



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Executive Board

May 13th, 2021

MS Teams

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

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

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): Laura Wagner, Francis Neff, and Melynda Huskey.

Motions:

ASB-21-S-21 To approve the meeting minutes for the dates of February 12th, 2021, February 19th, 2021, February 26th, 2021, March 5th, 2021, and March 12th, 2021. **Passed.**

ASB-21-S-22 To move the resolution "ASWWU's Support to update the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan and Maintain its Relevance Long Term" to an Action Item. **Passed.**

ASB-21-S-23 To hold an electronic vote addressing "ASWWU's Support to update the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan and Maintain its Relevance Long Term" on Monday the 17th by 11:59 p.m. **Passed.**

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

- February 12th, 2021
- February 19th, 2021
- February 26th, 2021
- March 5th, 2021
- March 12th, 2021

MOTION ASB-21-S-21 by Brock

To approve the meeting minutes for the dates of February 12th, 2021, February 19th, 2021, February 26th, 2021, March 5th, 2021, and March 12th, 2021.

Second: Lavalais Vote: 5-0-0 Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

II. Revisions to the Agenda

1. Brock requested adding the Committee WIN Conversation and the Bias Incident in Dorms under Discussion Items.

III. **BSO Demands**

1. Ford stated that he had a meeting with Black leaders on campus and the Black Student Coalition Development specialist on a formal document to encompass the BSO and BSE vision for the Black Student Coalition.
2. Molina stated that there are a lot of funds in the BSO account to make sure all students are compensated.
3. Alexander stated that in a meeting the night before, the Black Student Coalition Development Specialist shared some of the work they've been doing and talked about the different available spaces in the AS.
4. Wagner stated that she is a member of the Legacy Review Taskforce which has been crafting a recommendation for Randhawa's office before the June 6th Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting. Wagner stated that she researched the questions "What did Thomas Huxley do, say, or teach, that was so harmful to BIPOC individuals that the BSO is demanding a name change. She found resources that she presented in a Legacy Review Taskforce meeting. Wagner stated that herself and Kaylan Rocamora are working to create a segment in the next meeting dedicated to input from Black students as there are frustrations that there is not a BSO representative or a Black person on the taskforce. Wagner stated that Shred the Contract (STC) is focusing on the future of STC and continuing to be active.

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

None

V. **Action Items - Guests**

- A. Update to the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan Resolution- Lavalais

MOTION ASB-21-S-23 by Ford

To hold an electronic vote addressing "ASWWU's Support to update the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan and Maintain its Relevance Long Term" on Monday the 17th by 11:59 p.m.

Second: Brock

Vote: 6-0-0

*Action: **Passed***

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

VI. **Information Items - Guests**

- A. Housing and Dining- Ford

1. Huskey (Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services) stated that she before the past BOT meeting, Ballard sent out an email asking the BOT to vote no on the new Housing and Dining proposal. The executive group of the

BOT decided that they would defer the discussion on rates until the June BOT meeting.

2. Ballard stated that the email was sent in hopes for a larger conversation on the Housing and Dining contract because of concerns around equity and student loan debt. Ballard stated that she is concerned about the yearly increase in the cost and often scholarships are not able to cover these costs. Ballard stated that in the past year, almost thirty-two million dollars of loans were taken out by Western students.
3. Ford stated that he has been involved in housing since he arrived at Western and every year the rates have increase. Ford asked, at what point do the increases stop? Ford asked if there are efforts to subsidize housing, or to ensure that the percentage of lower housing tiers stays large.
4. Brock stated that there is a lack of student involvement in the contract, and he felt they should've been more transparent. He stated that he felt that now, during the pandemic, may not be the best time to put this pricing model in place.
5. Ballard stated that the cost of attendance isn't a good measure of the price that students may pay. She stated BIPOC and low-income students are most likely to take out loans and to default on loans, and this reinforces the generational wage gap.
6. Huskey stated that University Residences is a self-sustaining operation that must cover the cost of all Housing and Dining needs. Huskey stated that the RAs are highly paid, and the University often renovates. If there were to be housing scholarships created, it would come out of the housing fees that students pay. Huskey stated that CARES funding was just received but it would not be a reliable, consistent source of funding for students. If housing rates were decreased Western would not be able to pay those who work in the housing department.
7. Huskey stated that it is not Western's goal or plan to move towards a higher percentage of high-cost tiered housing. She stated that it may change some with renovations, but it would not move unless the buildings were entirely gutted and renovated.
8. Ballard stated that she would like to move away from student subsidizing the cost of housing. Ballard stated that she read a report stating that the Pell Grant will likely be reduced and asked if there is more information on this.
9. Melynda stated that she has not heard of this and that undocumented students were now able to access emergency funds. Huskey stated that DACA students will be eligible for the Pell Grant.
10. Ballard stated that undocumented students are often not able to access federal programs, or eligible for work. Ballard asked what the next steps for the proposal are.
11. Huskey stated that there is not an option for an alternative to covering the costs of housing and dining, if Western were to lower expenses, they would have to cut costs within the system.
12. Ballard asked to talk to the BOT concerning sustainable long-term solutions.
13. Huskey stated that Ford would be able to address this in his report at the BOT meeting. Ballard stated concern about the amount of time allocated for this.

14. Ford stated concern for the tier of pricing that the Black Affinity housing was located in. Ford asked if students living there currently know that they will be living in the middle-tier price point.
15. Huskey stated that lowering affinity housing prices would mean raising housing prices somewhere else on campus. Huskey stated that Executive Board members are welcome to more information on this topic, such as the amount in the reserve and the plan to replenish it in the future. Huskey stated that Western is bound by the bond payments to keep a certain amount in the reserves and there is not a way to cut housing prices next year without going deeply into debt.
16. Ford asked if university housing has sought outside consultation surround this issue. Huskey stated that she has received fiscal ratings from outside sources, and housing and dining employees are parts of national organizations.
17. Huskey asked if the Executive Board would like the BOT to just look at Housing and Dining affordability or affordability in general. Ballard stated that conversation in general is needed, but she believed more focus should be attributed to the Housing and Dining system.

B. Update to the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan Resolution- Lavalais

1. Lavalais stated that information in the Sustainability Action Plan needs to be updated.
2. Wagner stated that it involves quite a bit of input from the community and student body. It was meant to be a guiding document for the Office of Sustainability. Wagner stated that Randhawa was supposed to charge a specific working group or committee with completing the plan, but this was not carried through. Wagner stated that student groups for sustainability see a future for this plan to address concerns within dining and student services. Craig Dunn stated that he is willing to use his political power to ensure that it is addressed by the BOT.
3. Lavalais stated that she attended the Washington/Oregon Higher Education Sustainability conference to discuss their sustainability and environmental concerns and movement. Lavalais stated that there were not many Western speakers present and it seemed that Western was behind on their view and address of sustainability issues on campus. This plan was supposed to be revised every two years, but it has been four years since the last edit.
4. Neff, Wagner, and Lavalais then presented the Sustainability Action Plan Resolution which can be found in full on the AS Executive Board website under meeting minute documents.
5. Ford stated support of this resolution and asked if there has been conversation on implemented a faculty position on campus specifically to address sustainability. Lavalais stated that the Office of Sustainability (OOS) and the future committee that should be created in this office would be able to address this.
6. Wagner stated that the new VP for Business and Finance may be included to focus on sustainability since the proposal focuses on sustainable investments. Wagner stated that Dunn stated that there was supposed to be

a certain role to address this but it fell through due to lack of allocation in the OOS.

7. Ford asked how to ensure that this plan does not fall through in the future. Wagner stated that there is a meeting with the OOS concerning this and how to move forward that will be held later this month.
8. Ballard stated that the WSA met to discuss proposals for the following year's WSA legislative agenda, and one proposal was to require Washington universities to create and uphold a sustainability action plan, and ensure that students are included in feedback.
9. Ford stated if there were more external steps to include faculty and staff on the project. Neff stated that previous chairs of the Advisory committee placed a big emphasis on pressuring Randhawa and other university VPs on this process, but that this is an excellent thing to think about.
10. Wagner stated that there is a lot of fatigue of students interested in environmental activism, but she does have a plan to spread the word and reach out to students, staff, and faculty.

MOTION ASB-21-S-22 by Molina

To move the resolution "ASWWU's Support to update the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan and Maintain its Relevance Long Term" to an Action Item.

Second: Kaemingk

Vote: 5-0-1

*Action: **Passed***

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

VII. Personnel Items (subject to immediate action)

A. None

VIII. Action Items - Board

A. None

IX. Information Items - Board

A. None

X. Consent Items (subject to immediate action)

A. None

XI. Discussion Items

A. Committee WIN Conversation

1. Brock stated to table this item until the following week.

B. Bias Incident in Dorms

1. Brock stated to table this item until the following week.

XII. Board Reports

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President had nothing to report.

Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities had nothing to report.

Zarea Lavalais, VP for Sustainability had nothing to report.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity stated that he was contacted regarding communication with the current candidate for the Vice President for Student Advancement (who would also serve as the President for the foundation). Molina stated that this interaction could facilitate movement in the future.

Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that she research housing and dining loans, and that campaigning and filing are now open and that the Ethics Board is seated.

Carson Brock, VP for Student Services had nothing to report.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore was not present to report.

XIII. Senate Reports

None

XIV. Other Business

A. None

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 5:07 p.m.