



# Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023      5:30 p.m.      VU 567/You Tube Live

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

Absent: None

Advisor: Adam Lorio

Secretary: Rachel Kleffman

Guests: Isaac Brandt

## MOTIONS

<b>ASB-23-F-28</b>	To Approve Consent Items with Stated Amendments
<b>ASB-23-F-29</b>	To Table the Elections Advisory Committee Charge and Charter until January 11th
<b>ASB-23-F-30</b>	To Extend Meeting by 10 Minutes
<b>ASB-23-F-31</b>	To Include Gaza Ceasefire Resolution Amendment A
<b>ASB-23-F-32</b>	To Include Gaza Ceasefire Resolution Amendment B
<b>ASB-24-F-33</b>	To Include Gaza Ceasefire Resolution Amendment C
<b>ASB-25-F-34</b>	To Move Gaza Ceasefire Resolution to an Action Item
<b>ASB-25-F-35</b>	To Approve Gaza Ceasefire Resolution with Amendments A and B Without Source 11

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

## I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Wong requested to submit an additional document since amendment C is not present in the meeting documents. They stated that the point of adding in the amendment is to allow people to read it. Last time changes were discussed within the Board, people wanted to see it in front of them instead of just hear it.
  - o Lorio: If you have email it, we can screenshare the document for discussion.
  - o Ryan: Agreed to discuss Amendment C as presented

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

- a. Meeting Minutes from November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023      5 minutes (Doc 1) Ryan
  - Requested edit to change “LAC” to reflect a conversation between Ryan, Wong, and Godwin.
  - Requested edit to add member of the President’s Sustainability Council, Craig Dunn.

<b>MOTION:</b> To Approve Consent Items with Stated Amendments		
<b>Motion Made</b> By: Godwin	<b>Second:</b> Wong	ASB-23-F-28
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1		<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

SNYDER ENTERS 5:40 PM

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

None.

**IV. OFFICER REPORTS**

- Chair Report 5 minutes Ryan
  - o Ryan is going to present for the Board of Trustees tomorrow and everyone is welcome to attend. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, she spoke at the Foundation’s board meeting. She spoke about repairing the relationship between students, food insecurity, the Resolution she passed, encouraging an environment of gratitude and representation within the foundation.
  - o The Foundation not having transparency creates confusion for students, so there is a focus on maintaining connection moving forward with them.
  - o Ryan had a meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the outback farm and creating a plan of how to ensure funding moving forward.
  - o No Executive Board meeting next week for finals week.
  - o The new Vice President for Activities, Sebastian Mayotte is here.
- Mayotte: This is my first week onboarding. I am loving it. My first Activities Council meeting was yesterday, and it was good to lead chair meeting and be part of the team.
- Vice President Report 5 minutes Whitt
  - o The Social Justice Committee meets on Monday for the first time. She doesn’t currently have access to the agenda. Whitt is working with Eric Scott, a Civil Rights/Title IX Investigator, about ADEI trainings and different programs that could be used on campus. She is also working with the Dean of Humanities, Keith C Russell, to establish ADEI trainings for students and faculty.
  - o Whitt has been working with the Disability Accommodation Center, advocating for more accessibility in the dorms.
- Ryan: I would love to hear about anything you’ve learned from students on how we as a Board can continue to support students.
- Whitt: Students said it would be great if we had more outreach. It would be nice to have spaces that reflect them.
- Lorio: Regarding your work with CHSS, do you have engagement from senators?
- Whitt: The Dean has been emailing me about a meeting with Compass 2 Campus.

- Lorio: Senators can be advocates. Bring together resources from both governance bodies.
- Advisor Report 5 minutes Ryan
  - o The timesheet system isn't intuitive, make sure you submit timesheets so Lorio can follow up with questions if necessary. Please disconnect as much as possible on the break.
  - o As Lorio continues to explore, he will continue to bring budget updates for the board operational budget. AS budget proposals will be due for next fiscal year in January. Now is the time to think about budgets for next year.

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

- Elections Advisory Committee 5 minutes (Doc 2) Ryan  
Charge & Charter
  - o Most changes mentioned last meeting are consistent.
  - o It is now specified within Membership that the representative needs to be an Office of Civic Engagement Representative, not just any staff member.
  - o Below membership, it is now specified that "No person can serve on this committee if they are running or intend to run in the AS Elections or sponsor an initiative campaign or a campaign opposing an initiative or referendum."
- Ryan: My only thought is to take Charter Amendment power away from the Student Senate. I don't see any benefit to having it approved by the Executive Board.
- Godwin: The language in quorum makes me think that the Executive Board and Senate member need to be present for the meeting to happen.
- Ryan: Would it be all right if we wait until the first meeting in the Winter quarter to approve this? We can come back to the edit of article II and article VI. You can work on recruiting at large members and getting ready. It should be approved January 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Brandt: Yes, as long as we can recruit members before the approval.

<b>MOTION:</b> To Table the Elections Advisory Committee Charge and Charter until January 11th		
<b>Motion Made</b> By: Godwin	<b>Second:</b> Pratt	ASB-23-F-29
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0		<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

**VI. ACTION ITEMS – Guests**

None presented.

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

None presented.

## VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board\*

- Student Civic Leadership Awards Nominations                      5 minutes                      Ryan
- Ryan was approached by Michele Anderson who shared an opportunity with student government to nominate students for the Student Civic Leadership Awards. There are going to be two WWU students. Any faculty or staff can nominate a student. Winners can be selected to win either a \$500 or \$1000 stipend.
- Student Government Charter    10 minutes                      Ryan
- Ryan, Snyder, Wong, and John Hardgrove (CSE Senator) met to work on changes to the Student Government Charter. Once the edits are made, they will be sent to Melynda Huskey for her input and additions. Wong has planned a meeting with Huskey to talk about her ideas for the charter. Once it has been sent to her, she will give back a changed version. After receiving the edits, they will go before the task force, Executive Board and Student senate in time for the February Board of Trustees meeting.
- The charter talks about how student government represents all students at Western Washington University, yet student government only engages with students at the Bellingham campus since they are the only students that pay the Services and Activities fee. A matter of- "If they can't vote for us, are we a representative of them?"
  - o Wong: The new Charter encompasses the whole student government instead of only the Executive Board.
  - o Godwin: In Section 3 about the abolishment of the ASWWU, it says that the ASWWU may only be abolished by 2/3 of the membership of ASWWU. That's not the majority of the vote, it's more like 8000 people. I think it should take a lot of people, but it has been a point of contention in other meetings.
  - o Wong: Historically, it has been majority of people voting.
  - o Godwin: Majority of membership and majority of students is different.
- ASWWU State Lobbying Agenda    20 minutes                      Godwin
  - o Financial Aid
    - There are two things the Legislative Affairs Council would like to be amended in the Washington College Grant (WCG). They want the median family income (MFI) requirement to be increased from 60% to 70%.
    - Advocating for prorated award parameters.

- Asking to raise Bridge Grants award amount to \$1000, instead of \$500, to cover student fees.
- Godwin: Funding for Homeless Student Stability Program is currently \$4.4M. This budget runs out early in the school year, so we are asking for the funding to be raised to \$10M and for expansion of the program.
  - Student Employment
    - Allow operational student employees to participate in collective bargaining.
    - The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) states that students aren't eligible for SNAP unless they meet certain exemption requirements. SNAP requires recipients to work 20 hours a week, though students are capped at 19 hours a week. The Lobbying Agenda includes lowering the requirement from 19 hours to 15 hours a week for students.
- Ryan: To add to that, you talk about the statistic that 77% of students ranked food and housing insecurity as one of their top priorities, but a statistic that I think is more impactful comes from "Basic Needs Security Among Washington College Students", which says that 49.4% of students experienced basic needs insecurity. Even if we can say that 77% of students are passionate about the topic, it may be more impactful to say almost 50% of students have experienced some type of insecurity.
  - Health and Wellness
    - Before we go to legislature, we want to go to the departments that are providing these services. We went to the Student Health Center, and they said they were good. We are waiting on the Counseling and Wellness Center and the Disability Access Center to get feedback on them about how we can support them through legislature, funding, and staff.
    - The Student Health Center currently provides emergency contraception, but abortion pills aren't easily accessible to students.
    - Supporting harm reduction measures in relation to illicit drug use. Fentanyl testing strips prevent the unintentional consumption of fentanyl. College students are going to use illicit substances, so we can protect students from harm by providing fentanyl testing strips. Additionally, Narcan can be used to reverse opioid overdose. It's over the counter, but it would be great if the university provided it to students along with the training on how to use it.
- Gaza Ceasefire Resolution 20 minutes Wong & Ryan

- City council is going to have a resolution come before them, it will be voted on next week on Monday. It is almost exactly what we're asking for in our Resolution. They are asking for the legislature to support resolution 786.
  - o Gabby, the Civic Involvement Coordinator, shared that there was hesitancy from some members. It's unsure if they will support a resolution, it has happened at the Seattle city level. The ASWWU Executive Board supporting it and sharing is in line with the rest of our resolution. We have the most impact with city council members.
- Wong: Do you want to move the Resolution, then move Amendments A and B, then consider Amendment C?
- Ryan: We should do it all at once.
- Wong: Amendment C adds a new line saying that students call for no US military aid to Israel. It includes a small edit that adds in that the U.S. funded "billions of dollars" worth of weapons. It also adds asking Senators to oppose the House of Representatives bill 6126, which has already passed the House to the Senate. Ryan had raised concerns about is this diving into foreign policy, I think we are already diving into it with ceasefire. The Amendments all go together for the goal of justice. If the board is opposed, I would rather the doc be passed tonight with Amendments A&B.
- Ryan: I am against funding, but I also don't see as my position to take a stance on that as a board. If we are going to include it, there are larger edits that need to be made to explain why it is included and to explain the connections. It was originally a lot longer and we removed it because of concerns, and due to the level of complexity that it adds, which I thought could be confusing to some people.
- Snyder: I'm not in the loop with what students are saying. My opinion is- are students calling for this? If they are, it's our job to represent that. It may not be doing our job just adding our personal opinions.
- Ryan: Different students have different opinions. We will be representing a lot more students just calling for a ceasefire.
- Godwin: My issue is how much it complicates the document and how many more revisions we would need. There is a time crunch. There is more that needs to be adjusted that I don't think we could get to tonight.
- Pratt: We should be careful when talking about military funding since we are also representing veteran students on campus.
- Whitt: The majority of students have been calling for both, but we have veterans on campus. I Think it's important to expedite process and pass Amendments A and B.
- Wong: the act 6126 isn't US service members, its about weapons. I understand concerns about clarity.

<b>MOTION:</b> To Extend Meeting by 10 Minutes		
<b>Motion Made</b> By: Godwin	<b>Second:</b> Wong	ASB-23-F-30
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 6 Nay: 1 Abstain: 0		<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

- Lorio: The Resolution, up until the inclusion of this Amendment, has been crafted very carefully to include all students. You are also responsible for representing those that don't have loud active voices on campus. It's another step to name things that are more controversial. I advise caution passing Amendment C as is without further consultation with constituents.
- Ryan: We haven't had listening sessions, and we haven't held one. We said we wanted to create an open environment for conversation, but we only sent out an email. We haven't created an environment essential to truly understand the opinion of students.

<b>MOTION:</b> To Include Gaza Ceasefire Resolution Amendment A		
<b>Motion Made</b> By: Wong	<b>Second:</b> Godwin	ASB-23-F-31
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0		<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

<b>MOTION:</b> To Include Gaza Ceasefire Resolution Amendment B		
<b>Motion Made</b> By: Wong	<b>Second:</b> Godwin	ASB-23-F-32
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0		<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

<b>MOTION:</b> To Include Gaza Ceasefire Resolution Amendment C		
<b>Motion Made</b> By: Wong	<b>Second:</b> Godwin	ASB-23-F-33
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 1 Nay: 3 Abstain: 3		<b>Action Result:</b> Not Passed

<b>MOTION:</b> To Move Gaza Ceasefire Resolution to an Action Item		
<b>Motion Made</b> By: Godwin	<b>Second:</b> Pratt	ASB-23-F-34
<b>Vote Count:</b>		<b>Action Result:</b>

Date Approved by AS Exec Board: 1/11/24

Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0		Passed
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**IX. Action Items- Board\***

<b>MOTION:</b> To Approve Gaza Ceasefire Resolution with Amendments A and B Without Source 11		
<b>Motion Made</b> By: Wong	<b>Second:</b> Whitt	ASB-23-F-35
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0		<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

**X. Other Business**

None.

Adjourn: *The Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.*