

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Board of Directors Meeting**

Monday, June 9, 2014

VU 567

AS Board Officers: *Present:* Carly Roberts (President), Josie Ellison (VP Academics), Jarred Tyson (VP Activities), Morgan Burke (VP BusOps), Mayra Guizar (VP Diversity), Kaylee Galloway (VP Governmental Affairs), and Robby Eckroth (VP Student Life)

Advisor(s): Kevin Majkut, Director of Student Activities

MOTIONS

ASB-14-S-64 Earmark \$50,000 from the AS Rainy Day Reserves for expansion and remodeling of the AS Ethnic Student Center. *Passed (1st time, to affirmative votes required.)*

Carly Roberts, AS President, called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

VII. ACTION ITEMS - Board*

A. Reserves Earmark for ESC Expansion *(15 minutes)* Doc. 1 Roberts & Guizar

Roberts said that according to the reserves policy actions must be made at two separate meetings at least 24 hours apart to approve funding from this account. Roberts said this is earmarking \$50,000 from the AS Rainy Day Reserves for expansion and remodeling of the Ethnic Student Center. This would be earmarked until it would be time to spend it, it would be at the discretion of the AS Boards in the future when it is time to spend. They would not have to take additional action. Majkut feels that it would be good to identify the Budget Authority. Roberts would like the VP for Diversity to be the Budget Authority for this fund. Galloway is not very comfortable with making a decision as there isn't a lot of details about this in terms of a timeline or what is going to be done, and no clear cost/benefit. She thinks it would be better to wait until the summer and have the new Board make a vote. She doesn't see a cost/benefit analysis for this item. Eckroth asked if there were any time constraints. Roberts and Guizar have been involved in many meetings about this. The timeline is nebulous right now because funding is still being gathered for this project. The reason that it is important for this Board to pass it is to give momentum and to show support. Conversations are ongoing at this point and the VP for Enrollment & Student Services and others in the university are trying to set aside dollars for this project. This is something that has been of a concern for students for years and is especially poignant considering the conversations ongoing on campus. The benefit of this is greater services and retention for students of color on campus or others who identify the Ethnic Student Center as a safe space. Burke asked if waiting to fund it would impact the project. Roberts feels that strategically it would be important for this Board to pass this, she has had conversations with incoming board members on the matter. Guizar said that if there are conversations with next year's AS President and she is comfortable with this then it is strategically better to pass it this year. Eckroth clarified that people are waiting for the AS to put forward money. Roberts said that it is appropriate for the students to be among the first to commit to this project because this preserves the student driven and student focused center of the project. Roberts thinks that if they look at the reserves as a legacy of what generations of students have left behind then it is an especially appropriate use of this fund. The ESC has been renovated and reconfigured three times in the last few years, ultimately they are looking at a space and location that are not working. There simply is not enough square footage to accommodate the growing demand. Galloway's concern is that \$50,000 is a lot of money especially in comparison to other decisions that they have made. She feels that for this amount they should have a detailed plan and show what they are investing in. She would like to know what it is going to look like and how many more students it will serve. She feels that they have really been trying to ensure that they are spending responsibly this year and there are a lot of unknowns with this. Burke asked about other funding sources. Roberts said that they are looking at bonding options for the non-academic building fee, other partnerships and grants, or as part of a decision package through the state legislature. When the board looked at the University Planning and Resources priorities they identified student success collaborative as number one which supported the

ESC and academic advising. This is in line with previously expressed priorities for the AS. Burke asked if it was funded with non-academic would this make it a possibly partially funded area that may have management moved. Roberts said that they have not made any decisions in this area. Burke said that the facilities & services approved more computers, tables and whiteboards for the ESC this year and wondered if that project would be suspended if this new one was approved. Roberts said that this is a very long term project, this may be 5 years to a decade out, and so the temporary fixes would still be important and go forward as planned. Part of the issue is that ESC keeps getting little renovation projects, but the population and demand is growing to a level that they can't accommodate in their current space. The short term project is to help make it better. Guizar said they are really at the beginning stages but they can't really make decisions until they know how much they are dealing with fiscally. Ellison asked if the AS President and VP for Diversity will be sitting in on these meetings. Guizar confirmed this and said the ESC Program Support person would also be in attendance. Roberts said that with these large scale projects they often have to put the funding towards something before all of the details are worked out. This is similar to the process for the recently completed turf field. They didn't know where the field would be or what it would look like when they started collecting funding. This is a way for the students to work collaboratively with the administration. Majkut knows that there isn't a lot of information. He believes that the project would come back to the AS Board for final approval. Earmarking means it is being moved from one fund into another for a specific purpose. So if it ended up being something that didn't fall in line with what the AS wanted, there is still a chance to speak on that. Ellison said that the students can get more input because they are supporting this financially.

MOTION ASB-14-S-64 by Eckroth

Earmark \$50,000 from the AS Rainy Day Reserves for expansion and remodeling of the AS Ethnic Student Center.

Second: Guizar

Vote: 5 - 0 - 1

Action: Passed

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:21 a.m.