

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

Monday, May 14, 2012

VU567

**Present:** Iris Maute-Gibson (AS VP Governmental Affairs, Chair), Patrick Stuckney (Vice Chair), Katherine Barnard, Kaylee Galloway, Fiona Yau-Luu, Chris Brown, Chris Savage, Ean Olsen, Tom Durham

**Absent:** Joe Meyer (Legislative Liaison), Kevin Majkut (advisor), Eileen Pollet, Jared McCardle

**MOTIONS**

**L-12-S-09** Approve the minutes of Monday, May 7, 2012. *Passed*

**Stickney, Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:03p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTIONL-12-S-09 by Savage*

*Seconded by Olsen*

Approval of the minutes of Monday, May 7, 2012

Vote: 7 - 0 - 0            Action: Passed

**III. REPORTS**

*Tom Durham entered 4:05*

**A. Vice President for Governmental Affairs**

**B. Western Votes**

Stickney said that the WSA meeting is this Saturday in Ellensburg at Central Washington University. The Western Votes will be held on Tuesday from 6:00-8:00pm but the day is hopefully being changed. Western Votes will be tabling in Red Square later in the week.

**C. Student Senate**

Brown reported that senate voted out the Rental Safety Ordinance recommendation. It will now go to the Board of Directors. He said that this Thursday at 5:00 there is a Student Technology Fee forum with free pizza.

**IV. COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

**A. Legislative Action Fund (LAF)**

Stickney reported that the committee needs to discuss how to budget the LAF for the next year. Stickney explained that the money for this fund comes from students who are willing to pay the \$2 when they register. Stickney said that the current expenses in front of them do not include the other half of the WSA dues. Stickney asked what ideas the committee had to use this money. Olsen said that a training session on how to deal with legislators in addition to the crash-course just before lobby day would be beneficial. He also suggested bringing more legislators to campus or creating a team of lobbyists to travel to Olympia regularly. Olsen suggested allocating funds to create communications between different higher educational institutes in Whatcom County to further collecting ideas and spread civic engagement. Brown said that he'd like to see more lobbying trips or more campaigns for students to call and write-in to. Barnard suggested having more trips, as well, with one-two Board members. Durham suggested more advertisement of Viking Lobby Day. Barnard agreed. Galloway suggested spending on overall legislative advocacy advertisement and information to go out to students. Barnard said that she was not sure if she wanted to set aside money for groups to lobby on. She said that she would suggest allowing those groups to ask the council to ask for the help on behalf of lobbying efforts. Stickney said that Galloway asked if

Stickney was suggesting lobbying on issues other than higher education. Stickney said that with the provisions the legislative agendas had this year, the full impact was realized on many issues. Galloway asked about clubs or educational centers around campus. Stickney thinks that clubs could really be empowered with these funds. Stickney thinks that unconventional tactics will be beneficial to our lobbying efforts in the coming year. Brown mentioned using the Western Front to advertise Viking Lobby Day. Stickney asked if spending money on a rally was a good idea. Barnard liked the outcome of the rallies in the past. Brown said that there could be encouragement to contact legislators at the rally. Stickney said that we should keep in mind our ability to work with partners like Western Advocates. Stickney asked if the council would be interested in a campus Camp Wellstone training. Brown asked if this would improve our lobbying efforts. Stickney said that they the focus is mostly on communication techniques rather than direct action techniques. Stickney said that Camp Wellstone would offer direction on communication techniques and effective messaging outside of direct action. *(Iris Maute-Gibson entered)* Maute-Gibson said that it will be important to work on deciding what student issues are and are not. There is an encouragement to take action on things that are not, at face value, a student issue. She wants to know how to define if the LAF is appropriate to offer funds to student groups. Galloway said that by allotting funds for specific legislation, we can allocate more funds to Viking Lobby Days with more specified purposes. Durham asked what the more diverse issues may be. Maute-Gibson said that the resources could be utilized for any lobbying purpose as long as there is no direction given on what side to lobby for. Maute-Gibson said the LAF would be an appropriate way to help students. Maute-Gibson said that the funds have to go through the students. She said that clubs can advocate for issues but not as AS Employees. Maute-Gibson said that the LAF has never had a long-term budget with sub-sections. After the WSA meeting, she wants to think about the long-term budget with the LAF. She wanted the committee to think of how much we want to save in the LAF, put away for lobbying trips, and more.

#### **B. WSA Budget**

Maute-Gibson asked if there were any large concerns that need to be brought to the meeting on Saturday regarding the WSA budget. She said that this will be the main topic of discussion at the WSA meeting on Saturday. Maute-Gibson said she will be adding the Arizona Ethnic Study Ban Resolution for request to be a priority issue as well as a list of recommendations. At the meeting the contract renewal for Mike Bogatay will be discussed as well as provide Mara Ventura with some feedback on her position. Stickney asked if the contract decision was an executive decision. Maute-Gibson it would be. *(Galloway left at 4:40)* She reminded the committee that transportation will be leaving around 6:00am and the vans will be returning around 7-8:00pm. Maute-Gibson said that the Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday at 5:30 will involve the review of two resolutions on the Aramark Unionization issue. Stickney reminded that Congressman Larsen will be visiting on Monday. It is a campaign event but there will be staff on hand to provide information on summer internships.

#### **V. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 4:47 P.M.**