



ASWWU Legislative Affairs Council Meeting Minutes Draft

10-31-24 | 4PM | Viking Union 567

ASWWU Legislative Affairs Council Members

Present: Aspen Cates-Doglio - ASWWU VP Legislative Affairs, Chris Rosenquist - OCE Coordinator of Legislative Affairs, Louis Hay – Student Senator, Matt Conden – Student At-Large, Priscilla Nunes-Martinez - Student At-Large

Absent: None

Advisor: Adam Lorio

Secretary: Ruby Stegeman

Guest(s): None

Motions

LAC-24-F-1	to set the date for Western Lobby Day for February 9 th and 10 th 2025	Passed
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1. Call to Order

Cates-Doglio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 15:58

2. Revisions to the Agenda

None

3. Consent Items - Routine business items that do not require discussion

None

4. Information Items - Items that do not need a vote

I. Introductions

Doc 1

Discussion Notes:

- Group introduced themselves and discussed their experiences and goals.

II. What is LAC

Doc 1

Discussion Notes:

- Purpose
 - To increase student engagement in legislative processes
 - Encourage civic engagement within students
- Plans a lobby day each year, group of people go to lobby on an agenda created by the LAC and passed by the ASWWU Executive Board
 - Hoping for 56 students to attend this year

- Important that lobby day is a fun and educational experience
- Might try sending down smaller groups throughout the session
 - But might not happen until next year
- Where does the funding come from?
 - Legislative Action Fund is a \$1 per quarter student fee
 - Generates ~\$40,000 per year
 - Pays WSA dues ~\$13,000
 - Half used for lobby day ~\$17,000
 - Pays for Rosenquist's housing during session in Olympia
 - Only spent ~30,000 last year
 - Some leftover funding from 2020
- Membership
 - OCE Local Issues Coordinator position is currently vacant
 - Graduate student position is currently vacant
 - 3 student representatives from the Centers are currently vacant
 - SEI Student Staff Representative is vacant
- Lobby Day
 - Dates February 9th-10th (voted on today)
 - Used to be MLK day and Presidents Day, those days are super busy at the capital
 - Some professors considering doing extra credit for Lobby Day, and excusing students from class
 - Gives enough time to get the agenda ready
 - Lobbyist for WSA thinks that it will be better to not do it on President's Day weekend because it will be harder to get meetings with representatives
 - Last year it was named Western Intersectional Lobby Day
 - Should be thinking about intersectionality all the time
 - Multiple names because historically there were two days, Western Lobby Day and an intersectionality centered Lobby Day, now it is no longer feasible to have 2 due to budgeting (Lorio)
 - Start on Sunday with training, drive down Sunday, lobby and spend the night, lobby Monday, then drive home
 - Transportation
 - 1 charter bus
 - WWU 8-person van (67 cents per mile ~ \$167)
 - Good resource to have in case of emergency, also to pick up people from satellite campus and people with disabilities
 - Training
 - 6 hours last year, group was well prepared
 - Potentially doing some training on campus and some in Olympia
 - Meeting with legislators
 - Spread them out through the day last year
 - This year potentially having half of the group lobbying in the morning, the other half in the afternoon
 - Benefit of the spread-out method was that there was time to attend committee meetings
 - Advertising & recruitment
 - Going to classrooms and talking with a QR code to sign up

III. Legislative Agenda

Doc 1

Discussion Notes:

- Agendas have been too long in the past
- Agenda item #1
 - Fully fund WWU
 - For every \$100 operational dollars the state legislature funds \$67/100
 - Per student funding is \$8,949, lowest in WA
 - CWU receives \$9,847
 - Meanwhile WWU enrollment is 3rd best, retention is 3rd best, graduation rate is 2nd best
- #2
 - Accepting WSA #1 proposal, which is expanding the financial aid eligibility from WCG (Washington College Grant) from 65% to 70%
 - Best program in the country for student aid from the state, but can be improved
 - 27.3% of WWU students receive WCG money
- #3
 - Create a bill and find a sponsor
 - Preferably one without a fiscal note
- #4
 - Student basic needs, find a bill related to it
- #5/6
 - Send a survey out to students that highlights ASWWU's top issues?
 - Not crucial to do and still have a strong agenda

I. How to read a bill

Doc 1

Discussion Notes:

- Went over the aspects of a bill and how to read them

5. Action Items – Items that may need a vote

I. Date for Lobby Day 2025

Discussion Notes:

- Going to be different than previous years but thinks it's a good idea and will be very beneficial, ideally professors will be receptive (Rosenquist)

LAC-24-F-1	Motion: to set the date for Western Lobby Day for February 9 th and 10 th 2025
Motion Made By: Hay	Motion Seconded By: Rosenquist
Vote Count: 5 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	Action Result: Passed

6. Call to Adjourn

Cates-Doglio, Chair, called the meeting to adjourn at: 17:18