

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

Monday, October 14, 2013

VU 567

Present: Kaylee Galloway (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Matthew Bobbink (Legislative Liaison), Joseph Levy (Local Liaison), Heather Heffelmire, Eileen Pollet, Oscar Aguirre, Nie Doherty, Danny Edgel, Blake Bishop, Theo Bickel

Advisor: Kevin Majkut (absent)

Secretary: Amy Kleitsch

Kaylee Galloway, ASVP for Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 4:03p.m.

I. Call to Order

-Introductions

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

III. Approval of the Minutes

IV. Public Forum

V. Reports- none given

Kaylee Galloway stated that the meeting has to end at 5pm today due to an emergency board meeting.

VI. Presentations

A. Secretary Friendly Techniques

Galloway said that ways to support and respect the board assistant would be to speak clearly and slowly, so the assistant can make sure everyone's thoughts are represented adequately.

B. Overview of LAC

Galloway presented an organization chart and that explains where Legislative Affairs Council (LAC) fits in the organization and externally. Document two the Charge and Charter gives the committee direction, purpose, and explains where we fit in.

C. Overview of USSA, WSA, & Western Votes

Galloway said LAC has a connection with the Washington Student Associated (WSA) and the United States Student Association (USSA). Heather Heffelmire said she represents Western Votes! and they fall under the WSA. The Washington Student Association lobbys on behalf of all students in Washington state. WSA falls under the United States Student Association who lobby for students at a national level. Kaylee Galloway said as members of the Associated Students they are all members of the WSA and pay membership dues. The committee is funded through the Legislative Action Fund, which the LAC oversees. The WSA is comprised of 11 Associated Students across the state. Galloway said they do a lot of organizing with them like Grass Roots organizing, rallies, mobilization, and campaigns. She said that Western Votes! is a chapter of the WSA that carries out a lot of the actions associated with the WSA. Western Votes! focuses on predominately on organization with some lobbying efforts and LAC focuses mostly on lobbying with a little bit of organizing.

D. 2013 End of Legislative Session Report

Galloway suggested reading this document because it is the greatest summary you will find of the issues WSA worked on last year, what they did, and where they left off. Galloway said it's

important to know who is on what committees and who is sponsoring what bills, so they can be strategic by tailoring their language and issues. Galloway said these are issues were on the AS Statewide Legislative Agenda last year and may show up again.

E. Issue Choosing Process

Galloway said the issue choosing process is new and has been implemented this year. This is how putting legislative items will get added to the Legislative Agendas. Matthew Bobbink said they will see these documents filled out by students and student groups. He said if it gets approved by the committee, it will then get put into the agenda and the liaisons will lobby on behalf of these items. Galloway said the purpose of the Associated Students Legislative Agendas, which is what they will be predominantly focusing on, is a list of issues that they think students are affected by. This year, they are also putting together a local legislative agenda which Joseph Levy, the new AS Local Liaison, is going to be involved in. Galloway is hoping to work on these agendas side by side. Theo Bickel asked if the committee is trying to not be partisan or encourage specific bills. Galloway said as members of the Associated Students they have to maintain nonpartisanship. However she thinks it is okay to identify with an issue, if it would affect students. Eileen Pollet said historically this organization and Western Votes! have stuck to issues clearly identifiable as students issues like student debt, price of tuition, and on campus issues. She thinks that this is a model that allows other issues to come in. This means that can take up issues that may be seen as partisan, but they can show that it affects all students like woman's issues for example. Pollet said these things could be seen as partisan, but they can make sure that it is obviously student related. She thinks this is a change from how they've done it in the past. Matthew Bobbink said just because they are on the same side as a party on one topic, does not mean they align with that party. Eileen Pollet said it is a careful line they have to watch because they do not want it to look like they are agreeing with one side or the other.

Galloway said they can take stances as Associated Students as long as it is passed through the Board of Directors. Galloway said that the Legislative Agenda will eventually be passed by the Board of Directors. Theo Bickel said it seems like they have a broad area they can get involved in. Matthew Bobbink said that their hands aren't that tied. Galloway said there has been an evolving expansion of what they have covered more than just tuition just affects students. She said there are things that do not relate to higher education, but they do relate to students. Galloway reminded everyone that they are deliberative body and wants everyone to research, talk to friends, family, and classmates as well as have healthy conversations. Galloway said committee is very strategic and purposeful. She wants everyone to think about their local and state interests.

VII. Information Items

A. LAC Bylaws

Galloway said that Document 8 is the rules of operations which talks more in-depth about things that show up in their Charge and Charter. Galloway said a lot of it was kept the same, but Document 9 shows the changes she is proposing to the committee. Galloway also noted that there is a vice chair position who will be elected by the committee. At the next meeting she would like to take nominations for this position.

B. LAC Rules of Operation

Galloway said this document talks about motions, all the different kinds of motions that can be made, and explains their responsibilities and rights as council members. Bobbink asked if he could make motions as a non-voting committee member. Galloway said if the council wanted to do that, she would not object to it. Galloway also suggested that Bobbink could entertain motions and then have a council member move it. She explained that a non-voting member is not allowed to make motions, but the committee can decide to change that or allow non-voting members to entertain motions. Pollet said that they should let everyone make motions because

the committee is still who votes. Blake Bishop dittos. Galloway said both liaisons will now be allowed to make motions, but still cannot vote.

C. Legislative Action Fund

Kaylee Galloway said that LAC oversees the Legislative Action Fund (LAF). She said that this account is essentially used to increase student representation. Galloway is hoping that this year they can get more student groups interested in having rallies or lobbying and have the committee provide support and funding. She said that this fund can help with lobby trip and Western Votes!. In Document 12, Galloway said she restructured the way the fund was allocated and her goal is to leave next year's committee with \$10,000 in reserves. Pollet said that is a lot of money in reserves and was wondering what they would do with it. Kaylee Galloway said that that is just a recommendation made by the VP of Business and Operations and the committee can decide to reallocate the funds. Galloway wanted everyone to review this and give feedback along with the LAC Bylaws and Rules of Operations because they will return as Action Items next week. Levy wondered why USSA costs more than WSA. Galloway said they are not members of the USSA and the money spent was for National Student Congress. Galloway explained that the money spent for USSA was for hotel stay, air fare, food, and registration fees associated with the conference. Galloway said Document 13 is the budget tracker. She explained it is important to be aware of what is being spent and how much is left over. Galloway also explained that Document 14 is the funding request form. She said that anytime any of them have a project they would like to propose they would fill out this form to request funds from the LAF.

VIII. Action Items

IX. Other Business

Blake Bishop asked what the deadline is for LAC requests. Kaylee Galloway said that everything that needs to get voted on is a two week process because it is seen as an Information Item and then an Action Item. She reminded everyone that the deadline to submit any document is Wednesday at 12pm. Galloway's goals for the next meeting is to review the last seven years of legislative agendas, last year's WSA agenda and the issue choosing process. Heather Heffelmire asked why Matthew Bobbink and Joseph Levy could vote if they were lobbying on behalf of the committee and students. Kaylee Galloway proposed the idea of them being able to vote at a Board Meeting, but they turned it down because the liaison might show bias on what would be on the agenda and as lobbyists should remain unbiased in order to advocate for students.

X. Next Meeting Date:

- **October 21, 2013 at 4:00P.M in VU567**

XI. Adjourn

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 4:55P.M.