



**Western Washington University Associated Students
Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

February 4, 2022, 4:30 PM

Attendees:

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

Guests: Sargun Handa, Ryan Morris, Chelsea Joefield, Shyam Vaitheesvaran, Karen Deysher, Melinda Huskey

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

Motions:

MOTION ASWWU-22-W-45 To approve the minutes

MOTION ASWWU-22-W-46 To approve the applicant

Glory Busic, AS President, called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

I. CONSENT ITEMS

- a.** Approval of Minutes
-January 21, 2022

MOTION ASWWU-22-W-45

Motion by Schaeftbauer

To approve the minutes

Second: Wagner

Motion passed 7-0-0

- b.** Elections Advisory Committee Applicants
-Cori Foster

MOTION ASWWU-22-W-46

Motion by Barclay

To approve the applicant

Second: Schaeffbauer

Motion passed 7-0-0

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Handa added applicants to the Elections Advisory Committee as a consent item.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS

- a. How COVID Decisions Are Made – Ryan Morris, the AS Communications Director, said that she sits on a Communications Committee with University Communications, and something discussed was how WWU made COVID decisions and the communication around that. She feels that something that would be beneficial is transparency in how WWU makes COVID decisions. Her initial idea was putting together an informational document that would be on the AS Website as well as sending it out via sources like Western newsletters. The AS Communications Office is also working on a student survey to ask about students' experiences at WWU, and there has already been a pre-survey sent out to find out what student want to be asked about. A lot of the feedback received has to do with wanting to know about how WWU handles COVID related issues, so the informational documents will likely be sent out after hearing what students want to know.
- b. Queer Guild Council Charge and Charter – Shyam Vaitheesvaran presented the Queer Guild Council Charge and Charter.
- c. WILD Agenda – Chelsea Joefield presented the WILD Agenda.
- d. Western Student's Choice – Wagner reported that CHOICE went well on Monday and Wednesday and had support and engagement. Sargun Handa presented the Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Senate Resolution for Asynchronous Learning. She said that she is writing demands for Western Student's Choice. Wagner presented the COVID-19 & The Welfare of the Students at Western Washington University document. The Board agreed that it should be edited before using again.
- e. Discussion with Melynda Huskey – Melynda Huskey, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services, answered questions from the Board. Wagner asked about what steps were being taken by admin to address student concerns about poor communication surrounding COVID. Huskey replied that the issue had been discussed in Cabinet that

week, which included all the Vice Presidents and Sabah, and it is a general feeling with Employees as well. Huskey and others had discussed how to improve communication with students so that they can make decisions. She said that Sabah is interested in having more direct communication as the ultimate decision maker. Barclay asked what institutional checks there are on Sabah's decisions. Huskey said that Sabah's position is not elected, he is appointed, and the checks on his decision making comes from the Board of Trustees, who are the ones with authority over him. There is not voting with the Vice Presidents. Barclay asked what role the COVID Response Team plays. Huskey said that they are responsible for carrying out the decisions made by the institution regarding COVID. They centralize communication, bring together policy decisions, prepare briefings, carry out logistics around testing, vaccines, and quarantining, and run meetings. They meet with St. Josephs, the Health Department, the State Health Department, the Council of Presidents Subcommittee, and WASAC. Wagner said that she and Barclay had met with Ryan Morris to discuss how the AS could get involved with communications to make things more transparent. She said that Barclay had said that it would be good for students to have an understanding about what variables are used during COVID decision making conversations, and what variables might cause certain outcomes to be discussed. Huskey asked if this would be more than what was on the COVID Dashboard. Barclay replied that it would be, the COVID Dashboard has numbers on it, but it does not make it clear about what variables impact being in person or online. Huskey said that there is a mismatch around decisions when compared to case rates since there are also numbers for things like ICU beds and hospitalizations, since infections drop before the other numbers do. The most important input is from the WWU Public Health Officer, David Hansen, and is the COVID Response Medical Director, the County Public Health Director, and the State Department of Health. Those three provide the majority of Public Health expertise. There were also concerns about not having enough information to make a decision. There is also the issue of technology access for students in the case of remote learning, as well as mental health concerns due to isolation and lack of resource access when remote. Wagner told Huskey about OSU Assist, which is a response to increasing student concerns around mental health services. It is an attempt to create a mental health response team so students have a qualified mental health team to turn to. Huskey said that there had been discussion about working with the city to figure out non-police response to mental health crisis, for both on and off campus students. They are experiencing two challenges; one is the availability of mental health professionals or trained paraprofessionals to do that work. The other is that it needs to be a 24/7 resource so that would be something that needs to be figured out. It is still something that is being looked into, possibly with partnering with the City of Bellingham. Wagner asked about how the process for hiring the dining consultant is going. Huskey replied that they are in the process of completing the contract and the consultant will be brought on, who will then work through the public conversation piece, then the decision for how WWU will proceed with dining will be

reached and the next steps will be made from there.

V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS

VI. PERSONELL ITEMS

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – BOARD

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – BOARD

IX. BOARD REPORTS

- a.** HSOC Demands – Sargun Handa introduced the HSOC Demands. She explained that HSOC is the Honors Student of Color, which was formed by Silvia Leijah in Spring of 2019. In Handa’s Freshman year HSOC had their first meeting, and since then it has been an active body advocating for Students of Color and their basic needs and rights in the Honors program. She warned that she would be discussing racism that had occurred. There has been 3-4 years of advocacy with little change, and many of the founders of HSOC are graduating and want to make sure that there are some changes. Experiences faced by Honors students of color have been white students and professors using the n-word, facing backlash when reporting the usage of the n-word, a lack of diversity in faculty staff and students, studying Eurocentric and racist curriculum that excludes the BIPOC perspective, being tokenized while being ostracized and using Honors students of color to recruit more students of color without addressing the racism in the program, having the Honor student of color’s concerns lumped in with other marginalized groups, being ignored and gaslit when sharing experiences, microaggressions, lack of support, and being scapegoated as a reason to transition from a program to a College. HSOC has consistently advocated for racial justice and reparations and are now asking the Honors Program for ten things they have already been working on with them. The demands are public. If the demands are not met by Spring 2024, HSOC will take retribution.
- b.** Wagner reported that the first student meeting for Earth Day planning had occurred, and they had created a list of ideas to pursue logistics for and will now be meeting biweekly. Wagner plans to draft a resolution in support of Shred the Contract, possibly with the Shred the Contract Senate sub-committee.
- c.** Glory reported that Sabah was in support of fundraising for the Longhouse during Earth Week and has been working on getting money for the Longhouse as well. She also asked about the communication issue that has been discussed. She said that if a non-

emergency follow up message is being sent out it can be revised by members of the Board first to make sure communication is clearer. She spoke to Sabah and Huskey about CHOICE as well, but was told that it was not realistic, but if people wanted to talk further about it to contact the Faculty Senate President, the Provost, and Eric Alexander suggested talk to the Faculty Union.

- d. Handa reported that he, DeFrank, Glory and LAC have been looking into how student fees are used both on main and extension campuses. They have found out that students at extension campuses pay fees as they would on main campus but have less say in what they are used for. They have been looking into getting more input from those campuses, potentially through representatives in student government. Glory said that the first steps that were being considered was drafting and sending out an email with a form asking about interest in an initial meeting to express concerns and general interest in being involved in representation. How this would fit in to structure is uncertain, because of budgets and other similar issues. One idea is monthly meetings with people interested in representation at the other campuses. The structure aspect still needs to be figured out as well as details like if it would be a paid position. Handa said that UW and WSU have satellite campuses that are considered their own entities, and WWU has extensions in different locations that still pay fees as if on main campus and are still overseen by Sabah. Barclay asked if students at the other campuses are currently eligible to run or apply for student government positions. DeFrank replied that her understanding is that the extension campuses still fall under specific colleges and could still potentially apply to be a senator for that college.
- e. Naira reported that they were planning to meet with Sargun Handa and Silvia Leijah about the HSOC Demands.

X. SENATE REPORTS

- a. Barclay reported that the Senate is continuing to try to switch from Teams to Zoom.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Barclay said that they sit on the Student Technology Fee Committee which governs how the Student Technology Fee is spent, and a portion of the fees goes to Student Technology Initiatives, which are a series of one-time projects that students can fund, like the Makerspace and some lab equipment. The time has come for approving and rejecting the actual fees and have three At-Large positions that are vacant and are looking for applicants.

Glory Busic, AS President, adjourned the meeting at 6:19 PM.

