

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Legislative Affairs Council Meeting**

Monday, February 6, 2012

VU567

**Present:** Uis Maute-Gibson (AS VP Governmental Affairs, Chair), Kevin Majkut (advisor), Joe Meyer (Legislative Liaison) [in Olympia], Patrick Stickney (Vice Chair), Katherine Barnard, Chris Brown, Ben Crowther, Jared McCardle, Carmen Winquist, Fiona Yau-Luu

**Absent:** Ean Olsen (Student Senate Representative)

**Secretary:** Katie Savinski

**MOTIONS**

**L-12-W-08** Approve the minutes of Monday, January 30, 2012 *Passed*

**Iris Maute-Gibson, Chair for Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. REVISIONS TO AGENDA**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTION L-12-W-08 by Barnard*

*Seconded by McCardle*

Approval of the minutes of Monday, January 30, 2011

Vote: 9 - 0 - 0            Action: Passed

**IV. REPORTS**

**A. AS VP for Governmental Affairs**

Maute-Gibson reported that Meyer testified on Western Governor's University Bill. All of the bills the committee has been tracking have either died or have moved onto Ways and Means Committee, meaning they are only able to be testified based upon the financial impact of the bill. She said that Elect-Her was this weekend and both the facilitators and participants reported very positive feedback at the event. She said that she and Meyer had a meeting this weekend on how to correlate what the committee is doing with what Meyer is doing in Olympia. She also reported that there the bills on marriage equality would be going to the Board of Directors at the end of the week. She invited the committee to attend this Board meeting.

**B. AS Legislative Liaison**

Meyer reported that there was a WSA board meeting this weekend. He is hoping that students will be more active with letter writing and phone calling to legislators to make his lobbying efforts more effective. He reported that his testimony went well.

**C. Western Votes**

Stickney reported that Western Votes has found a potential meeting time. They are also hoping to correlate their meetings with Meyers down in Olympia.

**D. Student Senate**

Olsen was absent. Brown reported that the senate passed the standing resolution on marriage equality.

**V. COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

**A. WSA Update**

MG reported that the WSA is ready to begin their focus on funding. Their statewide lobby day is on February 20<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged someone for the committee to step up and plan the committee's involvement and also assist with recruiting students.

**B. LAC Funding for Federal Lobby Trip**

Maute-Gibson said that in the past the Associated Student President, Associated Student Vice President for Governmental Affairs, and the Associated Student Legislative Liaison would travel to Washington DC to lobby on the efforts of the Federal Agenda. Last year, the team was also able to coordinate with the administrators. She said that she wants to start working on the Federal Agenda now. She said that there is roughly a \$3,000 budget for the President to travel to Washington DC in addition to two other people. Another option the committee has would be to send representatives to the United States Student Association (USSA) efforts. She suggested keeping the Washington DC trip between herself and Anna while allowing the AS Representation and Engagement Programs Director, Jennifer Hughes and the AS Legislative Liaison, Joe Meyer attend the USSA conference. She thinks this would allow for Meyer to spend more of his focus on advocating for students and for more speaking opportunities for the AS President and the AS VP for Governmental Affairs. Maute-Gibson explained that only the USSA trip would be funded by LAC. She said that she could bring two options at the next meeting. Stickney asked how much money is currently in the LAF. Maute-Gibson was not sure of the numbers since Lobby Day. She estimated that the registration fee for the USSA conference was about \$250 per person. Barnard asked for clarification on the funding. Maute-Gibson said that she would want to take \$1,000 out of the Washington DC trip to put towards the USSA conference and then bring together another \$1,000 for that trip. She wanted the committee input on this at the next meeting. McCardle wanted to know how much money would be left in Legislative Action Fund after allocating money for the USSA conference. Brown wondered if it would matter more to have a stronger representation in Washington DC rather than at the USSA conference.

**C. Federal Agenda**

Maute-Gibson would like the committee to have more input on the agenda this year. She said that Federal Financial Aid was one focus of the agenda last year. She hoped that the committee would be able to provide proposal ideas this year and then have them being taken to the AS Board of Directors. She reported that she has spoken with Representative Larson's chief of staff last week. They are planning to make a day of Representative Larson meeting with students in focus groups as well as meeting with administrators. She would like the committee to make edits to last year's decisions to make them the committee's own for this year. They will be voted on next week. She said that any additional proposals need to be sent to her by Friday. She said that the committee will have to be careful and make suggestions that are clearly in the best interest of student issues.

**D. WSA Statewide Lobby Day and Volunteer Sign Up**

She asked the committee to talk to her about their willingness to participate in the discussed WSA commitments.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE:** February 13, 2012 4:00pm VU 567

**IX. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 04:38P.M.**