



**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Sustainability Equity & Justice Fund Meeting Minutes**  
May 10, 2022, 5:00 PM

**Attendees:**

**Committee Members:** Laura Wagner, Jose Ortuzar, Charles Barnhart, Johnathan Riopelle, Zinta Lucans, Rosa Edwards, Jasmine Fast, Roman Vieira, Rahma Iqbal, Jasmine Fast, Amanda Cambre, Grace Wang,  
**Guests:** Brian Burton, Kaylan Rocamora  
**Staff and Assistants:** Delfine DeFrank, Jennifer Black

**Motions:**

*Laura Wagner, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM*

**I. CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes were not voted on

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

*Motion by Laura Wagner*

*To Move Former SEJF out of session process summary to the beginning of the meeting because Brian Burton is only available to be here for the first 10 minutes of our meeting*

**III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. **Laura Wagner – SEJF Out of session process summary**  
i. **Guest – Brian Burton**

**Laura Wagner** - I'll just like go out and state that as of March 11th, the out of session process language in our bylaws was approved, but the previous process was never written down on written record. So, for transparency's sake and the sake of our successors, the intention for adding this to the agenda, it's just to state on record written record with the help of Brian with the formerly used out of session process was. Then move forward, understanding that that won't be used anymore and instead the official out of session approved language will be the only thing other than committee

process that would be used to approve grants. And again, that's just for the sake of our successors for documentation purposes to look back on in terms of having a record of that. So, with that, if you could take it away, Brian, that would be much appreciated.

**Brian Burton** - When we received a grant proposal in in the fall before the committee had met, if I remember correctly, I asked, and Jonathan alerted me to that, I asked him to check with Grace and with Eric Alexander about how we would go about getting such a grant proposal reviewed and finally approved. He did so and came back and reported on that conversation with Grace and Eric and reported that the consensus of that group was that because the Sustainability Engagement Institute, it is the budgetary home for the fund that the Institute would have the authority to approve the grant. So, since I am responsible for the oversight of the sustainability and engagement institute. They asked me to approve the grant proposal out of the committee process, and I did so, and I did so again for another grant request that Jonathan gave me that first one was in December. The conversations were earlier than that, but the first one was in December. The second one was in February, very early February. And those are the only two that I can find. A record of. My approving this year in the large grant previously just to sort of complete the record previously, occasionally I've been asked to approve and agree to an approval of a small grant, which I think is in the general process that small grants, very small grants and I can't remember the limit are approved by staff. So after Seth Berdan left, I did that. I did that a few times as well. But the larger grant ones, the two that I mentioned in the process that I mentioned were what I followed, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

**Laura Wagner** – Additionally, if people might not have questions right now but think of some later, at any time, you can feel free and go ahead to email Brain.

**Brian Burton** - Yeah, I happy to respond at any time to questions and if some come up later in the meeting, just shoot me a team's thing. I can get that on my phone, and I can respond also.

**Laura Wagner** - All right. So, if there are no questions, we can go ahead and move forward with that. There is the action item. I do want to preface that the expectations part of the info item was supposed to be consent, but I'm OK with having it info, which is why I didn't do a revision. So for this action item, I'm alright if Zinta, do you want to recap just what was looked at last week?

#### **b. Mobile Field Station Housing for WWU**

**Zinta Lucans** - So we saw that presentation last week. It is a large grant that is 179 thousand dollars delivered between two installations. So have some of it being this

fiscal year and some of it being next fiscal year. I believe that the committee is ready to vote on it Today.

c. **Laura Wagner** - SEJF Spring 2022 Expectations

**Laura Wagner** - So starting off, I've prepared this statement. Well in advance, but it came to my attention that there were some issues last meeting that fostered an uncomfortable environment. In addition to some recurring issues from other meetings. So as chair, my responsibilities have included facilitating, organizing, and scheduling meetings, ensuring committee related actions or discussions take place outside of meetings, and also being a communication liaison between SEJF committee and the AS and other parties. So now I'm setting expectations as chair. That committee members will follow until the end of my term in June. For the rest of this meeting and the other two meetings that we'll have to ensure that meetings are productive as possible. So, the following are non-negotiable expectations for what the committee will follow to ensure that they go well. Additionally, they will ensure that I can fulfill my student responsibilities job as chair and other VP responsibilities without being overworked or working overtime or overextending myself. There are five, and the first is check your emails and the SEJF Microsoft Teams between meetings. No committee can be fully efficient unless people are doing their required work between meeting times, such as leaving comments on documents, sending input that can help kickstart conversation during meeting time, or otherwise providing relevant updates to the at least the chair and SGA, if not the whole committee. There's just not enough time, regardless of frequency of regular meetings to complete all the work associated with SJF, especially this year. Only during meeting times. So, the idea is to hopefully prioritize grant voting and for this year referendum materials and campaign materials for meeting times. Second, as I know that referendum drafting conversations are not fun and they can get heated with many passionate parties. However, those conversations only happen once every four years. With the new referendum term and it's the job of all people appointed to the committee to contribute in a respectful manner if they have input, the people on this committee just happened to be appointed on a gear that the student fee is up for renewal. So, it's been my responsibility to clock in multiple hours outside of the meetings to work on referendum and the campaign, and these referendum and campaign conversations only happen every so often so. Let's push through it. You know, together third treat the membership and guess with respect and ensure the meetings foster an environment where all people feel welcome and feel like they can share their input about topics without being spoken over or belittled in any way. Forth, alcohol during meetings is not permitted, regardless of the context. If you would not do

it in a formal meeting on campus, you shouldn't do it in a team's meeting. And if you can't find or follow that rule for a meeting, find a proxy or let me know in advance if you can't make the meeting five. I will more frequently shut down or cut short talking points or conversations that will lead to conversation derailing. Getting us off track or might be inappropriate for the meeting. I might ask people to step away momentarily. And return, but if conversations could be or should be continued outside of committee meetings, I will tell people to schedule meetings with the appropriate parties up to this point, I've been trying my best to remain neutral and not dominate conversations because that's my job as chair and facilitator, but because that's part of facilitating as part of the requirements of the positions. Also, I will interfere more if needed to ensure things can run smoothly. Again, these are bare minimum requirements, and I don't think I've seen as chair. They have been fulfilled consistently and SEJF. So, with only a few weeks and a few meetings left in this quarter, we need to follow these expectations so that we can fulfill our duties as a committee as best as possible. Additionally I have not had to state this with ATF committee before or set these boundaries or expectations with them. They've been fulfilling them. Just find this whole year. So, these points are not up for discussion or debate in this meeting or outside of this meeting time because they are non-negotiable and a time for period for comments or questions will also not be open at this moment. If the committee is unable to fulfill these in this meeting, then I will address that at an appropriate time. But I have a feeling that this meeting should go OK, alright, least better. So, for the rest of this items time or I'll just say maybe 3-4 minutes, so 5:17 PM, I'm just going to ask everyone to take time to turn off their cameras and mute themselves and step away for a second to process information so that they're in a good mental space to continue. With the meeting coming back for the next items. So yeah, I'll see you all at 5:18 PM. I'll call you back and I'll write in the chat. Thank you.

**d. Laura Wagner – Out of SEJF Committee Conversation Updates**

**Laura Wagner** - Next is the out of session or not out of session out of SEJF committee conversation updates. So, I just wanted to like fill people in about some conversations that I know have been happening around the university. Personally and this kind of connects to you know, continuing to work on rules of operation as a committee. I'm talking with Eric Alexander about the potential of having or not having student workers like the ASVP for sustainability and ESP position because there might be some shifts going on next year be in the position of having to facilitate SEJF meetings, so looking for potential like non SEJF and non SEI staff members to help facilitate or be there to help assist facilitate if that is needed. Those are very early-stage conversations because

Eric has COVID right now. But just thinking about structure of the committee moving forward and everything. And then the other conversation that has been happening is about shifting. This to be from a student voluntary fee to a student services and activity fee, but it doesn't seem like that will be happening anytime soon. There's a lot of steps that would have to be taken for that. To make that happen, and that shouldn't impact the SEJF referendum. Additionally, I've been putting in a lot of work for the SEJF referendum, and there's one last change. Now it just says that an increase or decrease for the referendum must only happen through a student vote, and that is thanks to the input from Amanda, but also Melynda Huskey as she volunteered to give that a read over. Those are the main points. Additionally, there should be small group meetings outside of regular meetings that are non-quorum to hopefully continue conversations about rules of operation and also SEJF campaign, especially because campaign periods or key points during the campaign, have been pushed back. Luckily, I've been informed by Zinta that she's been in conversation with James, so she already knows about that, so I'll probably reach out to people that I think might be interested in in two different groups after this meeting.

e. **Laura Wagner** – SEJF Campaign discussion and updates

**Laura Wagner** - And then going from that, I'll just transition into SEJF campaign updates. I wanted to ask if SEJF program has any updates about like approach or materials?

**Zinta Lucans** - Are you referencing updates to specifically campaign materials, or just in general updates?

**Laura Wagner** – Campaign Materials

**Zinta Lucans** – Johnathan can you speak to that?

**Johnathan Riopelle** – We are not actively involved in the campaign due to our role, so we're just stepping aside in this regard.

**Laura Wagner** - I'm sorry clarifying questions. So, like with ATF, they have an educational campaign, not necessarily advocating a specific yes vote or no vote. So, then SEJF won't be doing like, or does it have any plans to do any campaign at all?

**Johnathan Riopelle** - So we're going to be doing standard SEJF outreach for the spring but that's the extent of our engagement.

**Laura Wagner** – Ok, that sounds good to me. In that case, I'll do some conversations with relevant parties outside of meetings to ask again if Brenner has, like a student

senator representative. Perhaps that would want to take on a yes vote campaign, because that is OK within the elections code. Other than that, that's it for this item.

## **V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS**

*Motion by Laura Wagner*

*To Approve funding for Mobile Field Station Housing for WWU*

*Second: Jose Ortuzar*

*Motion passed 6-2-0*

*Laura Wagner & Amanda Cambre – Abstain – Didn't read full proposal*

## **X. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Laura Wagner** - I just wanted to let you all know that I've been in conversation with some people at the university and if at any point members feel uncomfortable due to the meeting environment, they can totally reach out to me during the meeting. Let me know. I'm also, as facilitator, always gauging the environment to make sure. It's not super hostile, so I do have the power to adjourn early, but people do have like as a committee we do have.

**Charles Barnhart** - I'd like to reach out if I may. Why? Why are we not allowed to practice our First Amendment freedom of speech, freedom of assembly? What's going on here? This is the most, counterproductive committee I have ever been part of. I know that's not this committee's history. Things have changed because I've applied to grants and been awarded grants from this committee, it's been exceptional. It's done. Great work. It's turned pennies into pounds. It's had so many successes on this campus that reverberate and reflect. Contribute to alumni donations. Contribute to great work. I was so excited to join this committee three months ago because I thought like, OK, I can affect change, I can create more sustainable environments. I'm a scientist, I'm a physicist, and I thought, well, now I can work with people and do great work. But instead, the meetings have nothing to do with sustainability, certainly not equity cause some voices are much louder than others, judgment, yes, but not justice. The fund. Like people are hemming and hawing and discussing whether or not they're being taxed. No, this is spending great money to do great things. So, I don't know what's going on here. Can someone explain?

**Delfine DeFrank** - Yeah. So, Charles, are you specifically talking about the referendum because you do have a First Amendment right?

**Charles Barnhart** - No, I'm not at all. I'm not at all. I'm talking about the entire environment.

**Delfine DeFrank** - Yeah, you can speak your mind. It is your First Amendment right. I don't know where the. Yeah, you can speak your mind. It is your First Amendment right. I don't know where the. Yeah, you can speak your mind. It is your First Amendment right. I don't know where the.

**Charles Barnhart** - What are we doing here?

**Delfine DeFrank** – What are you doing here? Yeah, you're in the charge

**Charles Barnhart** – No, what are you doing here?

**Delfine DeFrank** – What am I doing here? I'm an advisor. I'm listed in the charge and charter.

**Charles Barnhart** – What is your purpose? What are you trying to accomplish? What are your goals?

**Delfine DeFrank** – I advise the student government and therefore

**Charles Barnhart** – Ok, I plead the fifth and exercise my right to shut up now because I think I've made my point

*Laura Wagner, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 5:27*