Western Washington University Associated Students
Senate Meeting Minutes
October 23rd, 2023, 5:30-7:00 PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gabe Wong</td>
<td>AS Senate President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mariana Flores</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autumn Kay-Chapman (Absent)</td>
<td>At-Large Senators</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Dinh</td>
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<td>Lauren Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yasmin Llamas Flores (Absent)</td>
<td>College of Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miguel Angel Acuna-Martinez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dacey Durbin</td>
<td>College of Business &amp; Economics</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lily Duong</td>
<td>Woodring College of Education</td>
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<td>Matt Condon</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>Graduate School</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Hardgrove</td>
<td>College of Science &amp; Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marv Locke (Absent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quincy Ingalls</td>
<td>Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
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<td>Miguel Estevez</td>
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<td>Meli Bernal</td>
<td>College of the Environment</td>
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<td>Lola Thompson</td>
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<td>MJ Dizon (Absent)</td>
<td>College of Fine &amp; Performing Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ella Byerly</td>
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<td>Nely Vasquez</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Adam Lorio, Leona Friedman</td>
<td>Advisors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olive Salas (AS Communications Director)</td>
<td>Guests</td>
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</tbody>
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Motions:

**ASWWUSEN-23-F-6** To approve the October 9th, 2023 minutes. *Passed*
To approve Quincy Ingalls as the Chair of the Student Advisory Committee.  **Passed.**

To go into Executive Session for 5 minutes for the purpose of looking at the applicant’s statement and to keep Friedman, Vasquez, and the Senate President in the room. **Passed.**

To appoint Devin Moreno as the Co-Senator for the College of Business and Economics.  **Passed.**

_Gabe Wong, AS Senate President, called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM_

I. **CONSENT ITEMS**

   a. Approval of Minutes – October 9th, 2023  
   b. AS Student Advisory Committee

   Wong appoints Ingalls as the Chair of the Student Advisory Committee.

   To approve Quincy Ingalls as the Chair of the Student Advisory Committee
   Motion by Ella Byerly  
   Second: John Hardgrove  
   Motion passed: 13-0-0

   To approve the October 9th, 2023 minutes
   Motion by: Quincy Ingalls  
   Second: James Dinh  
   Motion passed: 13-0-0

II. **REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

   Wong adds Advisory notes/comments to the Information Items – Senate section for 5 mins.

III. **PUBLIC FORUM**

IV. **INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS**

   a. College Level ADEI

   Wong tabled this topic due to guest not being there.
b. AS Gaza Communications

Wong state that the AS Communications office is working on a statement regarding Gaza. Salas said this statement would be from the AS, and it would tell students who are being affected by current world issues they have a safe space in the AS. She also says this statement would not speak on behalf of anyone. Salas encourages the Senators to be open about dialogue especially if some approaches them about it. But to also put boundaries if need be. Wong says they and others have had conversations about this statement, and if the Senate wants to vote on it, they can. Friedman clarifies that the Senators roles are more college level than diplomatic, but if they want to speak on it they can, only to be careful with their diction.

V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS

VI. PERSONELL ITEMS

a. CBE Appointment

Durbin announced they would like to move forward with the appointment of Devin Moreno. She said that his understanding of the College of Business and Economics and the administration is what sealed the deal for her. The Senators wanted to know more about the other candidate and read his statement. The Senate went into executive session for 10 minutes. The Senators appointed Devin Moreno as Co-Senator for the College of Business and Economics.

To go into Executive Session for 5 minutes for the purpose of looking at the applicant’s statement and to keep Friedman, Vasquez, and the Senate President in the room.
Motion by Dacey Durbin
Second: James Dinh
Motion passed: 13-0-0

To appoint Devin Moreno as the Co-Senator for the College of Business and Economics
Motion by Ella Byerly
Second: John Hardgrove
Motion passed: 13-0-0
VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – SENATE

a. AS Charter (Doc 1)

Wong reminds the Senate what the charter is and says Sabah Randhawa and Melinda Husky pushed for the AS Charter to be updated. Wong gave a brief timeline of the work being done of the new draft charter, and the changes the 22-23 Senate made. Friedman says Husky would like the draft to be done by the end of November, and if there needs to be more time for suggestions then to communicate with her about it.

b. Advisor Comments/Notes

Friedman wants to advertise the Senators on the board outside the office by posting their own posters. She would also like to do one on one check ins with everyone.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – SENATE

IX. OFFICER REPORTS

a. Chair Reports

Wong reports that in Faculty Senate it was discussed that money the school receives depend on enrollment, and there is less state funding now. They also report that some Western classes will be taught at some high schools.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

_Gabe Wong, AS Senate President, adjourned the meeting at 7:07 PM_
A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Sen. J.Res. 2023/4-01

“2023 ASWWU Resolution in favor of continued Fossil Fuel Divestment”

WHEREAS, Western Washington University has a commitment to sustainability, equity and justice, shared governance, and accountability as a core part of the institution’s mission (1); and

WHEREAS, Western is already taking crucial steps to achieve sustainability, it must be acknowledged that unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the “atmosphere will warm up by as much as 2.7-degree Fahrenheit above pre-industrial levels by 2040, inundating coastlines and intensifying droughts and poverty” (2); and

WHEREAS, a rise in atmospheric temperatures would cause unavoidable increases in numerous climate hazards and present risks to ecosystems and humans with an estimated loss of around 10% of total economic value from climate change (3); and

WHEREAS, United Nations Chief António Guterres says fossil fuels are “incompatible with human survival” (4); and

WHEREAS, climate change is in large part caused by burning fossil fuels as fixed carbon is released into the atmosphere as a greenhouse gas; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been driving the downfall of biodiversity, which is central to the production of new knowledge, and the fossil fuel industry has repeatedly encouraged the suppression of information and warnings about climate change (5); and

WHEREAS, many Western Washington University students are already facing the effects of climate change and live in communities that the effects of climate change will increasingly threaten; and

WHEREAS, Western prides itself on being a leader in sustainability among Institutions of Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, the WWU Foundation is committed to advancing the mission and values of Western Washington University; and

WHEREAS, many of the Western Washington University’s peer and regional institutions have pledged to or have already fully divested from fossil fuels, including California State University-Chico, Humboldt State University, Univ. of Colorado - Colorado Springs, University of Seattle, University of Washington, University of Oregon, University of British Columbia, Lewis and Clark University, Portland Community College, Oregon State University, and the entire University of California and California State school system (6); and
WHEREAS, the Sustainability values of the University drive the investment strategy; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that actions by the WWU Foundation regarding investments impact the Western Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) score; and

WHEREAS, our current investment practices, specifically lacking disclosure regarding investments and the WWU Foundation having no Investor Responsibility Committee or similar body, resulted in scores of 0% in two out of three categories of the STARS rating system; and

WHEREAS, due to a ~6-point difference, Western was unable to receive a “Gold” rating in sustainability from the STARS program; and

WHEREAS, every five years, a Request for Proposals (RFP) is sent out to update contracts with a primary investment firm; and

WHEREAS, the WWU Foundation is currently undergoing the RFP process; and

WHEREAS, our global climate crisis represents a significant risk to financial return; and

WHEREAS, the WWU Foundation currently has 55% of assets invested in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) options, which allow for the selective screening of companies and funds but currently lack transparency regarding the remaining ~45% of investments; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP), published in 2017, is Western’s ten-year plan and was co-created with a committee comprised of students, faculty, and Foundation Staff (7); and

WHEREAS, the Investments Section of the SAP specifically outlines transparency requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Investments Section also heavily suggests the integration of ESG screening into the WWU Foundation’s endowment fund; and

WHEREAS, ESG funds have returns equal to regular investments, and studies have found that returns on ESG funds are increasing over time (8); and

WHEREAS, students, faculty, and staff have led efforts to increase transparent and sustainable investments since 2012; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, 86% of voting WWU students approved a resolution asking that the University divest from fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Students passed an additional resolution in 2015 (9); and
WHEREAS, the Associated Students and Faculty Senate passed an additional resolution in 2017 (10); and

WHEREAS, it cannot be assumed that the Foundation Board can accurately represent student voices; and

WHEREAS, it cannot be assumed that the Foundation Board can accurately represent faculty voices; and

WHEREAS, The Western Washington University Foundation & Alumni is a non-profit, public 501(c)(3) organization that is “closely aligned with the University’s mission and strategic goals, and focuses the organization's energy on ensuring the financial health of Western” (11); and

WHEREAS, the WWU Foundation has multi-generational commitments to benefactors and supports student success through scholarships and other opportunities, so maintaining viable returns of its endowment fund is vital; and

WHEREAS, the UC Chief Investment Officer stated in an op-ed that the University of California decided to no longer invest in fossil fuels because maintaining them posed a significant financial risk (12).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

THAT, the Associated Students of Western Washington University find that, by ignoring its commitment to open discourse and transparent decision-making, the WWU Foundation is not advancing the full mission of the University.

THAT, the ASWWU requests the WWU Foundation increase the transparency and accessibility of our portfolio.

THAT, the ASWWU requests that there be a publicly available annual report of the firm's performance relevant to sustainability performance in addition to financial performance.

THAT, the ASWWU requests the Foundation prioritize the environmental implications of their investment decisions in selecting a firm and consider the ethics and morals of the investment firm before making their decision.

THAT, the ASWWU requests a standing student representative on the WWU Foundation Board for the AS, elected by the AS Executive Board, to be included in the Foundation’s investment performance review process.

THAT, the ASWWU requests a standing faculty representative on the WWU Foundation Board, elected by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, be present in the Foundation’s investment performance review process.

THAT, one student and one faculty representative are included in the WWU Foundation Investment Review Committee.
THAT, the ASWWU requests the WWU Foundation to include ESG as a priority within its upcoming Request for Proposals from different investment firms and to continue to do so until our portfolio is free from fossil fuel assets.

THAT, the ASWWU requests the WWU Foundation to expand its portfolio, managed by Russel Investments, to solely include fossil fuel free options or explore alternative investment firms which may provide a portfolio that does.

THAT, the WWU Foundation continues to demonstrate a dedication to Western’s values by signing onto current and future University-wide sustainability initiatives.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Senate at their regular meeting on 11/6/2023.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Associated Students of Western Washington University Executive Board at their regular meeting on 11/9/2023.

SUPPORTED by the Western Washington University Faculty Senate at their regular meeting on 11/27/2023.


