



Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 1st, 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: Stella Seth, Dibora Markos

MOTIONS

None

Call to Order: Keara Ryan, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

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

None.

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

- Dibora Markos works in the Black Student Coalition as the Retention Director. She works to make sure black students have enough resources to graduate college. She has also been part of the Legislative Affairs Committee since Fall Quarter 2023.
 - o Markos feels that the agenda addresses key issues that someone who has a marginalized identity would experience, and she really enjoyed working on it. The agenda did a good job of addressing financial aid, employment, and housing.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

- Chair Report 5 minutes Ryan
- The February 9th ASWWU Report to the WWU Board of Trustees has been submitted.
 - o The report touches on editing Student Government documents, Western Intersectional Lobby Day, and the Foundation's continued investment in fossil fuels.

- Administration is aware of the issues Chartwells has been experiencing. They are addressing these issues at the highest level.
 - o Due to this, there will be updates and changes made. Dining halls will now always have pizza, chicken nuggets, fries, and the dietary stations will be stocked with the correct dietary necessities. There will now be labels with ingredients for dietary restrictions.
- The ASWWU Government Charter was signed February 1st, and everyone was forwarded the finished document. Ryan thanks those who were part of the Charter editing taskforce.
- Michael Sledge will be visiting the February 8th Executive Board meeting to give updates on basic needs and basic need initiatives on campus.
- Lorio: Western's administration is aware of Chartwells issues and are taking it seriously. There is a list of corrective actions and expectations shared by the administration of Chartwells with the expectation that they will step up. Dining service is a critical service to our students, and it's being fully addressed.

- Vice President Report 5 minutes Wong
- Wong attended the Faculty Senate meeting on January 29th.
 - o During Western Washington University's six-year evaluation regional accreditors raised concerns about Western not having explicit protections for academic freedom for students.
 - o An item before the Faculty Senate was to amend one of the appendices of the catalog to include academic freedom protections for students.
 - There will be more discussion surrounding the topic within the Faculty Senate. Due to that, a statement about academic freedom has been pulled from the February Board of Trustees meeting to be presented during the April meeting instead.
- Wong met with Brad Johnson to talk about the process of academic freedom.
- The Student Senate is working on amending their bylaws. They are starting to dig into membership and accountability.
- The Student Tech Fee Initiatives Committee has started meeting. They will be reviewing tech abstracts.
 - o The committee is still looking for At-Large students. There is one application and three seats open.

- Vice President Report 5 minutes Pratt

- The Sustainability, Equity, & Justice Fund (SEJF) has six or seven large grants being planned, which should improve sustainability, equity, and justice on campus.
- Western Washington University is hosting The Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) in March.
 - o They are in the early stages of planning a preconference meeting.
- Pratt met with Steve Hollenhorst, who is the Vice President for Facilities, and Teena Gabrielson, who is the Dean of the College of The Environment, to see where they're at in the Divestment effort.
- The Transportation Advisory Committee hired a new Active Transport Coordinator.
- The President's Sustainability Council has a meeting next week where they will start reviewing sections in the Sustainability Action Plan.

- Vice President Report 5 minutes Whitt

- Compass 2 Campus programming is still going. The multicultural services are involved to have more eyes on it.
- Whitt has an Accessibility, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ADEI) meeting with those at the Multicultural and Student Services to help them with student engagement this quarter. They also want feedback on events during APIDA Month and Undocu Month.
- Got into contact with the Office of Civic Engagement regarding undocumented resources.
- Whitt is helping the Latine Affinity Housing look over their programming. It's confirmed to roll out within the next academic year.
- She is meeting with Wong about BIPOC spaces for Student Senators. This would be a space for Senators to have access to resources and form a community.
- Whitt may be joining the Power, Equity, and Justice Task Force.
- Wong: For context, the Power, Equity, and Justice Task Force is looking at GURS to figure out how to engage ideas about power, equity, and justice.

- Advisor Report 5 minutes Ryan
- Budgeting for Viking Union and AS Operations Offices is proceeding.
 - o The extension for draft budgets to be sent to the Finance Council for review was updated to next Monday.

- This year will be different than last year budget wise, and Lorio will collaborate with everyone to strategize and address questions.
- The budgets don't get finalized until May before they come to the Executive Board for final approval.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS- Guests*

- Lobbying Update from Olympia 15 minutes Ryan
- January 31st was the cutoff date to pass bills out of committee. The policy committee and the executive session had to receive a bill and vote on it for it to go to the fiscal committee.
- February 5th is the last day to pass bills out of a committee.
- February 13th is the last day to consider and pass a bill out of the house of origin.
 - By February 13th, every bill that is moving forward should be in the opposite house.
- A priority for students this year was SB 5999, which is the Washington College Grant. The bill had its public hearing on January 30th. They are waiting for executive action to be taken to see if it moves forward.
- SB 5904, which is in relation to extending the terms of eligibility for financial aid programs from 5 years to 6 years, had its second public hearing, and they are now waiting for executive action.
- SB 5953 had its executive session on January 24th. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing on February 2nd.
- HB 1889, which allows people to receive professional licenses and certifications regardless of immigration or citizenship status, had its executive session on January 26th and received a do pass motion, but it has been referred for a second review.
- HB 2242, which supports sexual assault survivors at institutions of higher education, received a do pass motion. It has been referred to the Appropriations Committee and is waiting for a scheduled public hearing.
- HB2309 proposes that students who graduate high school can apply to community college or technical college within 15 months to receive 45 credits of tuition free.
 - If this bill moves forward, it could take funds that could be used for the Washington College Grant.
 - Pratt: you mentioned February 5th and February 13th, which one is when the bills are out of committee and will be voted on?
 - Seth: February 5th is when bills must pass the Policy Committee and executive session. In the Policy Committee, people testify and then Legislators vote on it to give the bill a do pass or do not pass motion. If it is

passed, it moves into the Fiscal Committee. January 31st ended that first step, and we are now in the Fiscal Committee. February 5th is when bills need to go to the opposite House.

VI. ACTION ITEMS – Guests

None presented.

VII. PERSONNEL ITEMS (subject to immediate action)

None presented.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board*

- WILD 2024 Legislative Agenda 20 minutes Godwin
- The Legislative Affairs Council (LAC) voted to endorse the Western Intersectional Lobby Day (WILD) Agenda on January 31st.
- Ryan: Can you talk about what is going to happen when a bill dies. Will it be removed?
- Godwin: I discussed this topic in the emergency LAC meeting, but not in depth with the Committee. This Agenda is the version the LAC voted on and endorsed, so from my understanding it's out of the LAC's hands and it's now up to the Executive Board to make decisions on what we feel should be on the WILD Agenda.
- Godwin: I had a conversation with Western's University Lobbyist, Nora Selander. Regarding that bill that died, she thinks it reduces our credibility to have a bill that isn't moving through the legislature as the first thing on our Agenda. She thinks we should have higher education student focused issues first.
- Ryan: Since bills will die, a good approval date for the agenda is February 8th. How would we like to move forward if a bill dies?
- Wong: I agree we shouldn't pass this today. A dead bill hurting credibility makes sense because the Legislators may feel like they can't do anything about it since the decision is not in their hands.
- Whitt: If a bill dies, are we able to add that to the conclusion, would that be beneficial?
- Godwin: I agree with including ideas that we support even if the bill has died. It shouldn't be the first thing on the agenda.
- Ryan: We can go on a case-by-case basis. I think that the Centering Equity & Justice paragraph can move up with the Value Statement.
- Ryan: Why was the decision made to combine LGBTQ+ community and Reproductive Rights? I see them as two separate issues. Is there the opportunity to

- change that and focus more on what is impacting university campuses? College campuses getting abortion pills accessible on campus would really be beneficial.
- Wong: The clarity in the second paragraph of the agenda isn't the best, the first statement expressing appreciation about protecting members of the LGBTQ+ community, I don't think that's true. Police just raided LGBTQ+ bars in Seattle.
 - Ryan: It was brought up that if you're going to be talking about the Disability Access Center (DAC) asking for funding on our campus, it doesn't belong in the conclusion. If we are asking for something, I think it would be beneficial for it to have its own section.
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- Parliamentary Procedure and Rules of Op 10 minutes Wong
 - The AS Parliamentary Procedures and AS Governance Rules of Operation have passed in the Student Senate.
 - A previous document titled "AS Governance Meeting Guidelines" is being changed to "AS Governance Rules of Operation".
 - The goal would be that most of the AS Committees follow some semblance of this.
 - Ryan: What are your thoughts about these documents being accessible to committee members?
 - Wong: Are you thinking does it read at an introductory level?
 - Ryan: Yeah, we need to be aware of how we train people.
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- ASWWU Constitutional Amendment 15 minutes Ryan & Wong
 - Wong: The first change is adding Voting Membership to Article II. Elections. In Section B. General Elections, it states that election results will be certified by the Office of Civic Engagement rather than the Student Senate and Executive Board.
 - o The document clarifies that there is an ASWWU government instead of only talking about the governing bodies separately.
 - o Proposed change is to make the Executive Board President and Senate President non-voting. This is an ongoing conversation.
 - o In Article V. Powers and Granted Authorities, Section B - ASWWU Government is new. This section is about what is jointly held by the Student Senate and Executive Board.
 - o In Article VI. Amendments and Bylaws, Section B - Constitutional Amendments, the Board of Trustees is taken out.
 - o In Section C – Abolition of the whole ASWWU, this is where we can work on numbers for the threshold of getting rid of the whole Associated Students.

The proposal is a majority vote of at least 10% of the voting membership of the ASWWU.

- In Section D – Abolition of the Student Government, the proposal is a majority vote of at least 5% of the membership of the ASWWU.

IX. Action Items- Board*

X. Other Business

None.

Adjourn: *The Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.*