



ASWWU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Documents for:

April 18th, 2024 | 5:30 PM | VU 567, TEAMS
Town Hall

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Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

April 11th, 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: None

MOTIONS

ASB-24-S-64	To Approve Consent Items with Stated Amendments
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Call to Order: Keara Ryan, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

- a. Meeting Minutes from March 7th, March 14th, and April 4th 5 minutes Ryan
 - i. On the March 7th meeting minutes, Wong’s report should say “Senate President Report” rather than “Vice President Report.”
 - ii. Motions should specify whether they passed or failed.

MOTION: To Approve Consent Items with Stated Amendments		
Motion Made By: Pratt	Second: Godwin	ASB-24-S-64
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. The Longhouse groundbreaking ceremony is happening on April 11th at 5PM.
 - a. Laural Ballew, who is the Executive Director of American Indian/ Alaska Native and First Nations Relations and Tribal Liaison to the President, came to speak at the ceremony.
 - b. WWU is one of the only universities to not have a longhouse.

- c. The longhouse will be leased to the university in the Sehome Arboretum, and it will be sitting on city land instead of university property.
- ii. Pratt and Ryan met with the WHOLE food pantry last week to talk to Jenn Cook who oversees it.
- iii. The student senate referendum on the basic needs fee is happening April 12th.
- iv. Elections advertising is still happening. There should be an all-student email going out on April 12th or 13th.
- v. A student approached Wong asking about a resolution relating to the relationship that the university, foundation, and alumni association has to Israel.
- vi. The Conference Committee had their first meeting.
 - a. They are working on their first draft of their constitution.

b. Vice President Report 5 minutes Godwin

- i. The LAC is working out establishing a schedule for spring quarter.
 - a. Going to have the first meeting of the quarter mandatory while the rest of the meetings will be optional.
 - b. They will be reviewing bylaws, looking into the legislative action fee fund, and explore and lay down the path for next year's LAC.
- ii. Senator Sharon Shewmake came to the LAC to share her perspective on the legislative section and to provide advice on advocating during interim period.
 - a. Followed up with a Q&A.
 - b. Gave advice that summer is the ideal time to be in contact with legislators after session.
 - c. How do we reflect the student body's legislative priorities while they're on summer break?
 - o Godwin is considering if the LAC can develop a way to get comments from the student body on this issue.
- iii. Ryan: We should be aware about lack of summer hours before planning programmatic things for summer break.

c. Vice President Report 5 minutes Pratt

- i. If grant proposals are under \$5,000 they don't have to go to the Sustainability, Equity, & Justice Fund, it's just an internal review.
 - a. There are currently many small grants coming in.
 - b. There will be changes to the current system, sending smaller grants to Pratt and the associate director of the Sustainability Engagement Institute.

- Pratt is trying to plug his position into the program instead of just the decision making.
 - ii. SEJF has been paying facilities for the Green Direct Renewable Energy Program.
 - a. The \$50,000 that is paid to the program annually has become net profit because the program is so successful.
 - b. The money could go back into the grant pool instead to support other programs.
 - iii. There are going to be a lot of events with many organizations and clubs participating in Earth Week, which is happening on April 22nd-26th.
 - a. Wong: When it comes to changing the threshold for SEJF grant process, is that explicitly in the charter?
 - b. Pratt: It's in the rules of operation.
- d. Vice President Report 5 minutes Whitt
 - i. Whitt touched base with Amy Westmoreland from Multicultural Center.
 - a. Westmoreland provided Whitt with information about the Centers having a new scholarship.
 - b. Whitt is working with the Rodrigo Gonzalez-Jaurez, who is the Latine Student Retention Specialist, to discuss their positions and work together to support students.
 - c. There was a lunch & learn on April 3rd where the Resource Center celebrated and recognized Arab American Heritage Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Gaypril, and Undocu Month.
 - d. There was Undocu ally training on April 8th and a session with a professor providing an overview of issues concerning DACA and undocumented students on April 15th.
 - e. Whitt met with the Social Justice and Equity Committee.
 - They are trying to host 2-3 listening and planning sessions with grant recipients from the past.
- e. Advisor Report 5 minutes Lorio
 - i. Submit timesheets by April 15th.
 - ii. Lorio is going to continue to update student government on candidate filing numbers as allowed by the elections code.
 - a. On the senate whiteboard, Lorio made a section that he will be updating daily with those numbers.
 - b. As of April 11th, there are nine forms filed.
 - c. To have every role with multiple candidates, there needs to be at least 42 forms filed.
 - d. Lorio had a meeting on April 11th with the Finance Council to discuss the current budgets.

- e. The budget will not be the full allocation of hours currently represented.

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. WSA GA Recap 10 minutes Godwin
 - i. There was a presentation from the Secretary of State's office regarding what will be on the ballot in November.
 - ii. There was an overview presented by the Director of Legislative Affairs for each of the schools.
 - iii. Godwin went to the Board of Director meeting in Ryan's place.
 - a. WSA updated their constitution.
 - b. They added two new positions including Vice President of Community and Technical Colleges and a position within graduate studies.
 - c. Something that impacts our school is the codification of the policy for membership dues.
 - o Currently, each campus contributes \$1 per student. They wanted to do double that.
 - o After that controversy, they confirmed it will be \$1 per student.
 - d. WSA gave a budget report.
 - o The revenue of the association is around \$250,000.
 - o WWU contributes \$15,000 of that.
 - e. They passed a preliminary legislative agenda.
 - o There were 16 legislative proposals brought and all of them passed.
 - o WWU didn't contribute any proposals.
 - o Want to meet with the executive officer, the new president of the executive board, and Stella Seth to plan how WWU can increase engagement with WSA.
 - f. The Washington Education Investment account manages all of the funding that goes to public universities in Washington state.
 - o They're looking for a student representative on that board.
 - g. Looking into potentially hosting the next general assembly at WWU.
 - h. Ryan: For fall general assembly, WSA likes to plan things very late so keep in mind that it will be next year's student government plan.

- b. WWU Student Fees 5 minutes Ryan
- i. Any Executive Board members that sit on a committee that manages student fees should provide a report to present to the board by April 30th.
 - a. This report will aim to present what the committee has achieved, what their expenditure was, and the impact of the committee overall.
 - b. This report should be 5-10 minutes in duration.
 - c. The Services and Activities fee funds the AS fees, they do intermural and club sports, a portion of athletics, any department related activities, and provide money to the Centers.
 - o Ryan sits on the S&A fee committee.
 - o Everyone who receives money from this committee sits on the committee and decides who can be part of it.
 - o The committee is supposed to represent the broad and diverse campus, but currently only represents areas that are already getting money.
 - d. Ryan discussed posing a recommendation to administration and the university to create a resolution on how WWU operates fee committees.
 - e. Wong: Melynda Huskey has talked about the idea of changing how fees work. There is appetite from university administration to look at the S&A fee model that WWU uses.
- c. Discussion on NWCCU Meeting 5 minutes Ryan
- i. Accreditors meeting
 - a. Wong: The biggest takeaway I had from the Accreditors meeting was that it looks at the institution holistically from a student perspective. It comes down to seeing education as a net benefit for society and individual students.
 - o The events need better advertising from administration.

II. Action Items- Board*

None presented.

III. Other Business

None presented.

Adjourn: *The Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.*



COAST SALISH STYLE LONGHOUSE

at Western Washington University

VISION

In partnership and close collaboration with Coast Salish tribal nations and the Western Native American Student Union, Western Washington University (WWU) seeks to build a traditional Coast Salish style longhouse in honor of the historic importance of place that it occupies and in acknowledgement of the University's responsibility to promote educational opportunities for Native students. WWU requests \$4.9 million in the state's 2021-23 capital budget for the construction of the Coast Salish-style longhouse.



BUILDING DESIGN

- The longhouse will reflect traditional Coast Salish architecture and design.
- The longhouse will support Native students by providing a gathering and ceremonial space to promote cultural exchange and understanding.
- Longhouse structure will include a gathering hall, indoor and outdoor kitchens, and student lounges.
- The University will assemble a group which will include Native students, faculty, staff, alumni and tribal community members who will advise on the design for the longhouse.

BACKGROUND

The vision for a Coast Salish longhouse on WWU's campus originated from the Native American Student Union, as Native students sought to find ways for the University to address current and historical issues faced by American Indian students on WWU's campus. The newly created WWU Office of Tribal Relations is committed to building the Longhouse as an integral cornerstone in support of their mission.

- Pursuing justice and equity in its policies, practices and impacts for advancing a deeper understanding and appreciation for the sense of place.
- Pursuing the academic, personal and professional success of its Indigenous students, faculty and staff.
- Building and sustaining beneficial working relationships with the Coast Salish people and expanding Western's strength in academia to serve the current and future needs of tribal communities.

While the Tribal Relations Department has been very successful in their mission and outreach, not having a cultural center for meetings, workshops, educational seminars, and cultural gatherings has hindered their ability to fulfill their mission.



To learn more about how you can support the creation of WWU's longhouse, please visit the project website at:

www.edu/tribal-relations/longhouse

WWU is an equal opportunity institution. To request this document in an alternate format, call (360) 650-3110.



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PHOTO GALLERY: WWU LONGHOUSE DEDICATION

Many from the WWU, Bellingham, Whatcom County and local Indigenous communities came together on Thursday, April 11 to celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony for Western's new House of Healing longhouse.

The longhouse is the result of a 2016 letter written by Native American Student Union (NASU) members at Western looking for more support. This will be the first longhouse in the City of Bellingham, located at the south end of Sehome Hill Arboretum.

"This is important that Western is answering the call," Tribal Liaison Laural Ballew said. "It's important because this shows that our students have a voice."

During his speech at the ceremony, President Sabah Randhawa issued a formal apology for the university's harmful past.

"It seems to me that the ground-turning for the longhouse is an opportune time for me to offer a sincere apology on behalf of Western Washington University for the past racist teaching to the Lummi Nation. In offering an apology for these harms, we acknowledge that recognition and apology only ring true when accompanied by action by not only bringing awareness of the past into the present, but in acting to ensure reconciliation, repair and renewal."

Dignitaries at the event included Tony Hillaire, chairman of the Lummi Indian Business Council, RoseMary LaClair, chairwoman of the Nooksack Tribal Council, Bellingham Mayor Kim Lund, Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu, and WWU Board of Trustees Chair Faith Pettis.

[Read more about the ceremony and plans for the longhouse in Cascadia Daily News \[https://www.cascadiadaily.com/2024/apr/11/indigenous-community-members-celebrate-construction-of-house-of-healing-longhouse/\]](https://www.cascadiadaily.com/2024/apr/11/indigenous-community-members-celebrate-construction-of-house-of-healing-longhouse/).

WWU photos by Luke Hollister







Constitutional Referendum Language

4/14/2024

Gabe Wong

Shall the ASWWU amend its constitution to implement the following changes?

1. That the voting membership matches the ASWWU Student Government Charter (I.B),
2. the initiative process uses petition thresholds based on historical voter turnout instead of absolute proportions of the voting membership (II.D),
3. the elections process is handled by the Office of Civic Engagement rather than the elected Student Government (II.A, II.F, III.B.2, III.B.3),
- ~~3.4.~~ 4. The Student Senate is renamed to the Senate (III.A)
- ~~4.5.~~ 5. the Executive Board and Student-Senate are separated and placed on equal footing (III.A),
- ~~5.6.~~ 6. the elected position of Vice President for University Operations is created in the Executive Board (III.A),
- ~~6.7.~~ 7. the Senate Pro-tempore is officially renamed to Senate President (III.A),
- ~~7.8.~~ 8. the Senate President is removed from the Executive board and given voting rights in the Student-Senate (III.A),
- ~~8.9.~~ 9. the name “Huxley” is removed from the title of the College of the Environment (III.A),
- ~~9.10.~~ 10. a conference committee is established to maintain coordination and connection between the Executive Board and the Student-Senate (III.B.1)
- ~~10.11.~~ 11. the role of the student government is clarified (V.A, V.B),
- ~~11.12.~~ 12. the authorities granted by the University President in the ASWWU Student Government Charter are enumerated (V.B),
- ~~12.13.~~ 13. the distinct roles of the Executive Board and Student-Senate are clearly described (V.C, V.D);
- ~~13.14.~~ 14. the constitutional and bylaw amendment processes are clarified (VI.A, VI.B),
- ~~14.15.~~ 15. the construction and hierarchy of governing documents is clarified (VI.C),
- ~~15.16.~~ 16. abolition is split into the abolition of the Student Government and the abolition of the whole ASWWU (government, offices, clubs, etc.) (VII.A, VII.B), and
- ~~16.17.~~ 17. clear thresholds and processes for abolition are established (VII.A, VII.B, VII.C).

This summary may not include all amendments to the constitution, please refer to the full text of the proposed constitutional amendment here: [link](#)

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