



Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

October 20, 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)

Guests: Keara Ryan (she/her), Zinta Lucans, Johnathan Salazar, Quincy Ingalls, Gabe Wong

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

Motions:

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-12 To approve the Consent Items

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-13 To motion for more time

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-14 To move STF Operational Guideline 2023-2026 to be the first Action Item

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-15 To pass the STF Operational Guidelines 2023-2026

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-16 To pass the EAC Charge and Charter

Sargun Handa, AS President, called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM

I. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approval of 4 at-Large Students on LAC – Resendiz-Eyler said that all four have worked in Student Government and Diversity and Inclusion.

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-12

Motion by Rahma

To approve the Consent Items

Second: Snyder

Motion passed 5-0-0

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS

- a. Student Outreach Committee Charge and Charter – Rahma presented the Student Outreach Committee Charge and Charter. The hope is for it to be a Senate and Board collaboration. Quincy Ingalls said that the Committee would go to the students to make them aware of the existence of the Associated Students. They would work with people across campus to accomplish this. Resendiz-Eyler asked what specifically the Committee would do. Ingalls said that they would be tabling regularly, and members of the Committee would attend AS events, create infographics to provide students with information, and do other work to spread information. Resendiz-Eyler asked what the Committee would table for. Rahma said the Committee is for student outreach to show that the Student Government exists and advertise it. Snyder said that she had been planning with Melynda Huskey to table for outreach as the VP for Student Services, so this Committee is something she wants to be involved with. Rahma said that the Committee could do things that are Senate or Board specific and would also include a group working on outreach and student engagement, and testing strategies. Resendiz-Eyler asked what the maximum membership of the Committee was. Ingalls said that for Senators specifically, no Committee can exceed nine Senators. Byers asked if the AS Employee volunteers on the membership should be At-Large Students. Ingalls said that they thought it was appropriate to allow any AS Employee to be a part of the Committee. Handa said that there are parts of the Charter that are not consistent with other AS Charge and Charters. Handa asked who the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee would be. Ingalls said that the plan was for the Chair and Vice-Chair to be appointed by the Committee through a vote. Alexander suggested considering who would be responsible for starting the Committee up in years to come. He also suggested bringing in the OCE. Ingalls said that is why they left it open ended so other AS Employees could be involved. Byers said it would be helpful to identify the employees for the Committee and it would be helpful to specify the number of people on the Committee for the sake of quorum. Ingalls said that quorum was 51%. Byers said that there is still not a number of people. Ingalls said that they did not want it to be approved with specific names in case it is putting extra work on people. Handa said to discuss it with the people who would be on the Charter. Snyder said that a little flexibility would be warranted on this Committee, since energy is an important thing which can be wasted if not put to a cause, so having a Chair elected by the Committee would work best for that. Alexander said that some committees do have Chairs selected, and a position that serves to bring the committee together until then. He said that sometimes the AS needs work groups and not Committees, and to consider the intended outcome. He asked them to consider what would need to be voted on that would require quorum. Resendiz-Eyler said that reading the Charter, he thought that a lot of the work could be done between Senators and the OCE Director. Handa suggested having a

Student Government Assistant to take minutes and Advisor present on the Committee. Kurz asked if that formal structure is needed if it is about coordination and outreach. He also asked why tabling and outreach isn't already happening, and if those avenues might already be there, which might make a work group work better. Johnathan Salazar, the AS Elections Coordinator, said that he is interested in being involved. Alexander said that many students are unaware of the AS and the Viking Union services. Byers also said that Office Hours are a good way to connect and that is something the Board and Senate could share with students. Snyder said that she thinks this is necessary and that one of the biggest gaps is that they are making students go to the AS, and they need to reach out to students. Ingalls said that they agree that outreach is everyone's job, but it isn't being done effectively. Kurz said the energy and idea are right, but to consider starting with a task force and moving from there.

- b.** Committee Council – Alexander said that there were two teams working on the Committee Council. One was Keara Ryan, Autumn Kasprowicz who is the AS OCE Civic Involvement Coordinator, Alexander, Byers, and Kurz, who were looking at the process of committees. There are a lot of gaps in that process. The overarching consensus was that there are too many committees that the AS is responsible for. One thought to be considered is if there is a limit to their capacity, and if there are specific committees that want to be focused on. One solution is the AS OCE Civic Involvement Coordinator and the AS OCE Director positions working on getting people engaged and moving on in the process to selection and application. Rahma, Handa, and Resendiz-Eyler were discussing that process, and the two conversations need to come together. Handa said that the process being discussed is the Board still appointing positions after the process Ryan and Kasprowicz do. Resendiz-Eyler asked what Ryan and Kasprowicz be doing in terms of what the Council was meant to be doing. Alexander said there is work to do with organizing and getting information, then promoting the open positions and application process, and then turning over the applications to the Board to appoint. Then there is the other issue of if committee members stop showing up, and they need someone to be there for the follow through and to support the members. Handa asked if Resendiz-Eyler recruited the LAC committee members. He said no, it was advertisement. Handa said that her understanding of the process was that currently the applications were going through Byers to the Executive Board. She said that her understanding was that the proposed process was that the recruitment and applications go through Kasprowicz and Ryan and they would forward it to the Executive Board, which was what the Committee Council would have done. Alexander said that yes, that was the case since there is not a need for the Committee Council as it was brought up that year. He said that in the past there was the position of Committee Coordinator in the OCE, which disappeared and is needed again. Resendiz-Eyler asked if they could get the Committee Coordinator's job description to see what they did. Byers said that it should be on the Team's site. Alexander said it was an old OCE position. Resendiz-Eyler said that it made sense to keep the responsibilities as part of the OCE. Alexander said

that the Committee Council would add time onto the process, while this process would not. There are other parts of the process to consider, like advertising at the start of the year and having a deadline. Handa asked if Google Forms would be a good way to collect applications. Alexander said that there are simple tools for that kind of thing. He said that the question for the Board was what they feel is the number of committees the AS should be focusing on. He suggested getting the two groups working on the issue together to discuss the steps forward. He suggested looking at the committees connected to the AS and deciding which ones the Board might not need to work on. Resendiz-Eyler asked what they can do for committees that they don't have ties to. Alexander said that is something to consider.

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-13

Motion by Resendiz-Eyler

To motion for more time

Second: Snyder

Motion passed 5-0-0

- c. AS Finance Council Charge and Charter – Handa tabled the item.
- d. BSO Demands AS Budget Evaluation – Gabe Wong, one of the at-Large Senators, said that the Senate started looking at the BSO Demands, specifically for the Lobbying Trip and the AS Student Development fund, which was marked as complete, but the Student Development Fund was switched from an Operational Budget item to a Reserve Fund in Fiscal year 2021. It switched from \$5,000 a year as an Operational Budget to a Reserve Fund that had \$16,000. The 2021 Finance Council recommended that the Reserve Fund was supposed to cost \$3,000 a year. Wong sent an email to Nia Gibson from the BSC asking if this was still something that they want eliminated. The BSC has been funded fully despite the fund still existing. He has not heard back from the BSC yet. In his opinion, it should still be changed to reflect reality on the Executive Board website. Alexander said that reserves are not guaranteed dollars but are like a savings account. The AS has a policy called Funding the AS Reserves that puts in a cascading dollar amount for different reserves. The main reserve is something considered a rainy-day fund in case of situations like COVID which cut revenue, but employees still need to be paid. There are nine or ten things that are cascaded through. Wong said that the previous year there was an Executive Board meeting on May 26, 2022, the Executive Board realized that the meeting to get rid of that fund did not have quorum, so that never happened. Resendiz-Eyler asked if there was still money going in or just coming out. Alexander said there is not a student fee being collected to go into that operating dollar amount each year. He said that he believed that some of the demands met were

not the exact ones requested, like the placement of the Black Student Coalition space and some demands could not be met legally. Alexander said that his assumption was that it was decided that there would not be funds given annually, but they still wanted a way for students to gain development, so if funding is available through reserves, it can be offered. Handa said that hopefully the BSO Demands will be in a different place on the website and updated to reflect the ways they have been addressed. She also said that she remembers when this became an issue. In the BSO Demands it is said that "The AS Employee Development Fund is being used for friends to travel on behalf of "benefit the Western student body" - but the treatment of Black Students by your AS Employees that go on these trips has proven how useless this fund is. As shown by the 2019-2020 school year, members of the AS Executive Board have been reported to abuse these funding dollars to go on social trips with their friends that work in the AS. There is no ethical reason why student employees should be spending student dollars to go on vacations. This money would be better served to support the items outlined in this document related to the wellbeing of Black students on campus." She said that VP for Diversity takes students to a PNW Conference, but in the 2019-2020 school year, there was the decision that they would go to a national conference, which only a few people would attend. The people who went were friends and planned to go on a vacation after the conference. They paid for the vacation, but it was clearly an unethical use of dollars. When the Senate Pro-Tempore at the time was in finance council, she had to leave and was unable to vote against that use of funds. It was passed and voted yes on by one of the people going on the trip, which was a conflict of interest and an unethical situation. She said that she thought that since the BSC was already funded, maybe they could eliminate the reserve fund and create a new fund that works on Employee Development that is to pay for trainings for the AS that would actually help develop students and not just pay for trips. Resendiz-Eyler asked if the trip that the VP for Diversity did was every year and from the AS Employee Development Fund. Alexander said that the VP for Diversity had the funds to help support attending the Oregon Students of Color Conference, and then there was the Federal Lobbying Fund, where several students would go to Washington D.C. Usually, they went with the President and met with Federal Legislators. He said that did not happen for a few years and believes that the year Handa was talking about was when they turned that money to a conference more focused on diversity, and to get more people to be able to go, combined the funds to go to the conference. Some of the people who went then went on vacation together afterward which made it seem like that was just an easy way for them to go on vacation together. Handa said there were also concerns about students of color's spots being taken when they would usually have those spaces for the Diversity trip that the funds were combined with the Federal trip were part of. Handa asked where they go from there, and if they would abolish that Reserve Fund. Alexander said the Executive Board would not decide that, since that's the Finance Council's decision. The Executive Board can discuss if it is a good use of reserves and bring it to the Finance Council.

V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS

VI. PERSONELL ITEMS

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – BOARD

- a.** First Gen Event – Snyder said that there is an event in VU 565 on November 8th called National First-Generation Celebration Day and invited the Board members to table with her. Resendiz-Eyler asked why there have been fewer first-generation students at WWU. Snyder said that there has been a change in Community College students coming to WWU. Rahma said that the amount of people going to Community Colleges has been going down for a decade, and WWU has a poor retention rate for First-Generation students, Pell Eligible students, and students from marginalized communities which is an increasing trend. She has also heard that there is going to be work on advisors going to students rather than students having to seek out advisors.
- b.** SEJF Rules of Operation - Seb Genge and Zinta Lucans presented the updated SEJF Rules of Operation. Handa asked about the inclusion of human health in the mission statement. Seb Genge said it is one of the four pillars of sustainability. Handa asked about moving the expiration date back. Alexander said that they can still meet without making decisions before the Rules of Operation are updated. Lucans said that hopefully changes can be discussed in the spring before the next year’s SEJF meets. Resendiz-Eyler asked if there needs to be an expiration date. Alexander said that there did not. Resendiz-Eyler suggested considering not having one. Handa asked why there is one Senator and two Executive Board members, rather than two of each. Seb Genge said that it hadn’t been discussed relating to the Charge and Charter and primarily it was just because the VP for Sustainability and VP for Student Services were present individually in the Charge and Charter. Handa suggested having two from each branch for shared governance, but that having students at-Large is important as well and not overloading the committee.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – BOARD

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-14

Motion by Iqbal

To move STF Operational Guideline 2023-2026 to be the first Action Item

Second: Snyder

Motion passed 5-0-0

- a. STF Operational Guidelines 2023-2026 – Rahma presented the STF Operational Guidelines 2023-2026

MOTION ASWWU-22-S-F-15

Motion by Iqbal

To pass the STF Operational Guidelines 2023-2026

Second: Resendiz-Eyler

Motion passed 5-0-0

- b. EAC Charge and Charter – Resendiz-Eyler went over the previously discussed changes to the EAC Charge and Charter. Handa asks what happens if there is a tie. Salazar said that it will be voted on again. Rahma suggested having the chair vote in case of ties.

MOTION ASWWU-22-F-16

Motion by Resendiz-Eyler

To pass the EAC Charge and Charter

Second: Snyder

Motion passed 5-0-0

IX. BOARD REPORTS

- a. Rahma reported that Quincy Ingalls is now Senate Vice Chair. The Provost went to the Senate meeting the day before and the Senate got to discuss their position and jurisdiction with him. She was requested to have Senators on the Academic Honesty Board and has been emailing people about that. She is in the process of appointing someone to the Committee on Undergraduate Education. The Senators have been working on their Committees. The CFPA Senator position has two applicants. Resendiz-Eyler said that there was some anti-Semitic drawings and words on the free speech board and wanted to bring that to the Board's attention.
- b. Snyder reported that the First-Gen Celebration Day was finalized. She was thinking about making a Discord for the AS, but the Comm office hasn't gotten back to her yet. She was thinking about reaching students where they are.
- c. Resendiz-Eyler reported that LAC met the previous Tuesday and are working on a poll to get feedback from students on what they care about for the Legislative Agenda. They were approved to offer gift cards as a reward, but the type was being discussed. They will be going over the past Lobby Day Agendas the following week. He may be reaching out to representatives to discuss what they're working on. He met with Becca about

Western's Legislative Agenda, and he thinks there are things on there the students would want to support including the new Student Center facility which will possibly create new jobs for students and meet their needs and remodeling the WWU heating system.

- d.** Seb Genge reported that the SEJF met for the first time which was an introductory meeting.
- e.** Handa reported that she has been working with Resendiz-Eyler on ASVP for Diversity appointments.

X. SENATE REPORTS

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Sargun Handa, AS President, adjourned the meeting at 6:09 PM.