

Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council Meeting
Monday, May 7, 2012 VU567

Present: Iris Maute-Gibson (AS VP Governmental Affairs, Chair), Patrick Stickney (Vice Chair), Katherine Barnard, Kaylee Galloway, Fiona Yau-Luu, Jared McCardle, Chris Brown

Absent: Joe Meyer (Legislative Liaison), Kevin Majkut (advisor), Tom Durham, Ean Olsen, Eileen Pollet, Chris Savage, Katie Savinski (secretary)

Guests: By phone: Mike Borgatay, Mara Ventura

MOTIONS

L-12-S-08 Approve the minutes of Monday, April 16, 2012. *Passed*

Iris Maute-Gibson, Vice President for Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 4:12p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION L-12-S-08 by Stickney

Seconded by Barnard

Approval of the minutes of Monday, April 16, 2012

Vote: 6 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

III. REPORTS

A. Vice President for Governmental Affairs

Maute-Gibson explained that there will not be a meeting during dead week or finals week due to the Green Energy Fee project presentations. She said that in the next two meetings, the committee will work on the long-term Legislative Affairs Council budget. The Legislative Action Fund has never been budgeted in terms of criteria for the programs put on by the Vice President for Governmental Affairs. She wants to come up with criteria for groups to bring proposals to receive money from the Legislative Action Fund; what criteria should the committee use to allocate funds; what types of funds should come from each budget; what is the Legislative Affairs Council commitment to state student associations. She explained that this would be done next week. Maute-Gibson reported that she wanted committee members to produce recommendations for the legacy document for this committee. She wanted to see them give suggestions for items the committee might want to see on future legislative agendas. Maute-Gibson reported that the Board of Directors took a unanimous stance against the War on Women resolution. The Senate Chair position has re-opened. She said that she is excited to try and work this issue into future legislative agendas. She thanked the committee for their efforts.

B. Western Votes

Stickney reported that tabling was not going to work out this week. There are Political Science Association events going on all week. Stickney reported that Congressman Larsen will be coming to campus soon. A First Congressional District Forum will be on May 23rd.

C. Student Senate

Brown reported that the testimony on the Aramark was heard two weeks ago. It was voted out 5-0-1.

IV. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

A. Budget Discussion w/Mike and Mara from WSA

Maute-Gibson presented the needed documents on the computer. Borgatay explained that this proposal is aiming to maintain the current revenue rates without additional funding and dipping into reserves. The cost per students is currently \$1.05. Borgatay explained that the WSA collects a small

amount in comparison to other state organizations, ex. Oregon. WSA decided not to make a dues increase because the University of Washington, the associations largest fund contributor, found an increase to be unsustainable. The WSA has decided to maintain the current level of dues and look into possibilities in the coming years. In the coming year, the dues would increase from \$1.05 to \$1.14 per student. The difference for Western, overall, would be from \$12,360 to \$13,400. He said that the overarching goal is to establish a full-time organizing director. Borgatay explained that the largest change in staff expenditures will be for providing the funding for Ventura to travel for the additional quarter in the coming year, as she was not hired until October this year. He explained that the WSA total will be \$96,612 in expenses while only bringing in \$86,000. (18:15) Borgatay explained that they want to be sure to stress continuity. Borgatay clarified that the \$1.09 number was an accident. Maute-Gibson asked why there would be a \$0.15 increase between 2012-13 and 2013-14 instead of a \$0.10 incremental increase over the next two years. Borgatay explained that the campuses have already budgeted for the dues increase while others have not. They left the opportunity for campuses to contribute more if they wanted to. Ventura added that this may go to the Board at the meeting on May 19th. Borgatay explained that he would really appreciate someone looking over his budgeting numbers. He explained that the next change is in staff expenses. Maute-Gibson asked if Ventura could let the committee know how much additional had to be paid on top of the allocated budget as far as travel expenses in the last year. Stickney asked about the pull in of WSU. He asked if the other satellite campuses would join in or if they would have to make independent decisions to join WSA. Borgatay said that all of the campuses wanted to be represented and so they might be joining together. Brown asked why WSU originally left the WSA and why they have decided to rejoin. Borgatay explained that there are many different reasons historically that have caused some universities to come and go. Maute-Gibson mentioned that it is very important to realize that there have been issues in the past with representing the wide array of students across the state and not excluding others. Borgatay encouraged everyone to attend WSA General Assembly. Maute-Gibson asked Borgatay to speak to the timeline of the dues increase. She said that this has never been set to a vote, but she thought it was important to do so and not have one person speak for the committee. Borgatay said that the current proposal is to maintain the current level of dues. He would expect campuses to know their baseline due to be paid. Campuses can make their own commitment to dues increases. McCardle asked if it will be known if WSU will be joining WSA by the General Assembly on May 19th. Borgatay explained that the new WSU leadership is excited to rejoin but the WSA does not want to push the process. Ventura said that she was impressed with the efforts of campuses in the last year to increase student engagement. Ventura wants to start thinking about the budget for the far-future to gather ideas for what students can do in the coming years as far as advocacy.

Borgatay explained that the elections for WSA Board members will be coming up on the May 9th General Assembly. The nominations are open until just before the meeting. There will also be a student nominated to sit on Student Achievement Council. Also, there will be nominations for legislator of the year award. Maute-Gibson reported that future AS Personnel Director, Sara Richards, wants to adopt Grass Roots Organizing Workshops as a part of AS Employee training.

Maute-Gibson explained that the AS Board President usually holds the primary vote followed by votes from the Vice President for Governmental Affairs, the Tegislative Tiaison, and a designee. She explained that the votes this time around will go to Maute-Gibson, Stickney, Meyer, and Crowther, the incoming Tegislative Tiaison. The committee was comfortable with this. She said that two passenger vans will be taken. There will be room for approximately seven more attendees. The meeting is in Ellensburg. Barnard and Yau-Tuu would like to go on the trip as well.

V. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 5:15 P.M.