



# Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

May 12, 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/her), 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-105 | To approve the SEJF Rules of Operation   |
| ASWWU-22-S-106 | To approve the SEJF Referendum   |
| ASWWU-22-S-107 | To add ten minutes to the item   |
| ASWWU-22-S-108 | To approve the AS Vice President for Diversity Position Description with the edit to change Preferred Qualifications to Preferred Skills |

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

## I. CONSENT ITEMS

## II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

## III. PUBLIC FORUM

## IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS

- a. Canyon Lake Statement – Stanciu Jr. explained that Canyon Lake is co-owned by Whatcom County and WWU. One of the Local Lobby Day issues was discussing repairing access to Canyon Lake Community Forest. Marlowe Lawson, the Civic Involvement Coordinator, said a flood destroyed access to Canyon Lake a few years back, the County is seeking funding to repair the easement, as a bridge would be expensive. County Executive said that a statement from students of WWU would be helpful in getting

funding. The reason for wanting the easement fixed is that it is a beautiful place for recreational activity, as well as being an old growth forest which would provide invaluable places for research in that biome. Barclay said that the statement can be added to the Senate Agenda for the following week. Barclay asked if WWU was doing research in that area before the flood. Weston said that there has been some research by graduate students, but there has not been long term research. Barclay said that because WWU's research has been curtailed it seems extra important to resolve this issue. Glory asked if it would be helpful to establish a rough timeline for fixing the easement. Lawson said that the timeline that was hoped for was in June, but they had to look into the funding. Weston said that when they were talking to the head of Parks and Rec Department, they were expecting a response from Sierra Pacific in 2-4 weeks about the request they sent, and then the council would have some discussions after that.

## **V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS**

- a.** SEJF Rules of Operation – Wagner said that the rules of operation are the same as the previous meeting. It will continue to be worked on, but she wanted a more up to date version to be approved by the Executive Board so there is something more recent than the rules from 2019. Since the last time, a notice was added in the contingency funding saying that the exact percentages for that will still be discussed. Barclay asked how the Rules of Operation interact with the Charge and Charter for the SEJF. Wagner said that the Rules of Operation are the Bylaws, the Charge and Charter helps with the structure for individual meetings while Bylaws are overall process and information for the program. Wagner said that in a future draft it will be made clear that a student will not be leading the committee.

### ***MOTION ASWWU-22-S-105***

*Motion by Gonzales*

*To approve the SEJF Rules of Operation*

*Second: Barclay*

*Motion passed 7-0-0*

- b.** SEJF Referendum – Wagner said that the updated language on the Referendum is now “an increase or a decrease in student fee should happen by student body vote.” She spoke to Melynda Huskey about this fee becoming a Student Services and Activities Fee rather than a Student Voluntary Fee and it was clear that if that change happened it would not be soon, and it would take an intensive process. There also would not be more funding added to the Student Services and Activities Fee and it would have to be taken from the existing allocation.

***MOTION ASWWU-22-S-106***

*Motion by Barclay*

*To approve the SEJF Referendum*

*Second: Stanciu Jr.*

*Motion passed 7-0-0*

**VI. PERSONELL ITEMS**

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – BOARD**

- a. ESC Letter – Naira presented the Letter from the ESC that was sent to her, which she had discussed during the previous meeting. She went over the letter with the Board. Naira said that Melynda Huskey had explained that the Bylaws were not in accordance with the Supreme Court, so technically they were not legitimate. Certain categories were being voted on, which did not seem to be clear to students, because the person who revises the student written bylaws to make sure they are in accordance with the law did not do so efficiently, which led students to believe they had a vote they did not have. Students were upset over this, and there is personal opinion shown in the letter. On the topic of not getting enough training for their positions, she said that she believed that usually old club leaders would train new ones, but because ESC Executive Board meetings were put on hold during COVID, this was not able to happen, and new leaders do not feel they have the tools to run the clubs. She said that Chelsea Joefield and Daniela Rodriguez had made themselves available as student staff. On the topic of the ESC community, she said that she agrees there are cliques in the ESC as well as anti-Blackness. That was a part of the reason the BSC started. She had also heard that NASU had took distance from the ESC was because Native American Students did not feel welcomed and now that there has been two years of COVID, the students in NASU at the time have left and NASU is feeling left out while ESC is being told they chose to take their distance because of the same issues surrounding Black students being left out. She felt that student leaders have been able to get to know each other. There is a dislike of the rules and bylaws set up for the meetings. The ESC Executive Board uses a modified version of Robert’s Rules of Order. The rules were passed at the beginning of the ESC Executive Board meetings on consensus, so the rules were agreed with previously. Naira agreed that no student should be leading the ESC Executive Board meetings. The letter said that the ASVP for Diversity was acting unprofessional toward club leaders, and Naira said that there were recordings of the meetings to show the interactions. There had been an issue of the SGA for the ESC Executive Board deleting recordings before

minutes were passed. She asked if she could share the recordings with anyone interested. DeFrank said that per OPMA, the public documents that are viewable are the notes and documentations rather than the recordings. She will look into if the recordings can be shared. Naira said that she asked for the minutes to be revised but does not know if that passed at the most recent meeting. She said she felt that it was not unprofessional to be direct when conflict arises. She said she did not believe that anyone was told off for criticizing elected officials as that is in their first amendment rights. On the topic of the letter stating that committee chairs are too busy to respond to inquiries from club leaders, Naira said that she has said her office hours and has emailed and contacted everyone who has ever contacted her from the ESC. The letter suggested that each club leader take turns leading the meetings. Naira said they were worried that this would add a lot of work for non-paid positions. Naira said they were not against removing any student from the leader position in the meetings, including herself. She said that LSU signed on without the full committee agreeing. Glory said that she did not think that having different club leaders would not go over well. She said if something similar to Hillel happened again, there would be bias based on who is chairing that week, and the conversations would go in different directions. She said that it is important for the chair to be an unbiased party. Naira said that she agrees with Glory's points, and she had a hard time because it is important to have perspective and be nonpartisan. She said if Hillel tried to join again, they would be immediately accepted. Stanciu Jr. said if each chair is interpreting the rules differently, it may create more hostility, and it is going to create more issue with chairs cycling through. A chair who is just a facilitator would know the rules. Naira agreed with Stanciu Jr. and said the inconsistency would create a lot of work with coordinating agendas and meeting with the ESC Coordinator as well as leading a meeting. She said that on the Bylaws they were voting on the set criteria for clubs joining the ESC. There is still technically a vote for clubs to join even if all the criteria is met. She said she heard from higher ed that this is a bylaw created in 2016 when Trump and the Proud Boys were on the rise, and there were fears that those groups were going to try to be created and join the ESC and it was meant to help prevent that from happening. Naira said that Jewish students clearly qualify for being in the ESC, and she is not sure what the rationale is or what the fear was about there being a German student club that tries to join the ESC. Her understanding was that the bylaw was written in that way to avoid something like that happening and was left in the bylaws. Whoever was supposed to make sure the laws were in accordance with the Supreme Court did not look over the bylaws, which made students believe they had a level of control that they did not. Wagner asked if Naira knew if Amy Westmoreland or any staff or advisor position would be speaking to the students and addressing their questions as well as explaining why having different chairs each week might not be logistically sustainable in the long term and help brainstorm alternatives. Naira said that they shared the concern with higher ed, who agreed that it was not a good idea. She said that it felt unfair that she had to be in the position to say that, when

she felt that Westmoreland knew it was not a good idea. Naira said that she thinks Westmoreland is trying to meet in the middle, but she does not think students are clearly being told it is not a good idea. Westmoreland is leading the meetings alongside Joefield, who Naira is going to try to meet with soon. Usually, Westmoreland would not be the one working on this, but since there is understaffing in the ESC she is in that position. She said that whatever system is found for the ESC Executive Board will have to be passed by the AS Executive Board, so it will be addressed by this or the next Board and hopes to give the Board an update on where things are the following week. Glory said that in the part of the letter addressing students not being able to get to know each other, that may be able to be included in other business where clubs could share events that were happening. Naira said that was already included in ESC Club Updates and that she was not sure what they wanted to be included in the meetings.

***MOTION ASWWU-22-S-107***

*Motion by Barclay*

*To add ten minutes to the item*

*Second: Stanciu Jr.*

*Motion passed 7-0-0*

- b.** Leadership Symposium – The leadership symposium is the 13<sup>th</sup>, from 12-1. They will be sharing a table with Washington Student Association. Stanciu Jr. said he could reach out to the OCE office for candidate filing materials. Glory said that she will be taking some from the last time they tabled.
- c.** POL-U5710.02 Administering University Space – Glory asked if anyone has looked at it and if there were any edits, comments, or suggestions that they wanted submitted. Barclay said that it seemed like a good idea to not have bear mace and tactical coverings.

**VIII. ACTION ITEMS – BOARD**

- a.** AS Vice President for Diversity Position Description – Naira presented their job description for the AS Vice President for Diversity Position Description. Byers asked if Naira felt comfortable leaving in the position description that the ASVP for Diversity chairs the ESC Executive Board. Naira replied that they did not feel comfortable removing it when they do not know where the conversation is going about that role. They said that they meant to put the ASVP for Diversity as a non-voting member on the Undocumented and Mixed-Status Committee.

***MOTION ASWWU-22-S-108***

*Motion by Stanciu Jr.*

*To approve the AS Vice President for Diversity Position Description with the edit to change Preferred Qualifications to Preferred Skills*

*Second: Barclay*

*Motion passed 7-0-0*

## **IX. BOARD REPORTS**

- a.** Wagner reported that Shred the Contract aka Students for Self-Operated Dining has been working on outreach for multiple different parties including faculty and people who might be sitting on committees with the institution to gain support. There are also tabling efforts, spreading awareness, and encouraging people to send individual emails to Melynda Huskey. There are many smaller projects that have to do with advocating to end the contract with Aramark and work with food pantries. Wagner said that in regard to the SEJF situation, Tuesday's meeting went badly, but it has been recorded. There was inappropriate behavior from faculty and staff, which was also recorded. Delfine will be uploading the recording to the Executive Board teams. Moving forward the plans are to not meet for the rest of the quarter. Wagner will not lead any more meetings and she does not want any other students to have to be in those meetings. She will be working to update Rules of Operation. She will be working on finding a replacement for the chair, as the ASVP for Sustainability will now be a liaison and not the chair. She is having conversations about what accountability looks like, and steps forward for the rest of the year, and also making sure that her successors are in a good position. For the rest of the year, she will be avoiding working with certain individuals. She and Jose Ortuzar are writing a written report about treatment and interactions they have faced throughout the academic year. The report will be sent to admin and advisors. The end of the document will also have accountability requirements as well as what is required of administrators to support students. They will make sure that certain individuals are dealt with by their equals in a way that promotes a healthy environment. The first SEJF meeting the following year should have introductions, reading the Rules of Operation and Charter, and setting boundaries and ground rules as a group that everyone wants to have for the space. She said that she was unaware of the type of discussion content that would be in the meetings otherwise she would have set ground rules from the beginning.
- b.** Stanciu Jr. reported that Admin Town Hall will be renamed to WWU Campus Engagement due to the fact that admin did not want to participate. The nature of the event is now more of a workshop on campus engagement. The 27<sup>th</sup> one-on-ones with admin are still happening. Glory added that the workshop will also be focusing on letting groups with demands and requests collaborate and helping people contact admin. Melynda Huskey will be attending the workshop to answer questions and help

out. Elections are in progress and more people are now running, which means that extending the deadline was a successful move.

- c. Fast reported that the Family Workspace ribbon cutting has been postponed due to many roadblocks and miscommunication about furnishing the space, budget, and space ownership. The next logical step would be to have the AS and Counselling, Health, and Wellness be co-owners of the space. Huskey is working on a budget for the space. Fast will have a meeting with admin on May 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss a date for the decorating party. Sislena Ledbetter's idea is to have a decorating party before the end of the year. The hope is to have a dedication of the space in the Fall once there is an owner of the space.
- d. Glory reported that she got an email that the last Board of Trustees meeting is the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June, and the written report is due on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May. She says she feels that this report will be more of a year recap. She said they could include things they have done and what they want to see improved moving forward for the following year. She said that she asked about Ethnic Studies in a meeting with Sabah Randhawa. Brent Carbajal is hoping to have Ethnic Studies established as a department before leaving. They are deciding if it should be in College of Humanities and Social Sciences or Fairhaven.

## **X. SENATE REPORTS**

- a. Barclay reported that the amendments that would allow them to meet weekly have not been passed.

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Barclay said that going off of Brent Carbajal's resignation and Brent Johnson being appointment to Provost, they were wondering if the Executive Board would be interested in inviting one of them or Sabah Randhawa to a Board meeting to discuss the reasoning behind appointing Johnson, since several Board members attended interviews with Provost candidates. Senators have been discussing this as well. Glory agreed that it was a good idea but getting Sabah Randhawa to the meetings was unlikely. Having either or both of the others would be good. She said she is confused because it is not the feedback that the Board gave. Barclay said they would draft an email to all three inviting them to come and discuss the appointment and plans.
- b. Stanciu Jr. asked about if the Chief Diversity Officer Finalist meetings needed everyone to attend. It was decided that some Board members could attend each one and report back.

***Glory Busic, AS President, adjourned the meeting at 9:16 AM.***

