



# Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2022, 7:45 AM

## Attendees:

**Board Members:** Naira Gonzales Aranda (she/they), Brenner Barclay (they/them), Glory Busic (she/her), Jasmine Fast (she/her), Mallory Schaeftbauer (she/they), Eli Stanciu Jr. (he/him), Laura Wagner (she/her)

**Guests:**

**Staff and Assistants:** Annie Byers (she/her), Delfine DeFrank (she/they), Rue Blanchard (they/them)

## Motions:

ASWWU-22-S-98	To approve the minutes for April 22 <sup>nd</sup>
ASWWU-22-S-99	To add ten minutes to the item
ASWWU-22-S-100	To approve the Elections Timeline
ASWWU-22-S-101	To add five minutes to the item
ASWWU-22-S-102	To add five minutes to the item
ASWWU-22-S-103	To have a five-minute break
ASWWU-22-S-104	To table the SEJF Referendum

*Glory Busic, AS President, called the meeting to order at 7:45 AM*

## I. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approval of Minutes  
-April 22, 2022

***MOTION ASWWU-22-S-98***

*Motion by Stanciu Jr.*

*To approve the minutes for April 22<sup>nd</sup>*

*Second: Wagner*

*Motion passed 6-0-0*

## **II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- a. Naira moved the AS Vice President for Diversity Position Description to an Information Item rather than an Action Item.
- b. Wagner added a five-minute Information Item for updates on the SEJF situation.

## **III. PUBLIC FORUM**

## **IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS**

- a. AS Budget Discussion – Noemi Bueno (she/her), chair of the finance council, answered questions about the AS Budget. Barclay asked how cuts are being made to the budget to ensure that the level of understaffing in the AS won't be part of the budget. Bueno said that they will still be moving forward with funds for a full staffing. Finance Council is changing their language about the budget changes to “reductions” or “adjustments” because nothing is being cut in terms of staffing or programs. The hours for staff will remain, the changes are being made because the AS was 220k dollars over budget and the Finance Council was not comfortable passing a budget with that large of an excess. The adjustments were recommended based on trends they've seen, an example being in student employment, in situations where students are not working all of their allocated hours. It is meant to be a one-time hypothetical based on trends that they have seen, and none of the changes are required to be passed. She said that part of why it had been brought to the Board is that both the Board and Senate has excess budget. She said that at the end of the year they have a balance that goes back into the reserve if not spent, and for the past three years the balance for the Executive Board budget has been approximately 30k, and this year it is projected to be roughly 32k and the Senate is about half of that. As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Board had only used 50% of their allocation and the Senate has only used 35%. If in the following year a budget goes over the allocated amount, student employees will still be paid. Glory added that part of the reason the Executive Board is under budget is the Olympia trip and other traveling did not happen during COVID. DeFrank asked if the finance council would advise to adjust the position description hours for budget. Bueno replied that the hope is that every year that the budget authorities are looking at the budget for their program and adjusting hours in the budget as needed each year. Currently she does not recommend the Executive Board or Senate make any changes to the Job Description. DeFrank said that she would be interested in seeing a projected budget reduction to hours. Bueno said that currently no reductions are being projected for hours being reduced, it is just overall numbers being changed. Student Employees can still work their full hours despite the overall

adjustments to the budget. She said that currently the reductions are being considered as percentages. If there was a 10% reduction in the Senate Budget, it would be \$11k overall. The current allocation proposed for the Senate Budget is over \$115,937. The current proposed reduction would be \$11k as 10% and another \$5,500. She said that this is based on that in the past years the Senate has never reached their total allocation. All positions can still work their full hours and be supported by the budget, the recommendation for the Board if there is a 10% reduction would be \$15k, and at 5% it would be about \$7,500, so it would be a small portion of the budget. There would be more overarching reductions than specific budgets being reduced.

- b.** VU Facilities and Services Budget 2022-2023 – Greg McBride (he/him), the Associate Director of Viking Union Facilities and Services, presented the Viking Union Facilities and Services Budget Presentation. Naira said that with IT she had previously had issues with having to put pressure on IT members to be on top of things like having the right email and information online, so if student fees are being increased it should not be on students to have to be contacting people to put the right email and documents up. Naira said she understands the increase and wants everyone to have a livable wage, and she would also like more efficacy from IT. Part of the Services on the Presentation included “Provide event set up and technical assistance,” and she said that while those services were there for Earth Week, for ESC Executive Board no one helps with set up, which is frustrating. She asked what events are being covered with that. McBride said that he knows that there are issues with IT with the information flow between when employees start, when IT is notified when to get their email working, and the process with the rest of the institution to get that moving forward. Events Services has two ways to support events, one is the “Standard Set” where the room is reserved, and the person reserving can do what they need with it. They also provide setup services but those are typically charged for. Barclay asked what the spaces are usually reserved for. McBride said that the VU has some of the only conference rooms on campus, and departments have used them for new faculty orientation, career fairs, wellness classes for staff, department retreats, and anything else that may need a larger meeting space. Glory asked what the “Other” section was in Operating Expenses. McBride said that it includes things like insurance, travel, software leases, rentals, and other expenses that come up. Glory said that the VU Reserve Funds has far more money than the Multicultural Center Reserve Funds and asked why that was. McBride said that it was because the MCC is new, and all the money left over from the MCC project went into the account to help pay 5% of the outstanding debt that was required for the MCC Construction. Money was taken from the Multicultural Services Reserve Fund and some from the VU to make that total amount. Every year some of that money will be put back into that Reserve Fund. The MCC will also be cared for like the rest of the VU.

***MOTION ASWWU-22-S-99***

*Motion by Schaeffbauer*

*To add ten minutes to the item*

*Second: Stanciu Jr.*

*Motion passed 6-0-0*

## **V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS**

- a. Extend the Elections Timeline – Ryan presented the new timeline.

### ***MOTION ASWWU-22-S-100***

*Motion by Wagner*

*To approve the Elections Timeline*

*Second: Schaeffbauer*

*Motion passed 5-0-0*

## **VI. PERSONELL ITEMS**

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – BOARD**

- a. SEJF Bylaws – Wagner presented the updates to the SEJF Bylaws.

### ***MOTION ASWWU-22-S-101***

*Motion by Gonzales*

*To add five minutes to the item*

*Second: Wagner*

*Motion passed 5-0-0*

- b. SEJF Updates – Wagner reported that at the previous meeting, which she could not attend during midterms, was rough. There was such a horrible exchange during the meeting that she had to clock in five extra hours on Tuesday to communicate about that. She said that people had some attitude issues during the meeting, and someone was drinking alcohol during the meeting. Throughout the year there has been pent up tension due to communication styles of a certain role, which has culminated in one party wanting to learn from the past going forward and one party wanting to just move forward from it. Wagner said that she has started conversations with Melynda Huskey,

Eric Alexander, and Brian Burton, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Financial Fund Manager for the SEJF Funds. She asked Alexander about the potential of no longer having a student chairing the committee. She thinks that there are certain positions within and outside of the committee who do not respect the authority of a student as chair or vice chair, but they will respect staff or higher ups. She is trying to navigate potentially having the VP for Sustainability as a liaison between the SEJF Committee and the Executive Board and other relevant AS parties, but someone else would have the responsibilities that come with facilitation and conflict management. The staff member that has created issues has done so previously, and she was advised by her predecessor to try to work around them. She will be working with Jose Ortuzar to figure out next steps and will talk about that with Kaylan Rocamora, the AS Personnel Director. She is trying to schedule meetings with Zinta Lucans but cannot and has been encouraged to reach out to Grace Wang instead, though she is not sure Wang has the capacity to help. Wagner said that at the next meeting she will be setting boundaries and expectations that are non-negotiable for all members and will preface that by saying there will not be time for debate or discussion of those terms, as they are the bare minimum. She will also be asking for Huskey and Burton's support on that statement. She asked if another Board Member would come to the meeting. She said that if the committee proves to not be able to follow the expectations, she will be asking for Huskey, Alexander, and Burton's support, and already has DeFrank's support, to no longer have SEJF Committee meet, and all grants will go through the approved out of session process. She would reach out to Ortuzar and Wang to discuss how to record those sessions. There is also a conversation on if SEJF committee needs to be removed, and the fee moved from a student fee to a service fee (Student Activities Fee), because that would no longer put students under this pressure. SEJF can go through an audit, which is a serious situation, and is a lot to ask of students. She is looking into many options.

***MOTION ASWWU-22-S-102***

*Motion by Gonzales*

*To add five minutes to the item*

*Second: Fast*

*Motion passed 5-0-0*

***MOTION ASWWU-S-103***

*Motion by Busic*

*To have a five-minute break*

*Second: Wagner*

*Motion passed 5-0-0*

### **Glory Busic resumed the meeting at 9:20 AM**

- c.** Notice of Public Hearing – Western Today Article May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Glory said that there was going to be a Public Hearing on May 11, 2022 regarding WWU proposing amendments to its Washington Administrative Code rules related to weapons and armament being prohibited on university property. She asked if there were any thoughts from the Board. Schaeffbauer said that she believes that the biggest changes are language and specifications, and that the term armament has been expanded to include riot gear. Face masks will also no longer be prohibited in the code.
- d.** ESC Changes – Naira said that she wanted to give context for conversations happening with the ESC. She said she got a letter from ESC members, which she has discussed with Melynda Huskey and Sabah. She said that because WWU did not go over the bylaws properly and she initiated a flawed process, students wanted to remove her position from chairing the ESC Executive Board. In the letter they express not understanding Robert’s Rules of Order, which is not used in ESC Executive Board meetings, and wanting to vote by consensus, which is already done in ESC Executive Board meetings. The summary of what had happened leading up to this was that Hillel had been trying to join the ESC for two years, and the process was halted when clubs were not meeting during the pandemic. The ESC Executive Board resumed during Naira’s term, there was the understanding that there needed to be a vote to add clubs to the ESC, that process was initiated based on the understanding of how the process worked from the bylaws, but that process turned out to be going against the Supreme Court rulings about the process. They were meant to judge clubs on a criteria and clubs are not supposed to be voted in, they just need to meet the criteria. Hillel was let into the ESC, and there was a lot of pushback and hostility toward Hillel, Naira, and Chelsea Joefield, and because of these events students want to remove Naira’s position as chair. She said that she is also open to the idea of a student not having to chair a committee of students of color because she felt that the hardest part of that situation was losing her community and feeling that she was turned on by the people she was advocating for due to an administrative mistake. The letter expressed that the students wanted Naira’s position to be removed as chair and other changes they wanted made, as well as expressing that they did not understand Robert’s Rules and wanting to vote through consensus, which is already how ESC Executive Board works. Naira said that many of the things being asked for are already implemented, and she feels that this may be a result of meetings not being fully engaged with since they are online. The letter expressed wanting a different ESC club to chair each week. She said that it concerns her that it was said that the clubs do not understand the rules and do not like them, but still want to have different chairs

each meeting. She said it is important to have a nonbiased party in the chair position. She expressed her concerns that having a new chair each week would not be representative of the real world and feels that the want to remove her position is based on things that are not her fault and anger that is being expressed toward her rather than Melynda Huskey. She said she is happy to hear that Eric Alexander is working on club accountability and how students should lead. She said she left in her position description that the ASVP for Diversity is the ESC Executive Board Chair since no changes have been finalized and there are changes happening with the ESC and MCC and she is not sure what is going to become of that space, which makes it difficult to write that part of the job description. She said that anything that is decided will have to go through the Board, so she is keeping the Board updated, who can in turn keep their successors updated. The Board agreed that having different chairs each week would not be a good idea, especially since there would be a lot of bias. She said that she found out that LSU signed the letter without the approval of their Board, and many LSU Board members said that they would not have signed the letter.

- e. Proxies – Naira said that her proxy for SJEC is Sofia Larrondo. Naira also felt uncomfortable working with the Mixed Student Council since Silvia Leija, who wrote the ESC Letter, is part of that committee, so Larrondo will proxy that was well and take on the position of the vice chair, and Daniella Reyes will be Larrondo’s proxy so there will still be an AS Senator in the meeting.
- f. AS Vice President for Diversity Position Description – Naira presented the changes to the AS Vice President for Diversity Position Description.

***MOTION ASWWU-22-S-104***

*Motion by Gonzales*

*To table the SEJF Referendum*

*Second: Schaeftbauer*

*Motion passed 5-0-0*

**VIII. ACTION ITEMS – BOARD**

**IX. BOARD REPORTS**

**X. SENATE REPORTS**

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Glory Basic, AS President, adjourned the meeting at 9:45 AM.*