



Western Washington University Associated Students
Senate Meeting Minutes

November 2nd 2022, 6:00-7:30 PM

Attendees: Eric Alexander, Nely Vasquez, Sargun Handa, Joshua Kurz, Annie Byers

Senate Members: Rahma Iqbal, Gabe Wong, David Nessa, Liam Pratt, Calvin Christoph, Lily Duong, Hailey Hartford, Meagan Danielle Brown, Pierce Bock, Sean Hakala, Jaimie Baxter, Miriam Gold, Sofia Trujillo, Dacey Durbin, Sofia Larrondo, Yasmin Lama Flores, Quincy Ingalls, Ted Topper

Guests:

Staff and Assistants: Eric Alexander, Nely Vasquez, Joshua Kurz, Annie Byers

Motions:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| SEN-22-F-6 | To approve the October 19th, 2022 minutes |
| SEN-22-F-7 | To add 5 more minutes to the AS Unionization topic |
| SEN-22-F-8 | To add 5 more minutes to the Outreach Task Force topic |

Rahma Iqbal, AS Senate President, called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM

I. CONSENT ITEMS

Motion: Meagan Danielle Brown
To approve the October 19th, 2022 minutes
Second: Liam Pratt
Motion passed: 18-0-0

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS

- a.** Finance council
 - i. Brandon says their biggest change is the council lowered their voting members from 9 to 7
 - ii. Includes removing the AS VP and AS Student Senator seat
 - iii. They did this because of efficiency
 - iv. The large event reserve fund will now fall under finance council, previous from activities council
 - v. Reason for this is they feel having three of the main budget authorities under one council should have oversight
- b.** Wong wonders what the change in the funding section means for AS grants
 - i. Brandon says that any grants over \$20,000 would have to through the Executive Board, so the change eliminates that process ii. Another reason is efficiency

V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS

VI. PERSONELL ITEMS

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – SENATE

- a.** BIPOC artwork
 - a. Ingalls started this project since last year to fulfill BSO demand 7
 - b. He has been working with WWU art gallery director Hafthor Yugvason, who acquired over 30 pieces from 18 artists of color
 - c. He is asking senators to scout out places to put in the artwork, but to also talk to their deans if they have any idea
 - i. He also asks the senators to their deans or applicable department head about installing the pieces
 - ii. He emphasizes that the pieces must be in a very visible place
 - d. The pieces will be displayed in the art gallery for a quarter, and then be distributed
 - e. Brown wonders what type of artwork is being displayed, such as paintings, sculptures, etc.

- i. Ingalls says most are 2D framed pieces, but some must be put on a pedestal with glass coverings
 - f. Duong wonders who will get what art pieces and the process for it
 - i. It will be decided collectively when the senators see the artwork
 - g. Christoph wonders how the at large senators could help negate where some of the art pieces could go
 - i. He wonders if areas like Viking union or the recreation center could be appropriate
 - ii. Ingalls agrees and was thinking of putting some in campus residencies
 - iii. Iqbal recommends having the at large senators get in touch with the vu and rec center buildings to possibly have them in there
 - 1. Also getting contact with people from buildings many students use like the Artzen building
 - iv. Alexander says the vu is funded differently than state funded buildings, so getting the artwork displayed may be different
 - h. Duong wonders if there will be plaques with descriptions and the artist's name
 - i. Ingalls says there should be plaques
 - i. Gold wonders if the library could be viable for the at large senators
 - i. Iqbal agrees, but talking to deans is a priority
 - j. Duong wonders if the BSC are involved in the verification of the art pieces and the artists
 - i. Ingalls says no, but thinks they should be involved
 - ii. Iqbal says the senate doesn't have to go to the BSC for everything, and doesn't think the senators should overwhelm them with everything they are working on
 - k. Handa is confused about the senate jurisdiction, and thinks the senate should focus on the more academic side, which is what they have more control over
 - i. Iqbal says that this project has been in the work since last year, and that each college worked together to make it happen, but everything is still going on a college-by-college basis
 - ii. Topper says the work with BSO demands is to help them amplify their message from the Senate's platform, but saying what should be done

b. As Unionization

- a. Alexander would like clarity on “AS” because there is AS as in all the employees, or governance, which would be the Senate and Executive Board
 - i. Gold clarifies AS student employees
 - ii. Alexander says elected officials can’t unionize, but then the employment of students in non-academic operations haven’t been a historically union area, but it would be something that the senate should study
- b. Bock says from his research that all students should be in one union, and one section can’t be unionized from the others
 - i. Gold says the academic student’s union that are starting up are just students doing academic or teacher labor
- c. Kurz says based from his work as a union organizer, says that student employees in non-academic operations may be exempt from unionizing based on state law, but research needs to be done for Washington
 - i. He also says that unionizing academic student employees can be done without including all student employees, as far as he knows
- d. Gold wonders if all non-academic student employees would have to be in the same union, and if that would cause problems with Aramark
 - i. Wong says Aramark employees would not be in the same pool of AS student employees, as Aramark is a separate organization ii. Brown says unionization of AS student employees would exclude Aramark employees, as they are not seen as student employees by Western, including Zoe’s Bagels and the markets
- e. Topper wonders where the student employees of Starbucks, Panda Express, and Subway would all under since those operations are under a different third-party contract
 - i. He thinks finding out when those contracts start would be beneficial for starting negotiations
 - ii. Wong says the student employees are still Aramark employees, and clarifies that all food on campus is owned by Aramark except for vendor’s row
- f. Brown states that Aramark employees would have to form their own Union, as the AS doesn’t represent them
- g. Alexander wants the Senate to clarify AS student employees
 - i. There are AS dollars for ~60 student employees, who are academic

- ii. But then there are the non-academic student employees at the recreation center, admissions, campus tours, etc. iii. What he wants the Senate to do is decide whether the AS Union will include the non-academic student employees
 - h. Baxter says the Academic Workers Union has been in the works for a long time, so the AS Union would be a long-term project
 - i. Meaning, current students may not reap the benefits
 - ii. For the AS Union to happen, current students need to know that and still want to help to make it happen iii. Iqbal says future students will need to continue that work
 - i. Pratt wonders if there have been attempts to unionize Aramark employees in the past
 - i. Wong says the turnover for the dining hall employees is high, so there would be no long-term student employees to help create a union
 - ii. Christoph says he was an Aramark employee last year and worker two quarters, and had he for six months, he would have been promoted to a position where he would have been represented under Service Employees Union of America
 - 1. He thinks it's not a huge concern for Aramark student employees
 - iii. Hakala says there was a Union push in 2013, but Aramark busted it down
 - j. Wong thinks increasing wages should be considered, while the union is in the works, and incase unionizing doesn't work
 - i. Alexander reminds the Senators their wages are paid for by students
 - k. Wong asks Alexander if there are legal mandates to have different tiers of AS employees
 - i. Alexander says yes, as there is a pay structure the AS follows
 - ii. Wong asks who has authority over those pay structures
 - 1. Alexander says the finance council, and approval would go through the Senate and Executive Board
- c. Outreach Task Force
 - a. Ingalls reminds everyone this started out as a committee, but is now a task force, and therefore there is no document

- b. The task force wouldn't require extensive documentation, and would be faster at doing tasks
- c. They would like to partner with the AS Communications Office, and this would task force would bridge the disconnect between the Communications Office and the Student Senate, and with the students the Senate serves
- d. Senators who are interested in increasing Senate visibility, contact with student, and knowledge to contact Ingalls
- e. Iqbal explains that this is a task force instead of a committee because it doesn't require a budget and is a lot less formal when it comes to approving items
- f. Pratt is extremely supportive of this task force
- g. Topper say he and Ingalls have been going around classes at Fairhaven to make their presence and position known, and says he has students reaching out to them because of this
- h. Duong says she and Hartford are going to make a video introducing themselves and sending them out to department heads, and are also thinking of making an Instagram page to connect with students more
- i. Duong thinks the Senate should have a Senate Instagram page to reach out to students
 - ii. Gold supports this
 - iii. Bock agrees as well, citing there would be more stuff to post
 - iv. Topper says it gives opportunity for cross platform promotions
 - v. The Senators then give ideas what to post and how to operate the page
- i. Nessa says the At-Large Senators got in contact with the Communications Director and are going to send a video to the student body explaining who they are along with a survey
 - i. They are also working with the publicity center about getting posters put up about Senate Meetings and how to contact Senators

Motion: Gabriel Wong

To add five more minutes to the AS Unionization topic

Second: Sean Hakala

Motion passed: 18-0-0

Motion: Meagan Danielle Brown

To add five more minutes to the Outreach Task Force topic

Second: Liam Pratt

Motion passed: 18-0-0

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – SENATE

IX. SENATE REPORTS

- a.** Topper has set up meetings to fix parking issues for disabled students
 - a. He also reports that Lourdes Gutierrez Najera has resigned, and thus is having problems contacting somebody about adapting the ACS program to an ethnic studies program
- b.** Handa says the AS VP for Diversity position has been filled, and is hoping they can go to a Senate meeting
- c.** Wong says he is hoping to work with HSOC about getting a university response to their demands
- d.** Iqbal says the search for the new CFPA Senator has been pushed back, and is hoping to let the Senate know about the appointment at the next meeting

X. BOARD REPORTS

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Rahma Iqbal, AS Senate President, adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM