

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, October 28, 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, Theo Bickel, Daniel Tollefsen, Sydney Kurie

Advisor: Kevin Majkut

Secretary: Amy Kleitsch

Guest: Sherry Burkey (Associate Vice President and Director of Government Relations), Brad Sherman (Government Relations Specialist), Carly Roberts (AS President), and JulieAnne Behar (Washington Student Association Organizing Director)

Kaylee Galloway, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:08pm

Add motion box:

LAC-13-F-05 Table Vice Chair Elections until the November 4, 2013 LAC meeting.

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

Galloway has been working on proposals for the Washington Student Association (WSA) Statewide Legislative Agenda and has been collaborating with students from Western Washington University, Central Washington University, and Washington State University. She met with Theo Bickel and a few other students regarding rental safety. She said that Bickel has drafted a good example of what a legislative proposal should look like. Galloway mentioned that on November the 13th there is a Washington Policy Center Solution Summit Conference, and let her know if you are interested in attending. She said there are three spots left for the WSA General Assembly (GA) meeting and would like to know by the end of the day if anyone was interested in attending.

B. Legislative Liaison

Matthew Bobbink reported that his focus in the last week has been on legislative proposals. He set up a meeting with the Environmental Center and is going to help them work on a joint legislative proposal. He also spoke at the Ethnic Student Center's Presidents Council and gave them their legislative proposal binders.

C. Local Liaison

Joseph Levy attended to the Sehome neighborhood meeting last week. Levy said community members mentioned the ongoing pattern of disrespect every Friday and Saturday night. He

said community members voiced that students who watched the riot were just as bad as those who engaged in it and needed more education on the matter. Levy said other topics brought up included needing more lights in the community, panic buttons, and police officers.

D. Western Votes !

Heather Heffelmire attended the Western Votes! General Assembly last Wednesday where they endorsed four legislative proposals, which are Pay it Forward, Support for Students at Critical Academic Transitions, Voter Access, and Washington State Dream Act. She said Western Votes! will be taking these proposals to the Washington Student Association's General Assembly on November 16th. Heffelmire said after today's meeting Western Votes! will have a phone bank and would love to see everyone there. She also encouraged everyone to attend the WSA GA.

VI. Presentations

A. Carver Academic Complex Presentation

Sherry Burkey mentioned that the Monroe Seminar is occurring in the VU Multi-Purpose Room on November 5th, 6th, and 7th from 9:00am to 10:15am and 10:30am to 11:45am. She explained that the Monroe Seminar is a public affairs seminar that brings faculty and legislators together on campus to interact with students. She said that the administration's number one priority for the supplemental budget session is the Carver Academic Facility renovation project due to the health and safety concerns associated with the facility. She said the governor's budget is coming out in December and it is critical that the Carver Academic Facility renovation is a part of that budget. She said that the gym portion of the facility is only 8% and the facility is not adequate for the kinds of teaching that goes on in the building. Burkey said that the Carver Academic Facility is home to the Physical Education, Health, and Recreation (PEHR) program, which is the largest department at WWU. She said that PEHR comprises 723 student majors, has 7,677 students enrolled, and has 268 academic classes taught in Carver. The goal is to rebuild the building so it meets all the earthquake standards. She also mentioned that as of now there are parts of the Carver Academic Facility that aren't being used because they are unsafe. Burkey said the administration is most interested in having an academic facility with the most up to date technology, labs, and facilities. She wants to show legislatures that there isn't just seismic concerns, but it is also an old obsolete building. She hopes to work with the LAC and to increase student support and involvement with this project. Galloway said this is a huge issue that affects a lot of students, and that everyone has access to this presentation and information online. Eileen Pollet asked if Burkey knows of any other issues that may come up this session. Burkey said the administration is presenting proposals on an operating request for additional resources for the SMATE program, expanding the opportunities for math and science teacher training, tuition, and incentive funding for higher education. Aguirre asked if they have any thought about changing the name from Carver Gym to something else. Burkey has been trying to change the perception of the complex and is trying to get people to call the building Carver Academic Facility rather than Carver Gym.

B. Issue Brainstorming Part 2 (Document 1)

Galloway wanted the committee to think about priorities because historically there have only been about 3 issues on the legislative priority agenda. She asked the committee to brainstorm possible collaborations. She said they can possibly collaborate with the Legal Information Center, community members, Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission, and Joseph Levy. Carly Roberts asked what action they can take with University Ridge because the approval process has gone through. Galloway said students could take a policy stance on this

issue since it is a hot topic with community members. Levy said it would be help to be able to tell community members how they feel on this issue because he can't answer their questions unless they develop a concrete stance. Roberts suggested creating a deliberative approach when addressing University Ridge because the time to speak up on it had passed. Heffelmire asked how their agenda fits into WSA and if it would be better to unite or divide our issues.

Galloway said they often see a lot of overlap with the WSA because a lot of the issues our Associated Students deem important are the same issues that other Associated Students feel are important to include in the WSA agenda. She sees the AS agenda as a way to focus on campus specific needs, like Carver Academic Facility. JulieAnne Behar suggested having a key priority issue show up in multiple different places. Bobbink said if he sees an issue that on both the AS Agenda and the WSA Agenda, it shows what issues he should concentrate on. Aguirre asked if they should word issues specific to Western Washington University in a broad way in order for it to be applicable to everyone. Pollet suggested that it can be specific on the AS agenda, but if they take it to WSA they might want it to be broad so it would appeal to more people.

Galloway said the work for WSA Statewide proposals are due this Friday and suggests the LAC should focus specifically on the AS agenda. Bickel asked if there has been thorough inspections of all university housing in Washington State. Bobbink said all the buildings in every school get inspected to see who needs renovations the most, which is how they determined the need to renovate Carver Academic Facility. Galloway said that three issues tend to be all they have time for in their short meetings with legislators. Her goal once they ideate their top priorities is having everyone draft proposals for issues they are interested in. Edgel suggested that since tuition is going to be a big priority, they should be specific when it comes to what they want to achieve. Blake suggested they should focus on increasing work study opportunities as well. Roberts felt a lot of progress would be made if they combine work study with financial aid. Pollet suggested combining work study with other funding structures because financial aid is usually viewed as separate from tuition. Pollet said due to budget cuts administrative jobs have been supplemented by work study positions and if work study was cut it would greatly impact the university. Bobbink said picking priorities is the most important thing they will do an agenda more than one page will be bad for their lobbying efforts.

Galloway said Bobbink will probably focus mostly on the statewide agenda and suggested that everyone should write a proposal for one state and local issue.

C. Issue Choosing Process Overview (Document 2-4)

Galloway want everyone to come to the next meeting with rough drafts of their proposals.

Issues:

Blake: Waterfront, Carver, and State Financial Aid

Oscar: Dream Act, Carver

Danny: Dedicated Revenue

Theo: Rental Safety

Eileen: Tuition

Heather: Pay it Forward and Waterfront

Nie: Tuition and funding

Daniel: Water front

Sydney: Campus and Community health and safety

VII. Information Items

A. LAC Rules of Operation (Document 5)

Galloway combined the LAC Bylaws and Rules of Operations into one document. She made a change to Article 2 Section 2.11 to have at least one graduate student on the committee.

Majkut said the committee doesn't have the ability to limit positions because the board decides what the positions are. Roberts said they can revise the Charge and Charter throughout the year if they want to. Galloway will take further suggestions via email.

VIII. Action Items

A. Vice Chair Elections

Galloway said there is not enough time for the Vice Chair elections. She said that LAC will have to table it until the November 4th meeting

MOTION LAC-13-F-05 by Edgel

Table Vice Chair Elections until the November 4, 2013 LAC meeting.

Second: Pollet Vote: 10-0-0 Action: Passed

XI. Other Business

Western Votes Phone Bank- 5-8pm in VU 552

X. Next Meeting Date

- November 4 , 2013

XI. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:59pm