



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/05/2025

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Cherry Parks, R.106

Virtual: youtube.com/@ASUWT

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Watkins calls the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

II. ROLL CALL

<i>ASUWT President Rae Watkins</i>	Present
<i>Director of Internal Affairs Maxwell Kao</i>	Present
<i>Director of Outreach Matthew Hankerson</i>	Present
<i>Director of Legislative Affairs Ben Brown</i>	TARDY// arrived at 9:12am
<i>Director of Finance Samuel Peña-Rojas</i>	Present
<i>Director of Student Technology Amanda Wartick</i>	Present

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Peña-Rojas motions to approve; Director Kao seconds.

4-0-0: motion passes

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Wartick motions to approve; Director Peña-Rojas seconds.

4-0-0: motion passes

V. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

President Watkins welcomes all members of the public present at the meeting.

Public Comment begins at 9:07AM.

Identified members of the public:

ASUWT Advisor Conor

Elias Feleke

Jacob Feleke

Peter

Abigail Harriet

- Elias Feleke's comments, requested as verbatim:
 - "Good afternoon, members of the Executive Board. As you know, my name is Elias Feleke, and I'm here. I appreciate the opportunity to speak. Over the past several weeks and months, many students, including myself, have raised concerns over the fairness, transparency, and legitimacy of the governing documents, and the systemic questions about how student leadership is run and how it should function. Because of internal remedies, and how they were delayed and denied, I exercised my right under Washington law to seek judicial clarity, and that case is now pending. I won't discuss legal arguments here, but it's important to note that the matter has already been reviewed by a court commissioner and then escalated to two Superior Court judges, which reflects the seriousness of the concerns raised. While the Assistant Attorney General and Buddy were not present at the preliminary hearing, the Court Commissioner informed them yesterday that UW Tacoma and the other named parties, Rae Watkins and Bryce Scholten, will be properly served in the coming weeks. The court also made it clear that due to the seriousness of the issues, the case has escalated for full litigation before a Superior Court judge. I want to emphasize this clearly: I'm not asking anyone to resign. I am seeking to remove any... not seeking to remove anyone in their role, and my goal is fairness and a lawful process. And I'm fully open to resolving that internally through the corrective legislation already introduced in the Senate, which would make further court involvement unnecessary. Regarding materials that were sent in your email, and you will receive this morning: what I've received and submitted to the court so far, and required for judicial review, and if the Senate chooses not to resolve this internally, I will provide additional evidence, and amend it, and include material reference during the executive session. So that it is provided through proper legal channels so the court has full context, and my strong preference is that this be handled here transparently, internally

at ASUWT. I also want to acknowledge the recent Ledger article. Some statements were harmful and blatantly false, and appear to reference discussions not made for public discourse. And regardless of the intent, the impact has already been significant. I hope we can agree that the importance of accuracy and ethical communication is integral, and restorative justice is already being underway by Dr. Bernard Anderson, and I will expand on that for--" **Time is called at this point.**

- President Rae responds, sharing that there are and have been talks of by-law reviews particularly addressing the process discussed to ensure the processes are better understood, fully equitable, and the steps required for the future. One change includes an appeal process, and that conversation is already happening. If you'd like to be involved in this process of bylaw review, please contact the Speaker of Senate.
- Jacob Feleke's comments, requested as verbatim:
 - "Hey there, y'all. I'm Jacob Feleke and I would also like my comments recorded verbatim as well. I'm ready."
 - Director Kao: "It's already begun."
 - "Can you restart that?"
 - Director Kao: "It's already begun."
 - "Yeah, but can you restart it?"
 - "Yeah, I'll just [indecipherable from audio] I'll kind of gently remind y'all, Washington public meeting act requires transparent decision-making. Under RCW42.30.120, individuals who are named who knowingly participate in violations may be personally held liable. I raise this again, a gentle reminder of the responsibility that we all share. And again, our hope is simple here, that we choose a path of fairness, equity, restorative justice. And that it strengthens ASUWT's processes. I'm sure that there are processes that have been laid out about a future judicial committee. I would hope that that's [being] taken seriously. Again, it's sad that that judicial committee is being proposed only because of this incident, but we hope that it makes ASUWT a bit stronger in the future. And with respect to students, thank you."
- Student self-identified as Peter's comments:
 - Feels he was not fully aware of the situation regarding the political government situation at UWT.

- Read the article in the Ledger, noted that there were a lot of straightforward comments they felt moderately violated privacy to some extent.
- Notes that he does not know Elias too well but knows that he is really involved in this community.
- He is an active visitor at the UWY, where Elias works; he shares that he knows Elias works hard to balance many things.
- He notes that the UWY feels like a sanctuary and that Elias contributes to that atmosphere.
- Student self-identified as Abigail Harriet's comments:
 - She raises the question of how much of the information published in the recent Ledge article [regarding the removal] is verifiable and asks if students will be given access to any of the evidence. She notes that it is hard to know what is true without transparency.
 - She expresses concern over a potential conflict of interest due to President Watkins' connection to the Ledger, stating it could create an overlap leading to possibly biased reporting. She notes that if the published information is incorrect, this could also be seen as borderline information and an abuse of power as well.
 - She asks why students were informed of this proceeding by the Ledger rather than from ASUWT directly and asks when the students will be given more transparency.
 - She shares that her experience at the Senate meeting last week was unprofessional, in that a few senators looked bored or disinterested, and reminds that a level of professionalism is necessary, even when sick or unwell.
 - She questions whether the students are being advised properly by their advisor.
- In response:
 - Director Brown indicates interest in responding, then suggests moving on.
 - President Watkins confirms that they are a reporter with the Ledger but affirms they intentionally had no interaction with that article, including asking not to be named or involved since they recognized it could be a conflict of interest.

- President Watkins affirms they intentionally were not involved in the removal, aside from when they were asked to provide testimony, in order to maintain professionalism.
- Regarding transparency, President Watkins notes that due to the defendant requesting the entire trial to be held in Executive Session, it ties ASUWT's hands on what information can be provided to students.
- They note that despite misgivings about holding the trial in the private of an Executive Session, it was hoped that by doing so they would be able to protect all the students involved, including the defendant. President Watkins apologizes if it this was not the right call and for less transparency about that part of the process while reaffirming its intention was to reduce damage for all involved.
- They note that when the Senate started to move forward with their removal process, President Watkins advised the Executive Board of Directors to run their accountability process separately in order to offer at least the 90 days necessary to enact, hoping to provide time for improvement and opportunities to speak at multiple meetings in the meantime.
- They encourage continued contact with the Senate for questions directly relating to their decisions, as well as to the Executive Board for applicable questions.
- President Watkins shares that when they learned the editor-in-chief was pursuing the story, they refrained from sharing more details themselves/through ASUWT in order that the Ledger would be able to provide students with the opportunity to learn of the trial and removal from an unbiased source. They reaffirmed they did their utmost to avoid being involved to avoid a conflict of interest.
- President Watkins asks that for further questions about the article, please reach out to the Ledger, the editor-in-chief, and/or the students named in the article.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- [DISCUSSION]: Nominations for committees—PACS, DEI, Transportation, other meetings

- A list of potential committees has been emailed to the Executive Board by President Rae
- Please put names forward next week; it is asked that each Executive Board member and Senate member puts 3 names forward
- Director Peña-Rojas motions to table the discussion for next meeting; Director Brown seconds.
- **Motion passes 5-0-0**
- [DISCUSSION]: Event collaboration task delegation/Events and collabs sign up
 - There are upcoming events, including a gift exchange with the Tabletop Gaming Club on 12/08/2025.
 - ASUWT has been invited to join more Emergency Preparedness events to table or help with workshops.
 - Please let Rae know in the next week if you'd like to volunteer
 - This will help increase ASUWT visibility and offer more opportunities for students to talk with ASUWT students
 - ASUWT's ability to increase marketing will go up with the new team additions
 - President Watkins, Director Hankerson, and Director Peña-Rojas agree that a student panel twice a month (the second being the Town Hall) would be a good step forward
 - Director Hankerson shares that getting the word out about events to students and making sure ASUWT members are in attendance will be hugely helpful; the next town hall meeting will be scheduled shortly.
 - Director Peña-Rojas shares that having an established timeline for events is helpful to inform decisions around scheduling in order to be present and support.
 - President Rae mentions Town Hall and these panels can be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- [DISCUSSION]: Schedule Senate updates/ rotation
 - General reminders are shared regarding Directors showing up at Senate meetings ideally 1-2 times a month to share updates of their current projects, goals, and accomplishments.

- President Rae suggests perhaps establishing a rotation (Directors Peña-Rojas and Wartick, Brown and Hankerson, and the President and Director Kao) based on similar duties.
- Director Brown will be presenting to Senate next week regarding the Committee Days taking place and to go over the agenda.
- [DISCUSSION]: Onboarding recap/training days – dates
 - Regarding the Restorative Justice Day, December 15th does not seem like a viable date, so other dates will be considered.
 - President Rae suggests having a few in-service training days for the team, as well as for getting the new hires up to speed on their duties to ensure a strong transition.
 - Directors are asked to consider what dates they might be available during the ~2 weeks of break, and a LettuceMeet will be sent out for this purpose
 - Director Peña-Rojas asks if it would be possible to have multiple Restorative Justice Days if there is not a day available when all members are available as he worries this will delay vital information; Advisor Conor shares that the facilitator has requested to have all members present at one session, so finding a day that works for everyone is the goal.
 - President Rae expresses that next quarter they would like to have a session open to everyone who would like to discuss restorative justice, hopefully towards the beginning of next quarter.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- [EXECUTIVE SESSION]: Task Force Hiring Discussion
 - Executive Session starts at 9:32AM, ends at 9:46 as public returns.
- [VOTE]: Hiring for Task Force: Food Equity
 - Director Brown motions to move forward with the hiring of Bryce Scholten; Director Peña-Rojas seconds.
 - **Motion passes 5-0-0.**
- [VOTE]: Hiring for Task Force: Inclusive Access
 - Director Peña-Rojas motions to move forward with the hiring of Carson Poirier; Director Kao seconds.

- **Motion passes 5-0-0**
- [DISCUSSION]: Winter goals: work expectations over break
 - President Watkins has shared a worklist of things to do over winter break to a few students and encouraged the Directors to reach out if they would like one as well if they would like to help with projects:
 - Event planning, meet-up times, flyers, room scheduling are topics for discussion
 - Outreach and Finance discussions
 - President Watkins has been coordinating with Director Wartick and the Institutional Research Department regarding surveys and ensuring surveys do not overlap, as recommended by Director Peña-Rojas and Advisor Conor.
 - President Watkins will be sending a LettuceMeet out soon regarding these topics; in the future, Director Kao will be sending these links out.
- [DISCUSSION]: New forms, new schedulers
 - A few new forms for feedback are available within DubNet, testing of multiple options moving forward for post-event feedback, volunteer contact list, students to nominate for committees etc.
 - Directors agreed that LettuceMeet is the best fit for scheduling at this time.
- [DISCUSSION]: Bylaw review over break
 - Topics: Fees, accountability procedures, trial process, other
 - As mentioned before, a deep review of the bylaws is in the process; this is typically done at the beginning of the year. Since it has not been done as of yet, it will be addressed now.
 - They are working with the AG to compile the process of the trial as it was enacted in response to a student complaint, so they are looking to find ways to allow students' input into that process.
 - Hopefully these changes will take place in the new quarter once Senate makes a decision regarding passing those bylaws
- [DISCUSSION]: WSA finances - what we need to know

- The Executive Board will be undergoing critical restructuring and review, including the number of roles, responsibilities of roles, pay rates, and the existence of the Executive Board as a whole. The first meeting will take place next week as well as Finance committee meetings occurring, although nothing has been finalized yet.
- Contact President Watkins if interested in, they can share information and look into the possibilities of having people sit in on the WSA meetings.
- [DISCUSSION]: Legislative updates: reception date and time, HotH date and planning updates
 - Director Brown says he will share his updates within the Director updates later
- [DISCUSSION]: Closing Council for Campus Engagement until further funds confirmed
 - As of Wednesday, this fund will be closed (past requests should not be affected) until further notice.
 - It will reopen if more funds are provided from SAFC allocations.
 - To clarify, Director Peña-Rojas explains there are two separate funds, the Campus Event Fund and the Conference and Training fund, which is the one being closed as there has been a higher demand for the funds allocated to it. Campus Event Fund is still open and is being prioritized to allow student programming and activities to continue on campus. He is hopeful that the special allocation request will be approved and that a decision will be made in approximately a month to a month and a half.
 - Director Peña-Rojas clarifies that CEF is still meeting and open, as it has a slightly larger budget.
- [DISCUSSION]: MEDEX MOU from GPSS document
 - Directors review the documents and President Watkins provides a small overview
 - Current Med-X students at the Tacoma campus cannot access the campus resources
 - They pay the slightly higher Seattle tuition rates

- They are seeking support in resource equity
- [VOTE]: Support for MEDEX MOU GPSS document
 - Director Wartick motions to table this topic to the next meeting; Director Brown seconds.
 - **Motion passes 5-0-0**

VIII. DIRECTOR UPDATES

- Director of Internal Affairs
 - Both task force hires have been selected
 - Two new Directors will be joining the team soon as well
 - Two new staff hires also joining in the next few weeks
- Director of Outreach
 - The first Town Hall was successful with approximately 50 students showing up
 - For the next one, he hopes to strike a different balance between formal and informal and see if a caterer could be secured to encourage students to hang around longer
- Director of Legislative Affairs
 - Committee days are taking place.
 - Bill-sponsors are being sought out and pre-filed bills are being dropped right now due to the short session.
 - Participated in a work session in front of the Senate, Higher Ed, and Workforce Committee with Vice President of Legislative Affairs from WSA and the Legislative Liaison from Evergreen.
 - Discussed Washington State students' college experiences, benefits of the GI Bill and the Washington College Grant.
 - Discussed UWT students' basic needs and how to help address them
 - Session will start next month on the second Monday.
 - Huskies on the Hill: UWT will have it's own reception the Friday before, for the purpose of offering a chance for students to plan out what they'll be speaking on during Huskies on the Hill as well as offer a chance for legislators, politicians, and community members to meet and talk with students. Student government members from all three campuses will be invited as well.
- Director of Finance

- Campus Master Plan information session will take place January 21st from 12:30-1:30PM.
- Since the main document is so long, this session hopes to provide an opportunity to present a summary, allow students to ask their questions, and provide information regarding the plan in a Q&A session.
- Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration, IT, and Director of Real Estate are involved in the discussions, as well as Joe Lawless.
- In connection to the Town Hall, he was able to connect with a few campus ambassadors who mentioned that having that information would be a good to share with incoming and prospective students.
- Gathering more student issues to work on addressing them as well, particularly that for international students within the MSP accounting program, their program fees can increase without notice; he will be working with Senator Copping to look into this in more detail.
- Director of Student Technology
 - STFC: Manuel Rosales has confirmed his interest in accepting the offered position, so currently they should have a 5th member for their next Friday meeting (Dec. 12th from 3:30-4:30) and will be able to do a 2-hour session to address a lot of the special allocation votes completed.
 - They are hoping to hire 2 more members in the next quarter as well.

IX. ADVISOR UPDATES

- Advisor Conor notes that he is coordinating with the Office of Public Meetings, as there may be a challenge to the legitimacy of this meeting, as the YouTube link was not functional this morning.
- They will confer and follow up on whether or not these actions are valid.

X. CHAIR UPDATES

- Reminder to send in your candidate submissions for nominations to committees.
- Notes the Legislative team is doing great work and to stay in contact with them
- Visited a few different schools in the LB22 (Olympia, Christian County area), noted they do not have any legislators on the Higher Education Committee. President Watkins has offered, with the approval of the Board, to see if support for their legislative agendas can be offered to support them and work together.
- Looking to move forward with supporting legislative agenda sexual assaults and domestic violence victim protections that Central Washington is putting forward this year.

- Director Brown notes that there was a bill passed last year, but with amendments; they are looking to pass it without these amendments in order to provide more support and protection to victims as well as hold universities more accountable for their responses.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Director Brown moves to adjourn the meeting; Director Peña-Rojas seconds.

Motion passes 5-0-0.

President Watkins adjourns the meeting at 10:11AM.