

# Western Washington University Legislative Affairs Council

## LAC Committee Meeting Minutes

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
VU 565

**Present:** Grace Drechsel (VP for Governmental Affairs), Nicole Ballard (Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Bennett Massey-Helber (Director of Legislative Affairs), Grace Lamont (Student At-Large), Phoebe (Local Issues Coordinator), Jasmine (GSAC), Kayl (Outreach and Representation), Connor

**Secretary:** Sierra Templeton

**Guest(s):** N/A

**Motions:**

**ASB-19-W-** N/A

*Grace Drechsel, LAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.*

**I. Call to Order**

*None*

**II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**

*None*

**III. Approval of Minutes**

*None*

**IV. Discussion Items**

- a. LAC Overview and Onboarding
  - a. Encourage civic engagement and student participation in the political process
    - i. Voter registration drive
    - ii. Call senators and representatives
    - iii. Support representation and engagement process
    - iv. Present at Lobby Day
    - v. Brainstorm student engagement ideas
    - vi. Support political events on campus (speakers, etc.)
    - vii. Encourage city/council attendance
  - b. Propose legislative agendas to AS Executive Board

- i. Local Lobby Day Agenda
  - ii. WWU (Viking) Lobby Day Agenda
  - iii. Federal Lobby Day Agenda
- c. Submit recommendations to the WSA
  - i. Washington Student Association: non-profit that connects 4-yr public institutions in WA for cohesive legislative agenda
  - ii. WSA has legislative agenda that is voted on by all members
  - iii. October 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> WSA General Assembly at WWU discussed: Tribal youth suicide prevention, Columbus Day changed to Indigenous People's Day, Funding for 21-58, Support for survivors of sexual assault, Fee-waiver access, veteran centers funding, mental health centers funding, K-12 sexual health and consent training
- d. Establish contact with elected officials
  - i. WWU
  - ii. Local
  - iii. Federal
  - iv. LAC Director of Legislative Affairs will be living Spring Quarter in Olympia for outreach
  - v. Call/write senators and representatives
- e. Formulate policy positions for the AS
- f. Review funding request proposals, financial decisions, & student funds paid to LAF
  - i. Legislative Affairs Fund- \$1 per quarter per student
  - ii. Around \$45,000 per year
- g. Approve budget for LAF to represent students locally and statewide
  - i. Around \$15,000 dues to WSA
  - ii. Federal Lobby Day (D.C.)
  - iii. Encourage civic engagement (state candidate, and local issues forums)
- h. Membership
  - Voting:
    - i. AS VP for Governmental Affairs or designee (Chair)
    - ii. As Legislative Coordinator
    - iii. AS Local Coordinator
    - iv. AS REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator
    - v. 6-8 Students At-Large
    - vi. 1 Graduate Student of Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) Representative
    - vii. 1 ESC Representative (appointed by ESC Presidents Council)
    - viii. 1 ESP Representative (appointed by the ESP Director)
    - ix. SAIRC Representative
  - Non-Voting:
    - x. Secretary
    - xi. Associate Dean of Student Engagement and Director of Viking Union Facilities or designee (Advisor)
- i. Basics of Robert's Rules
  - i. Agenda adoption
  - ii. Creation of motions

- iii. Use this frame, but can be inaccessible so more relaxed
  - j. Questions or clarifications
    - i. N/A
- b. Committee Agreements
  - a. AS VP of Governmental Affairs- Conversations about power and privilege
  - b. Kayl- Honesty and communication
  - c. Grace- Step back for other's voices, be mindful
  - d. Bennett- All documents published and accessible
  - e. AS VP for Governmental Affairs- Bringing questions and concerns to the table
- c. Additions and Changes to the Agenda
  - a. N/A
- d. Charge and Charter
  - a. Located on the AS Website under Committees and then AS LAC
  - b. Currently expired, will be updated on Friday at the AS Executive Board Meeting
- e. Past ASWWU Legislative Agendas
  - a. All documents are under the committee website
  - b. Start with paragraph proposals
  - c. 6-8 are chosen for Lobby Day
  - d. Legislative Agenda draft is formed
- f. Blank LAC Proposal Form
  - a. Issues for consideration should be roughly 600 words
  - b. Presenter, endorsers, impact, background information, target, student engagement
  - c. Example form review: sexual assault survivor support
    - i. Limit the number of asks to support a focused goal
  - d. We're on a biannual funding schedule on a supplementary year
    - i. Not as many big funding items pass, but can be submitted for consideration in the following year

## V. Reports

- a. Local Issues Coordinator (Phoebe)
  - a. County and City Council Meetings
    - i. Unity village contract trying to be renewed
    - ii. Making Bellingham denser instead of bigger
    - iii. Trans-mountain pipeline
  - b. Concerns about access to mental health care
  - c. October 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> are the forums for city and county candidates
- b. Director of Legislative Affairs (Bennett)
  - a. Chair of Senate of Higher Education Committee talked to students about issues they face
  - b. Bellingham representative coming to campus to talk to students
    - i. After the town hall, there will be a smaller meeting of student leaders to voice specific asks
    - ii. VU 565 this Saturday from 1:00-2:30. Smaller meeting will be from 2:45-
    - iii. Representative specializes in environmental and Native rights
- c. Organizing and Outreach Coordinator (Nicole)
  - a. Voter Registration
    - i. Ballots mailing around the 18<sup>th</sup>

- ii. Phone banking
  - iii. Democracy and donuts- will be a box for ballots to be delivered
- d. AS VP for Governmental Affairs (Grace)
  - a. WSA General Assembly
    - i. LAC agenda proposal passed
  - b. AS President (Lani Defiesta) and Grace wrote to the Washington State Office of Public Institute for comprehensive K-12 sex education

## **VI. Other Business**

- a. Potential Time Change
  - a. Next week's meeting will be from 4:30-6:00 next Monday in the VU 565

*Grace Drechsel, AS VP of Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 5:33 p.m.*

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