



Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2022, 4:00 PM

Attendees:

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

Guests:

Staff and Assistants: Annie Byers, Joshua Kurz, Rue Blanchard

Motions:

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-19 To add ten minutes to the item

Sargun Handa, AS President, called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM

I. CONSENT ITEMS

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Handa tabled Finance Council Charge and Charter.
- b. Handa tabled the Committee Council Updates.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS

V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS

VI. PERSONELL ITEMS

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – BOARD

- a. AS Executive Board Goals – Boliy Waathan, the new ASVP for Diversity introduced themselves. They said they applied for the position because they wanted to work with the AS, and it was important to them that they worked with the Student Government or ESC because that is where they felt they could make change. Handa said that her goal for the item was for all the members to be able to discuss their goals and how they overlap. The Board introduced themselves. Handa said that her first goal was to work on the Viking Mascot Change, Shred the Contract, creating an Organizational Chart of the AS and a possible AS Restructure Committee, updating governing documents and position descriptions, redesigning the AS Website to have an introduction to the

executive board, BSO Demands, educating students on what the AS is, getting Board members to do legacy documents, and redesigning the ASVP for Diversity position and seeing how it can be best facilitated in the AS. Resendiz-Eyler said that he wanted to make sure that Western Intersectional Lobby Day, Local Lobby Day, and Western Lobby Day ran smoothly, and put on events with local legislators. Schexnayder said that he wanted to change how the AS and Student Government are marketed to students since most don't know what it is or who they are, work on getting WIN easier to operate, work on Shred the Contract and pushing for self-operated dining, maintaining student involvement with committees, BSO Demands and figuring out what can happen with that, and figuring out the Student Union Advisory Group and getting students more involved with the VU. Snyder said that her long-term goals are to open communication between students and the school, increasing student engagement, and making progress on Shred the Contact. Her short-term goals include exploring disability access in transportation and exploring dining options. Seb Genge said that his goals are working on Shred the Contract, continuing to work on WWU's greenhouse gas emissions, and helping to write the Sustainability Action Plan. An ongoing effort is that he wants to push for more transparency in Western's endowment fund investments. He sees SEJF having an opportunity to demonstrate what a better investment campaign looks like, which could be a model for the endowment fund. He is supporting student projects, like awareness over water quality on campus and composting on campus, including for students who are off campus. Rahma said that her position is more administrative. She wants to flesh out the at-Large senator position more, she wants to connect them to the Western Libraries through their dean. She wants to connect international students to Student Government and is working to connect at-Large Senators with someone from the Institute for Global Studies. She wants to update the Senate documents and create some college specific position descriptions. She has done some work to update the Senate website and wants to add a public forum signup sheet on there as well as Senator's pronouns. She wants to improve initial Senate training and Senate organization as well. One of the Senate's goals is to make the Senate have a better identity on campus and within the Senate itself. They have created a task force to create better messaging and connect Senators with their constituents. Another goal is to push for diversifying curriculums and do something to support students who are using the DAC. Handa asked Snyder who she was hoping to improve communications between. Snyder said Students Services and AS with students. Handa asked Resendiz-Eyler about the school administration events with students. Resendiz-Eyler said that he had heard about past events that didn't have good turnout and wants to grow from that to improve communication between students and administration. Handa said there are overlapping goals that people can work on together. She suggested discussing goals quarterly.

- b.** AS Executive Board Mission/Values Statement – Handa said that the reason she wanted a statement was to have a “Why” for the Executive Board. She was asked if this should be just Board or a Senate statement too and asked the Board's thoughts. Resendiz-Eyler

said that he agreed with the idea of starting with a Board statement and then moving on to a Senate one. He asked if the question was if there should be one overall or one for each. Handa said there could be a Value Statement for the overall Student Government and then each branch could have a Mission Statement. She said that those three documents would not be overwhelming since the two have different purposes. Schexnayder said that he agreed and having a blanket mission statement could not cover the nuance of the different operations of the Board and Senate. Resendiz-Eyler said that having a similar mission statement made sense, but despite that they all serve the students, there may be a difference in how they do so. Handa said she wanted to brainstorm what values they might have. She said student engagement is a value they have. Kurz said that a vision statement is that if an organization is successful down the line, what would that look like. A mission is how they would do work every day. Value is what guides their actions. He suggested considering what they're working towards. Resendiz-Eyler asked if he thought it was important to think about who they are doing it for. Kurz said that yes, coming up with organizational values are how they are all going to act. Handa said that it's important to have a Mission and Value Statement, and she wants to know what's important to each of them. Resendiz-Eyler said who they were serving, what their purpose is, and what they are bettering was important to him. Schexnayder said that he feels the main thing the Board is doing is representing the needs and wants of the student body, and it's important to have transparency and a safe campus for the community. Resendiz-Eyler asked if they were drafting a mission statement or just discussing it. Handa said that she wanted to discuss it, and then she would like to work with Rahma and Resendiz-Eyler on the statement and then bring it back to the Board. She wanted to use this meeting as a resource for creating the statement. Rahma said that she doesn't know why the Senate wouldn't be included if their statement is looking at what they want from the University since the Senate covers the academics. Handa said that they could do a joint Mission and Values Statement and separate goals. Byers suggested they put what they come up with into something that can be displayed in the office. Handa asked what Byers meant about having a resolution at a previous meeting. Byers said that it would be an official statement declaring some of these vision and mission values that could be sent out to the student body and can be a way to communicate in a formal document to the student body. Kurz said if they want to offer official communication, they will vote on it to be a declaration. If they want to speak as the Student Government, they could make a resolution. Handa said they could have a working group on it and bring it to the Board. She said she knew that student engagement, equity and justice, and sustainability were values of the Board. Rahma said that she would be in favor of a joint resolution between the two branches of Student Government. Handa was in favor of having a joint Mission and Values Resolution and separate goal statements.

- c. BSO Demands and AS 2020 Responses – Handa asked if the 2020 AS Response to the BSO Demands should be listened to, if they should extract parts from it, or if they

should talk to the BSC about if they want the things listed. Rahma said she felt they can extract what they can and get an idea of what the BSC goals are. Handa read the actions called for in the statement. Resendiz-Eyler said that he wanted to know what the Board thinks because they can then decide how to continue. Seb Genge asked who was involved in making the statement. Handa said it was the AS Communications office. After the statement was posted on Instagram, the students who wrote the BSO Demands said it was disrespectful and a non-answer to the demands and asked that it was taken down. Handa picked a few things from the statement that she thought should be done because they were part of the BSO Demands. Sophie said that she noticed that a lot of things were left out. She felt the welcome week for Black students was something that could be done that she could work on. She agreed that they should make their own statement. Schexnayder said that a lot of things on it seemed performative like the third point of "Individually Admit to Our Wrongdoings." Handa said that she does not think the statement continues to serve the Board or Senate, and if they make another it should be done with the BSC. Rahma said that she thought they had made the Black Student Orientation. She asked if this should be included in the Value Statement. Handa said it was important not to combine the BSO Demands into their Mission and Values Statement. They also don't want to open old wounds. Kurz said that from discussions with Nia Gipson and Amy Westmoreland he has heard that the BSC is doing their own work and it may be beneficial to give them the space to work on that. The underlying value of the BSO Demands and the way things have gone over multiple years, the underlying demand is to make the organization more diverse and incorporate it into an integral part of what they do. He suggested asking how the conversation started by the BSO Demands has evolved. He said to consider what a partnership looks like without giving the BSC more work. Handa said that maybe their way of addressing the statement was to send a message to the BSC and acknowledge that it has not been helpful and does not reflect their goals and that they want to work with the BSC in the future. Kurz said to consider what actions speak louder than words and what the real work is. Handa said she wanted to have their intentions set. Resendiz-Eyler said that if they represent this as a big conversation, and if this statement is being used to represent them then they should consider making their own statement. Handa asked if it should be on the website, but in removing it they might not have full transparency. Schexnayder said that his concern is making sure it doesn't seem like they are sweeping a past mistake under the rug. He suggested keeping the document but also making it clear that it is not their current stance. Rahma asked if they want to keep it on their website since it wasn't passed by Student Government. Handa said that she thought they should move the document's place on the website and speak to the BSC to make them aware of that change. Resendiz-Eyler asked Byers if it was true that it wasn't passed. Byers said she doesn't but does not see why it would be voted on since it was a statement on the behalf of the ASWWU by the Communications Office, not a resolution. Kurz said that it is not policy, it is just a statement, while a resolution is policy. Handa felt it was an abuse of

power for one Communications Director to represent the whole of the AS. Kurz said that they should find out if there were more people drafting it, but it still would not carry the same weight. Schexnayder said that there was another document passed by the Faculty Senate supporting the BSO demands and wondered if the statement was representative of that document. Kurz said they needed to further look into it. He said the Board should consider what an official communication the represents the student body vs a communication that reflects a working group or task force looks like, and what that work looks like in practice. Snyder asked where the document Schexnayder referred to could be found, and why it isn't in the same place. She said that it would be important to state that they do not align themselves with the Statement. Resendiz-Eyler said he doesn't understand the response in general and why the ASWWU is calling for the ASWWU to act. Byers said that her guess at the time is that the AS Communications Director worked directly with a Board Member at the time to create the statement. She asked Handa what her intention was with presenting these documents. Handa said it was to acknowledge that the statement made by the AS that wasn't followed through on. She said that they could move forward in moving where the statement is and finding the document that Schexnayder referenced. Schexnayder said it was on the Faculty Senate website. Handa said that they could look into what happened in Spring 2020. Kurz said that if they are creating a tab dedicated to this on the website, they could provide context there. He said they can consider what they can do now, and what is achievable. Handa said that they will do an internal review of what happened in Spring 2020. She said they need to state their commitment and make it clear that it is the current Board's commitment, since each year different Boards hold different values.

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-19

Motion by Resendiz-Eyler

To add ten minutes to the item

Second: Rahma

Motion passed 7-0-0

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – BOARD

IX. BOARD REPORTS

- a. Snyder reported that she wanted to start exploring options for AS Board and Senate social media with the Communications Office. She suggested Instagram or Discord. She is still gathering information on it. She spoke to Higginson and Nash freshmen who expressed feeling unwelcome coming in to WWU and who didn't know much about Student Services and offices on campus. She talked about working with Schexnayder

since he worked in Activities and with Huskey and the Student Advisory Council. She has been working on Shred the Contract and considering Freshens as a place to have locally sourced food.

- b. Schexnayder reported that he has been doing a run down on all the committees he is on and looking at which ones are active. He is currently attending Activities Council, Club Recognition, Club Hub, the S&A Fee Committee, and the Department of Recreational Activities Council meetings. He is figuring out what other committees aren't meeting and if they exist currently. Student Publications Council met recently and discussed the Front's article on Sexual Assault and how Student Employees are pushing for accessibility but are not being given the support. The Student Union Advisory Group is also more disconnected from his role.
- c. Resendiz-Eyler reported that he had been working on the Lobby Day Agenda with Alexander, Byers, and Hayden. He is developing outreach for students. Gonzales sent out a poll for student feedback on the Legislative Agenda. He had a meeting with Michael Sledge to discuss what LAC has talked about and what information he can provide for student needs on campus, and a call with Alex Ramel to talk about clean energy at WWU.
- d. Handa reported that she finished the ASVP for Diversity appointment. She attended the Student Senate meeting which was also discussing having an Instagram and Discord.
- e. Rahma reported that the Senate is also talking about transportation accessibility. She asked Snyder if Ted Toppler reached out to her. Snyder said she has only reached out to the DOC and DAC. Rahma said that Ted Toppler is the main point of contact with that in the Senate. He is working on creating more accessible parking spaces for over a month. She said she could connect the two. She said that the CFPA interviews are starting. She is planning to introduce Kurz to more Senators.
- f. Seb Genge reported that on Tuesday, November 1st, they had the second SEJF committee meeting which went well. They discussed budget, Charge and Charter, and Rules of Operation. He is working on finding out if they can do anything with the pooled money from the past years. Resendiz-Eyler asked what is done with the Sustainability Development Goals. Seb Genge said that they are interactive and there to learn about and discuss. He is working on supporting student clubs.

X. SENATE REPORTS

- a. The Student Outreach Task Force is beginning and will start meeting the following week. They will start working on diversifying curriculum which will include creating unified messaging and talking point to bring to the ADEI Units and Deans of Colleges. She is continuing to support the Senators work. The Finance Council Charge and Charter has not been voted on yet.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Sargun Handa, AS President, adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM

DRAFT