



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

October 13, 2022, 4:00 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: Britta Eschette, Jonathan Salazar

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

Motions:

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-8 To approve the September 29, 2022 minutes

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-9 To approve the two At-Large students for LAC

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-10 To approve the appointments for the SEJF Committee

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-11 To approve the SEJF Charge and Charter

Sargun Handa, AS President, called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM

I. CONSENT ITEMS

- a.** Approval of the Minutes
-September 29, 2022

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-8

Motion by Rahma

To approve the September 29, 2022 minutes

Second: Resendiz-Eyler

Motion passed 6-0-0

- b. At-Large Student Application for the Legislative Affairs Council – Resendiz-Eyler said that Bryce Groen applied for the LAC, and their application included that they are a Junior, part of the LGBTQ+ community, has a history with ADEI, and are an Environmental Studies Major. Resendiz-Eyler knows Bryce and thinks they would be a good fit.
- c. At-Large Student Application for the Legislative Affairs Council – Resendiz-Eyler said that Malachi Phillips applied for LAC, and they are a Political Science Major, have experience in community service, and is another person that Resendiz-Eyler knows, and thinks is a good fit.

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-9

Motion by Rahma

To approve the two At-Large students for LAC

Second: Schexnayder

Motion passed 6-0-0

d. Appointments for the SEJF Committee

- Ted Tarricone
- Jenna Moreno
- Keegan Curry

Seb Genge said that out of six applicants, these three were the best fits. Ted Tarricone is a graduate student with international experience working in energy areas. Jenna Moreno has a background in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Keegan Curry also has a background in equity and sustainability work.

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-10

Motion by Resendiz-Eyler

To approve the appointments for the SEJF Committee

Second: Rahma

Motion passed 6-0-0

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC FORUM

- a. Britta Eschete from the Career Services Center said she met with Handa that morning to share some resources. She said the Career Services Center has resources for students

and alumni like helping with resumes and cover letters, as well as holding career fairs and having a professional clothing closet that students can access for interviews. She said that they were looking for ways to better incorporate student voices into events they are planning. They are an underutilized program since many students don't know they exist. Her role is to collaborate with other departments on career fairs and has a role in putting together workshops and in the career services closet. She formed a group called Career Fairs Reimagined when everything became virtual, where she's gotten different voices from campus, like colleges who have an interest in this and who are thinking about what to offer to students. There is a gap since they do not have any student voices as part of that besides their student employees. She asked what the Board thought that incorporating students more might look like, as well as advocating that students consider career services. Handa said that one of the issues discussed in their meeting that day had been student engagement with the Career Services Center. Handa said that Board members could be involved with the Center to include student voices. During their meeting, she had said that she wanted there to be a part of the presentation given to include what demographics come to the office. Snyder said that one of her biggest goals that year was finding the most underutilized services and thinks the Career Services Center would be a good candidate to be one of those services. Eschete said that there is a silo between student governance and staff and departments sometimes, yet they are in roles of planning activities for students and bring employers of interest in. She does not know how to fix that, but they want to better incorporate that student voice. Snyder said she would love to work with them. Rahma said that she had gotten in contact with Mindy Pelton in career services since increasing student representation is part of some of the Student Senate documents that Senators are a part of committees that are through Career Services. She wasn't sure if that was something that happened in the past and was willing to have more student representation in the form of Senators. Eschete said that there was an internal advisory group, but it had no elected representatives, and the group she works with has no students at all. Schexnayder said that there is an issue with students not knowing there are services to reach out to in general, and there is an expectation for students to find services instead of services reaching out to students, and he would like to be involved in career services and career fairs. Seb Genge asked what the process is for having employers come to career fair. Eschete said that typically they just open it up, but there is a fee for employers to be there because of the services provided on the Career Services side of the career fairs. They are also starting to collaborate more with other departments to invite in more specific employers.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS

- a. Elections Advisory Committee Charge and Charter – Jonathan Salazar presented the Elections Advisory Committee Charge and Charter. Handa asked why the Charge and Charter was being brought in Fall Quarter. Salazar said that it was because the Elections

Code would be reviewed in the winter and seats would need to be filled in the fall for that purpose. Alexander suggested looking at the Elections Code before Winter Quarter. Handa said that she would like to have one Senator and one Board member on the committee for the equal shared governance aspect. Rahma said that she understood having the two together to be certain that there is at least one person graduating or not seeking reelection, since members who are running for reelection cannot be on the Committee, but at least for the current year she knows there are people in both branches that are not going to go for reelection. She said that she also knows it throws off the balance needed to avoid ties. Salazar said that as far as he knew it had always been just one member from one branch or the other, not both. Alexander said that one way to deal with an even number of members would be to have the Chair only vote on tie breakers, which could be done in other committees as well. Salazar asked if the Board wanted to make it so there was one of each branch on the committee. They said yes. Rahma said that if he wanted to change the Students At-Large clarification to say there could be fewer or more students and say that the Chair could vote to break ties. Handa suggested going back to 3-5 At-Large students rather than 4. Salazar agreed that it could be changed back. Resendiz-Eyler asked if the addition of the Chair being the tie breaker would be added to the Charge and Charter or the Bylaws. Alexander said that they can put it in the Charge and Charter, and every committee cannot have different ways that voting happens based on membership, but as a group it can be figured out if it can be used as a model by using it in several committees. Alexander said that the three things that need to be paid attention to when there aren't ideal numbers are when something has to be done when the committee hasn't met yet, what quorum is, and that there is rarely everyone at a meeting. The chair voting when needed is a system that could be used in this committee.

V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS

VI. PERSONELL ITEMS

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – BOARD

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – BOARD

- a. SEJF Charge and Charter – Seb Genge said that there were no changes to the document.

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-11

Motion by Rahma

To approve the SEJF Charge and Charter

Second: Schexnayder

Motion passed 6-0-0

IX. BOARD REPORTS

- a. Handa reported that they met with Dr. Jaqueline Hughes and she said that she would come to a Board Meeting soon to discuss the AS Structure and talk about how they can collaborate more. Handa met with Amy Westmoreland from the Multicultural Student Services about the AS Vice President for Diversity position. The Vice President for Diversity seems to be responsible for the ADEI needs of all students at Western and making the position smaller and taking some of that responsibility and distributing it among the Board is being considered. Handa was also thinking that since the ESC and SAIRC left the AS, it is a wake-up call that they cannot rely on the Multicultural Center for AS ADEI, and she said that the AS has to have their own responsibility for ADEI. She was wondering about bringing it up to the Executive Board of Finance Council for ADEI staff that would support the AS Vice President for Diversity. She wants to find out what an ADEI unit would do, and if they be assistants or in the OCE, with an Issues Coordinator for WWU or if there are students that could be delegated onto committees that the Vice President would usually be on. She spoke to Randhawa about the Viking mascot change, and he said that when the football team was dissolved and the Huxley name was removed, voters took away funding, and there are concerns of that happening again if the mascot is changed. She said that it is important to have money to operate the university, but she also hopes to bring a resolution to the Executive Board and Student Senate about their desire to change the mascot and create a paper trail of their support. She also has been working on Western Intersectional Lobby Day with Resendiz-Eyler and Naira Gonzales Aranda, the OCE Director of Legislative Affairs. She has been working on finding applicants for the AS Vice President for Diversity position. She has been working on the AS Website Redesign and BSO Demand Updates. Shred the Contract will be meeting with Melynda Huskey soon. There have been more discussions about Committee Council as well. She said the Board went to the Police Chief interviews and she asked about the BSO. She said that their answers were telling about how they would serve at WWU. Handa said that there was an email from the Iranian students on the topic of a poster put up in Bond Hall. They filed a bias report and wanted a statement from President Sabah Randhawa. Handa said that she thought that the AS should acknowledge the situation. The Iranian students found Randhawa's response to be dismissive, and Handa said that their concerns are valid, and she's working on that and working with the Communications Director, but the Communications Director is out of the office. She wants to make sure that they are careful with their words and that she and Rahma are representing the AS correctly. She said that there was no email from Randhawa about Indigenous Peoples Day, which concerned a lot of Indigenous students. Handa emailed him and Hughes about why it didn't happen and hopes they will send out an email about it. She thinks that the AS needs to step it up in terms of communicating with students and it is their responsibility to acknowledge student wellbeing. Resendiz-Eyler said that the poster was a propaganda poster about the

protests going on in Iran and misleading about what they are protesting about. Handa said that it was demonizing Iranian people protesting. Rahma said that as a University supporting students and young people, if they were to take a stance they would be in support of students. She has issues with taking a stance because it is an incredibly nuanced topic, as all political topics are, and asked that, if they were to take a stance, do they have the education necessary to take an accurate stance. She asked that if they do take a stance, are they taking a stance on everything, how much time are they going to put in on taking a stance on every issue, and, while she gets why it would be good for the AS to release a statement as someone who cares about advocating for marginalized people, she does not know if that's how she would personally go about it. Handa said that a statement could do more harm than good. With Indigenous Peoples Day, this is a day that has been acknowledged every year, and she is not sure that the two events that are something that the AS needs to be acknowledging. On the topic of the poster, it's not a political statement, but about how they are protecting students on campus and making sure that they as a Board are educated and not overstepping student's boundaries and not doing more harm than good. Resendiz-Eyler asked for elaboration on their concerns. Rahma said that if, for example they issue a statement on Iran, they never said anything about Pakistan, and are they going to say something about Yemen. There was an email sent out about Ukraine from the University, which brings up why there isn't anything being said about other issues. She asked how far they go, and if they have to take a stance on everything, whose side are they taking and what does that say about them as a Board. If they feel like they are being correct on everything this year, the next Board could have entirely different views, and it gets complicated fast. She said that if they do release something in support of Iranian students, if the language is slightly off and people see that, it might be seen as Islamophobic, and she doesn't want that. Resendiz-Eyler said that what differentiates what is happening in other areas is that the poster was put up and it doesn't accurately represent what's going on, and it demonizes people. It's clearly targeting a group of people on campus. Handa said that when similar incidents have happened in the past, the Board and Senate decided not to release a statement, so it has been an ongoing discussion. She reached out to those students who brought up the poster individually. The students had a meeting with Jacqueline Hughes, Amy Westmoreland, and Litav Langley to discuss what kind of response they want. They are hoping to put on an event on campus to raise awareness and maybe start an ESC club to encourage community for Iranian students. She does not want to just talk about statements, but also how to support these actions. Rahma said that if they did want to release a statement and they did say something, it would be more along the lines of educate yourself before putting up something uninformed and instigating and consider why you're doing it. She said that from a planning perspective, having an event to support Iranian students would be good, but doesn't think it should come from the AS. Handa said that they need to be careful with their words and meet with the students who emailed them to understand what they really want, instead of

making a statement without their input. Alexander said that the purpose of their intentions would be to ask people to educate themselves. Handa said that they are not shying away from taking a stance, they are just acknowledging that words are not the same as actions. Handa said it is clear that putting up a poster with misleading information about a group is wrong, but they need to know what to do afterward. Rahma said that she is also Co-President of the MSA, and they were talking about whether or not they wanted to do something in regard to this, and the question was if they wanted to put themselves through the mental hang-up and having to sit in front of a group of students and have to defend themselves essentially and knowing what type of questions will be asked. Handa asked if Rahma meant students who weren't Iranian and might ask devil's advocate questions. Rahma said she did mean students who are not Iranian, and the concern is devil's advocate questions and questions about things like debating religious and cultural topics. As a student group thinking about whether or not they want to get involved in it, the question is if they care to get involved. She said it is something to think about with organizing with students of color who are dealing with this weight. Handa said that it isn't a question of if they're making a statement, it's a question of how they are going to support those students. Snyder said that her boyfriend, who is Iranian, is in some social media groups and there was a lot of misinformation being spread which is difficult and upsetting to see and to see that the school hasn't done anything about it. It is also an emotional time for a lot of Iranian students and their families. She said she thought that outreach that provided access to information, even if it is through social media, would be something they could do. Schexnayder said that he didn't think providing information was a political statement. Handa said that what if they send out an email that said they were aware of the incident that was reported as a bias report and give resources to educate the students and ask them to research and treat each other with kindness. Seb Genge said he liked that because it responded to what was happening on campus and doesn't set the precedent for responding to things that happen globally. Handa said she will ask the students who reported the poster what they thought of the idea and get feedback. Resendiz-Eyler agreed with Seb Genge about centering around what happened on campus and then putting up information on what is actually happening. He said that like Rahma had said, it is hard because they keep talking about the situation in Iran, it might cause students to ask why they aren't talking about other situations. Alexander said that one challenge is that anyone could have put up those posters, it might not have been a student. They should also consider that there are a whole range of issues across the political spectrum that happen on a campus throughout the year, and they need to choose where to put their energy. There is also the conversation to have about if a group that the Board doesn't align with has something happen to them, will they also get the same response from the Board. Resendiz-Eyler said that while they don't know who put it up, it was students on campus who were affected. Schexnayder said that there is some part of it that is under the AS's scope, they are not a government that can comment on every

issue, and they can make it clear that they will not comment on every issue, but it affects students on campus, and they are the Associated Students Board, and represent the Associated Students. Handa said they can also discuss it the next meeting.

- b.** Schexnayder reported that he has mostly been working with Club Hub. They had double the attendance than the previous year at the Club Kickoff. The Activities Council is on its way and running smoother than the first meeting. They discussed WIN Forms and how they aren't sorted and have to be hand sorted. He met with Eric Alexander and Greg McBride about the Student Union Advisory Group and what it is going to look like in the future. He emailed with the Chair of the Student Publications Council about having their AS Appointed Student at Large on the Board. Schexnayder asked if another application would need to be made for the returning Board appointed member. Alexander said that with the current process people go through the WIN process and people have to reapply.
- c.** Resendiz-Eyler reported that LAC met for the first time that week. They will meet the following week to discuss past lobby days, then potentially send out a survey to students to find out what they care about. They will go over LAC applications as well. He, Handa, and Gonzales met with Chelsea Joefield to discuss WILD and come up with an understanding of what is best to do and what they want to do.
- d.** Rahma reported that she has not been able to get as much done that week as she would have liked to do due to having a difficult week. The search for the CFPA Senator is not going well. She is trying to brainstorm way to encourage applicants. She is going to email all AS Employees asking them to encourage CFPA students they know to apply. She is going to ask ESC and Chelsea to tell any CFPA ESC members that there is the job opening. She is going to put up posters and is going to table as well. She got a lot of committee work done in terms of going through the list of committees Senators are in. She decided that the committees act more as a wish list than a set thing and has started to contact people to find out if committees still exist and if they want Senators on them. She has gotten some responses and is figuring out which committees need Senators. There has been work on the Student Outreach Committee Charge and Charter, but it still needs more work. She thinks there are some issues with how general or specific to make it. She thinks that the Diversifying Curriculums Charge and Charter needs to be put on hold. Also, on the topic of the Student Outreach Committee, she said that they had the idea to add releasing goal statements in response to concerns, which needs to be discussed.
- e.** Seb Genge reported that there was the ATA Committee Meeting on Tuesday, and on Wednesday morning there was the President Sustainability Advisory Council discussion, as well as the Sustainability Round Table.
- f.** Snyder reported that she has been working to reanimate most of the committees and groups that the previous ASVP for Student Services, Jasmine Fast, worked on. She wants to use the group model that Fast created for some of the stuff with career services, since

she feels it's more accessible than committees. She's only found a few people still interested in each one. She has been talking to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn about their dining services since they used to use Sodexo for dining and have transitioned to some more sustainable options while still having a contract with Sodexo. She thinks they could implement something similar at WWU.

X. SENATE REPORTS

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. The Board discussed the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting.

Jesus Resendiz-Eyler, AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs, adjourned the meeting at 5:30