

Western Washington University Associated Students Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 22th, 2015 VU 567

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

Advisor(s): Eric Alexander (Advisor)

Guest(s): Nate Panela (ESC Coordinator)

Annika Wolters, AS President, called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Smiley said she would like to remove the New York Times Funding Request because it was brought to the board as an information item and no action is required. The Services and Activities (S &A) committee will decide on the rest of this later in the year.

Ghant asks to move the information item Ethnic Student Center (ESC) Office Assistant Proposal from Information Board to Information item with Guests as there is a guest here.

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

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests*

A. Election Code Review and Candidate Packet

Smiley introduces guest Mayra Guizar (AS Election Coordinator). Guizar said that they are a little ahead of schedule and if the Board decides they would like to see these documents again for an additional week of information items they most certainly can decide to do so. Guizar said there are some new changes to page 9, section E under endorsements. There is a part It says candidate and measures and it describes what these measures. It includes measures when endorsing these at AS Events. They are going to add AS sponsored events. It's what they all think measures should be allowed to be talked about at events or not or even by the AS Offices. During Earth week which falls along the time that elections occurs referendums tend to come up and they should decide whether those should be able to be talked about. Measures don't usually have people campaigning against it, there are for and against statements but that's only in the AS Review. Last year they decided they couldn't talk at events because it was unclear in the Election Code. Dugovich said using the green energy fee example. If the Green Energy Fee put on an event to talk about how the Green Energy Fee is up for vote this year, and it was paid out of the Green Energy Fee, would that not be okay under this rule? Guizar said she believes it's not because of the funding source, it's because it's an AS Office. They ask office's to stay neutral. It goes into that weird area. Dugovich asked could their office say that the Green Energy Fee is up for a vote thought. Guizar said yes but then when people start talking about the campaign itself is when it gets bad. Alexander said this is coming from the committee and the final say comes from the AS Board. Wolters said that if someone was to talk about an initiative they should read both the for and against statements, which could be

less contentious. Guizar said like at events? Wolters said yes, as long as the same person is reading the for and against statements.

Mayra Guizar left the meeting.

B. ESC Office Assistant Proposal

Ghant said the ESC would like ideally two (2) new funded positions from the Operating and Enhancement budget. Ghant was an office assistant for two (2) years and that experience was invaluable for her. Its important that someone is there for consistency and it throws off the atmosphere. Nate Panelo the ESC Coordinator. Panelo said this proposal is for one (1), two (2) ,or three (3) position. He said they are requesting this be a funded position so they don't have to rely on work study students because they are finding it hard to fill those positions in the beginning of the year. Panelo says that they originally planned for having a graduate student but they don't have front desk staff so they changed the proposal because they see that as a priority. Personnel Committee has been very helpful in the beginning of the summer, they are also in charge with a lot of things in the beginning of the fall. It usually gets put on the back burner. Within his three (3) years, they can usually hired by October or November and school starts in September. There is a conference that the ESC puts on in fall quarter and they are pivotal in helping with the conference. It only relies on students who get Financial aid. In the ESC they try and emphasis working in an equitable and inclusive manner. Sometimes that doesn't mean they have financial aid but there may be other reason for example undocumented students. Panelo also hope is to get them hired earlier. Panelo states that they are the face of the ESC, they make sure people are invited into the space. When no one's there, there is a sense of unprofessionalism. His request is to hopefully get this approved so they can get someone hired right away. Kohout asked if there was a lack of work study applicants. Panelo said no they have applicants but it's a process to try and get them hired in. By the time they get the applicant into an interview they accepted a position somewhere else. Kohout said okay, so its not about the amount of applicants its about getting them hired. Panelo said he would like to have four (4) student employees covering the desk. If they decided to let him hire two (2) students, he would try and fill the other two (2) spots with work study. They don't see their office assistants as just office assistants. They see them as student leaders and they try and develop that. Alcantar-Soto said she understands the urgency and thinks it's a great idea. She wanted to know if it comes out of the AS Reserves. Ghant says yes for right now. For the next year it would go into the Operation Budget. Their budget would increase by the \$4,700 or the \$4,900 depending on how many they hire. Alcantar-Soto asked if the AS Reserves fund is at a healthy level. Dugovich said how much is in it? Ghant said it is in a healthy state, the amount is in the hundreds of thousands. Smiley said Panelo the process wasn't as efficient and she was wondering in what ways they could make it more efficient? Panelo said brings up the unnecessary steps to hire work-study. He mentions other work study positions on campus where it's a one-stop shop to hire. For example, CEED (Center for Education, Equity, and Diversity, who have 15 work-study positions because they need students to help them out. He understands the reason why those things are there but some of them could be shaped to help hiring work study. Rodriguez said she relates to his because she found it hard to hire for the Disability Outreach Center. Kohout states that it does make it difficult due to having a minimum of 3 applicants required. Ghant said it is important to remember that the ESC is going through SPAC (Structure and Program Advisory Committee) right now and they should see these reflected in that. It is feasible to have a hired student working there. She also wants to mention that the ESC retreat was funded from a three (3) year grant and that is set to expire this year so that \$17,300 would now be added into the operation budget. There is going to be a lot of increase. Wolters also mentions the importance of the Office Assistants, says the ESC feels emptier now. She gets in the habit of having the Office Assistants saying hello to her. Panelo says it's like walking into an empty house.

V. ACTION ITEMS - Guests*

VI. PERSONNEL ITEMS *(subject to immediate action)***VII. ACTION ITEMS - Board*****VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board*****IX. CONSENT ITEMS** *(subject to immediate action)***X. BOARD REPORTS****President**

Annika Wolters reports that she spent time in Olympia this weekend. Thanks for the efforts for Viking Lobby Day. Malcom Oliver called her. Oliver is known as the “President” of Bellingham police and Oliver would like to set up protocol for communication between authority and students. She isn’t sure how its going to develop but there are options. Wolters said on Tuesday they had the first on campus celebration for Martin Luther King MLK Day event, which was well-attended in library. Very pleased and would like to thank everyone who helped put on that event. She announces upcoming events such as the State of Emergency Teach- In event tonight in VU 552, and another Woodring Teach-In next week. She mentions it is nice to have the two larger events behind them, so they can focus on more upcoming projects like the new green endowment and divestment.

VP for Business and Operations

Chelsea Ghant reports that she attended UPRC. In Graduate Council they could some challenges to be that there is no student government representation for graduate students and that they would like more of a representation. She also attended Management Council on Tuesday. They talked about the returning salary employee. They talked about whether a position could return to the AS without having to go through the whole AS Hiring process again. The consensus was no that they don’t agree with the returning salary employee. They set the deadline for February 20th for budget increase requests and Facilities and Services requests.

VP for Academic Affairs

Jaleesa Smiley reported that she also went to UPRC. Huxley College report said they are having challenges within diversity and curriculum. They were looking into the possibility of adding some sort of Environmental Justice Curriculum to expand that. College of Humanities of Social Sciences mentions Carver academics facility being a challenge for them because they have students who are in classes in there. Scholars Week committee met this week and they talked about the Alumni Association how to make Back 2 Bellingham work with Scholar Week. She wonders about AS involvement and possible having involvement in it and making it more known.

VP for Activities

Giselle Alcantar-Soto reports that she went to the Student-Athlete Advisor Committee. She mentions all of the charity work that they have done and how excited they were about Carver Lobby Day. She went Activities Council where they recognized three (3) clubs include Fly Fishing club, Society of

Magicians, Net Impact which is a business focused, with green twist. Says calendar is in the works, with events coming. The Event Calendar for February is in.

VP for Diversity

Cristina Rodriguez does not have information to report at this time.

VP for Governmental Affairs

Sarah Kohout reports that Viking Lobby Day occurred Monday where they brought 88 people down to Olympia and had 110 meetings with 111 legislators. Thanks everyone for help. President Shepard and Steve Swan were in attendance. Legislative Affairs Council (LAC) met and they talked about metrics of affordability because when a legislator asks someone what affordability means they should have some way to measure it. They've started their local agenda which they will be seeing that soon.

VP for Student Life

Zach Dugovich reported that about the Green Energy Fee is redrawing up the initiative for the next years to come. They have been looking at renewable energy credits or whether they want to expand the fund. They will have their next meeting on Monday to discuss this further.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

ESC Office Assistant Request Discussion

Ghant wanted to discuss what they were thinking about how many employees they were thinking about hiring. She wanted the group to keep in mind because they want to set a good precedence because earlier in the year the AS Outback had requested a new position and they said no to that request and now the ESC is coming forth asking for a new position and they are leaning towards yes. This will be an extremely tight budget year. She also wants to talk about location because the ESC is in the works of looking for a new location. Kohout said she would like Ghant to send out an email about the deadline she has mentioned. Dugovich said he is glad Ghant brought it up because earlier in the year he wanted a new AS Outback position and it was declined. Alcantar Soto said she was extremely confused that Dugovich brought that up because it never was brought to the Board level so maybe someone in the AS Personnel Committee could provide some information about that for them. Ghant said it was never brought to Personnel Committee, it was brought to her but it was never brought to Personnel Committee. Wolters asked where the stopping point was. Ghant said she doesn't know the stopping point but if it wanted to be formed it could be brought to Personnel Committee. That would be going to SPAC as well. Kohout asked why it was never brought to Personnel Office. Ghant said that she doesn't know, it is not her job to bring things to Personnel Committee. For example Panelo brought this job description to Personnel Committee. The Director of the Outback Committee did not bring anything to the Personnel Committee. Alcantar-Soto said that she wasn't aware that these positions were being brought up and she felt like they were asked to not be biased with the ESC but they were completely unaware of the other job descriptions. Dugovich clarifies that it was the beginning

of the year, and wasn't aware to access funds and it's not an issue of being biased. Ghant said it isn't asking anyone to being biased, they just want to be transparent. Alcantar-Soto said brings it back to the actual question for how many students they want to hire. Smiley said she thinks four is excessive. Ghant said she thinks four is excessive. He is requesting at max three. She thinks one or two is sufficient and it is critical that work study stays in that office. Kohout said she agrees one or two. Possible one the first year and then see the next year. Wolters said this could be about the process of work study. Alcantar-Soto said that one is fine and they need to alleviate the pressure. Smiley asked one and look at the process for work study to make it more efficient. Ghant wanted to clarify that they are looking at hiring one position and then seeing about the following year. They are also in the SPAC rotation as well. Kohout said work study is a process across the whole AS. Wolters asked if there were other questions.

Election Code and Candidate Packet Discussion

Alexander said he followed up with Guizar about the conversation candidate endorsement. They are resettling with it and they wanted the Board to have a discussion about it. Dugovich said they shouldn't be dictating what people do outside of the AS. He was being hypocritical by him saying that they shouldn't be allowed to endorse other candidates. He doesn't think it should be done, but he also doesn't want to be able to dictate things outside the AS. Kohout said she agrees and that it conflicts with freedom of speech. If they start with the AS Board then what about the AS Employees and then the Election Coordinator has to check more than 100 people's Facebook pages. Alexander said he will point Mayra to these minutes. Campaign manager name issue. They are thinking about how to contact the candidate and how to name that. Should campaign managers only be Western students? He suggested instead of a named contact person they could think about giving the candidate a specific amount of time to contact the Election Coordinator back. Kohout said it is easy to get an outside campaign person. She thinks possible a second point of contact because it is easier to contact certain people they are close with and not necessarily their campaign manager. Alexander said another thing they were struggling with was that they don't want to suggest everyone has to have a campaign manager. Alcantar-Soto said it would be easier if they had two lines, one for second point of contact and suggesting a campaign manager isn't needed. Wolters said that although mother did help in her own campaign, she named her campaign manager who was a student and they aren't always aware of current policies.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:41 a.m.