

Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council

November 25th, 2019

VU 567

Board Members: *Present:* Grace Drechsel (VP for Governmental Affairs), Nicole Ballard (Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Bennett Massey-Helber (Director of Legislative Affairs), Kayl Gillihan (Outreach and Representation), Jasmine Balasas (GSAC), Nora Harren (REP Director), Joselyn Chavez (ESC Representative), Grace LaMonte (Student At-Large), Collin Thrower (Student At-Large), Erin Kelly (Student At-Large), Kaitlyn Davidson (Student At-Large), and Jennifer Leveque (Student At-Large).

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): N/A

Motions:

LAC-19-F-19 To add the LAC funding request and remove the LAC proposal paragraphs from the action items. *Passed.*

LAC-19-F-20 To approve the meeting minutes from the date of November 18th, 2019. *Passed.*

LAC-19-F-21 To approve the Lobby Day funding request. *Passed.*

I. Call to Order

Grace Drechsel, VP of Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order 4:34 p.m.

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

MOTION LAC-19-F-19 by Drechsel

To add the LAC funding request and remove the LAC proposal paragraphs from the action items.

Second: Massey-Helber Action: Passed

III. Approval of Minutes

A. November 18th, 2019

MOTION LAC-19-F-20 by Massey-Helber

To approve the meeting minutes from the date of November 18th, 2019.

Second: LaMonte Action: Passed

IV. Action Items

A. Funding Request for Lobby Day Supplies

MOTION LAC-19-F-21 by LaMonte
To approve the Lobby Day funding request.
Second: Gillihan Action: Passed

IV. Information Items

A. LAC Legislative Agenda- Drechsel

1. Support for Undocumented Students
 - a. Removing the specific asks concerning the Tacoma detention center to simply ask for the closing of all northwest detention centers, as well as changing the wording of the last ask.
2. Funding for Ethnic Studies
 - a. There will be a future meeting with Kristen French about the funding for indigenous sovereignty.
3. Mental Health Services and Reform
 - a. The wording of the ask should be changed, statistic of 1 counselor per 2,000 students should be fact checked, and there will be a meeting with Sislana Ledbetter next week concerning this item.
4. Environmental protections and Climate Justice
 - a. There should be a change of wording of the item, and a better definition of what pre-adjudication work actually is. Massey-Helber clarified that the first ask was adjusted after communicating with Representative Slater at lobby days.
5. Student Support Package
 - a. The wording should be changed so that the opening statement addresses the needs that aren't addressed in HB 2158
6. Discussion on adding Support for Survivors to the legislative agenda
 - a. Drechsel noted that in the past, the LAC has consistently added an ask concerning this topic on the legislative agenda, and it was on the LAC's asks to the WSA so it seems strange to not devote space for it this year.
 - b. Massey-Helber brings up removing the Student Support Package from the agenda and instead adding it to the list of legislative priorities.
 - c. Drechsel notes that the Lac should get alternate resources to have student evidence and input on why Support for Survivors is important if this is the case.
7. Support for Survivors
 - a. Gillihan asked whether it would be possible to add another ask concerning Title IX and the lack of support from the current administration, and brought up drawing stakeholders to support the ask.

B. LAC Funding Request- Outreach for Western Lobby Day- Harren

1. Balasas questioned about whether bad weather would affect the date of this event, and Harren clarified that she's reserving two tables, one for in red square, and one under the awning of Miller Hall so that if there is bad weather, the table is out of the rain. She believes there would still be enough foot traffic through red square for this to be worthwhile.

2. Drechsel noted that the LAC is behind on budget which means that we have a little more wiggle room for spending and she believes that this is a good outlet to expand outreach.
3. Harren mentioned adding more coffee as the last time she ran the event they ran out quickly.

IV. Discussion Items

A. N/A

V. Reports

Phoebe, Local Issues Coordinator was not present to make a report.

Bennett, Director of Legislative Affairs, stated that he attended committee days and had a legislative meeting to discuss priorities for the next session. Concerning HB 2158, there still a \$257 million gap in funding and legislators are still trying to find funding sources for this. The LAC should get student testimony to how important higher education funding is as well as testifying on basic needs for the Student Support Package. There wasn't much discussion about student loan forgiveness at the event and it was more about changing the way loans work.

Nicole, Organizing and Outreach Coordinator, stated that there is a new ballot box coming to campus which will be located near Bond Hall below the horizontal banner space. The ribbon cutting will be held at some point during Winter quarter.

Grace, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, stated that she had nothing to report.

VI. Other Business

A. N/A

Grace Drechsel, AS VP of Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 5:20 p.m.