



Associated Students University of Washington

Judicial Committee | **Minutes** | Session 126rd

February 23rd, 2026 | HUB 303H | 5:30 PM

The ASUW acknowledges the stewards of Coast Salish lands, the lands on which we currently sit, and the UW occupies. We acknowledge the original and current caretakers; Duwamish, Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations and peoples.

Teams: https://uwnetid-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/briank27_uw_edu/IQCYn16YZ4wvRYEpNCFcg4CuAYrP7YZbwDWmTYDI9IvdbkI?wdOrigin=TEAMS-WEB.p2p_ns.rwc&wdExp=TEAMS-TREATMENT&wdhostclicktime=1771818599850&web=1

AGENDA

Call to Order

Brian calls meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call | 11 total. *6 voting. 4 quorum | # present (P). # excused (E). # absent (A).

— | *Chair; Secretary of Recommendations – **Brian Kim**

P | *Secretary of Judgments – **Madisen Newbury**

P | *At-Large Member – **Sejal Dogiparthi**

P | *At-Large Member – **Abby Sengendo**

P | Ex-Officio Member – **Nardos Kidane**

P | Ex-Officio Member – **Sanjana Sivaraj**

P | *Senate Liaison – **Leila De Folo**

A | *ASUW Vice President – **Sonal Virk**

A | Office Coordinator Proxy; Personnel Coordinator – **Shriya Sundar**

P | Student Activities Office Advisor – **Alan Galvez**

_ | Student Legal Services Liaison – **Vacant**

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Sejal motions to approve the agenda

Madisen seconds

Agenda approved.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

None to approve

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC FORUM (5 Minutes)

None

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Ashwin gives a board report about working on improving funding for Special Appropriations and approved FY27 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Brian explains that the new Senate Bill has been added to the docket.

Joseph explains the new Senate Bill that was added and emphasizes that lines 211-221 state the purpose of the Constitutional proposal.

- [Senate Bill](#)

Brian asks where the committee has left off on the review process.

Nardos states that the committee left off on the judicial branch section.

Brian asks if anyone has questions about the judicial section.

Jospeh clarifies that the new edits are in blue while previous edits are in red. The best viewing method would be to save as a PDF as that is how the public will be viewing it.

Ashwin asks Brian to share his screen so that members that have joined virtually can see the screen.

Brian asks Ashwin where we left off.

Ashwin replies that EAC has not been covered yet.

Sanjana asks clarification questions about Section 3 and the liaison positions.

Jospeh explains that Senate and Board would no longer send liaisons, but Judicial would send liaisons to the other branches to advise.

Sanjana asks how sending members from the Senate and Board would make the process impartial, especially if those members have voting membership.

Jospeh asks if he can get back to Sanjana later.

Sanjana accepts that offer.

Sanjana clarifies that she is looking at the side comment and clarifies what type of voting membership they would get.

Joseph explains that the existing at-large system would be used, in a system similar to the federal government.

Madisen whether judicial has the power to intervene and impose injunctions before the policies are enacted.

Joseph says that judicial does not currently have proper injunction power. Section 4A falls under judgements, so in practice, injunctions would only be implemented after policy is made. It cannot be done retroactively.

Brian enquires about preliminarily approving the judicial section and explains that there is still another approval step based on student vote.

Madisen suggests we should review the section as a whole, and **Sanjana** agrees.

Joseph asks for Teams link as he will have to join Teams soon.

Brian shares the link with Joseph.

Brian suggests moving on to the Electoral Branch.

Sanjana doesn't understand why there needs to be an entire branch for electoral, especially when it is something that EAC can separately do.

Joseph explains that EAC always must get Board approval and wants the existing committee to be independent of the Board. They don't want elections to be influenced by BOD or Senate.

Brian asks if there are any more comments or questions.

Sanjana asks for a minute to review the Electoral Branch.

Sanjana asks whether the process for appointing Co-Administrators has been finalized yet.

Joseph says that there are a restructuring committee and Senate Bill that would establish a task force that would decide that. There is a committee that is going through every article to see how it would practically work.

Brian suggests going on recess for 5 minutes so that Joseph has time to join virtually.

Madisen motion to go to recess.

Leila seconds.

Motion has passed.

The meeting is called to order again at 6:06 pm.

Brian asks whether anyone has any questions or comments regarding the proposed constitution.

Sanjana asks why Senate and Board get to play a role in approving the at-large members since that defeats the purpose of impartiality.

Joseph was distracted but heard part of the question, so clarifies whether he heard the question correctly. Joseph says that he is open to Judicial's comments/recommendation. However, he explains that Judicial would have to create own hiring process, which would be complicated.

Sanjana explains that majority voting membership would not be impartial so Judicial would not be independent but suggest trying something different.

Nardos emphasizes that ASUW should be more accessible to students as a whole, and that is why each student can only serve one position. Leaving nominations to Senate and Board would restrict other students from having access, so encourages having more independent appointment systems.

Joseph did not hear the questions and asks for the questions to be repeated.

Nardos repeats the question.

Joseph explains that ASUW must be the entity to make appointments. The Board just would not have the only say but would still have the most power. Joseph states that the Personnel Director is being overseen by VP, so they are trying to separate everything.

Sanjana says it doesn't make sense to give the power back to Board in that case and says that Judicial should recommend a more balanced approach rather than going with Board and Senate.

Jospeh has no comment.

Sanjana asks **Nardos** about stagnation, and they decide to bring it up later.

Sanjana asks for more time with the Electoral Branch section.

Sanjana explains that it would be difficult to discuss the Elections Branch because the reform doesn't have information about how the co-administrators will be hired and how membership would work

Brian suggests that we can make that concern a recommendation at a later date and asks if there are any more questions

Sanjana asks to clarify if this electoral branch in the constitutional amendment is meant to make EAC independent

Joseph confirms **Sanjana's** question

Sanjana suggests changing the language of the electoral branch, so it doesn't have too much power

Lelia asks who the EAC is overseen by

Joseph answers that they are overseen by Tammy and Rhea who are both the co-chairs of the committee and run all of EAC's activities, but the BOD officially oversee EAC

Sanjana asks what the checks and balances of the electoral branch are if it isn't overseen by BOD

Joseph asks to clarify if **Sanjana** is referring to the proposed or current system

Sanjana clarifies the proposed system and asks what the checks and balances are of the electoral branch

Jospeh explains that the appointment process of both the Senate and BOD give checks and balances to the electoral branch

Sanjana explains that an independent and balanced EAC could be hard to achieve if the BOD and the Senate make the appointments. She emphasizes that this a recurring issue because they have full influence over all appointments

Brian asks if there are further comments or questions

Sanjana says she is ready to go on to the next article

Brian says to move on the personnel branch and tells the committee to take their time reviewing the article

Brian asks if the committee wants to extend the meeting

Madisen asks if there will be another meeting Monday

Brian confirms this and explains he might request a special meeting this week. He says he will confirm this in the judicial chat

Madisen explains she won't be available on Friday

Sanjana explains she also won't be on campus and is going out of state

Brian says we can sort times out in the judicial chat

Sanjana asks why there is a separate branch for personnel activities and asks if this is about language or giving personnel more power

Joseph states that personnel are complicated and explains that the VP oversees all ASUW hiring and is the final say in personnel affairs instead of the Director of Personnel. He wants to make it clear that the personnel branch would be its own agency and would remove the VP from the personnel process. The appointments would be made by both Senate and BOD and hiring certain BOD positions would be done by personnel through organizing applications, where the present

candidates to both Senate and BOD to vote on. He says this new system would make personnel processes much smoother and faster overall

Sanjana explains that this convolutes the whole personnel processes and clarifies if Senate and BOD make appointments for the personnel branch

Jospeh explains that BOD makes most appointments in the older system and making a personnel branch would ensure that personnel hiring is more streamlined and more focused

Brian asks if the meeting should be extended because the meeting went past ending time

Sanjana motions to extend the meeting time by 10 minutes

Madisen seconds

Motion has passed

Meeting time is extended to 6:44p.m.

Ashwin asks if the auditorial branch does the evaluations for people chosen by personnel and why there is a negative connation with the VP being the head of staffing

Joseph explains that the purpose of the constitutional amendment is meant to ensure both BOD and Senate participate in hiring appointed directors and other positions, and so the VP being the chief of staff conflicts with this. He adds that this can be amended where the VP can still be closely involved with staffing. He explains that because both the VP and the president handle evaluations themselves it would be easier if the responsibility is delegated to other branches. He adds that having a branch do evaluations would allow for more accountability among Senate and BOD and legitimacy in evaluations

Brian asks if there are any more comments

Sanjana asks why it would be a bad thing for VP to have oversight of hiring. She explains that BOD overseeing hiring of at-large members doesn't address separation of powers regardless of whether the VP is involved or not

Brian asks **Joseph** if he has a response for Sanjana's question

Joseph states he dropped out of the call for some reason

Sanjana repeats her question

Brian suggests adjourning the meeting because time has run out and Joseph is unresponsive

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Sanjana motions to adjourn the meeting

Madisen seconds

Non objectionable.

Unanimously passed. The meeting is adjourned at 6:45pm.