



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

September 7, 2022 | 1:30 PM

Attendees:

Board Members: Seb Genge (he/him), Sargun Handa (she/they), Rahma Iqbal (she/her), Jesus Resendiz-Eyler (he/him), Noah Schexnayder (he/him), Sophie Snyder (she/her)

Guests:

Staff and Assistants: Eric Alexander (he/him), Rue Blanchard (they/them), Annie Byers (she/her)

Motions:

- | | |
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| MOTION ASWWU-22-SUM-1 | To add ten minutes to the AS Student Government Vacancies item |
| MOTION ASWWU-22-SUM-2 | To add fifteen minutes to the AS Student Government Vacancies item |
| MOTION ASWWU-22-SUM-3 | To move the AS Student Government Vacancies from an Information item to an Action Item |
| MOTION ASWWU-22-SUM-4 | To fill the position of the AS Vice President for Diversity with an appointment proceeding |

Sargun Handa, AS President, called the meeting to order at 1:29 PM

I. CONSENT ITEMS

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS

V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS

VI. PERSONELL ITEMS

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – BOARD

- a. AS Student Government Vacancies – Handa said that there are vacancies in the role of ASVP for Diversity, and the Student Senator for the College of Fine and Performing arts.

The meetings focus is on the ASVP for Diversity Vacancy. Handa read the part of the ASWWU Constitution regarding vacancies. She asked where she would find information on appointing positions. Alexander said it would be in the bylaws. The Bylaws state that a vacancy in Fall Quarter would need to be filled via elections, while in Winter and Summer Quarter the vacancy would be filled through appointment or special election. Handa asked Byers and Alexander if they had thoughts on the matter. Alexander said that the opportunity to do an appointment or special election in Winter vs Summer Quarter was different. In the winter, it depends on the time during the winter in which the vacancy occurs, since it takes time to run an election. For the summer, it depends on when the vacancy is as well. He said that in the summer there would not be students there to run an election, so to promptly fill the seat, there would be an appointment process. Due to the timing, the board could choose to appoint or elect. Either way, the most students would be included by opening the position once students are back on campus, so no matter the decision, it would take time to complete. Handa said that in Summer Quarter, the Freshmen haven't arrived and cannot vote yet and the Seniors have graduated, so only part of the student body is able to vote. She said that engagement will also be lower since students typically do not want to think about school during the summer, which is why there is the option. Handa said that she is leaning toward appointment, because the students elected them to make decisions to affect the students. Handa asked if there is an Elections Coordinator who has been hired. Resendiz-Eyler said that there is an Elections Coordinator, and that the whole OCE is assembled. He asked Alexander and Byers what each process would look like with special election and appointment. Alexander referred to the bylaws and said that there is a filling period for at least ten days, then the AS President, ASVP for Governmental Affairs, and the AS Personnel Director form a search committee that would go through the applications and present at least two names to the Board, who would then determine the final appointment. If there is a special election, the Board would work with the OCE and Elections Coordinator to advertise the position. The process for elections is outlined in the Bylaws and the Elections Code. Alexander said that the election would take most of Fall Quarter, and the appointment might have a VP by mid-October. Seb Genge said that he was leaning toward appointment, as it would be more streamlined and as elected officials, they can take on that responsibility. Rahma agreed that appointment made the most sense for timeline, and that since there was only one student that ran for the position originally, it would likely be hard to find people to run through elections, and appointments might make candidates more confident. Resendiz-Eyler also agreed that appointment was the best option to fill the vacancy as quickly as possible. Handa said that saving that time would mean there would be an ASVP for Diversity in the spaces where one is needed. Alexander said that in the Elections Code, which is available on the AS website, it is written that if there is a need to fill a vacancy, that process would start 14 days after the vacancy is noted. There was a lag because of the timing, and the process for a special election would need to be started soon if that

was the direction the Board went in. Handa asked Rahma if she wanted to discuss the CFPA Senator vacancy. Byers advised not making decisions as Rahma has not met the Senators yet. Handa said that all of the discussions on appointment or elections applies to the CFPA position, and it can be discussed by the Senate. Handa asked the Board's thoughts on voting on how to proceed during the meeting. Alexander said that they could wait on voting and discuss the decision with constituents and stakeholders that the ASVP for Diversity would work with or choose to make the decision as elected officials who represent the students. Resendiz-Eyler said that there is an importance to moving forward as quickly as possible for the sake of the new ASVP for Diversity, the Board, and the students. Handa said that the constitution says "at least ten days" which means that the application could be opened before school starts, as well as running for some time once school has started. Byers said to keep capacity in mind and that some AS Offices are not fully staffed, and there may be challenges that will keep the process of election or appointment from moving as quickly as the Board would like. Handa asked if making a decision that day would lessen the load since there would be more time between then and the start of school. Byers said that there are not fully staffed offices and there are trainings the following week, which could create challenges for other offices that are involved in the process. Handa said that she agrees that there could be issues there. Handa said that if there is an appointment process with the current staffing and training situation, what would the next steps be. Alexander said that in the following week the Board should prepare for school and go to the trainings and be ready to table. They could work with someone in the Communications Office to create something simple to advertise the opening, and work on a press release as well. He suggested letting people know there is an opening in the next few weeks and designing the timeline later down the line. Handa said that a good goal for having an ASVP for Diversity would be the end of October.

MOTION ASWWU-22-SUM-1

Motion by Genge

To add ten minutes to the AS Student Government Vacancies item

Second: Iqbal

Motion passed 5-0-0

MOTION ASWWU-22-SUM-2

Motion by Iqbal

To add fifteen minutes to the AS Student Government Vacancies item

Second: Resendiz-Eyler

Motion passed 5-0-0

MOTION ASWWU-22-SUM-3

Motion by Genge

To move the AS Student Government Vacancies from an Information item to an Action Item

Second: Iqbal

Motion passed 6-0-0

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – BOARD

a. AS Student Government Vacancies

MOTION ASWWU-22-SUM-4

Motion by Resendiz-Eyler

To fill the position of the AS Vice President for Diversity with an appointment proceeding

Second: Schexnayder

Motion passed 6-0-0

IX. BOARD REPORTS

- a.** Handa reported that she has been focused on the vacancy and what to do about it. When recruiting for the Senate previously, she had contacted the Dean of each college to get the word out to the students in that college. She also talked to the Communications Director to email all of the students and talked to club directors. She wants to do something similar to look for an ASVP for Diversity.
- b.** Schexnayder reported that he had been working with the Activities Council to figure out Western Involvement Network and making sure he has access to forms he needs to approve and review. He's still learning the role and get comfortable making those decisions.
- c.** Seb Genge reported that he has been getting to know the stakeholders related to his role and the committees he will be involved with. The previous week he was on a search committee with Casey Hayden and Kira Davis for the Elections Coordinator and the Environmental Justice Coordinator. People have been found for all of the positions.

- d. Resendiz-Eyler said that he has been getting everything ready for the Lobby Day Agenda and meeting people to create a plan for Lobby Day. He has also been meeting with people on the Legislative Affairs Council and having discussions with the Director of Legislative Affairs, Naira Gonzales Aranda.
- e. Snyder reported that she is working on the search for the new Police Chief and getting input from students and clubs on what they're looking for and would love future help getting the word out about the finalist interviews, which anyone can sit in on.
- f. Rahma reported that she is going to email the Senators to say hello and getting them excited for the school year. During the Student Staff Development there will be Senate training. She had a meeting that day to discuss the Student Technology Fee Committee which she will also be chairing.

X. SENATE REPORTS

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. The Board discussed their upcoming retreat.

Sargun Handa, AS President, adjourned the meeting at 2:58 PM.