



# Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2023

5:30 p.m.

VU 567/You Tube Live

Present: Keara Ryan, Gabe Wong, Erin Godwin, Morgan Whitt, Liam Pratt, Sophie Snyder

Absent: None

Advisor: Adam Lorio

Secretary: Rachel Kleffman

Guests: President Sabah Randhawa, Matthew Benedict, Jill McIntyre-Whit, Riley Weeks, Seddie LeBlanc, Sam Guy

## MOTIONS

<b>ASB-23-F-22</b>	To approve consent items. <b>Passed</b>
<b>ASB-23-F-23</b>	To move ASWWU Resolution in Favor of Divestment to an Action Item. <b>Passed</b>
<b>ASB-23-F-24</b>	To approve ASWWU Resolution in Favor of Divestment. <b>Passed</b>

**Call to Order:** Keara Ryan, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:34p.m.

### I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

None presented.

### II. CONSENT ITEMS *(subject to immediate action)*

- a. Meeting Minutes from October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 3 minutes (Doc 1) Ryan
- b. Meeting Minutes from November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 3 minutes (Doc 2) Ryan
- c. Student Advisory Committee Appointment 3 minutes (Doc 3) Ryan
- d. Student Advisory Committee Vice Chair Appointment 3 minutes (Doc 4) Wong

<b>MOTION:</b> To approve consent items		
<b>Motion Made</b>	<b>Second:</b>	SB-23-F-22
<b>By:</b> PRATT	GODWIN	
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0		<b>Action Result:</b> <b>Passed</b>

### III. PUBLIC FORUM *(comments from students and the community)*

- The Students for Renewable Energy club has been working on the Divestment campaign for the past ten years or so. In 2012, a protest gained a lot of signatures from students and staff. When the foundation didn't want to listen to the resolution, the students climbed on top of the Rec Center in protest. They now try to work with the foundation to change the money management.
- Faculty club advisor is proud of student leadership. The students launched the campaign in 2011. The advisor stated that change takes a long time, which means it extends past the students 4 or 5 years on Western's campus. Applauding phase 2 of a resolution, urging the foundation to clean up their investments to match western's values.

#### IV. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Chair Report 5 minutes Ryan
  - Ryan stated that nine students applied for the Vice President of Activities position. She had a meeting with President Randhawa on November 8<sup>th</sup> to go over the resolution coming forward. They talked about general well-being of students and shared how we can continue to educate students on social media harassment. Students have the same tools to address harassment on social media as they would if it were to occur on campus.
  - Ryan has a meeting next week to discuss the charter with Wong and Snyder. Any suggestions for the charter are still welcome.
- b. Senate President Report 5 minutes Wong
  - Wong reported that a resignation in student senate meant that a new appointment was necessary. They hope to have two Graduate senators appointed by November 20<sup>th</sup> to have 19 senators seated. Almost all senators have joined committees and have started on their decided projects.
  - The senate has been working on the Finance Council charter and budget. They have been in conversation with the chair of finance council about standardizing parliamentary procedures to provide a more comprehensive procedure.
- c. Vice President Report 5 minutes Godwin
  - Godwin was approached about helping with a resolution on a ceasefire on Gaza, which is now in process between Godwin, Wong, and Ryan. They also discussed doing broader outreach and immersing themselves in community with students across campus.
  - Godwin announced that there is a planned teach-in at Fairhaven on November, 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30. They suggested having a table outside for students to provide an opportunity for students to give feedback to government representatives.
    - o Pratt: We would have to be careful about how we do it so it doesn't seem like we are just promoting the AS.
    - o Godwin: We wouldn't be there advocating for things, just saying we are here to listen.
  - Godwin shared that the LAC primary focus is on legislative agenda. They made a lot of progress at the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. That meeting was spent getting everyone on the same page about purpose.

- The second meeting was about intersectionality about what it means to the members of the LAC. They spoke about political identity, privileges within community, necessity of allyship, representing diverse student body, and LAC'S primary focus.
- At the most recent meeting, the LAC crafted a student survey about legislative priorities.
  - Grouped together issue areas: sex, gender, and sexuality, race, ethnicity, and nationality, accessibility and higher education, socioeconomic conditions and basic needs, and sustainability and climate action.
- Ryan: If this information is not being used to create the agenda, have you started creating the agenda? How are policy areas being chosen?
- Godwin: The questions the LAC came up with have to do with policy and those policies are going to be part of the agenda itself. The LAC discussed police training on racial bias, mental health resources, supporting undocumented students, allowing abortion pills on campus, and collective bargaining for operational student employees.
- RYAN: how are you prepared to handle not being able to cover every issue since you have so many different people engaging in the conversation?
- GODWIN: In restructuring the charter, we made our timeline very clear to everyone for the finalization of our first draft. After winter break, we will have it finalized by end of January. They are encouraging people to come to LAC prepped with ideas, ready to have the discussions.

Snyder Enters 6:32 PM

- d. Vice President Report 5 minutes Snyder
- Snyder visited the Residence Hall Association and shared that she plans on meeting with the Resident Programming Board individually.
  - Fairhaven is going through a lot. They're frustrated since they deal with reoccurring issues every year. Some students are interested in joining student government.
  - The Emergency Management Council is getting up and running and hasn't had students in awhile.
  - Snyder wants to plan more education around students and emergency plans so students are aware and prepared.
    - Wong: can you explain broadly the structure of RHA? Is that the group where the residence halls come together?
    - Snyder: There is an RHA board, but not all those seats are filled, only two of them are filled. The RHA board is leading a discussion with the Residence Programming Board members.
    - Ryan: do you know if they are struggling to fill seats because of lack of engagement or is it because they just started trying to fill seats?

- Snyder: I didn't get specifics, the individual there now is new, and the advisor had left before she could speak to him. There is a lot of engagement with the students, but not a lot of students who want to be on the board.
- e. Advisor Report 5 minutes Ryan
- Lorio shared an invitation to schedule sessions for the Exec Board and Senate to give groups the space and time to reflect on essential operations and how people are doing in times of crisis. He said that he is aware that the Exec Board members put themselves out there as passionate, knowledgeable, and available individuals. He is going to be working on a supporting framework to be able to continue to develop a level of care for the Board.
  - Tactical items: introducing the nearest emergency exit. This is something that is not in general training.
  - Reminder of awareness and to continue to help caring for each other. Part of his role is to be here for everyone. He recommends the Exec Board takes advantage of their support system, and to remember that some of their responsibility is to themselves.

## V. INFORMATION ITEMS- Guests\*

- a. University President Address 20 minutes Ryan
- President Randhawa met with The Gates Foundation meeting regarding proposal of education and community partners for funding in relation to expanding access to schools in rural districts on the Peninsula.
  - He shared with The Gates Foundation that the work at Western has been driven by two elements.
    - The first element involves how we serve the state of Washington with a focus on communities and regions who have been underrepresented.
    - The second element is about the notion of advancing inclusive student success in terms of raising graduation rates and achievement.
  - Work at the university changes year to year. There are different priorities, issues, and possible emergencies. He has tried to keep two goals in progress alongside the changes.
  - This year, the university has been successful in recruiting large classes. The question now is how Western sustains it and how do we ensure the distribution is consistent with the population demographics within the state of Washington.
    - There hasn't been as much progress made on retention and success rates since the pandemic set everything behind. Despite this, the first-year retention rate has improved this year.
  - Last year, legislature gave Western money to start new programs within data science, sociology, industrial engineering, and social work.
  - Western is going to be reaching out to students in high school to open doors for them. The university hasn't participated in that before due to students having to pay for it, but legislature is now providing funding.
  - The university accreditation process takes seven years. The accreditation agency will be visiting the university in spring, meet with student leaders, send dates to

exec board. The accreditation guarantees quality of education and is necessary for financial aid.

- Pratt: Is Western's satellite campus going to be expanded?
- President Randhawa: We deliver programs in Bremerton, Poulsbo, and Port Angeles with Peninsula College. All the programs are 2+2 to keep cost of education down since community college is cheaper and the students are guaranteed admission. Western received some funding for developing and outreach.
- Whitt: Are there set trainings for outreach and retention when working with lower income or diverse students?
- President Randhawa: Not enough, but Western is working on it. One of the programs that has been successful is Compass 2 Campus. There are goals to expand that program to reach high schools. Western has been trying to work with admissions on bilingual mechanisms.
- Ryan: Since you discussed the foundation meaning to increase portfolio distribution, within that how big of a priority is sustainability within that?
- President Randhawa: Talking with the foundation, it was important to many individuals to move in that direction, and to make sure rate of return on investments provides the resources that are needed to support students.

PRESIDENT RANDHAWA EXITS 5:58PM

#### VI. ACTION ITEMS – Guests

None presented.

#### VII. PERSONNEL ITEMS (subject to immediate action)

None presented.

#### VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board\*

a. WWU Club Policies

5 minutes (Doc 5) Ryan

- Ryan shared the WWU Club Policy document since the Exec Board engages in different clubs, especially in their various roles. The document covers violations of student club standards, policy procedures, and group accountability.

b. ASWWU Resolution in Favor of Divestment

20 minutes (Doc 6) Pratt

- The Resolution was passed in the senate.
- Topics: The Resolution establishes scientific climate change, then goes into the impact on Western and the International Community. The document discusses star rating, or sustainability score, and how our investments dinged us from getting a gold rating.
- There has been significant progress in decarbonizing Western's carbon portfolio. 55% of our portfolio is in ESG. The remaining percentage is unknown but is also

fairly accessible information. Students are urging the foundation to be more transparent.

- The foundation is looking for requests for proposals. The resolution advocates for including ESG as a big focus and working with investment firm which will decarbonize our portfolio, result in us being fossil fuel free.
- PRATT: we would like this to be immediately moved to an action item and voted on today.
- RYAN: Once the resolution passes here, it will hopefully go to the faculty senate, then the Board of Trustees meeting. Since this is an issue a lot of students care about, they're going to reach out to the LAC and clubs on campus to broaden the audience.

<b>MOTION:</b> To move ASWWU Resolution in Favor of Divestment to an Action Item			
<b>Motion Made By:</b> GODWIN	<b>Second:</b> WONG	SB-23-F-23	
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			<b>Action Result:</b> <b>Passed</b>

IX. Action Items- Board\*

<b>MOTION:</b> To approve ASWWU Resolution in Favor of Divestment			
<b>Motion Made By:</b> WONG	<b>Second:</b> GODWIN	SB-23-F-24	
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			<b>Action Result:</b> <b>Passed</b>

X. Other Business

None.

Adjourn: *The Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.*