



# Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2023 5:30 p.m. VU 567/You Tube Live

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

Absent:

Advisor: Adam Lorio

Secretary: Rachel Kleffman

Guests: Mallory Schaefbauer, Isaac Brandt

### MOTIONS

<b>ASB-23-F-27</b>	Passed To approve consent items with stated amendment.
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**Call to Order:** Keara Ryan, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

### I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

None Presented.

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

- a. Meeting Minutes from November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 5 minutes (Doc 1) Ryan
- b. Meeting Minutes from November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 5 minutes (Doc 2) Ryan
  - Request to replace "Take" with "Edit" in discussion about the Gaza Statement.
- c. Appointment to Sustainability Equity and Justice Fund 5 minutes Ryan
  - Jackson Hueso
  - Jackson Hueso is applying to be Student-At-Large on the Sustainability, Equity, and Justice Fund Committee. They're a junior within the Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration. Their initial introduction to the committee was through an advisor. In the past, they have volunteered in elementary schools, participated with various clubs, and organized community events. They've had a multitude of lived experiences related to diversity. They're currently working on Western's campus as an Inclusion Assistant and an Internship with the Office of Equity.
  - Pratt: This seat being filled will make committee fully seated. The committee is finished meeting for the 2023 Fall Quarter, which means the next meeting will be held in January 2024. Pratt feels that Jackson Hueso is a great fit, and that they

are enthusiastic about the position. They have attended the last two SEJF meetings, and they are ready to get started with the committee.

<b>MOTION: To approve consent items with stated amendment</b>		
<b>Motion Made</b> By: Wong	<b>Second:</b> Godwin	SB-23-F-27
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1		<b>Action Result:</b> <b>Passed</b>

SNYDER ENTERS 5:39 PM

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

None.

**IV. OFFICER REPORTS**

a. Chair Report

5 minutes Ryan

- The Board of Trustees meeting is taking place on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Ryan the report that will be distributed to the Board. Alongside the report, The Resolution that was passed was attached. The Divestment Resolution was important to include, especially since students have been actively involved with it on campus. Some other things that have been included are the amendment to the Student Government Charter, various student issues, including the violence in Gaza, the Fairhaven and Outback Farm, and Fossil Fuel investments. In relation to Fossil Fuel Investments, a student club on campus wrote a letter that gained 579 signatures showing support.
- Ryan is presenting at the Foundation Board on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. At this meeting, she aims to clarify the role of the student government within the Institution. She will also be presenting a few different issues that she hopes to work with the Foundation on, such as meeting student’s basic needs, ensuring there is student representation within the Foundation, and creating a culture of gratitude on campus.

- Vice President Report 5 minutes Pratt

- The last meeting of the quarter for the Sustainability, Equity & Justice Fund Committee was on November 27<sup>th</sup>. In the meeting, they approved two grants. One is \$70,000 for increased programming for student athletes and the athletics division surrounding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The second grant was \$8,150 for Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC). Since Western is hosting it this year, the SEJF Committee wanted to open it up for as many students to attend as possible. Overall, it was a successful first quarter for SEJF. The Faculty Senate supported the Divestment Resolution. The next step will be presenting it to The Foundation and Board of Trustees.
  - o Wong: Within the Faculty Senate meeting, there was concern about title of The Resolution. They supported what the students themselves wrote and were excited about the transparency. The title says “Fossil Fuel Divestment”

- whereas, but it later says something else. Their only concern was that Fossil fuels are used to make plastic and medical devices to help people survive.
- Pratt followed up on the letter of support that Ryan mentioned saying that there were now 712 signatures of support.
  - There was recently a Divestment teach-in that Pratt spoke at to outline what divestment means.
  - Pratt is going to be giving a presentation with Craig Dunn, President of sustainability council, and someone from the Foundation on sustainable investing. The next focus for Winter Quarter will be clean energy and how Western's campus can be made more sustainable in that sector.
  - Wong: Have you been involved with the Outback?
  - Pratt: Next week he will be sitting down with students who work and volunteer at the outback to join the effort, seeing where he can fit in. As of now, he only has information on the topic, but will be more involved soon.
  - 
  - Vice President Report 5 minutes  
 Snyder
    - o She has been working with the Counseling, Health, and Wellness Committee, and doing Charter discussions with Ryan, Wong, Lorio, and John. Which have been going well and have a healthy dynamic. With the Counseling, Health, and Wellness Committee, they now have funding for the birth control vending machines for campus. Snyder is looking to appoint some more people to the Committee. She has been talking to people who seem interested, mostly club leaders. Since it's the end of the quarter, she is hoping to get two people appointed to the committee next quarter.
  - Vice President Report 5 minutes  
 Godwin
    - o On Tuesday, Godwin had a meeting With President Randhawa and Nora Selander to discuss the Legislative Affairs Council (LAC) Legislative Agenda. They discussed the LAC's top three issues, which were supporting undocumented students and removing hiring restrictions, the operational student employee's union, and generally improving student health on campus.
    - o Godwin also brought up University specific issues in the meeting, such as parking and accessibility of particular buildings. After the meeting, they had a follow up meeting with Nora Selander, and she will be in contact with President Randhawa and the University. President Randhawa expressed interest in holding another meeting in January as the LAC Legislative Agenda shapes up.
    - o In the most recent meeting, they were able to transfer the format of the agenda to be applied to legislative issues. The categories that will be used are financial aid, student employment and health and wellness. Each of the areas will have members doing research, with presentations on the topics taking place on December 5<sup>th</sup>, which will be the last meeting of the quarter.

- Godwin is working through logistical planning challenges in relation to Intersectional Lobby Day. The bus and hotel contracts are secured, and they are awaiting confirmation on the space reservation and food. The biggest logistical challenge will be arranging legislators, which will be done in the beginning of 2024. The WIN event was published on November 30<sup>th</sup>, and people can now RSVP to the event. The Publicity center publishing posters for the event on December 4<sup>th</sup>, along with working on a banner, social media posts, and flyers.
- Senate President Report 5 minutes Wong
  - Other than the Fossil Fuel Resolution, the Faculty Senate also approved going through to look at courses from the past 8 quarters to make sure that they complied with the new Course Modality Policy.
  - The Faculty Senate is trying to get another faculty seat on the University Budget Committee. This seat would bring the number of faculty seats up to 4.
  - The Senate has appointed a new graduate senator and is still looking to appoint one more in the College of Science and Engineering.
  - The Senate will also be using the newly adopted Parliamentary Procedure and Rules of Operation.
- Advisor Report 5 minutes Ryan
  - Reminder about getting in timesheets.
  - Lorio is currently immersed in quarterly operational budgets for the Executive Board and the Student Senate. He will be presenting updated budgets to both groups and working on exercises with the group to have routine budget updates to the Student Government body. The new budget may impact hours allowed since 90% of the budget is staff.
    - Wong: Ryan and I get the monthly budget emails.
    - Lorio: I appreciate those monthly emails, I will provide you with more information, including important details that aren't included in the emails.
    - Pratt: You said hours might be impacted, are you leaning towards less hours allowed?
    - Lorio: That is potential, looking into hours that should be used vs. hours that have been used. We're trying to make sure you have advance warning if you must cut down on hours.
    - Godwin: Will those budget updates start next quarter?
    - Lorio: Yes. I may have something as early as next week. Part of this has to do with requests to work over intersession or break. That wasn't budgeted, and that's not an expectation. It will be very conservative over winter break. I will share over email.

## V. INFORMATION ITEMS- Guests\*

- Elections Advisory Committee 5 minutes Ryan

## Charge & Charter

- Isaac Brandt is elections coordinator from Office of Civic Engagement and will be running Student Government elections. In order to run the elections, they need to amend the election advisory committee charter
  - There are some small changes to the charter. They wanted to move away from yearly expiring with the goal for it to be a three year standard instead. The date at the top provides an idea of when it was last passed.
  - On the charter, the Voter Engagement and Recruitment Coordinator membership is being replaced with “AS Office of Civic Engagement Director or designated staff representative”. It currently doesn’t work well for the person who fills the role to act as a member on the committee.
    - Lorio: I recommend adjusting the language to explicitly stating that the designated staff member is from the Office of Civic Engagement.
    - Ryan: The Voter Engagement and Recruitment Coordinator was added since there was specific want from that person in the role to be on the committee. We don’t necessarily need that position, especially if its burdensome for the Office of Civic Engagement.
    - Lorio: leaving it in leaves flexibility.
  - There was an adjustment to the quorum rules to state that quorum only needs the majority of the seated members that are already placed on the committee.
    - Lorio: did you consider a minimum number for quorum? What stops quorum being one if membership is two?
    - Brandt: We can add something like that.
    - Ryan: It would be best if seated membership including both a Student Senator and an Executive Board member to ensure both seats are filled before quorum.
    - Brandt: We had issues with Student Senators and Executive Board members attending. We didn’t have both of those members at the same time for a large part of it.
    - Ryan: I definitely understand that. If it happens again, it will be a conversation to have with Adam, so it won’t be a problem this year. Ensure that those positions are physically filled before quorum.
  - The last big change is within the Rules of Operations. Wong sent an email encouraging committees to adopt the new Parliamentary Procedure and Rules of Operations. The changes to the Rules of Operations maintains how they previously did it, to where the committee can adopt its own Rules of Operations, with Executive

Board consent, but also establishes the default Rules of Operations are the standard ones established.

- Wong: The ones that were passed, I will send them to you again.
- Ryan: Clarification that they were passed in the Student Senate, not the Executive Board.

## VI. ACTION ITEMS – Guests

None presented.

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

None presented.

## VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board\*

- |   |                            |            |      |
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| - | Ceasefire Resolution Draft | 20 minutes | Wong |
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- Wong shared that the resolution came out of the hope that the Executive Board wouldn't stop their actions at one statement. They have been working on it for 3 weeks. Its current form mentions actions on campus, what the Executive Board's role is, provides historical background, and calls on our U.S. Senators, Representatives, and the President to join the call for a ceasefire. There are a few citations missing, and they are ready to add them in. Wong asked if the Legislative Affairs Council has talked about the Resolution in a meeting?
    - Godwin: It was something that couldn't be put on the agenda because we have hour long meetings, and we are working on the Legislative Agenda. I talked to our ESC Student Representative Cole Farhat, who is an Arab American, and he had some comments. A slightly minor change is "WHEREAS, Arab, Muslim, Palestinian, Israeli and Jewish students have been particularly impacted by..." Farhat suggested that the Executive Board move Palestinian to forefront of that statement. He also suggested for within the WHEREAS section, to say in the last part "Infrastructure has been destroyed in order to hinder the advancement of Palestine, like hospitals, civilian homes, mosques, churches, communication facilities, schools, etc." Ryan and I discussed the suggestion, and it is a major change to make to the document. We aren't sure if we want big adjustments or pass this tonight. I am in favor of moving Palestinian to the front of the list.
    - Ryan: We usually introduce something as an information item first, then wait to come back as an action item in order to be informed on

what we are passing. It is important that we understand exactly what this is asking and what impact it can have on students and community members.

- Wong: I would like to hear from people who weren't at the draft meetings including Liam, Morgan, and Sophie.
- Pratt: I have a question with the statement on the whereas about November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Ryan paused the conversation and said: I understand what you're referencing and we as a Board do not support that. We don't want to be showing support for it.
- Pratt: Is there going to be any correlation drawn between what we're saying and those events?
- Ryan: There shouldn't be, we already removed a portion that mentioned a disruption on campus. We are trying to talk about impactful events where there are large amounts of students gathering, not about a few students that were very disruptive.
- Wong: Inclusion of the disruption on the Resolution retracts from a call for a ceasefire because the Senators and President don't control our Foundation, so telling them that people opposed them isn't as specific as possible.
- Ryan: It is important for us as a Board to separate individual support from what our Executive Board supports publicly and explicitly.
- Ryan shares for clarification purposes: On November 17<sup>th</sup> there was a disruption of a Foundation Event happening on campus in the Viking Union, and it was extremely disruptive to their meeting. It was about 6-12 students that protested.
- Snyder: I feel like we are representing students well, the language is comprehensive. I think we are being very supportive, and you've done a good job with the draft.
- Wong: I am not aware of another Student Government that has called for ceasefire in Washington.
- Ryan: On November 17<sup>th</sup>, I went to the WSA Board of Directors meeting, which has all the of the AS Presidents from all the public schools from Washington state, along with some Community Colleges. None of them have called for a ceasefire. Within this statement, we are specifically asking representatives to act. We are calling on them since we haven't dealt with this before, we don't have

a lot of impact on international policy. We see this as an appropriate government agency, and we specifically call out representatives who represent Western students.

- Wong: We could try to get it to the Legislative Affairs Council since there are diverse perspectives there to. They may be able to give insight on changes, or if it's good in its current form.
  - Godwin: I brought it up to the Legislative Affairs Council members, there has only been one student who expressed interest in it. The opportunity has been put forth; I don't think it's necessary to pursue.
  - Ryan: Why isn't it going through the Student Senate?
  - Wong: It would be ideal for it to go through the Senate, but the Senate isn't likely to meet on December 4<sup>th</sup>. It went through the Executive Board because it's the body that handles governmental agency.
- WONG: For clarification purposes, the reason for it to get passed by both bodies is for it to be the position of the entire Associated Students.
  - RYAN: There is a temporary ceasefire now, we don't necessarily address that language and call for continuation, we just ask for a ceasefire in general. We don't want this to be dismissed because it's temporary and people mistake it for a general ceasefire.
  - WONG: I have a formal amendment that includes citations. One edit includes after where it says "the ASWWU Executive Board condemns all violence against civilians and non-combatants", inserting a new line that "the ASWWU Executive Board supports a long-term ceasefire and peace in Israel and Palestine."
  - RYAN: I would be most comfortable if we were able to see the document in its physical form, with the final edits, next Thursday.
- WSA Fee Increase
- Western is a member of the WSA legislative action fund, which the Legislative Affairs Council controls. Every Western student pays \$1 per quarter into the fee. The WSA originally is priced at \$15,000, which has been consistent since 2008.
  - Benefits: to give representation in the form of a lobbyist, hold conferences twice a year, provide support for Western's student lobbyist. WSA wants to increase their price to \$30,000. The raise in fees was supposed to start in the 2023-2024 school year, but colleges couldn't afford it. The Board of Directors amended it, and the date was moved to between 2024-2026.



- In order for Western to increase the fee, it will cost 30,000 out of the Legislative Action Fund, which the school could accommodate for a year max. The University would also need to increase the fee for students from \$1 to \$2, which would need to go to the student body election.
  - The WSA fee increase voted on 2-3 years ago by the WSA Board of Directors, which has every AS President.
  - There are concerns that we have had with sustainability in the organization. I have continued concerns of documentation within the WSA. They are supposed to provide support for our Voter Hubs and for the Office of Civic Engagement, though they don't provide that support.
- Pratt: You said that they're supposed to provide support to the Director of Legislative Affairs (DOLA), but they didn't?
- Ryan: They provide an office space they can use, and they provide the DOLA different opportunities, such as dinners w legislators and training.
- Pratt: What else do we get with that money? It seems like we lose more than we get.
- Ryan: I can't tell you that there are any other benefits.
- Wong: In terms of lobbying, does the WSA have its own lobbyist?
- Ryan: There is a DOLA from every university, then the WSA assigns one as the WSA lobbyist. The lobbying efforts of the WSA have been successful, or at least what they support has been. Their exact role is unclear, but WSA likes to claim they are the sole champion of the success.
- Pratt: With the DOLA, when they go to Olympia to be the Western DOLA, do they also become the WSA lobbyist?
- Ryan: No, they lobby with the other WSA lobbyists where they get support from WSA. Once this interaction between the lobbyists and WSA takes place, there is push to include WSA legislative priorities within Western's priorities.
- Pratt: We're paying 15,000, but then our lobbyist is doing a second job and then we're having to support the WSA agenda.
- Ryan: With the \$30,000 there is want for WSA to pay the DOLA's. There are issues with that since the WSA isn't upholding their end of the agreements of support on a number of campuses. I tried to get their 10-year plan for what they're going to provide us, but they don't have that.

- Wong: is the decision to be part of the WSA a decision for the Executive Board, or is it the LAC?
- Ryan: Adam and I can explore that.
- Lorio: We can explore that, the way its structured, the Board of Directors for the WSA is comprised of Executive Board Presidents, which connotes that it's your line. LAC is a committee of Governance.
- Ryan: We aren't the only member campus having this discussion right now. UW Tacoma was going to leave but haven't done it yet because they budgeted it in this year already. If we aren't increasing the fee, it becomes a conversation about membership.

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

None.

**X. Other Business**

None.

Adjourn: *The Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.*