Items with Board.

III. BSO Demands

1. Ford stated the need to update AS Executive Board BSO updates for the website.
2. Ballard stated that SB 5227 went through committee on Wednesday and is now in the house.
3. Alexander stated that there was an email announcement released by President Randhawa concerning a Senior-level Diversity Officer, and that the space allocation for the Black Student Center is in progress.
4. Handa stated that she talked to Brent Carbajal concerning the timeline for the Ethnic Studies Program and the Africa-American Cultural Studies major who stated that there may be funding given through the legislature by the end of April, and in the Spring Quarter there will be an open meeting with students and faculty about the plan for the Ethnic Studies Program.

IV. Public Forum (*comments from students and the community*)

None

V. Action Items - Guests

A. None

VI. Information Items - Guests

A. Housing Budget Proposal- Brock

1. Willis stated that the WWU Housing and Dining System is a self-sustaining enterprise, meaning there are no state appropriated or tax dollars that go towards the system. Willis stated that there are three components to the system: university residence, dining, and the Viking Union facilities and operations. Willis then presented the WWU Housing and Dining Budget Proposal which can be viewed in full on the AS Executive Board website under meeting minute documents. Willis stated that WWU is moving to a three-tier pricing model, 60% of which would be the basic tier, 20% at the middle tier, and 16-17% at the top tier. Willis stated that there is about a 10% price difference between the basic and the top tier choices, and that there would be no price increase for triple rooms. Willis stated that the proposed base rate increase for all residential hall rooms (except triple rooms) is an aggregate of 4.5%. The full Housing Budget Proposal can be viewed on the AS Executive Board website under meeting minute documents.

2. Handa asked how this plan will work with social distancing, and how WWU will keep students safe with the increased level of occupancy, and how often students will be tested for COVID-19.
3. Willis responded that they are following the safety guidelines from the state, but this would change if the health guidelines changed. Willis stated that there are daily check-in screenings, as well as a badge system (with green, yellow and red levels).
4. Ballard stated that she is concerned with the level of inequities in the proposal, especially revolving around the affinity spaces. The black affinity space, for example, is in the middle-tier price range. Ballard stated that she believes that this would create an inequitable hierarchy on campus and asked if there is a plan what this housing system would look like in the future in regard to tier ratios. Ballard stated that she is concerned about students who are being pushed off of campus due to the price and those who are now also affected economically by the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Willis stated that in the past, students in base tier rooms are subsidizing those who are living in rooms with a perceived higher value. Willis stated that the challenge is making sure all students are provided with good housing, so it does not become an equity issue. Willis stated that he could not speak on the model into the future without knowing future renovations or possible future tier.
6. Ford asked how much the housing prices have increased since 2016, and stated curiosity about the safety of increased capacity.

B. Elections Advisory Committee Charge & Charter- Ballard

1. Alem stated that this committee is tasked with making necessary changes to the AS Elections Code. The full document can be viewed on the AS Executive Board website under meeting minute documents.
2. Handa stated that she stepped down from the committee in the Fall, with a senator acting as proxy in her place, but decided it would be more equitable to have a senator on the committee.
3. Ballard asked if an abstract section could be added.

C. Elections Timeline- Ballard

1. Alem stated that elections for both the AS Executive Board and the Student Senate will occur in the spring. Alem stated that this was put on a past ballot and was approved by the student body as well as approved by the Student Senate and the Executive Board. Alem presented the timeline which can be viewed in full on the AS Executive Board website under meeting minute documents. Alem stated that the timeline is scheduled for earlier in the quarter to give more time for the proposed grievance process. Alem stated that transfer students and first-year students will be given the opportunity to run, and that he is working with the admissions office on how to best program this with new students.
2. Handa proposed ending candidate filing on Friday, April 30th to ensure that new students have more time to apply to run, stating that the amount of

advertising and networking put out matters more that the amount of time the filing period is open for.

3. Byers stated that in order to verify candidates she would need at least a day, and the current timeline allows for that.
4. Handa stated that this was a proposal pending Byers' approval, and since it does not work, the current timeline will be okay.

VII. Personnel Items (subject to immediate action)

- A. None

VIII. Action Items - Board

- A. AS Senate Pro-Tempore Job Description- Handa
1. Handa proposed to table this document in order to allow for more time for Ballard's New Grievance Model information item.
- B. Student Technology Fee Committee Charge & Charter- Handa
1. Handa stated that the most appropriate course of action would be to meet with the STC Committee again to talk about the change of the committee chair. Handa stated that the Vice Chair could be appointed in place of the Senate Pro-Tempore as chair to the committee if needed. She added that she will come back with the item in the following week.
 2. Ballard stated that a senator from any college could be appointed if they had the capacity.

IX. Information Items - Board

- A. New Grievance Model- Ballard
1. Ballard presented the New Grievance Model document which can be viewed in full on the AS Executive Board website under meeting minute documents. Ballard stated that she has been through the grievance process before, and worked in the OCE for three years, however she is graduating and does not have a stake in future elections.
 2. Handa asked why a Resident Director or Assistant Director was proposed as the chair. Ballard responded that being able to remove AS advisors from the process would remove bias and allow advisors to focus on the current bodies of student government on campus. Ballard stated that Resident and Assistant Advisors go through the code of conduct process for their respective jobs as well.
 3. Handa proposed having twelve students apply to the RDs with questions on the application concerning DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) in order to ensure representation on the board, as a random selection may not be diverse. Ballard stated that herself and Brock considered having the Committee Council (without the board member as chair) appoint students onto the board, but that may still be influenced by bias within the AS.
 4. Ballard stated that a conflict of interest declaration, and the elections coordinator's interpretation were changes added to the hearing agenda.

5. Byers asked if there will be a clear instruction to where a grievance document would go when filed. Ballard responded that this would be submitted through WIN and would go to the Student Coordinator and the chair of the Grievance Board first, as well as the Elections Coordinator. Byers stated that there would be more discussion needed about whether this document needs to go through her or any other people.

- B. Student Trustee Selection Committee Charge & Charter- Ford
 1. Ford stated that he would table the item until the following week.

X. Consent Items (*subject to immediate action*)

- A. AS Constitution with Spring Elections Edit- Handa
 1. The board consented to the AS Constitution with the Spring Elections edit.

XI. Discussion Items

- A. None

XII. Board Reports

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President did not have anything to report.

Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities did not have anything to report.

Zarea Lavalais, VP for Sustainability did not have anything to report.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity did not have anything to report.

Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that she has been working on the Grievance Board process as well as Administrative Lobby Day.

Carson Brock, VP for Student Services did not have anything to report.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore did not have anything to report.

XIII. Senate Reports

- A. None

XIV. Other Business

- A. None

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 2:36 p.m.