

Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council

January 31st, 2020

VU 567

Board Members: *Present:* Grace Drechsel (VP for Governmental Affairs), Phoebe DeMeerler (Local Issues Coordinator), Nicole Ballard (Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Bennett Massey-Helber (Director of Legislative Affairs), Kayl Gillihan (Outreach and Representation), Joselyn Chavez (ESC Representative), Grace LaMonte (Student At-Large), Collin Thrower (Student At-Large), Connor Farrand (Student At-Large), and Jennifer Leveque (Student At-Large).

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): N/A

Motions:

LAC-19-F-9 To approve the meeting minutes from January 24th, 2020 with the addendum of changing all the instances of “Collin Thrower” to “Connor Farrand.”

Passed.

LAC-19-F-10 To move the WSA dues to an action item. *Passed.*

LAC-19-F-11 To approve the payment of the WSA dues. *Passed.*

I. Call to Order

Grace Drechsel, VP of Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

N/A

III. Approval of Minutes

MOTION LAC-20-W-9 by Farrand

To approve the meeting minutes from January 24th, 2020 with the addendum of changing all the instances of “Collin Thrower” to “Connor Farrand.”

Second: Thrower

Action: Passed

IV. Information Items

A. Wild Agenda (Gillihan)

1. SAIRC Agenda

a. Mental Health

- i. This priority is pulled from the Western Lobby Day Agenda (WLD), but the second ask for allocating more representatives for people with marginalized identities is new.
 - ii. Drechsel questioned the removal of a couple of the asks that were present on the WLD agenda, including short term funding to improve the counseling center and creating a study to look at student insurance coverage.
 - iii. Massey-Helber asked Gillihan to add the Student Support Package as an ask under this item, Gillihan agreed.
 - b. Public Accessibility- collaboration with DOC
 - i. An ask for optional license markers for the deaf or hard-of-hearing to reduce conflict between law enforcement and the disabled.
 - ii. An ask to require close captioning on public televisions.
 - iii. An ask to create a cap on the monthly pricing of insulin of \$100. Another ask may be added concerning another bill that gives Washington State the responsibility of buying and distributing insulin in order to lower costs.
 - iv. An ask to require Medicare to cover prosthetics and orthotics.
 - v. An ask to improve how colleges handle weather related closures in regards to disabled students.
 - vi. Gillihan noted that she plans on creating a handout detailing all the asks in this item, to give to legislators, or emailing it if they do not accept paper copies.
 - vii. Thrower asked why markers for the deaf would be needed, and what the average cost of insulin is per month. Gillihan responded that some deaf people don't realize they're being pulled over, others don't vocalize well, and this would be an easy way to communicate to police. Insulin can be up to \$1,000 per month.
 - c. Reproductive Justice
 - i. An ask to create a sexual assault survey for accountability.
 - ii. An ask to include reproductive care coverage in insurance that covers maternal care.
 - iii. An ask to provide menstrual care products for 6-12th grade students.
 - iv. Farrand asked whether the assault survey covered only incidents on campus or was an overall picture. Gillihan answered that this would most likely be a comprehensive view, and also mentioned that there are journalism students trying to compile a list of people who've committed sexual assault on campus.
 - d. Ethnic Studies public hearing
 - i. Students from several universities and schools gave testimonies as to why ethnic studies is so important. The ask was changed so that there is no amount of faculty specified as the salary is unsure, and the request for funding was reduced to \$350,000.
- 2. WILD Agenda
 - a. Basically the same, numbers in the second ask needs to be updated.
 - b. Farmworkers Protection ask is new
 - i. SB 6261 fills in loopholes that allow farmworkers to be exploited out of fear of retaliation.
 - c. Support for Survivors

- i. Ability to fine tune the reproductive justice ask to fit under this label.
- 3. ESC Agenda
 - a. Support for Incarcerated People
 - i. An ask to end operation of private detention centers as well as the ability to contract private center for transfers and placements.
 - ii. An ask to restore voter eligibility
 - 1. Ballard asks whether or not this is necessary as people with convictions are given the right to vote as long as they have no ties to the system in Washington State.
 - 2. Gillihan responds that this bill will restore voting as soon as the individual is out of prison, regardless of legal debt or community service.
 - iii. An ask to support prison to postsecondary education
 - b. Support for Native American Students
 - i. An ask for an on-campus longhouse
 - ii. An ask for tribal sovereignty
 - iii. An ask for reduced tuition fees for students.
 - iv. An ask to change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day.
 - v. An ask to support HB 1713 concerning the issue of murdered and missing indigenous women.
 - 1. It was noted that this bill has passed, but can be replaced with an ask concerning this issue.
- 4. ESP Agenda
 - a. No agenda yet, will be available at the following meeting.

B. WSA Dues

- 1. WSA dues are capped at \$15,000, there is a \$7,500 fee.

MOTION LAC-20-W-10 by Gillihan
 To move the WSA dues to an action item.
Second: Drechsel Action: Passed

V. Action Items

A. WSA Dues

MOTION LAC-20-W-11 by LaMonte
 To approve the payment of the WSA dues.
Second: Thrower Action: Passed

VI. Discussion Items

A. N/A

VII. Reports

Phoebe, Local Issues Coordinator stated that there had been talk in city council about temporary Winter shelters especially since there was a case of a homeless person who

died. They are working with Unity Village to find a new location. The county council have been working on a collective bargaining agreement between city and the fraternity of police.

Bennett, Director of Legislative Affairs, was not present at the time of reports, but Drechsel noted that there has been a recent push for the Undocumented Student Loan program in higher education, as well as the ask for Ethnic Studies.

Nicole, Organizing and Outreach Coordinator, stated that she has been working on the requests that Bennett has sent for action on campus. Currently students are needed to contact legislators regarding Support for Undocumented Students. The more students that advocate the better chance that this ask passes. Nicole will hold an event the next week with the blue resource center on Tuesday or Wednesday on how to contact legislators concerning Support for Undocumented Students and Ethnic Studies.

Grace, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, stated that she had nothing to report other than wrapping up on Western Lobby Day concerns.

VIII. Other Business

A. N/A

Grace Drechsel, AS VP of Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 1:50 p.m.