

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, November 18, 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,, Nie Doherty, and Theo Bickel

Absent: Daniel Tollefsen and Blake Bishop

Advisor: Kevin Majkut

Secretary: Amy Kleitsch

Guest: Nina Olivier

MOTIONS

LAC-13-F-06 Approve the minutes from October 28, 2013. *Passed.*

LAC-13-F-07 Approve the minutes from November 4, 2013. *Passed.*

LAC-13-F-08 Approve the LAC Rules of Operation. *Passed.*

Kaylee Galloway, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:04pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION LAC-13-F-06 by Levy

Approve the minutes from October 28, 2013

Second: Edgel Vote: 7-0-0 Action:Passed

MOTIONLAC- 13-F-07 by Aguirre

Approve the minutes from November 4, 2013

Second: Kurie Vote: 7-0-0 Action:Passed

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. REPORTS

A. VP for Governmental Affairs

Galloway, Matthew Bobbink, and Carly Roberts had a meeting with Senator Baumgartner last week. She also attended some of the Monroe Seminar panels. Galloway has started planning Viking Lobby Day and encourages everyone to invite their friends to attend. She attend a legislative meeting with the WWU Administration and is looking forward to discovering any commonalties students have with them. She finally reported that planning for Elect Her has started. The event will be happening in February and aims to help prepare young women learn to run for office on or off campus.

B. Legislative Liaison

Bobbink, Kaylee Galloway, and Carly Roberts had a meeting with Senator Baumgartner. Baumgartner thought they should have a focused approach when it comes legislation and suggested directing efforts towards funding. Bobbink said the DREAM Act was brought up by Roberts, and he is willing to talk with people one on one if they would like to hear more of Baumgartner's views on this topic. Bobbink attended the Washington Policy Center Solution Summit on November 13th with a group of students, where he heard Senator Baumgartner and Senator Tom speak. Bobbink had a meeting with Western Washington University's representatives and staff members and went over what their legislative priorities will be. Majkut asked if there are a lot of commonalities between the university's priorities and the student's priorities. Bobbink thinks they are on the same page with the administration about every issue and he looks forward to working with them. Galloway mentioned that the Carver Academic Facility renovation and fair faculty wages were their biggest agenda items.

Nie Doherty entered at 4:09

C. Local Liaison

Levy attended County Council where community members spoke about the new jail being proposed in Fondale. Community members' thoughts were divided because some thought the current jail is enough and others thought the current condition of the jail is inadequate to house inmates. He mentioned the Rental Safety work group met and that a group of students are working to put up a website to rate landlords that is expected to launch next month. He said there is a rental safety survey being proposed to compare results from the 2010 survey. Levy went to the neighborhood meeting for the Sehome district where Samantha from the Legal Information Center is now on the board. He said the York district talked about the riot again, but community members don't seem as angry about this topic anymore and want to move forward. Levy mentioned there is a rental safety event Wednesday, November 20th in Academic West. He said if we choose to have rental safety on our agenda this will be a good meeting to attend

D. Western Votes!

Heffelmire went to the WS A General Assembly November 16th. She said the General Assembly lasted about 9 hours, where a majority of the meeting was spent talking about the Legislative Agenda items. There were 8 proposals that were presented at the General Assembly, and Western Washington University has a hand in drafting all but two of the presented proposals. She said all of Western Washington University proposals were passed and added on to the WS A Legislative agenda. The WS A Legislative Agenda includes: Voter Access, Dedicated Revenue for Higher Education, Pay It Forward Pilot Program, Transportation Funding, In State Tuition for Student Veterans, Academic Support at Critical Transitions, Differential Tuition, and the Dream Act. Bickel found the WS A GA fascinating and inspiring. He noticed that all of the schools had different interpretations of parliamentary procedures. Doherty thought they had a lot of the same priorities and ended up passing a really strong agenda. Bobbink is excited about the issues they have passed on the agenda. Galloway was thrilled with the involvement, and is pleased that the 3 main issues that were passed all had Western's name on them. Heffelmire mentioned that the next WSA Board meeting is at WWU on December 14th, which is the Saturday after finals week. Galloway encouraged everyone to attend and to email her if they are interested.

VI. Presentations

VII. Information Items

A. Funding Request Proposal for December WSA Meeting (Doc. 1-2)

Galloway said Western Washington University is responsible for hosting the WSA board meeting December 14th and they will have to incur expenses for that meeting. She said they are responsible for providing lunches, which will be about \$ 11.20 a head for an estimated 50 people. Bickel asked if they could amend this proposal to also include coffee, since it is a long event. Galloway mentioned this item will be an action item next week and to email her if they have any more suggestions.

B. Legislative Issue Proposals

Galloway said the Legislative Agenda is an all-encompassing document for the local and legislative liaisons to lobby on. She wants to create both a priority and policy agenda. She said the priority agenda will be the one they lobby on behalf of, which consists of about 3 issues. The second agenda would be the policy agenda, which are issues that come up throughout the year. Galloway plans on setting the legislative agenda priorities at this meeting. Eileen Pollet and Nie Doherty wrote a New and Dedicated Revenue Proposal. They mentioned the Carbon Tax broadly, and they need to decide whether to keep them together or tackle them as separate issues. Pollet said their goal is to have revenue be dedicated to higher education whether it was from new or existing sources. Doherty said higher education funding is optional as of now, and this proposal would make funding dedicated and be automatically appropriated to higher education. He said raising taxes is a long term goal and is not something they currently want to focus on. Pollet predicts creating new taxes will be highly unpopular and thinks this way is more realistic. Doherty also suggested closing temporary loopholes that will possibly be extended in the future. Edgel suggests having the Carbon Tax proposal be separate from dedicated revenue because his first initial goal was to solely get the Carbon Tax passed. He said his long term goal was to have it be applied towards higher education revenue. Nina Olivier is the chair of the Environmental Club President's Council. She said they drafted issues they would want to see on the priority agenda. She suggested closing the oil tax loophole, which would benefit WA state because oil companies will have less access to export oil. Galloway wants everyone to look over all the proposals and think about whether to combined or keep revenue separate.

Carly Roberts entered at 4:53 am.

Doherty said the Carbon Tax is a huge issue and would generate a lot of revenue. He suggested this proposal being stronger on the environmental side than on the dedicated revenue side.

Galloway suggested combining the Carbon Tax and the oil loophole into one proposal.

Doherty thinks these proposals may be better utilized being two separate plans. Pollet thinks the oil tax loophole would fit in with their dedicated revenue proposal. Galloway said that if kept separate, the Carbon Tax should still be on the agenda for groups to be able to lobby on, but not necessarily as a priority. Nina mentioned that the Environmental Clubs Council is going to focus on environmental issues and the Carbon Tax is something they are interested in including. Doherty suggested scheduling another meeting focusing on dedicated revenue, so they can discuss the issue and how they want to address it. Galloway wants those interested in dedicated revenue to discuss this before the next meeting and bring back their findings.

Galloway suggested the Carver Academic Facility renovation proposal be a priority on the agenda. Roberts thinks it is important to get on the legislative agenda. She sees this proposal being more powerful if it goes through the whole process rather than the board making a stance on it. Galloway said we need this renovation before we can get the building LEED certified. Nina Olivier mentioned that all new buildings have to be LEED certified by law and they are hoping that Carver Academic Facility renovation can receive a platinum LEED certification.

She said it is important to push for the facility's renovation and then for the high LEED certification. Roberts expressed the importance of recognizing how many people and groups use this building. Olivier said the Carver Academic Complex houses a lot of different activities. She said this building is a reflection of the students, so they should make it as sustainable as possible. Roberts hopes a proposal can be made by the end of the week that can also incorporate Olivier's proposal. Oscar Aguirre suggested the DREAM Act proposal being a priority on the legislative agenda. He said it was counterintuitive to withdraw support from undocumented students because the state funds for their K-12 education and then stops at college. He voiced that higher education as a whole would be benefit from the DREAM Act and shows students from all different backgrounds why diversity is important. Heffelmire said WSA made the DREAM Act a campaign item as well, so this is an issue WSA will back us up on. She said Pay It Forward was amended and they are no longer working toward a work group. She said the pilot program is instead going to be implemented at a university where students and administration are both in favor of hosting a pilot program. She suggests waiting to see how this program plays out, but as of now put this proposal as a policy stance. Roberts wants everyone to keep in mind the issue isn't that education costs too much but that there has been a divestment of education for young people. Galloway wanted to briefly discuss some of the WSA legislative proposals because she thinks they might be worth including in the ASWWU Legislative Agenda as policy interests. She said the issues were support for students at critical academic transitions, in-state tuition for student veterans, and voter access. She would like to have these issues as policy interests and not priorities. Roberts suggested strategizing by putting students into groups that will benefit them while talking with legislators. Galloway, in a moment of epiphany, suggested having the ASWWU Legislative Agenda be separated into three parts including legislative priorities, policy interests and endorsements. Galloway wanted to discuss whether supporting students at critical academic transitions should be a priority or a policy interest. Roberts suggesting researching more information before taking an action that might replicate efforts. Doherty suggested going to the administration first to express the lack of support during critical transition periods rather than going over the heads of the university to try and change it. He thinks they should do more research on this topic before making this issue a priority. Pollet suggested supporting WSA on this issue because some schools are not addressing this as a problem. Doherty said they should research why students take longer than 4 years to get 4 year degrees.

Galloway wanted to also briefly discuss the local legislative agenda. Kurie is still in the process of writing a seven pronged proposal on public health and safety. She discussed possible solutions of sexual assault prevention in high schools, better lighting around laurel park and south campus, extending the student shuttle, better relationships with police officers, and more student counseling services. Heffelmire asked how much they would be able to impact classes in high schools. Pollet suggested talking to the school board about this issue.

VIII. Action Items

A. LAC Rules of Operation (Doc. 3)

Galloway combined the Rules of Operation and the Bylaws. She said that Bishop had suggested adding a section focused towards graduate students. She took the Charge and Charter to the Board of Directors who approved the position of a graduate student. Doherty asked if the Rule of Operations defined what a quorum is. Galloway said a quorum is defined in the Charge and Charter. Edgel asked if this change requires a graduate student to be on the council. Galloway said if the graduate student does not want to be on the committee it doesn't mean that there won't be LAC. She mentioned that in the future, there may have to be

specialized outreach for LAC in order to recruit a graduate student member.

MO TION LA C-13-F - 08 by Doherty

Approve the LAC Rules of Operation.

Second: Edgel

Vote: 8-0-0

Action: Passed.

IX. Other Business

Send Winter Quarter Schedules to Amy

■ as.board.rep@wwu.edu

X. Next Meeting Date

- November 25 , 2013

XI. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm