



Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

January 18th, 2024 5:30 p.m. VU 567/Teams Town Hall

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

Absent: None

Advisor: Adam Lorio

Secretary: Rachel Kleffman

Guests: Mallory Schaeffbauer, Gabby Laipenieks, Erin Magarro

MOTIONS

ASB-24-W-39	To Approve Consent Items with Stated Amendments
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Call to Order: Keara Ryan, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

None presented.

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

- a. Meeting Minutes from January 11th, 2024 5 minutes (Doc 1) Ryan
 - i. The minutes are missing some underlines and strikethroughs.
- b. Student Academic Grievance
 - i. There are two applicants for the Student Academic Grievance Board, and both will fit well. The committee was recently called to action, so they need to fill 6 graduate student seats and 6 undergrad student seats. The two current applicants would be for the Undergraduate seats.
 - ii. Wong: For the committee to meet, how many graduate, undergraduate and faculty seats need to be filled?
 - iii. Lorio: Any grievance needs two students on it. The Board should be functional after this evening.
- c. Elections Advisory Appointment
 - i. There is an error at beginning of document where it says, "Student Advisory Committee Appointment". It should read "Elections Advisory Committee Appointment."
 - ii. For the committee to beginning meeting, a senator and a board member need to be seated.
 - iii. Sophie Snyder has several years of experience working in student government and can give insight to the Ethics Code. She will not be running for student

government again this year due to graduation, which makes her a good candidate.

Mayotte joined 5:40PM

MOTION: To Approve Consent Items with Stated Amendments		
Motion Made By: Godwin	Second: Wong	ASB-24-W-39
Vote Count: Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0		Action Result: Passed

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

None presented.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Chair Report 5 minutes Ryan
 - i. Ryan started to work on the survey that will be sent out to students related to Narcan through the Associated Students Communications Office. Hoping to get more access to Narcan on campus other than library.

- b. Vice President Report 5 minutes Wong
 - i. The Communications Committee’s first meeting was January 17th. They are trying to get all the offices connected to each other and connected to students.
 - ii. Wong is doing some long-term planning for the Senate for winter quarter, spring quarter and further down the line.
 - iii. Wong is looking at the Senate budget with Lorio and working with Dacey Durbin to fill senate vacancies in Fairhaven College, College of Science and Engineering and the graduate school.

- c. Vice President Report 5 minutes Pratt
 - i. The Sustainability Action Plan closed the comment period and is getting close to being done and published.
 - ii. The Sustainability, Equity, and Justice Fund must replace a committee member that will be in Olympia for the quarter. Since there is someone interested, the seat can hopefully be filled at the next meeting.
 - iii. For Earth week there will be a food justice table, Trashion Show (fashion show), a potential film screening and food trucks.
 - iv. Pratt has been working with Senator Lauren Johnson to draft a proposed sustainability section for the lobbying agenda.
 - v. The Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) application closed with 76 applicants. Those applications will be reviewed starting on January 19th.
 - vi. Ryan: Can you share some of the bills you’re interested in including for the sustainability section?

- vii. Pratt: The main one is House bill 2070, which provides protection and a platform for communities that have been disproportionately affected by environmental injustices.

- d. Vice President Report 5 minutes Whitt
 - i. Working With Kevin Roxas at Woodring about creating programming for Compass 2 Campus.
 - ii. Whitt reached out to Disability Accommodation Center about accessibility on campus during the cold weather, she is having weekly meetings with the Ethnic Student Center (ESC) and she is working with the Office of Equity on a hiring committee to hire a few positions.
 - iii. She has been messaging city council regarding their Immigration Advisory Board since they are considering getting rid of it. It's important that there are resources for people who are immigrants in Bellingham.
 - iv. Ryan: I didn't know they were trying to get rid of the board, can you share about that?
 - v. Whitt: There are a lot of vacant seats and I have been emailing them about it. I have been in communication with their at large person who is committed to trying to keep the Immigration Advisory Board.

- e. Advisor Report 5 minutes Lorio
 - i. We are in the thick of the AS operations and AS Government budgeting cycle for fiscal year 25, which starts July 1st.
 - ii. Lorio will be working with Ryan and Wong on the Executive Board and Senate budgets. He will also work with Casey Hayden and the Office of Civic Engagement team to update their budget proposals.
 - iii. First drafts of budgets are due at the end of January, and they will be shared with the Executive Board before they go through.
 - iv. The Executive Board is going to begin reviewing and getting recommendations on all job descriptions to refresh them in time for elections.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS- Guests*

- a. AS Local Issues Coordinator Report 5 minutes (Doc 2) Ryan
 - i. Whatcom county had a general election in November of last year.
 - o As of January 1st, Kim Lund is the Mayor of Bellingham.
 - o Within City Council, Hannah Stone (Ward 1) and Daniel Hammil (Ward 3) were both re-elected.
 - o Jace Cotton was elected to the at-large City Council seat.
 - o Initiatives 1 and 2 were passed.

- Initiative 1 increases Bellingham’s minimum wage \$1 above state minimum wage in May 2024. In May of 2025, it will raise \$2 above the state minimum wage.
- Initiative 2 has to do with renter’s protections. It creates relocation assistance program for renters. Landlords must give a 120-day notice when increasing rent more than 8%. When increasing the rent more than 8%, the landlords have to provide relocation assistance. This assistance amounts to 3x the rent, or the average market rate in the area along with a 5-month relocation period.
 - Public Health, Safety, and Justice sales tax passed, which goes toward criminal justice and behavioral health programs.
 - The Greenways Levy was passed. The Greenways Levy supports Bellingham’s Greenways program, which works on parks and trails in the area.
 - Satpal Sidhu was reelected as County Executive. ○ Donnell Tanksley was elected as Sheriff.
 - The Jail initiative was passed. The site will be in Ferndale and won’t be operational until 2028.
- ii. Winter shelters in the city and county are working to meet higher demand. They have been able to accommodate recent numbers over capacity due to the cold.
- iii. Bellingham is slated to submit its final Comprehensive Plan in 2025. The plan is currently in its feedback stage, so they have been doing outreach to get feedback from groups who don’t interact much with the government.
- iv. The City Council passed a resolution urging a ceasefire in Gaza, Israel, and Palestine, and expressed support for the U.S. House Resolution 786. - Whatcom Transportation Authority is considering an expansion of Bellingham Station to accommodate more buses. This would encourage growth in the downtown area.
- v. County level
 - The City Council passed two resolutions requesting to declare an emergency in response to the opioid crisis.
 - A sales tax was adopted by the City Council to fund the new jail along with other behavioral health and criminal justice programs.
 - ABC recycling has proposed a site for a metal shredder. City Council voted against a moratorium on heavy industrial permitting for that area, giving ABC recycling the go ahead to submit a permit.

b. OSE Recognition Resolution Draft

10 minutes (Doc 4) Wong

- i. Operational student employees have petitioned the State Labor Board to certify their bargaining unit so that they can bargain with Western Administration.
- ii. The Resolution requests a few things from the university, such as respecting the wishes of faculty and staff, acting in accordance with its strategic plan, negotiate with the operational student employees, formally respond to ASWWU about those requests.
- iii. Erin Magarro: I am currently working on the campaign for recognition of operational student employees. Student workers on this campus are tired of

working two jobs and not making ends meet. I am tired of watching people on campus work jobs alongside salaried workers without the same worker protections, healthcare, or union representation. It's time that all workers on campus have a seat at the table and have a say in our workplaces. Western Washington University should voluntarily recognize the Operational Student Employee Union.

- iv. Wong: I will probably add another amendment on the resolution asking the university to support Senate Bill 5895. Western Washington University's current objection to voluntary recognition is that there's not an outlined structure for collective bargaining. That bill would provide that.
- v. Ryan: Lets double check that the university has supported bills in the past for recognizing different groups that would like to unionize. I have heard previously that the university has a policy that they want to stay neutral.
- vi. Godwin: I have spoken to President Randhawa about this, and his response was that the administration isn't going to do that until there is a law that clarifies the framework. What are we trying to accomplish with this resolution?
- vii. Wong: It's a pressure tool like any resolution is. Collective bargaining has been going on for more than 100 years, it's well established. It's about showing the administration what our position is.
- viii. Godwin: I agree with the goal of it. Maybe we could direct this toward our representatives of the 42nd and 44th legislative district in our state to get support going in that way.
- ix. Ryan: When it comes to reaching our elected officials, it is difficult to reach them through emails. If we want to give them a resolution, we will have to mail it to them.

VI. ACTION ITEMS – Guests

None presented.

VII. PERSONNEL ITEMS (subject to immediate action)

None presented.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board*

- a. Student Government Charter 10 minutes (Doc 5) Ryan
 - i. This is the revised final Charter that they're hoping we can pass to be signed by February 1st. It will go through the Executive Board and Senate.
 - ii. Wong: Is there still going to be one last meeting for the task force?
 - iii. Ryan: Due to limited time, I thought we would just go to the two governing bodies. Hopefully we can have it passed through both bodies by January 25th. I have to have everything submitted by the January 30th.
 - iv. Lorio: The next Senate meeting is January 24th, the next Executive Board meeting is the 25th. If there's feedback, I would suggest putting together a small group that comes together in case there are suggested edits.
 - v. Ryan: In the first paragraph, there are some changes for clarity. In Article I, there was a change about what it means to be a voting member. Instead of all students

being part of the ASWWU, it now specifies that students that pay Services and Activities Fees are part of the ASWWU.

- vi. Wong: In my meeting with Melynda Huskey, she mentioned an idea that they could do a smaller Services and Activities fee on satellite campuses to pay for the WIN platform.

b. WILD 2024 Legislative Agenda 20 minutes Godwin

i. Financial Aid

- o Bills SB 5999 and SB 5904 have to do with expanding eligibility for the Washington College Grant.
 - Recommendation of increasing the median family income requirement from 60% to 70%.
 - Requesting to extend the term of eligibility for financial aid programs from 5 years to 6 years.
 - Ryan: I talked before the Higher Education Committee about expanding the eligibility to 70% median family income to reach more middle-income families. The financial aid program eligibility being extended to 6 years is to align with federal aid.

- o Ryan: It might be more helpful within the agenda to have the value statement and then the topic areas with bullet points. A lot of the bills have to do with the same issues that can be recapped.
- o Godwin: With the agenda, one of the core components of Western Intersectional Lobby Day is the face-to-face meeting with the legislators, which is 15 minutes. That is not enough time to discuss 20 bills. I want us to have a targeted and direct message.
- o Wong: There was an idea last year, which was having the agenda that you're giving to the legislators and then having an appendix that you're giving to the student lobbyists. The legislators have staff, and their job is to read bills so there isn't a summary necessary.

IX. Action Items- Board*

X. Other Business

None.

Adjourn: *The Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.*