

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

Monday, February 13, 2012

VU567

Present: Iris Maute-Gibson (AS VP Governmental Affairs, Chair), Kevin Majkut (advisor), Patrick Stickney (Vice Chair), Ean Olsen (Student Senate Representative), Katherine Barnard, Chris Brown, Ben Crowther, Jared McCardle, Carmen Winquist, Kaylee Galloway

Absent: Joe Meyer (Legislative Liaison) [in Olympia], Fiona Yau-Luu, Tom Durham

Secretary: Katie Savinski

MOTIONS

L-12-W-09 Approve the minutes of Monday, February 6, 2012 *Passed*

Iris Maute-Gibson, Chair for Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:05p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. REVISIONS TO AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION L-12-W-09 by Barnard

Seconded by Brown

Approval of the minutes of Monday, February 6, 2011

Vote: 8 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

IV. REPORTS

A. AS VP for Governmental Affairs

Maute-Gibson reported that the House of Origin bill cutoff is tomorrow. This means that all standing bills have to pass by tomorrow. She said that the revenue forecast will be released on February 16th. She said that the House and Senate will release their budgets around the 21st. She will be sending the petition out to the committee. On February 18th is when the town hall meetings are. No legislators in the Bellingham area are currently participating. She said that on the 20th is the WSA Statewide Lobby Day. Stickney and Barnard are working on this. So far there are about 5 people attending. Many other Washington Universities are bringing large numbers of students. She said that the budget will have its long session with the House and Senate on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday next week. She said that she would contact the committee as soon as she knows about the dates for testifying on the budget. The AS Board of Directors passed two resolutions, one opposing the ban on the Ethnic Studies in Arizona and one supporting Marriage Equality. She thanked the committee for their work.

B. AS Legislative Liaison

Meyer reported that the bill requiring open public forum before meetings was passed in the House. He reported that the priority registration was changed to priority above your credit standing. He reported that there are town hall meetings across the state held by local representatives this weekend. He said that the meetings to testify on the budget will occur in the middle of next week. Maute-Gibson asked if the WSA was still speaking in favor of the open public meetings. He clarified that the WSA does still support this. There was one change made to a bill that was originally opposed by the committee. Meyer said that he would present on the lottery bill next week with more details.

C. Western Votes

Stickney reported that he has worked on the WSA lobby day. He said that he has a sign-up sheet to pass around at the meeting. He also said that he heard that the on-campus club Young Democrats may be making a trip down to Olympia.

D. Student Senate

Olsen reported that the last meeting focused on senate reform. Senate wants to become more accessible to students, increase the number of senate members, increase freshman involvement, and define the power of the senate in order to gain more purpose.

V. COMMITTEE INFORMATION**VI. ACTION ITEMS****VII. INFORMATION ITEMS****A. Federal Agenda Proposals**

MG said that all three of the current proposals on the Federal Agenda are still relevant today. She said that she had spoken to the financial aid office on how the DREAM act has changed in regards to the Federal legislation. She wants the committee to break up into three focus groups for the Federal Agenda proposals. Stickney wanted to work on a proposal reversing the Stafford Loan's elimination of the grace period. McCardle and Barnard will be working on for-profit colleges and how those schools use their federal funding. Winquist and Olsen decided to work on federal work study and the Pell grant. Galloway and Brown would be working on the DREAM act. Olsen said he wanted to work with Stickney with the Stafford Loans. Crowther asked about the possibility for bullying and harassment bills. He said there are some in legislation directed towards K-12 purposes. He wondered if it would possible to advocate for this kind of bill at the level of higher education. Maute-Gibson said she would work on redacting President Obama's budget which was released today. She said that she will then send this out to the committee. Majkut suggested to those committee members who will be gathering data on for-profit college accountability or Federal Work-Study to look into the Chronicle.com. He addressed Crowther's concerns about bullying and harassment bills directed towards colleges as well as K-12. He said that there would be a way to address both legislatively and administratively when you consider policies such as Title IX and the Clery Act. Maute-Gibson wanted to look into this as well. Crowther wanted to work on this for the Federal Agenda. The proposals for the Federal Agenda will need to be sent to Maute-Gibson by Friday. Barnard asked if this agenda needed to be matched up with the administration. Maute-Gibson explained that the administrators have not released agenda so this agenda will be the committee's own for now.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE: February 27, 2012 4:00pm VU 567

IX. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 04:45P.M.