

# Western Washington University Associated Students Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday January 15th, 2015 8:30 a.m. VU 567

**AS Board Officers:** *Present:* Annika Wolters (President), Jaleesa Smiley (VP Academics), Chelsea Ghant (VP BusOps), Sarah Kohout (VP Governmental Affairs), and Zach Dugovich (VP Student Life)

**Advisor(s):** Eric Alexander (Advisor, Assistant Dean of Student Engagement/ Director of Viking Union Facilities)

**Guest(s):** Dylan Green (Western Front), Mayra Guizar (AS Elections Coordinator), Katie Rogers (Election Code Committee member)

## MOTIONS

**ASB-15-W-1** Approve the minutes of all outstanding minutes. *Passed*

**ASB-15-W-2** Approve Consent Items A and B. *Passed*

*Annika Wolters, AS President, called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.*

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*MOTION ASB-15-W-1 by Kohout*

Approve the minutes of all outstanding minutes.

Second: Dugovich      Vote: 5 - 0 - 0      Action: Passed

### II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

### IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests\*

#### A. Election Code Review and Candidate Packet

Mayra Guizar the AS Election Coordinator came to present about the changes they've proposed on the Election Code and the AS Candidate Packet. Guizar said at the end of last year's election, the AS Board Program Assistant, the previous AS Election Coordinator, Lisa Rosenberg and the committee got together and proposed some changes they thought were needed. There hadn't been a special elections in a while and last year they needed a special elections, so that section was updated. On page one (1) of the election code has the first big change. They decided that it should only contain signatures collected from only face to face interactions. Guizar said the "Mandatory Elections Committee" date, time, and room was changed. On page nine (9) the committee talked about public financing. The committee talked about was changing the amount from \$150 to \$125. This will be something that Rosenberg, the committee, and herself will be exploring through expenditure trends (excluding unopposed campaigns) in previous years and this year. Since the money for this year has already been allocated by budget committee last year, so it couldn't be implemented this year and it would be implemented next year. Guizar asks the Board to think about how much financing they needed when running for their positions as well. At the end of the 2015 elections the committee will be making those changes with all the feedback on public financing. Dugovich referred to the addition on Page 6, Section 3, II. The addition of " Under

no circumstances are drugs or alcohol to be present, available, or provided at campaign related events, regardless of location or participant age.” He asked what is considered a campaign related event and how can they dictate what students are doing off campus? Guizar said that was an update the previous AS Elections coordinator made. That is a good point and she will bring that question back to the committee. Dugovich said he doesn’t want to have someone unfairly removed from the elections because of hear-say. He doesn’t think its specific enough and would like them to make it more specific. Rogers said that the way she sees they can mitigate it, is to specify “on campus”. Dugovich said he would like it to be more clear and specific. Guizar said they can be more specific but if there was a grievance it wouldn’t be seen from the election code it would be at the AS Board of Directors level. Wolters said it may help to add campaign related events to the definition sections for more clarity. Guizar said on page five (5) the addition of “It is not necessary for there to be for and against statements for each initiative. The Election Coordinator may use their discretion to determine when such statements are necessary” was added. Last year there was an initiative and referendum that didn’t have opposing side. The “for” and “against” statements are more for publicity side. Guizar said they added on page eight (8) Section 3, III the addition of “m. Any publicly available AS resources must be reserved through the Elections Coordinator. They want to work directly with the Viking Union Reservations like the button maker and she can help coordinate who has what. They committee also made changes on page eight (8) Section 3, IV b where they removed “though they may not speak on the behalf of the AS when doing so” because previously in the document it said they could and it was confusing.

Mayra Guizar left the meeting.

Rogers said on page nine (9) Section 3, IV f the committee discussed this section. They weren’t sure how to go about solving and issue that came up last year. Someone sponsoring an initiative wanted to speak at an AS event that was hosted by an AS office, and was relevant to the initiative. Because there really aren’t “opponents” for initiatives (for and against statements are primarily used for the AS Review), they saw this as offices “taking a stance” on an initiative, which is against the code when they tell AS offices to stay neutral during the election. Ghant had a question on page 8. Intentional tampering with other candidates campaign materials. She wanted some clarity on that because there were times that posters were almost falling off because the tape isn’t strong and people wanted to put the poster back up but it was going to be seen as intentional tampering so they didn’t do it. Wolters said her question is about AS sponsored event. Does that mean AS Funded event? Rogers said yes they could add that in to clarify. Wolters said yes because last year she was invited to events to speak but she didn’t know if she could go or not. Rogers said on Page eleven (11) Section 3, V. k was made because they will be creating an unofficial list of recycled prices to show candidates to help reduce the cost of running a campaign as well as help reduce paper. Rogers said on Page 11, Section 3, VI the committee added “Grievances may not be filed anonymously and all witnesses cited in a grievance must be named explicitly.” They added this because there is no way to address it if they can’t get a hold of anyone. Wolters said page 8 under endorsement. Section b and c said “current AS Employees including AS Board members may as individuals may endorse candidates or initiatives although they may not identify themselves as AS Employees or identify their position within the AS and or speak on behalf of the AS when doing so with the exception of Board of the official capacity on a referendum campaign”. She applied that to herself and it would be difficult for her to endorse a referendum and not be seen as the AS President. She doesn’t want to restrict anything so she is asking those to be mindful of whether you are being seen as your position or not. Dugovich said he doesn’t want to restrict anything either but as the board of directors they

are very visible and seen. It could disadvantage other candidates if they started to endorse candidates. The AS Board shouldn't publicly endorse candidates as individuals or not. He would like it if the AS Election Code was changed to state that. Kohout said depending on how people go about it, the results could vary. There is a difference between holding up someone else's sign and putting something on Facebook. They have the right to their own opinion, their ability to express their opinion. She does agree that it can give people unfair advantages. Dugovich said there are people they know who are going to run for office, and that puts them ahead by the AS Board being out there endorsing them. It's not fair to other candidates because board members are so recognized on campus. Rogers said she will bring it up to the rest of the committee.

**V. ACTION ITEMS - Guests\***

**VI. PERSONNEL ITEMS** (*subject to immediate action*)

**VII. ACTION ITEMS - Board\***

**VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board\***

A. New York Times Funding Request

Smiley said traditionally the New York Times is funded through the vice president for Undergraduate Education Office and the AS. They were informed the Undergraduate Education Office are no longer able to fund the \$12,000 that was additionally requested. This led for the request for the enrollment fee to help with the \$12,000. They came to decision to approve the 12,000. With a stipulation so they can fully utilize the speaker. Also to fully utilize all of the copies both electronic and hard copies. Wolters said the sign would be changed to say brought partly by the AS. Vice president for undergraduate education has been funding it previously the decision came down to funding the New York Times or funding the addition of another First-year Interest Group (FIG). The enrollment fee is meant to go towards first year students. Kohout said the Representation and Engagement Program office hand out flyers about the online access to the New York Times. With the speaker being fully utilized she believes it was said that they can bring the speaker to campus but they don't have money for anything else. Last year they has a request to put a sign up saying the New York Times was partly funded by the AS but there was a disconnect and it didn't happen. Ghant asked if there is a way the increase the amount of papers on campus. She knows there is the electronic copy but only 265 hard copies a day is pretty low for this campus. They may like the physical copy. Smiley said that concern was raised before in the committee but the New York Times is raising their subscription by 70 cents per copy. They would have to raise their funding if they want more copies Kohout said previously professors could get it dropped off by their offices and is that still an option? It would definitely take away from students and although they can't stop professors from getting a copy, it would allow more students to have access to it. Wolters said she will have to look into it. Ghant said the speaker that was talked about, would it be included in this fee? Wolters said yes it is included with the subscription. She is hearing that people feel this isn't reaching as many students as they'd hope, and although the New York Times is a very prestigious newspaper, they could look into other

newspapers. They could pick any Newspaper they wanted to, and keeping in mind the number of copies and price. Kohout said the New York Times is known for being nonbiased and nonpartisan and if they decide to look into another newspaper they should also take that into consideration. Smiley said that Sarah Wilson had mentioned that they should reach out the journalism department to make sure all the copies are being utilized. Green said he is there on behalf of the Western Front and he is a journalism major and in one of his classes they got a log in. He had no idea where it was coming from and he didn't know where that was coming from students. Hard copy is great but it's great having the email.

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

### A. Job Description Titles for REP/ ESP Director

Ghant said in the Personnel Committee they went over the Environmental and Sustainability Program (ESP) and the Representation and Engagement Program (REP) job descriptions to remove the "associate" in the Director positions. It was changed last year to Director, they had noticed some of the job descriptions still say "Associate" and it needed to be removed.

### B. Committee Appointments

#### **Academic Honesty Board**

Vinitha Vithyathil	Psychology	Senior
Jenifer Becerril Pacheco	Biology	Freshman
Haley Miller-Boren	Psychology	Senior

#### **AS Transportation Advisory Committee**

Ryan Roberts	Business Sustainability	Senior
Chris Brogan	MIS	Senior

#### **Legislative Affairs Council**

Scott Schaefer	Economics/Poli. Sci.	Freshman
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#### **Activities Council**

Emma Palumbo	Poli. Sci. /Sociology	Junior
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#### **Peter J. Elich - Excellence in Teaching Awards Committee**

Samantha Goldblatt	Environmental and Engineering Geology	Junior
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#### **Parking Appeals Board**

Jessyca Brubaker	Humanities	Senior
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**Student Tech. Fee Committee**

Josie Ellison

Political Science and Economics

Junior

*MOTION ASB-15-W- 2 by Kohout*

Approve Consent Items A and B.

Second: Dugovich Vote: 5-0-0 Action: Passed.

**X. BOARD REPORTS****President**

Annika Wolters reported that she met with Bruce Sheppard. He keeps wondering about Viking Lobby day and how it is going. She was excited to say they met their goal of over 100 meetings. She mentioned in Presidents Council that this is not a small job, it isn't a one or even three person job to get Viking Lobby Day accomplished. Sheppard has agreed to make sure there is funding for the Martin Luther King Annual Celebration speaker. She wanted to thank everyone who helped and gave support to this celebration. Malcom Oliver came to visit her and she got the impression Oliver works closely with the Bellingham Police Officers. She wanted to see if this group wanted to come up with guidelines on how the Bellingham Police Office contacts students. She got a letter from a student about how she tries to avoid the smokers. Smoking designated areas be clearly marked.

**VP for Business and Operations**

Chelsea Ghant reported that they have been working on budgets. Looking at a \$102,000 increase because of positions, salaries, grants expiring etc. If they could be talking to their SPAC offices and see if they have financial implications. The Student and Activities fee will be starting their budget proposals on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. The AS won't be done with their budgets till May. Facilities and Services set a meeting time, which will help the AS Vehicle conversation. Management council meeting after the winter quarter training and they voted to approved the Elect Her campaign.

**VP for Academic Affairs**

Jaleesa Smiley reported that Faculty Senate Committee talked about the smoking ban and they didn't take any action on the no smoking campus. The majority did not support the no smoking campus. They will discuss it more in the future.

**VP for Governmental Affairs**

Sarah Kohout reported that Viking Lobby day is Sunday. They have 105 students going down to Olympia. If anyone knows anyone who wants to go send them her way. They made 102 appointments. In Bellingham the Rental Registration passed and just before winter break they went over Mandatory Inspections. Registrations starts in July.

**VP for Student Life**

Zach Dugovich reported that Green Energy Fee committee met and they had a couple applications for election bike sharing program and a giant compost bin because they don't do all their compost right now. It would go down to the maintenance yard. They will be discussing it next week. The green energy fee is up for a vote this coming May. He will be talking to others on how they will be wording that fee. Late night shuttle February 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 and he is really excited to see how many students use this.

**XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

*The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:36 a.m.*

DRAFT