

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

Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 VU 567

**AS Board Officers:** *Present:* Belina Seare (President) Hannah Brock (VP BusOps), Zachary Dove (VP Academics), Israel Ríos (VP Activities), Abby Ramos (VP Diversity), Patrick Eckroth (VP Governmental Affairs), and Emma Palumbo (VP Student Life).

**Advisor(s):** Eric Alexander (Advisor)

**Guest(s):** Brandon Quackenbush (AS Veterans Outreach Coordinator), Sophie Ranis (Women's Center Assistant Coordinator), Elva Nitereka (AS Women's Center Coordinator).

**MOTIONS**

- ASB-15-F-43** Approval of the October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Minutes with written edits. *Passed.*
- ASB-15-F-44** Approve to move remove the rules of operation. *Passed.*
- ASB-15-F-45** Approve to move AS Employee Xican@ Funding to an Action Item. *Passed.*
- ASB-15-F-46** Approve \$575 from Operating and Enhancement Fund for Aleyda Cervantes to attend the Xican@ Conference. *Passed.*
- ASB-15-F-47** Approve the LAC Budget Policy changes. *Passed.*
- ASB-15-F-48** Approval of the Committee Appointments except the appointment for the Student Publication Council. *Passed.*

*Belina Seare, AS President, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.*

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTION ASB-15-F-43* by Palumbo  
Approval of the October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Minutes with written edits.  
Second: Brock Vote: 6-0-1 Action: Passed

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests\***

**A. AS Employee Xican@ Funding**

Ramos said she will yield to Aleyda Cervantes. This proposal is time sensitive because limited spots. Cervantes is the Social Issues Resource Center (SIRC) coordinator. She said she heard about this conference at another conference. There is a place where the teachers that got fired for teaching Ethnic studies will be. They have a camp every year. It is a three day in teach in. All the teachers that got fired from AZ will be there. This is relevant because it is part of her major and she has been involved in MECHA and they volunteer with the community around these topics. In her position she is thinking about starting an annual latinx conference. This year they will have the MECHA conference on campus. They are trying to bring Everett Community College and Whatcom

Community College to be a part of this as well. This would be able to help reach out to the community. They need to learn how to work with all those types of students. The proposal is for the \$575 to go to the conference and that includes all the registration and she will be paying for the gas herself. Ramos said this covers all cost, registration. Cervantes said there are others going to this conference as well and they want to do a presentation about what they learned when they get back. Brock said this proposal is great. She said that Operating and Enhancement Fund isn't for conference thought and she thinks this proposal should be going through the student development fund. The Operating and Enhancement Fund's purpose is for special projects that aren't already able to fund any other way. She thinks it's very beneficial conference. It's an amount they can afford in the Student Development Fund. In that fund they require to bring back the knowledge which is great because Cervantes already plans on giving a presentation about what they learned. She thinks it's just not for this fund. If it is something they are passionate about they can try and make it happen. When is the deadline to register? Cervantes said not a deadline but there is only 40 spots for everyone in the country so spots are limited. The conference is in February. It includes everything. She can pay her own gas. Brock said Cervantes doesn't have to pay the gas, they can provide that. If they are attending a conference they can cover that cost. She can make a proposal with her for the other fund and hopefully take it Friday. Cervantes asked if they need to go on Friday to the Personnel Committee who approves this fund. Brock said if Cervantes can't make it, Brock can bring it up. Seare said could it change to action item same day? Brock said it would be up to the discretion of the committee. Her process was to go information action and give the proposal due process. Ramos said they approved a good amount of money for students to attend conferences in the past. It would be fair to break the rules of operation for this request and approve it. This fund seems pretty small. Alexander said reminded the Board that it can still come back as an Action item next week if they decide not to use that other fund. Brock said they can take it to Personnel Committee, and if it doesn't pass there then they can bring it back to the Board. Seare said because there are no Board meeting next week, they should be conscience of the timeline on this proposal. Cervantes said there are only 40 spots and some have already registered so now there is only 30 spots left. Brock asked when Cervantes found out about this conference. Cervantes said around mid-October or towards the end of October. It's been recent. Seare said if they take it Personnel Committee there could be some hesitation on passing it. Are they running more of a risk by having this proposal go to Personnel Committee? Ramos said their budget system is so complicated. They are making it more difficult than needed to be for someone to get funding for a good conference. Brock said her role is the voice of reason when it comes to budgets. What she did when she was Personnel Director was first comes first serves, and then whatever lines up with the mission statement. As a Board they have not discussed when and when not to break the rules of operation and it doesn't need to be tonight, but they should have that conversation. Alexander reminded the Board that this is still an information item. They still need to determine first whether they want to make it an action item, then they can vote on the item. The Board also should have a good conversation about what Brock was mentioning. When the Budget is created, they take their best guess on how they spend their money for the future. Sometimes done before 18 months ahead of time. They can't foresee everything correctly. There is always digression for the original budget to make those decisions. Eckroth said this conference is outside what typically have approved and it is a low cost for a rare opportunity. Seare said and for a student of color. Brock said this fund isn't meant for conference spending. They did use \$1,602 on the Oregon Student Of Color conference but that was because other funds couldn't. She understands how urgent it is, it's up to the Board. There is a small amount to request but they want to give it due process. Cervantes said they are having a conference in April so it will be applied when planning for that. Two other students will be going as well. They will all get together to do a presentation and on how they will be applying the information they learned at the conference. Eckroth said last year the Board did a transfer from the Operating and Enhancement Fund to Legislative Action Fund for the USSA National Student Congress. Eckroth said with this conference it is very much a conference that will enhance their operations in that office and of the AS. Ramos said the potential annual conference they are hoping to make could be extended a Washington Student of Color Conference. They could end up collaborating with the Ethnic Student Center (ESC) to make it a larger scale conference. Cervantes said they need to find a way to support their students this would be a good way. Alexander said this

could also help the conversation about the Discretionary Reserve Dollars and making it more accessible. It could be used in the future for these type of grants. Palumbo and Seare Dittos. Brock said they need to have a conversation about breaking the rules of operation. They aren't going through with their processes. They want to be fair with everyone that comes through. They haven't had that discussion as a Board. What will be the cap? For an operational standpoint they want to caution that to make sure they are fair in those processes. They haven't talked about what proposals need that priority. That discussion doesn't need to happen tonight. It's coming from her position. Seare said the process is interesting. Processes has pushed out a lot of people in this organization. The Board has priorities making the AS less bureaucratic and more transparent. It's important to keep that in mind. Brock said how they are valuing that. They have forced students to go through that information to action item system. They need to be making sure they are fair with how they decide those.

**MOTION: ASB-15-F-44** by Brock

Approve to move remove the rules of operation

Second: Palumbo Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

**MOTION: ASB-15-F-45** by Eckroth

Approve to move AS Employee Xican@ Funding to an Action Item.

Second: Palumbo Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

Rios asked if the the \$575 directly to the organization? Cervantes said yes, it's going directly to the organization and the camp site. Seare said can they pay for gas? Brock said if it's under \$75 they can do petty cash. Cervantes said they will be carpooling. Brock said to keep their receipts so they can use petty cash and get reimbursed.

**MOTION: ASB-15-F-46** by Dove

Approve \$575 from Operating and Enhancement Fund for Aleyda Cervantes to attend the Xican@ Conference.

Second: Palumbo Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

## **B. Memoirs Open Call**

Ramos said they saw this before. This is the proposal to continue the gender targeted event. It's for interviews and to begin the process for the event. The proposal is very similar to what they approved last year. She thinks they all have a good understanding of what the event is. It's an event that features marginalized gender identities. Students aren't exclusively denied but it's targeted towards those specific marginalized identities and all people can attend the event.

## **X. BOARD REPORTS**

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

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

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

#### **A. Legislative Affairs Council Budget Policy**

Eckroth said this is the same document they saw last time. The proposal is to change to the Legislative Affairs Council (LAC) Reserve Policy. Instead of donation based system, it is now a mandatory fee and they are proposing to move it down to 50% of non-discretionary expenditures instead of 125%.



**Emergency Management Council**

**Kyle McCaffery**                      **Computer Science**                      **First Year**

**Excellence in Teaching Award**

**Hannah DeGroot**                      **Psychology**                      **Sophomore**

**Facilities and Services**

**Tessie Robertson**                      **English & Psychology**                      **Sophomore**

**Legislative Affairs Council**

**Mason Hawk**                      **Finance**                      **Sophomore**

**Student Publications Council**

**Alexandra Bartick**                      **Visual Journalism**                      **Senior**

Ramos said she has a question about the student publication council committee appointment. Alexandra Bartick is part of the AS Review. Do they want to get a different perspective on that committee? The AS Review already has a spot on that committee and having another AS Review member could be taking up spots for other perspectives. Brock said they can take that appointment off for now. Ríos said he is the one who approves people for that committee, and he approved Alexandra because they had a lot of publication experience with the Planet and the Western Front. Ramos said they want to make sure they are opening the opportunity for other students and perspectives as well. Dove asked what does the publication council deal with. Ríos said they hire editor and chief for the student publications. Brock said how many students at large? Ríos said they have two students at large. Brock said they should get someone who hasn't directly been an AS staff member. Ríos said this committee will be meeting before the next Board meeting. There will be three members instead of four. He thinks they should approve it. Ramos said her view is about controlling all media, this is how she sees that happening and they have to be intentional with who they let on the committee. Ríos said they can wait to approve this person. They did a big push last week for committee appointments. He thinks Ramos made a fair point. They would have all AS people on. He is worried about not getting any other applications but they can wait. Ramos said can they wait two weeks and then bring it back if no one else applies? Ríos said yes, and they won't have anything to vote on, on that meeting in between that as well.

**MOTION: *ASB-15-F-48*** by Eckroth

Approval of the Committee Appointments except the appointment for the Student Publication Council.

Second: Dove Vote: 6-0-1 Action: Passed

**X. BOARD REPORTS**

**Zach Dove, VP for Academic Affairs** reported that in one of the student faculty dialogues last year, they wanted student leaders to collaborate more with faculty leaders. He has invite a faculty senate representative to their next Board meeting. They will talk about how they can collaborate in doing outreach for events. They have difficulty reaching out to students and the AS have their own difficulties doing outreach and hopefully they can discuss how to make it better. He is meeting with Molly Ware tomorrow. The Student Technology Fee process needs to get going and John Larson is pretty set on it getting going. He needs to talk with Seare about changing it and talking to Bruce Shepard.

**Patrick Eckroth, VP for Governmental Affairs** reported that general election was yesterday. The turnout throughout the state wasn't great. They made a lot of calls and did a lot of Government phone banking. They did a lot more calls before that too. Legislative Affairs Council (LAC) is meeting tomorrow and they will be deciding all their main agenda items for Viking Lobby Day. He sent out survey via a bullseye email to all students on the agenda items to get their feedback on the items. Some things that are happening locally is the Tenant Waste Taskforce and they are going over students who leave furniture when they are moving. The committee has been a fairly anti-student taskforce right now. He has secured rooms for Viking Lobby day and two charter buses.

**Hannah Brock, VP for Business and Operations** reported that she went to the University Planning and Resource Committee (UPRC) that Dove also sits on. UPRC is an important committee and it's important they are on board with what they are doing. They create some of the Capital Expenditure similarly to how they do their decision packages. Carver was on their Capital Expenditure List. This is where the communication between the two come. All the Vice Presidents for campus sit on the committee. It is time for them to report out what their thoughts are from their areas. Eileen Coughlin the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services gave a report about enrollment and strategic plans for enrollment. Right now, other university don't require essays. Washington State University and Central and Eastern State University don't require essays. They discussed what the benefits are and drawbacks are of having essays. They use an academic index for measuring which factors in Grade Point Averages (GPA) and test scores. GPA is number one and test scores are the second thing to be factored in. After University of Washington they are the most selective in Washington State. Seare said so if they got rid of essays it would be based only on GPA's and test scores? Brock said basically. Right now they have questions, not essays. They don't grade applicants for the editing, only on the content not how they are saying it. Ramos said it would be interesting to change that. If they have at least a 3.0 automatically accepted. Then if below, they have to have an essay. Especially for those who fall below, the essay is very important. That doesn't seem very fair to only go by GPA and test scores. Brock said essays give students a chance for students to tell what their life experiences are and how they can contribute on their unique experiences. Eckroth said are they wanting to do this to be more like other universities? Why do they want to be like others? Brock said exactly. They are competitive university. This keeps them at the competitive advantage. Other important things. She also had meeting with the Bookstore. They aren't fully ready to move with the text.com yet because they want to get more information from text.com. They will have a couple more meetings to talk about it before making any decisions. She wants to talk about the fine print, what kind of contracts they will be signing and so on. She is trying to make sure they aren't getting into a sticky situation.

**Belina Seare, AS President** reported that they have their newsletter published. They don't know who is actually reading it. She doesn't know how the AS assesses how many AS Review publications are picked up, does others? Ramos said they don't know because it's free. The distributors write down how much they put in each stand and write down how much they take back. Seare said they will be scheduling a work session and they will be officially sending out a talk time about that. It will be a late night session next week. How do they want to advertise it? is this session just for the Board? Do they have an agenda but more make it more fluid. Dove said both, the Board should work on priorities and then also getting feedback from the community. Brock said both. They could have the first half a part where students come in and the second half their own. Ramos said she thinks having a Board work session first. If students ask questions and if the Board doesn't have responses the students get frustrated. It can be problematic because they don't have a clear collective goal. It would help get an idea of where they stand on issues, together as a group. Seare said probably wouldn't be having a round table discussion this quarter if only having one because it is getting late in the quarter. They should start submitting things they want to talk about for that. She went to the ESC Bookstore conversation today with all the students who are wanting to talk about the ESC. It was a conversation that was completely administratively lead and it was put in a different way. They talked about the bookstore and how they can make the bookstore better. That made a lot of students feel more furious and not happy with their administration on campus because it took the conversation away from the ESC. Without realizing it, they made the gap even wider between students and the administration. She has been thinking a lot about her talk times because they all of them meet with important people on campus. She was thinking of a way to publish

her calendar to others can see when she is having her talk times and a way for students to access the talk times. Students don't have access to those spaces and conversations. She can ask students before going into those conversations. Ramos said she has thought of one solution, having an AS Board Facebook. If they had one specific to the Board, they could send out their Board updates. A way to publish their calendars. Seare said she would also like to connect one of them with Kelly Mason, the AS Communications Director to get a Vice Presidents twitters. Office of Civil Rights session went really poorly and was poorly facilitated. It was a really administrative way talking about a deeply routing issues. It wasn't approached in the way it needed to be and there was a lot of triggering. She could tell how the students interacting felt that way. There were two attorneys at the front of the room and they asked questions. Questions like "How have you ever been sexually assaulted" it's up to students if they want to answer that but it could be really harmful, especially in a larger group. Dove said he heard a lot negative feedback. Ramos said when they had that meeting with Sue Guenter-Schlesinger, she did bring up that there will be a campus climate check and a workgroup set up. She has to get the word out but she said it would be beneficial for students to bring up the visit. Seare said last thing she wanted to talk about was the Presidential Search and the lack of student representation. Seare said it's upsetting how much this is on a timeline that isn't student oriented. There was oversight on getting more student input. There was not a lot of students of color. It could have potential implication for them as representatives of students. Many demographics haven't been representing. Ramos said she went and there was five to eight students total there and the rest was administration. The season they are getting feedback is for the new Presidents job description. Brock said is there a way to record it and be more flexible with times for students so they have don't have to wake up at 8:30am. Ríos said the staff and faculty had a lot of people show up to their sessions and they had the same outreach. Professors announced it in his classes. He doesn't know what they could have done to get more students. Seare said they could have told the Board. Ríos said they did last week. Ramos said one week notice is not enough. Ríos said there was a student session at 5pm when it is a prime time for their student events, and only one student showed up. Seare said she is frustrated with the communication between the Board of Trustees and then, also the way they chose the Presidential Search Advisory Committee students. They just casually sent an email about it. She had to reach out to find out the information. On a personal level she felt they could have done more. Seare said class representatives are good. She will be contacting Guenter Schlesinger as well. Ramos said if there is any way to extend that timeline, they should try. They should be cutting it down to different groups. Dove said potentially even moving timeline. Seare said all of this is important to keep it in mind. The Board of Trustees will move on with the process the way they want to. She is not comfortable having a president hired without students being heard.

**Abby Ramos VP for Diversity** reported that Ethnic Student Center (ESC) photo was yesterday and about 90 students showed up. They were able to get information to students during that time which was great because more ESC are aware of what's going on. She has been reaching out to different areas on campus for the ESC letter she is working on. She will be reaching out to the Western Front, WWU's President and all the Vice Presidents of the University and Bellingham Herald. She was thinking about why don't they have class representatives for an AS position? Email is the only one way to reach all students. Class representatives are the way to communicate to students. Especially for the presidential search, if they could have students talking about it in their classes, it would create a lot more outreach for the AS. For the Oregon Student of Color conference, they are selecting applications right now. The AS Personnel office will be selecting the AS employee that can attend and hopefully the Legislative Affairs Council will be selecting theirs soon. About three weeks ago she met with a student who was doing a project for a class. The professor was looking at changing the mascot and they talked about the mascot. That student sent a letter to Bruce Shepard to ask about the mascot but never got a reply. They are creating a survey that will be sent out to all students so they can respond to it. It's a white student she was talking to, so she explained information about minority and marginalized identities on campus and to be sensitive in doing his research. Tomorrow there is the President's Taskforce on Diversity. They talked about the membership on that committee and hopefully they want to increase it to six or more students.

**Israel Ríos VP for Activities** reported that Activities Council approved three clubs. Karen stout from the Karen W morison institute. His position to the liaison to the LEAD he is looking for students to be on those

committees, one in particular that looks at the curriculum for the minor. He is looking for students who are currently minors in the leadership studies program to be on that committee. For Halloween he was a judge on the Ridge for their competitions. They created different scenes in their meeting spaces. There was a good one that was an Alice and Wonderland and another that was Jurassic Park themed where they had a kiddie pool filled with dirt where people could find bones and such. There was a lot of kids and community members there. Brock and him had a meeting with the AS Bookstore about how they use the bookstore. They were asked what they've purchased and shared some thoughts on the bookstore as a whole. There was also bookstore consultants that met with ESC and it was a positive meeting.

**Emma Palumbo VP for Student Life** reported that she has a training for the student on the Sustainable Action Fund Committee yesterday and the student that attended were excited. Sustainable Action Fund Taskforce is coming to an end. They are hoping the next meeting they will have things to present to the Board.

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Belina Seare, AS President, adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.*