



# Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2023

5:30 p.m.

VU 567/You Tube Live

Present: Keara Ryan, Erin Godwin, Sophie Snyder, Gabe Wong

Absent: Morgan Whitt, Liam Pratt

Advisor: Adam Lorio

Secretary: Rachel Kleffman

Guests:

## MOTIONS

<b>ASB-23-F-25</b>	To table SEJF Appointment and Pratt Vice President Report. <b>Passed</b>
<b>ASB-23-F-26</b>	To approve October 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2023, Exec Board Meeting Minutes with provided changes. <b>Passed</b>
<b>ASB-23-F-27</b>	To appoint candidate 1 as Vice President of Activities. <b>Passed</b>

**Call to Order:** Keara Ryan, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33p.m.

## I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

<b>MOTION:</b> To table SEJF Fund Committee and Pratt Vice President Report			
<b>Motion Made</b>	<b>Second:</b>	SB-23-F-25	
<b>By:</b> WONG	GODWIN		
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 4. Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			<b>Action Result:</b> <b>Passed</b>

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

a. Meeting Minutes from October 26<sup>h</sup>, 2023      3 minutes (Doc 1) Ryan

- Edit section 5 info items: outreach council, changed to task force-
- Membership only says who was there not who is not there
- section 4 officer report, only feburary 19<sup>th</sup>

<b>MOTION:</b> To approve October 26 <sup>th</sup> . 2023 Exec Board Meeting Minutes with provided changes			
<b>Motion Made</b>	<b>Second:</b>	SB-23-F-26	
<b>By:</b> GODWIN	WONG		
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			<b>Action Result:</b> <b>Passed</b>

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**b. Appointment to sustainability equity and justice fund**

- Tabled.

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

None.

**IV. OFFICER REPORTS**

a. Chair Report

5 minutes Ryan

- Ryan: shared that she was working on getting the committee task force up and running with the first goal being to create a three-year cycle that reviews charge and charters that go before the Exec Board.
- Ryan was working on the appointment for Vice President of Activities, hoping to appoint someone at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Exec Board meeting.
- Suggested for the Executive Board to attend an Access, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) webinar taking place at 10:30 on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- A task force was editing the new Charter for the Student Government. They were hoping to present edits and thoughts on the charter at last meeting of the quarter.
- Wong: who do we reach out to with individual editing questions or requests?
- Ryan: people are welcome to reach out to Melynda Huskey, the task force, or to Ryan individually.

b. Vice President Report

5 minutes Pratt

TABLED

c. Vice President Report

5 minutes Whitt

- Whitt was unable to be present at the meeting and sent a written report on current events.
- Report: Over the past couple of weeks, Whitt made contact with the Social Justice and Equity Committee, with the Civil Rights and Title IX office about how bias reports work, and with the Provost's office about ADEI training for compass to campus students and staff.

d. Advisor Report

5 minutes Ryan

- Lorio reminded everyone to make sure everyone paid attention to activities on campus. There was a rally planned for November 17<sup>th</sup> in Red Square from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM that may have impacted the traffic. He thanked everyone for getting timesheets in and announced that he had to leave at 6:30 PM during the November 16<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting.

**V. INFORMATION ITEMS- Guests\***

None presented.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS – Guests**

None presented.

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

None presented.

## VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board\*

- a. AS Gaza statement updates 5 minutes (Doc 5) Ryan
- The AS Gaza statement was passed through Senate and Executive Board weeks prior with hope to send out the document with related resources for students. Ryan spoke with Olive Salas, who is the AS communications director, and shared apprehensions about the relevance of the statement. Ryan and Salas both decided the current statement might not be what the student government wanted to share with students. Ryan opened the conversation to thoughts on how the Exec Board should move forward with the statement, especially since the statement had already been passed.
  - Godwin thought that the statement got positive feedback from people that it was shared with. The feedback said that it was well-rounded, and that it felt like the student government was opening themselves up and providing space for people to be in contact if needed.
  - Wong shared one concern, which was standing behind free speech when some of said free speech may be seen as negative.
  - Ryan mentioned that there was going to be a meeting on Monday November 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the statement further.
  - Godwin inquired about what specific changes people had in mind if the Exec Board was going to initiate a change to the statement. If there wasn't going to be a drastic change, Godwin would be in favor of releasing it immediately without edits.
  - Wong thought if the Exec Board were to try to make something that's perfectly appropriate, they would have to take it structurally. The statement has been approved, and even though the words came from two or three weeks ago, Wong thinks it's relevant enough for current release.
  - Ryan analyzed the statement saying that it may be more impactful to use stronger language. Since it was a very violent escalation, changing specific soft wording could be beneficial for the Western community.
  - Adam said that a classic governance challenge was dealing with quickly evolving events. If there were to be a scenario where there was a necessary approval of the edited statement, it could push the release another two weeks out. He doesn't see the statement ever catching up. If the Exec board released the Gaza Statement in two weeks that discussed increased violence, the statement could lose relevance if certain aspects changed, such as movement toward ceasefire.
  - Ryan mentioned that the Exec Board could discuss the statement further on Monday too. She asked if the Exec Board did want to make changes, what are the next appropriate steps? Worried about the language of "humanitarian crisis." That language felt tone deaf.

- Godwin understood the apprehension but felt that it was still a humanitarian crisis. The term doesn't encompass everything, but it was still a relevant description.
- Wong said it was an option to date the statement from its approval. If people were to know the date, it's less likely they'll see it as tone deaf.
- Ryan inquired about the desire to move forward with the meeting on Monday.
- Godwin and Wong were in favor of having the statement sent out before then.

b. LAC Agenda Outline

5 minutes

Godwin

- The Legislative Affairs council had been crafting a legislative agenda for Western's Intersectional Lobby Day, which is taking place on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The council was starting broad with topic matter, then narrowing down to specifics they aim to focus on. Some of the topics they suggested were LGBTQ gender affirming care, abortion pills being available on campus, the encouragement of police training on mental health crisis and disabilities, City of Bellingham alternative response teams, providing undocumented students with potential employers they can go to so they're not threatened by seeking employment, carbon tax, DAC/DOC funding, parking on campus, including accessible parking. They also discussed WAWU and the current bargaining position, and Rent control is illegal in the state of Washington initiative II renters protections was just passed, we can take that to the state to ask for similar across the state.
- Ryan noted that a lot of the list is Western Washington University (WWU) or county specific, but the drafted items are going to the state. The LAC doesn't address anything related to WWU since it's state legislature. If it's WWU related, Godwin, or the LAC, can work with Ryan or Snyder since that's student service related. With the LAC being very diverse with students from all over campus, they had a lot of concerns while really understanding the university. Ryan suggested sharing the list with her and Snyder so they could address those on campus.
- Ryan noted that the LAC should add a higher education section to the agenda. She highlighted that they are going to be part of a handful of people these legislators meet with about higher education needs. Administrators will talk about it but may not cover what the LAC has in mind.
- Godwin said that they will pull in information from admin and WSA to be more specific to higher education, specific to Western, and appropriately addressed to legislature.
- Ryan addressed LAC topics, noting that they didn't have to have a bill they were discussing. It's just as powerful to say there's not a bill for this, but we want to see a bill for it. Bills are still being drafted. She suggested it could be helpful to state things such as "Oregon passed this bill. Why can't we?"

c. LAC student survey and policy priorities

5 minutes

Godwin

- The LAC student survey was sent out on November 15<sup>th</sup>. As of November 16<sup>th</sup>, there had already been 90 responses. Godwin suggested discussing the survey at the Exec Board Meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- d. WSA 2024 Legislative Agenda 5 minutes     Ryan
  - Ryan discussed the WSA 2024 Legislative agenda, noting that they included Expanding the WA College Grant. Western pays \$15,000 to be part of the organization.

**IX. Action Items- Board\***

- a. Vice President for Activities Appointment
  - Executive Session for Candidate Discussion
    - o 6:44 PM exiting executive session:

<b>MOTION:</b> To appoint candidate 1 as Vice President of Activities			
<b>Motion Made</b> <b>By:</b> RYAN	<b>Second:</b> WONG	SB-23-F-27	
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 4    Nay: 0 Abstain: 0		<b>Action Result:</b> <b>Passed</b>	

**X. Other Business**

None.

Adjourn: *The Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.*