

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

Monday, February 27, 2012

VU567

Present: Uis 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, Kay lee Galloway, Fiona Yau-Luu, Tom Durham

Absent: Joe Meyer (Legislative Liaison) [in Olympia], Carmen Winquist, Jared McCardle

Secretary: Katie Savinski

MOTIONS

L-12-W-10 Approve the minutes of Monday, February 13, 2012 *Passed*

L-12-W-11 Approve the Resolution recognizing the participants of the Washington Student Association Lobby trip on Monday February 20, 2012. *Passed*

Iris Maute-Gibson, Chair for Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:09p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. REVISIONS TO AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION L-12-W-10 by Olsen

Seconded by Stickney

Approval of the minutes of Monday, February 13, 2011

Vote: 8 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

IV. REPORTS

A. AS VP for Governmental Affairs

Maute-Gibson reported that the Senate will be releasing their budget tomorrow. She has reserved a van and welcomes anyone from the committee to join her to testify. She reported that the House budget was released last week. The House did not cut the work-study program and it did not cut the number of students who receive the state-need grant. However, there was a proposed cut made to the state-need grant funding overall, which would reduce the maximum award available to students who receive it. She also reported that the overall budget cuts to Western were not nearly as much as anticipated. She said that Congressman Larsen made a visit to Western on Friday. There were several meetings set up between Larsen and students involving the DREAM act. She said that this was a very positive experience. Also, Maute-Gibson said that there was a WSA meeting this weekend.

B. Western Votes

Stickney reported that the WSA Lobby Day was last Monday. Stickney ended up speaking at the rally. He invited everyone in the committee to take part in class raps.

C. Student Senate

Olsen reported that Senate was brought a possible resolution by the Student American Campaign Transparency club concerning the Disclose Act. Senate's final meeting of the quarter will be next week and everyone is invited to attend.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

(Durham entered)

A. Anti-Harassment Act - Crowther

Crowther researched Anti-Harassment bills that are directed towards Higher Education. He said that it would be helpful to get more legislators involved with this bill. He wants to recommend this to the committee as one of the federal items. Maute-Gibson explained that this document needs to be made into a resolution format, but it can move onto an action item next week with the other proposals. Stickney expressed that he is supportive of this. Brown dittoed. Maute-Gibson said that she believed that a federal mandate would be the best route to see anti-harassment legislation being made.

B. DREAM Act - Galloway and Maute-Gibson

Brown referred to a few additions and changes that he, Durham, and Galloway had made to the original document. Stickney suggested that the students from SEED to attend the meeting where this resolution will be combined together and voted upon. Maute-Gibson informed the committee that as far as Washington delegation goes, Larsen, Cantwell, and Murray had all voted in favor of the act in previous sessions.

C. For-Profit College Accountability

Barnard felt that there were not many changes to be made since last year's federal item. She said that she did find information that stated that For-Profit Universities accounted for half the federal loan defaults measured in federal dollars. She thought this could be added. She said that the 'gainful employment' clause is on track to be regulated by the Department of Education, so this could be removed from the federal resolution. She said that 550 universities receive 80% of their profit from federal dollars and 1,000 received at least 70% from federal dollars. She said that there is a 90-10 rule that they currently follow. She suggested lobbying to lower this ratio. Maute-Gibson asked Barnard to send her collected information to her.

D. Federal Aid - Stickney

Stickney reported that the minimum threshold to get the maximum award for the Pell Grant to an income of \$23,000 instead of \$32,000 a year. It reduced the eligibility of the Pell grant to from 18 semesters to 12 semesters. He said that grace period on the Stafford loan was also eliminated. Olsen read the language that he had used in the past testify on Federal Aid in Washington D. He also read the language he had used specifically on the Federal Pell grant. Barnard asked about the Capital Gains tax. Brown asked if the sales tax increase was going to move to the November ballot. Maute-Gibson said that it is expected to. Stickney asked if the committee should oppose the specific changes or should the committee advocate beyond the changes. Barnard asked if it was just the grace period on the Stafford loan that was eliminated, and if so, that the committee should look into the grace periods on the other loans as well.

VI. ACTION ITEMS**A. WSA Lobby Day Resolution - Stickney**

Stickney made a resolution to recognize the students who attended the Washington Student Association. Maute-Gibson wanted the resolution to recognize all of the students involved.

MOTIONL-12-W-10by Olsen

Secinded by Barnard

Approve the Resolution recognizing the participants of the Washington Student Association Lobby trip on Monday February 20, 2012

Vote: 9 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE: March 5, 2012 4:00pm VU 567

VIII. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 04:47P.M.