

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, February U, 2013**

YU567

Present: Patrick Stickney (AS VP Governmental Affairs, Chair), Andrew Taylor, Ben Crowther (Legislative Liaison), Neil Christenson, Eileen Pollet, and Marc Oommen. *Absent:* Amy Stavig Evan Fowler, Graham Marmion, Joseph Levy, and Tom Durham

Advisor: Kevin Majkut

Secretary: Kaylee Galloway

MOTIONS

LAC-13-W-09 Approve the Federal Agenda. *Passed*

Patrick Stickney, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:17pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. REPORTS

A. VP for Governmental Affairs

Stickney met with the NW director of Murray's office. Gave him a draft of the federal agenda.

B. Legislative Liaison

Crowther said that this is the start of the 6th week of session. Next week is the last week policy bills have to get out of their committee of origin. He said that there are a couple bills that he worked on.

Legislative update as prepared by Crowther:

SB 5180- Creates a legislative task force to make public institutions higher education more accessible for students with disabilities.

This bill received a hearing during the Senate Higher Education Committee on Thursday. I testified in favor. It will receive a vote on Tuesday.

SB 5195- Allows students at non-profit universities (i.e., WGU) to receive the State Need Grant. This bill received a hearing during the Senate Higher Education Committee on Thursday. I testified against and asked that WGU be required, in statute, to report certain metrics to the Office of Financial Management (Education Research and Data Center) to ensure proper transparency. Sen. Frockt is interested in writing an amendment for us. The bill is due for a vote on Tuesday. Its companion in the House, HB 1322, is due for a vote in House Higher Education Committee on Wednesday.

HB 1043- Limits differential tuition.

This bill was voted out of the House Higher Education Committee on Thursday night with a unanimous Do-Pass recommendation. It is headed to the House floor for debate.

SB 5655/HB 1817- DREAM Act, allows young aspiring citizens access to the State Need Grant and College Bound.

Both bills have now been introduced. Neither is yet scheduled for a hearing. They have until the end of next week to be voted out of their committee of origin.

SB 5670- Extends State Need Grant eligibility under certain circumstances.

Senator Ranker wrote this bill to specifically address the concerns of several Western students he met with on Viking Lobby Day. It would allow students to continue receiving the State Need Grant after 125% threshold by not counting certain credits.

Crowther also said the bill corresponding to the \$225 mil proposal has not moved, and he does not anticipate any movement.

C. Western Votes

Taylor said that there was the Day of Action. He said the goal was 50 calls and they over doubled it. He said that it was awesome. He said that Western Votes is still recruiting for the smaller trips.

D. Student Senate

Christenson said that at the last meeting, the Senate talked about the bills associated with the \$225 million plan.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Backbone Campaign Funding Proposal

Stickney said that there are two options for the Backbone campaign. He said that he is leaning towards the 2nd option because it is cheaper and better fits the needs of Western Votes. He said there is no reason to have two people stay the night. He said that having a banner can be used to get people's attention. He said that this is for an independent campus event on March 14th. He said that he will bring option 2 as an action item at the next meeting.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Federal Agenda

Stickney said that he edited the federal agenda to make it look prettier. He said that he has included the bill numbers and items to be introduced as pieces of legislation. He said that he is concerned about HR 320 because there is no actual data available about how it would look. Taylor also noted that S 114 doesn't have any numbers either. Stickney is worried about not having numbers to back it up. Taylor said Western should expand the mental health as much as possible. Christenson had a few minor grammatical suggestions. He said the agenda looks great. Oommen seconded. Stickney said that he didn't add any bills to the agenda. Taylor liked that it fit onto one page. Pollet agreed and said the agenda looks really good. Stickney said the board will hear the federal agenda as an information item on Thursday.

MOTION LAC-13-W-09 by Christenson

Approve the Federal Agenda.

Second: Oommen Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Christenson said that the Senate outreach forum on the Student Tech Fee will be Feb 21st and encouraged everyone to attend.

IV. NEXT MEETING DATE

February 25, 2013

X. ADJOURN

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm