



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS ESC Executive Board

[2/28/22]

[Microsoft Teams]

Board Members: Naira Gonzales Aranda (As VP for Diversity)(She/They), Chelsea Joefield (ESC advocacy programming coordinator) (She/hair), Tom (JSA) (she/her), Gretchen Visperas (FASA) (she/her), Annalyn (FASA) (she/her), Miguel Gonzalez Ramirez (LSU) (he/him), Jorge Campos Rodriguez (LSU) (he/him), Loki Aguirre (KhSA) (they/them), Tova Portmann-Bown (SASA) (she/her), Zarah Ahmed (SASA) (she/her), Hyojinn Choe (KSA) (she/her), Dichela Ueki (PISA), Lalie Peto (CSA) (she/her), Silvia Leija (Blue Group, Yonnie Zerfu (BSU) (He/ Him), Sydney Slayden (KSA) (She/her), Anyssa Mahmoud (ASA) (She/ Her), Jasmine (ASA) (She/They).

Absent:

Advisor: Amy Westmoreland

Secretary: Aarushi Mukerjee

Guest(s): Delfine Defrank, Daniela Rodriguez, Leah Berkowitz (Hillel) (she/her), Elena Buri (Hillel) (she/her), Delaney Jarvis (Hillel) (she/her), Emily Weiner (Hillel), Lyric Crane (Hillel) (she/her).

Naira Gonzales Aranda, As VP for Diversity, called the meeting to order at [4:05 PM].

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION

To [approve minutes]. *By Miguel*

Second: Hyojinn

Vote:

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

II. Revisions to the Agenda

- LSU charge and charter is tabled until next quarter .

IV. Information Items

- Naira and Chelsea stated their personal Instagram's, emails, phone numbers are off limits for work related use.
- The Instagram's that the clubs have started are mostly to be informational. They are to share club updates and infographics.
- The chat that with the ESC clubs should be to tell each other about events, club times, or collaborations.
- They also stated that the discussions for voting should happen in this meeting and not in personal emails.
- The AS office emails are shared so that the next person who comes into the positions can access previous information.
- Chelsea stated that the Hillel club wishing to join fits all the requirements to be able to join the ESC.

- ASA discussed their concerns about the Hillel club joining the ESC.
 - They stated that Hillel international is a Zionist organization. Zionism is an ideology that supports the destruction of Palestine, and the state of Israel is built on top of that.
 - Anti-Semitism is hostility to or prejudice towards Jewish people. Anti-Zionist is the opposition of support of the state of Israel.
 - They stated that their Hillel cannot state that they are separate from that organization when it is embedded in their constitution.
 - Western Hillel met with Israeli soldiers in 2018.
 - The organization is not apolitical.
 - They stated that their problem is not with Jewish students, it is with the Hillel organization.
 - The website calls the occupation of Palestine a place of conflict. This not only affects Palestinians, it takes the role of Israel in destabilizing areas (Syria was bombed by Israel three times a few days ago, and Lebanon that was just bombed by Israel as well).
 - Having Hillel join the ESC will be threatening to ASA.
 - They are aware of antisemitic actions that took place in 2018. They denounce any form of racism.
 - They restated that they do not have a problem with Jewish students, the problem is the ties that Hillel has with Israel.
 - WWU Hillel is affiliated with Hillel international as stated in their constitution and bylaws.
 - Hillel places Israel at the heart of their member. They wish to aspire lasting relationships with the state and support it.
 - Hillel also supports these birthright trips to occupied Palestinian territory. Lands that people of their own club would not be allowed to enter despite their ethnic origins.
 - There are mentions to secure a recognized borders for Israel furthering the destruction of Palestine and Syria. Hillel provides members with abundant opportunities to align their identities with these intentions.
 - Hillel international states “Any club that hosts Hillel must not deny the right of Israel to exist, they must not delegitimize Israel, or apply a double standard, they must boycott or support sanctions against Israel. As a local chapter Hillel local clubs must follow these guidelines as they are affiliated with Hillel. If the ESC were to host Hillel, they would also have to follow these guidelines.
- ASA has demands upon joining the ESC for Hillel WWU.
 - They demanded that Hillel WWU drop the affiliations with Hillel international.
 - Changing the name of the club to something like Jewish student community. If they drop affiliation with Hillel, there is no reason why the name needs to stay.
 - Commit to anti-Zionist and pro Palestine sentiment . No one in the ESC will refer to the occupation of Palestine as a conflict (as this has happened time and time again over the past week).
- Jewish voice for peace (WWU) was extremely against Hillel joining the ESC.
- Hillel responded to ASA’s statements.
 - They stated that they are run locally, and they have their own goals and guidelines that do not necessarily reflect Hillel international.

- This is why they chose not to include some of Hillel's international mission statement in their mission statement.
 - Hillel WWU was created by Bellingham Jews for Bellingham Jews. Their funding comes from donations and not from Hillel international.
 - Hillel international provides opportunities for them that they can choose to participate in.
 - They agree with some things that Hillel does and disagree with other things that Hillel international does. They stated that the Palestine conflict does not have anything to do with their club's goals and mission. They do not have any Israeli programming or celebrate any Israeli holidays.
 - They want the opportunity to celebrate Jewish culture without being held accountable for the responsibilities of a foreign government as other countries are able to do.
 - They clarified that they are an ethnic club centered around Judaism. They do not receive funding from Israel.
 - They want to work together with ESC to help learn and educate about their and other clubs.
- They stated the club will not take a political position on Israel. All Jews have to be learning things and responding to what Israel is. It is part of their identity. Almost half the world's Jews live there.
 - Someone asked why their name is Hillel and offered that their name change to something less oppressive.
 - The Hillel club (WWU) responded by saying that they don't know why they are named Hillel because none of them were here when Hillel was created so they would have to do some research on that.
 - They restated that Hillel international has a lot of things to do with Israel but is up to local Hillel clubs on campuses to take on those aspects of club.
 - Individual Hillel clubs can change their Israel guidelines. There was a lot of push back from local Hillel's on Hillel international stance on Israel does not reflect most local Hillel's.
 - They stated that they will focus on antisemitism in their club. They also stated that they recognize that it is complicated of where the line between antisemitism and anti-Zionism.
 - ASA asked if they join the ESC would they be able to be an ally to Arabs and be able to recognize that Israel is occupied territory of Palestine and Syria.
 - Hillel said that are not going to answer that today.
 - Someone asked if Hillel would be willing to meet ASA demands.
 - Hillel stated that they need to discuss with their board and get back on that.
 - ASA stated that ASA will not have any involvement with Hillel if nothing changes. They do not want to put any of their Palestine and other Arab members at risk of their personal well-being.

V. Action Items

- The board voted to push the deliberation for adding Hillel to ESC to next week until Hillel has decided on how to respond to ASA demands.
- Sydney moved it and Loki seconded it.

VII. ESC AS and Club Updates

Naira Gonzales Aranda, As VP for Diversity, called the meeting to order at [5:40 PM]

