



Western Washington University Associated Students Senate Meeting Minutes

May 2nd, 2022, 5:00-6:30 PM

Attendees: Delfine DeFrank, Nely Vasquez

Senate Members: Brenner Barclay, Cambria Keely, Justin McGlone, Sofia Larrondo, Daniela Reyes, Ted Topper, Miriam Gold, Dylan Singh, River Johnson, Gustav Guenther, Pierce Bock, Carmela Lu

Guests: Keara Ryan

Staff and Assistants: Delfine DeFrank, Nely Vasquez

Motions:

Brenner Barclay, AS Senate President, called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM

I. CONSENT ITEMS II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Add Administration Town Hall – Other Business
- b. Diversifying Curriculum and Student Involvement – Information Item – Senate
- c. Student Union – Information Item - Senate

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS

- a. Tabling sign-up
 - a. Ryan encourages the Senators to refile for their positions, as there are many positions that don't have candidates and all position are unopposed
 - i. She also says that if any Senators are not going to refile, then to fill out a recommendation form

- b. Ryan sent an email to sign-up for a tabling shift for the election, and asks available Senators to sign-up
 - i. She clarifies refiling Senators can't sign-up, but to email her if they still want to help

V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS VI. PERSONELL ITEMS

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – SENATE

- a. Governing Document Amendments
 - a. Barclay presents their proposed wordings on the amendments talked about at the last Senate meeting
 - i. A proposed amendment would be adding “at least” before biweekly
 - ii. The second would only have the Student Senate make changes to their Charge & Charter or By-Laws
- b. SEJF (Sustainability Equity Justice Fund) Campaigner
 - a. They are looking for a student government employee who would be interested on behalf of their ballot referendum
- c. Diversifying Curriculum and Student Involvement
 - a. Larrondo encourages the Senators to talk to their Deans to see how they increase student engagement
 - b. She and Iqbal are also talking to each chair department in their respective college to see how they can decolonize their curriculum and have more student involvement in it
 - i. Bock asks if there is anything they can do to help
 - 1. Larrondo asks the Senators to push this effort in their college as well
 - ii. McGlone informs her that the College of Science and Engineering will not let students near the curriculum because it is a conflict of interest
 - 1. DeFrank suggests talking to professors and higher ups to talk about who the authors are for certain articles, if there are biases, etc.
 - 2. McGlone reveals there is effort to get an ethics course introduced into the CSE, and that may be one way to get student involvement

3. Larrondo suggests talking to the chair departments and not the Deans

iii. Topper says it is the opposite at Fairhaven

d. Student Union

- a. Bock and Keely would like to organize a Student Union, after realizing that the student activities fee is used to pay the student employees
 - i. This means students are paying themselves
- b. Laura Wagner revealed there have been previous attempts to unionize, but students were worried about their employers pushing back
- c. Until last year, undergraduate students were not allowed to unionize
- d. Keely and Bock have done research on how to begin the process and how it has gone at other universities
- e. Their vision is to create a list of demands that would represent student employees and then deliver to the Board of Trustees, and have a protest to gain attention
- f. Bock reveals the University has \$105 million in cash, and didn't pay hazard fees, and are not fairly paying the student employees
 - i. Guenther is in support of students unionizing, but warns Keely and Bock the University will throw back at them that taxpayers are paying for most of their schooling
 1. He suggests throwing back at the University
 - a. They didn't pay hazard fees, and
 - b. If the University throws back that they're tuition is being paid for by taxpayers, to reply that it is to have intelligent citizens
- g. Johnson is in support of student unionizing but expresses concern over who the Union would represent
 - i. As not all students are under a single employer
 1. Although Keely agrees this would be complicated, she points out that student employees at Columbia University and University of Oregon, etc. have been successful
 2. Barclay informs Johnson other Unions have gotten around this problem by forming a single union representing a series of bargaining units
 - a. Gold agrees having this type of Union would be a good idea, but asks if Aramark employees could be

under this since they are not University employees

- i. Keely is actively trying to figure it out, but says if they can't, one of the demands would be the self-operating system
- ii. Topper asks how work-study employees would be included without their benefits being affected
 - 1. Keely will figure it out
- h. Exempting student employees from paying fees would not sit well with non-student employees, and would shrink the AS fund, which could result in funding cuts for student employees
- e. McGlone says more pressure will have to come from outside the school, as students don't have much
 - a. Keely says a staff member advised her to have a sit-in protest, and that administration could be a lot more supportive than she originally thought

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – SENATE

- a. Legacy Documents/Senate Report Amendment
 - a. Updated version includes a summary of the legacy document without personal information would be compiled and made public
 - b. DeFrank asks if the legacy document would be public
 - i. Gold says no
 - ii. DeFrank advises it not to be voted on, because it would then have to be public
 - 1. Gold agrees and will remove it from the amendment
 - iii. DeFrank also says if the document gets passed, it will have to go into Senator's position descriptions

IX. SENATE REPORTS

- a. Reyes relays a question from the provost of undergraduate education which is opinions on the new Provost to replace Brent Carbajal, and is wondering if the Senate could invite the WWU President to a meeting to explain his decision on picking the new Provost

- a. Gold supports the provost, having worked with him before
 - b. Singh says it would be great to invite him
- b. BSO Demands - Updates**
 - a. Topper and the Director of Diversity Programs will work together to decolonize the American Cultural Studies Program and rework it into a Black major
 - i. Topper says they will work on a new name
 - b. There is effort to find space on campus where community kitchens can be built, if Shred the Contract fails, and provide kitchen appliances for students to make meals
 - i. This also to help reduce Aramark sales
- c.** There is also negotiations with the Bellingham Farmers Market to have certain farmers come to campus to get rid of back stock and give students the opportunity to get fresh produce on campus
- c.** The OCE is organizing a town hall to get students in contact with administrators
 - a. This will be a Q&A session for certain topics
 - b. Barclay also put a survey in the Senate teams chat to know what topics should be asked, and encourages Senators to fill it out and to share it
 - c. They also need facilitators, and are looking for help from the Senators
- d.** McGlone reports the CSE Dean is doing office hours for students to talk to him about any issues they see on campus

X. BOARD REPORTS

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a.** Promotional materials
 - a. The OCE would like to create promotional materials to encourage students to run for a position
 - b. Barclay asks the Senators if they're comfortable with having their picture/taken of them
 - c. This will happen at the next Senate meeting

Brenner Barclay, AS Senate President, adjourned the meeting at 6:32 PM