

**Western Washington University Associated Students**  
**Legislative Affairs Council Meeting**  
Monday, May 21, 2012 VU567

**Present:** Iris Maute-Gibson (AS VP Governmental Affairs, Chair), Patrick Stückney (Vice Chair), Katherine Barnard, Kaylee Galloway, Fiona Yau-Luu, Tom Durham, Jared McCardie

**Absent:** Joe Meyer (Legislative Liaison), Kevin Majkut (advisor), Eileen Pollet, Ean Olsen, Chris Brown, Chris Savage

**MOTIONS**

**L-12-S-10** Approve the minutes of Monday, May 14, 2012. *Passed*

**Iris Maute-Gibson, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:08p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTIONL-12-S-09 by McCardle*

*Seconded by Stückney*

Approval of the minutes of Monday, May 14, 2012

Vote: 7 - 0 - 0                      Action: Passed

**III. REPORTS**

**A. Vice President for Governmental Affairs**

Maute-Gibson thanked those who were able to attend the WSA General Assembly. There were not many changes made to the budget except to traveling expenses for conferences such as National Congress and Legislative Congress. Western opposed these measures. Maute-Gibson explained that the Grass Roots Organizing Workshop program was also cut. The legislator of the year was nominated at the meeting as well: Representative Zeiger and Senator Frockt. She said that it is positive to thank legislators for the work that they do on behalf of students. Maute-Gibson congratulated Galloway for being elected the WSA Vice President for Communications. She said that the Board of Directors will be voting on the Rental Licensing Ordinance at the meeting this Wednesday.

**B. Western Votes**

McCardle said that the Western Votes officer elections are going to be held on Wednesday. He said that there are 5-6 positions open. He encouraged members to join.

**C. Student Senate**

McCardle said that the Student Technology Fee forum was last week. It was successful despite low attendance.

**IV. COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

**A. LAF Budget Recommendations**

Maute-Gibson said that the Legislative Action Fund (LAF) budget is completely funded by students voluntarily. There currently are no strong criteria for the Legislative Action Fund. Maute-Gibson said that she is trying to write in the need for the Vice President for Governmental Affairs to get a vote from the committee in order to access the funds. She is working on language for this. She is also working on implementing procedures and policies for travel to WSA conferences and lobbying trips. She said that she would like to come up with recommendations from this committee on how they would like to see the money be spent next year. The current budget is at approximately \$20,000. She explained that half of the revenue is spent on travel and membership. Stückney said that he thought

about utilizing the LAF to attend WSA events. McCardle said that if it is feasible, then yes. Maute-Gibson said she wanted look into the priority of Viking Lobby Day/Western agenda items compared to WSA lobby work compared to when students may come to request travel. She asked the committee what criteria they thought would be appropriate for clubs, offices, and student groups to request money on for travel. Barnard said that it would be beneficial for the leader of the student group to go through mandatory lobby training. Maute-Gibson said that this training should show that students should be trained to diversify the message of lobbying trips to show the benefits of higher education. She said that a vehicle could be rented every Monday to lobby on behalf of LAC with advertisement sent out to students that it is available for use. McCardle liked the idea. Barnard worried that there might not be enough interest. Maute-Gibson said that she will take the recommendations and present them to the Board of Directors this week.

## **B. Agenda Recommendations**

Maute-Gibson showed a document that broke down sections of recommendations for the Legislative Agendas. The committee took five minutes to review the agendas from this year. Maute-Gibson asked what the committee thought about statements such as the guiding principles as well as other items of interest. Galloway wanted to see the graphics updated. McCardle said to be sure not to overload with visuals but that they are strong. Maute-Gibson thought that the letter was effective. Barnard suggested that the letter be in the document first and have the guiding principles follow. She asked what the committee's thoughts were on creating a lengthy document that covered a multiplicity of student values. Maute-Gibson also wanted to make this document more available to students and faculty. She said that the document can act as a piece of education as well. Galloway said she liked how there was a brief synopsis in each sub-area. Galloway was concerned with including "political topics" such as the Cherry Point Coal Terminal. Stickney said he feels like this needs to be readily available to students, parents, teachers, legislators, and hold to the values based agenda criteria. Barnard said that she thought that the priority agenda should be a full page, double-sided. Stickney said if there were going to be more trips made to Olympia that the different sections could be brought up individually. Maute-Gibson asked the committee to look at content. Galloway asked how much of the DREAM Act should be under Diversity. Maute-Gibson said she placed it under Access and Attainment this year because that was the most direct category and she felt that including it there hit on the gravity of the issue. She said that it might be able to be removed from the state agenda. Stickney suggested moving the DREAM act to be a priority federal issue, but to keep the principle of access and attainment a part of the state agenda. Maute-Gibson recommended that the committee get some inside input to back the claims under the Student Quality of Life section. Maute-Gibson said that she would like to see more coordination on issues. Stickney suggested that they look into Veteran's issues. Maute-Gibson said that it will be important to look into the Veterans and into giving them more options and for better understanding of the community as a whole. Maute-Gibson recommends more clarity coming from the diversity section. Maute-Gibson said that differential tuition will be an issue. McCardle said that LAC should get involved, but he is not sure of what stance to take at this time. Maute-Gibson reminded the committee that it is important to be able to tie values from offices on campus to the agenda. Stickney said that faculty salary increase may be an issue and something about the competitiveness angle. Maute-Gibson said to highlight student debt next year depending on what happens federally. Barnard asked if it would be okay to take a stance on tax laws. She said her overarching recommendation is to outreach as much as possible. She suggested having the publicity center create the agendas to foster accessibility. The committee looked briefly at the Federal Legislative Agenda. Maute-Gibson said that she wants to see more involvement on the For-Profit College issue. She predicted that the Tyler Clementi Act will move forward next year. She said that AS President Anna Ellermeier has been incredibly impressed with LAC this year. She invited people to attend the Board of Directors meetings. She said that the Committee Recognition ceremony is tomorrow night at 6:00pm. She complimented the group on their hard work this year.

## **V. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 5:13 P.M.**

**The Chair Approved 06-04-12.**