



Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2021, 4:30 PM
MS Teams & VU 567

Attendees:

Board Members: Naira Gonzales Aranda, Brenner Barclay, Glory Busic (she/her), Jasmine Fast, Ankur Handa, Mallory Schaeftbauer, Laura Wagner (she/her)

Guests: Ryan Morris

Staff and Assistants: Eric Alexander, Annie Byers, Jen Black, Rue Blanchard, Delfine DeFrank, Eli Stanciu, Nely Vasquez-Vasquez

Motions:

- ASWWU-21-F-1 To approve the Activities Council Applicant, AS Legislative Affairs Council Applicants, and Finance Council Applicant
- ASWWU-21-F-2 To move the amendment to the LAC Charter to an action item.
- ASWWU-21-F-3 To change the expiration date of the LAC Charter to October 31, 2022.
- ASWWU-21-F-4 To adjourn the meeting.

Glory Busic, AS President, called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.

I. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Activities Council Applicant – Sierra Wooley and Max Steward
- b. AS Legislative Affairs Council Applicants – Daniel Hart and Zachary Cohen
- c. Finance Council Applicant – Matthew Brown

MOTION ASWWU-21-F-1

Motion by Fast

To approve the Activities Council Applicant, AS Legislative Affairs Council Applicants, and Finance Council Applicant

Second: Schaeftbauer

Motion passed 7-0-0

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Wagner revised the time for the Shred the Contract Updates to 5 minutes and the Board of Trustees Recap to 20 minutes.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS

V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS

VI. PERSONELL ITEMS

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – BOARD

- a. Child Development Center Advisory Committee Charter Draft – Fast presented the Charter Draft. Fast said that the Child and Parents Caregiver Group finalized their charter and is considering if it is more worth her time to partner with them rather than build a new committee. She also has permission to edit the Child Development Center website. The Board discussed the study spaces around campus and if they were family friendly.
- b. Amendment to the LAC Charter – Handa presented the proposed amendment to extend the LAC Charter through October 31, 2022.

MOTION ASWWU-21-F-2

Motion by Handa

To move the amendment to the LAC Charter to action item.

Second: Barclay

Motion passed 7-0-0

MOTION ASWWU-21-F-3

Motion by Naira

To change the expiration date of the LAC Charter to October 31, 2022.

Second: Fast

Motion passed 7-0-0

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – BOARD

IX. BOARD REPORTS

a. BSO Demands Updates

- a. Naira reported that they had a meeting with Darin coming up and had been looking for Dean's emails to contact them about BSO Demand #7.
 - b. Handa explained what the Washington Student Association is, which is a 501(c)4 that lobbies on behalf of Washington State student interests and includes all Washington public universities and campuses. Handa reported that WWU recently held the WSA's general assembly in Bellingham and voted on the current year's legislative agenda. An issue voted on was the appeal of a state law RCW 39.26.250 which requires public agencies to give preference to services or materials made using prison labor. The cons of this are that inmates who work in this system are paid between 55 cents and \$1.55 an hour, which is approximately a 90% cut to the minimum wage and no industry can compete with prison labor. Many of these inmates are denied access to basic necessities. The BSO demand being addressed is that WWU uninvests in the Prison Industrial Complex. Handa then addressed two more proposals. The first was the Basic Needs Survey and Grant Fund which requires public universities to submit a basic needs survey to its students every few years to allocate funds to support meeting student's basic needs. The second was to double the Pell Grant and to assist undocumented students by supporting the Dream and Promise Act.
 - c. Wagner reported on the Sustainability Action Plan. She reached out for information on where it's at now and the plans for the future. She is working with Alyssa Tsukada and Jose Ortuzar to put together a Sustainability Round Table for various students from sustainability or environmental clubs for monthly meetings to connect.
- b. Shred the Contract Updates – Wagner reported that STC planned to have their first coalition meeting in the second half of October. The main issue is continuing communication with administration especially including Melynda Huskey and asking Leonard Jones about getting access to the contract.

X. SENATE REPORTS

- a. Barclay reported that the Senate Training had been completed and they have gotten a full list of the committees Senators need to be assigned to. The Senate is on track to start meetings by October 25th.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Quick Reflection/Board of Trustees Meeting Recap – Glory reported that a large focus of the meeting was discussing the College of the Environment name change. Wagner said that there was a lot of discussion of the trustees' principals and their values in the context of building names and college names, and what the word “harm” means in the situation. She said that it did not come across as substantial conversation and was hoping to hear conversation on issues like the BSO demands and how it relates to the University’s commitment to anti-racism or to supporting black students. The discussion was mostly focused on language and figuring out their priorities in the process of figuring out the building and college names and the Board of Trustees formed an executive committee to discuss that. There were College of the Environment faculty that spoke against the renaming at the public forum. Glory said that the Board of Trustees does not support the student demands, as the BSO demands were sent out in June of 2020 and have barely been considered. Fast said that in the meeting the name change of the College of the Environment was assigned to creationism and being anti-evolution, which was an extreme jump. She said that in an action item it is imperative to make it clear that the goal is not to denounce science, and the name change is separate from that. Wagner gave background on that argument, explaining that in the 1970s, creationists saw Huxley, who was considered a champion of Darwinist evolutionary theory, as a target to bring down evolutionary science, and one way they did that was to paint Huxley as racist. She continued that she thinks it is important to acknowledge they can be critical of creationists as well as historical figures who did and said harmful things. She said that creationists stating that Huxley was racist divided the scientific community because one response (in the scientific community) to this claim is respectful to BIPOC people and acknowledges his role in scientific racism and the other is to simply claim that he is not racist. She thinks that it is something that should be addressed in an action item. Glory said that it’s important to keep in mind that just because something was normalized at the time does not make it okay then or now. Wagner said that regarding taking action, the previous Board and Senate were trying to work together to write a statement on the topic of renaming the College of the Environment but were unable to due to time constraints and asked if there is interest from the current Board in doing that. Glory agreed that it was something she thinks it is a great idea and suggested working with Ryan Morris, the AS Communications Director, since it would be a lot of people working together. Morris expressed interest in working with the Board and Senate. Barclay said that there are several Senators who have expressed interest specifically in working on the College of the Environment name change. DeFrank advised considering who the stakeholders are. Barclay said that from their research they had seen that Thomas Huxley was a British man who lived and died in Britain and was unaware of WWU’s existence. Wagner said that the reason the name was chosen was that in the 60s, WWU was creating plans for

Fairhaven and Huxley colleges and when discussing the College of the Environment, they would unofficially refer to it as Huxley College because he was considered a champion of academic integrity, and the Huxley name eventually became reality (there was no formal process). There did not seem to be any financial backing from the Huxley family to WWU at any point. Fast said that she thought it was important to note that the request for renaming did not mean rejecting the findings from Huxley and did not mean discrediting his work, but that times changed and that his name no longer encompasses the college's goals and future aspirations, and that the name should encompass those goals and inclusivity. Wagner said that there were two avenues, creating a Senate internal committee and work with them to draft a statement before the next Board of Trustees meeting. Naira asked if the majority of people at the Board of Trustees meeting were white. Wagner replied that there was only one black woman, Karen Lee, who spoke on the fact that the issue was very personal to her and that if she went to the building, she would be walking into a building named after a man who would consider her lesser than. Naira said that the lack of diversity in the Board made them very uncomfortable and that they want to go to the next Board of Trustees meeting because there was a lack of the Board listening to people of color, and that they would like if there was a black student leader who could be paid to go to the meetings to have someone there who is black and understands the experience personally. DeFrank said that there were legalities to consider with being able to pay that student. Glory brought up the issue of the timing of the meetings and how many students cannot make it due to classes. Barclay said that they are exploring ways in the Senate to find alternative ways to pay black student leaders.

MOTION ASWWU-21-F-4

Motion by Fast

To adjourn the meeting.

Second: Barclay

Motion passed 7-0-0

Glory Busic, AS President, adjourned the meeting at 5:39 PM.