

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, October 21, 2013 VU 567**

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

Advisor: Kevin Majkut
Secretary: Amy Kleitsch

MOTIONS

LAC-13-F-01 Approval of the minutes of October 14, 2013. *Passed.*
LAC-13-F-02 Approve the changes made to the Legislative Action Fund. *Passed.*

Kaylee Galloway, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:07pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Kaylee Galloway suggested moving the LAC Bylaws and Rules of Operation to information items. She thinks that in order to pass these changes their advisor, Kevin Majkut, needs to be present at the meeting. Doherty moved to have the LAC Bylaws and Rules of Operation moved from an Action Item to an Information Item. Levy Seconded. Passed 7-0-0

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION LAC-13-F-02 by Edgel
Approve the minutes of October 14, 2013.
Second: Bickel Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. REPORTS

A. VP for Governmental Affairs

Galloway attended the City Council, first half of the Campus Community Coalition, and Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meetings to help represent students on behalf of the October 12, 2013 riot. She mentioned that the Board of Directors passed a resolution in regards to the riot, which can be accessed online. Galloway mentioned the LAC committee has reached capacity and there are two new members who are not currently present, but hopefully will be at the meeting next week. She said there was a Washington Student Association (WSA) meeting last weekend and wanted to inform the committee that the General Assembly (GA) is November 16th at Central Washington University. Galloway said they will discuss the legislative issues for the Statewide Legislative Agenda and the 2014-2015 budget for the organization. She said there is a limited number of spots available and e-mail her if you are interested in attending.

B. Legislative Liaison

Matthew Bobbink has been focusing on outreach to student groups for LAC's legislative proposals. He will be meeting with the Ethnic Student Center (ESC) on October 22, 2013 to give proposal binders to them and plans to meet with the Veteran's office soon. Over the weekend, Bobbink and Eileen Pollet met with 4 legislators, alumni, and parents of students. He said they were able to sit down and talk with Representative Scott, Senator Pearson, Senator Frockt, and Representative Pollet for at least 45 minutes. Bobbink said the meetings were productive and they were able to hear a lot from parents and alumni during their trip.

C. Local Liaison

Joseph Levy attended the City Council, the Campus Community Coalition, and Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meetings last week with Galloway. He noticed that a major topic of conversation was regarding University Ridge, which is residential housing not affiliated with the university. He recommended that the committee research this project with the hope that they could possibly take a stance on this issue at some point. Levy said another big topic was repairing our relationship with the community after the October 12th riot. He mentioned there is a meeting tonight in the Sehome neighborhood at the WECU education center at 7:00PM. This meeting will allow community members to talk about the riot. Levy said that some community members have had interesting responses about the riot including the view that privatizing alcohol has made it more accessible to students and that students under 21 have little to do on the weekends. Levy said at the City Council meeting and the Campus Community Coalition meeting, community members had the chance to speak about the problems in the community and possible solutions.

D. Western Votes !

Heather Heffelmire said Western Votes! has a lot of Get Out The Vote (GOTV) activities planned for the end of October and beginning of November. Heffelmire said they would love to have more volunteers participate in these upcoming activities. They are going to be putting on a phone bank (October 28/November 4th), Trick or Vote (October 30th), and ballot printing (November 4th/5th). She also mentioned that the Western Votes! General Assembly is on October 23rd. She said that this past weekend Western Votes! got together and chose four issues they want to cover which are Pay It Forward, Washington State Dream Act, Support for Students at Critical Academic Transitions, and a Voter Access Proposal. Heffelmire said there was a WSA board meeting on October 13th, 2013. She said at this meeting they discussed future meeting dates, Student Teach-ins, a possible WSA Winter Board Retreat, and a reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of the organization. The future meeting dates that have been established are: November 16th, December 14th, January 18th, February 15th, March 1st, April 5th, and May 3rd. Oscar Aguirre asked for an explanation of what General Assembly (GA) is. Eileen Pollet said General Assembly happens twice a year and is when people from different campuses get together. She said usually one GA focuses on issue choosing and putting together the Statewide Legislative Agenda and the other GA meeting focuses on the budget.

VI. Presentations

A. Legislative Agendas (2006-2013)

Galloway wanted to take time for everyone to read through the Legislative Agendas from 2006 to 2013. She wanted the committee to look at the issues discussed through the years and the structure in which those issues were presented

B. WSA Statewide Legislative Agenda (Doc. 1)

Galloway said that this document can be used to compare what the Associated Students priorities have been to what the statewide priorities were for last legislative session. She encouraged the council members to compare campus versus State needs and where they intersected.

C. 2013 End of Legislative Session Report (Doc. 2)

Galloway said this document expresses the status post legislative session of each of the statewide issues. She said this document gives good background information and will help students know where to start on the issues in the upcoming legislative session.

D. Issue Choosing and Brainstorming (Doc. 3-5)

Local Issues

- Water front development
 - o Impact on indigenous communities
 - o Living wage
 - Heffelmire said the Student Labor Action Project has a petition going around to pressure Bruce Shepard to say that he supports a living wage on the water front. She said that the only business currently to sign on is Western Washington University. Heffelmire said if they put pressure on Western Washington University to support it, then Western may be able to put pressure on the city to support it. Bishop asked what they mean when they mention a living wage. Pollet said a living wage ordinance means that any business has to pay a living wage job, which is \$16.50 per hour.
- University Ridge
- Rental Safety
 - o Pair housing
 - o Rental licensing
 - o Inspections
 - On and off campus housing (including Resident Halls)
 - o Better communication with landlords
- Reaching out to local business
 - o Including Lawyers to see if they are willing to do pro bono work for students
 - Levy suggested the legal information center having more access to legal experts. Galloway said that as they start thinking about issues, they should also start thinking about possible collaborations and this is a perfect example of a possible collaboration.
- Coal Terminal
 - o Highlighting the 2011 Resolution passed by the AS Board of Directors
- Postering better relationships with the campus and Bellingham Police
 - o What role can students play within their current system
 - o Being proactive in preventing events like the riot
 - o Maximizing student sense of comfort and trust in police
 - o Ensuring that police are not abusing their power or mistreating traditionally marginalized communities
 - o Pair treatment of all students regardless of identity
- Advocating for a diversity requirement for city institutions

- Campus and Community Health and Safety
 - Sexual assault prevention
 - More lighting
 - Laurel Park
 - South Campus
- Transportation
 - Review [ASTAC 2012 Master Plan](#)

State Issues

- State Financial Aid
 - Including for Grad Students
- Fully fund the State Need Grant
- Carbon tax
- Faculty
 - Competitive pay and benefits

Galloway said she sees a lot of untapped potential for coordinated lobby trip with faculty if we try and tackle this issue.
- Pay it Forward
- Western Governors University
 - For-profit university accountability
 - Reversing their access to state financial aid
- Tuition Freeze (or reduction)
- Support for students at critical academic transitions
 - Academic advising, transfer equivalency guides, financial aid assistance, College 101 course to teach basic skills (financial, time management, study habits, etc)
 - Can help 1st year, running start, transfer, and non-traditional students
 - Target information and support to adults who have some college credit earned to help them with degree completion

Pollet said there is a program being proposed for students with some postsecondary credits already earned to come back to school to complete their degree. She said this helps the students as well as increase the university's graduation rate. Levy asked if this program was just for Western Washington University or for all Washington schools. Pollet said this program was proposed to Western, but can be expanded to all schools.
- Veteran Issues
 - Access to in state tuition
- DREAM Act
- Voter Access
 - Bills of note: 1267 and 1279
- Student Health Insurance
- New and Dedicated Revenue
- Childcare for students
- Tuition setting authority with State not institution

Galloway asked if we would want institutions to have tuition setting authority. Pollet said we would want the state to have tuition setting authority.

- Funding for research
 - Graduate and STEM
- Dedicated funding for STEM
- Increasing and fully funding actual FTEs
 - Competitive funding per FTE
Pollet commented that Western receives less state funding per student than any other university.
- Carver Academic Facility Renovation Project
Galloway said this is something that Western's Administration will be focusing on in the Supplemental Budget Session. She said if Bellingham were to have an earthquake right now a lot of the building will collapse. She said it is unsafe and in dire need of renovation. Bickel said he is curious if the dorms have been inspected because he thinks they are the most important buildings for students to be safe in. Edgel said he met with the University Housing Staff after RA training and they said they renovate two residence halls a year for safety purposes. He said they are constantly inspecting and fixing residence halls to make sure they are safe. Pollet said the Carver Academic Facility renovation is a great way to work with the administration. She said that in past years there has been a lot of things with buildings on campus needing to be LEED certified, and with the Carver Academic Facility renovation students should advocate that it be built environmentally. Heffelmire said she wanted to see the information and who conducted the studies because she is wary when it comes to schools giving a lot of money towards athletic programs. Galloway said with this project they will be able to tap into a different demographic of students that normally don't lobby.
- Increase support for students with disabilities
 - Expanding services
Bobbink said he has been looking into accessibility and disability resources as well as expanding and looking into new ways to provide services. He said that currently the university cannot pay their counselors and faculty members enough and as a result they leave to work for other institutions.
- Public Health and Safety
- Transportation
Bickel asked if this would be for the instate funding for transportation in all of Washington State. Pollet said the transportation budget is going to be passed during this legislative session and having this issue on the Statewide Legislative Agenda will be a good opportunity to work with other school's that will be more effected by cuts.

To Do:

- Categorize into Guiding Principles, Legislative Priorities, and Policy Stances
- For Legislative Priorities
 - Consider potential collaborations, partners, and related organizations/groups on and off campus who are/might be interested in the topic
 - Draft a proposal for each issue including the strategy chart
 - Work with other council members as well as outreaching to students

- Finding groups to “endorse” the issue
- Finding testimony for issues
 - talk to students, faculty, staff and administration

Nie Doherty Left at 5:07pm

Galloway said next meeting they review the issue choosing process. She said they are currently taking proposals for the AS legislative agenda, but she anticipates that they can take issues throughout the year. She said this is a universalized process that the USSA, WSA, and Western Votes! uses. She chose this process because it requires a more developed thought process because in the past, issues have been brought up with minimal research. She said this forces students to ideate things out and to think if it is a winnable issue. Pollet said making an online survey will appeal to the same students that create a proposal, and this process facilitates a lot more action. Galloway said that this is her attempt to implement a formal issue choosing process. She explained this is a pilot for the issue choosing process because this is the first year they are implementing it at the campus and state level. She encouraged LAC members to give her feedback.

VII. Information Items

A. Bylaws and Rules of Operation

Galloway said that there is not enough time to talk about the bylaws and rules of operation. She said that LAC will have to table it until the next meeting.

MOTION LAC-13-F-03 by Levy

Table the LAC Bylaws and Rules of Operation until the next meeting on October 28, 2013.
 Second: Edgel Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

VIII. Action Items

A. Legislative Action Fund

Galloway said that Heffelmire suggested that \$7,000 in the reserves was ideal and she agreed. She added a section in the budget for discretionary funds that could be used at the discretion of LAC members.

MOTION LAC-13-F-04 by Blake Bishop

Approve the changes made to the Legislative Action Fund
 Second: Aguirre Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

IX. Other Business

A. Vice Chair Nominations

Galloway took nominations for Vice Chair. Oscar Aguirre and Heather Heffelmire were nominated to fill the Vice Chair position. Galloway said they will take nominations at the next meeting as well as make a short speech of why they want to be Vice Chair before the committee elects the Vice Chair.

B. County Council Forum, AW 204, 5:30pm-8:00pm

Galloway said the County Council Forum is starting right now and they should all coordinate to walk down together.

X. Next Meeting Date:
- **October 28, 2013**

XI. Adjourn

The Legislative Affairs Council Meeting was adjourned at 5:24 PM