

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, January 13, 2014 VU 567**

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

Absent: Matthew Bobbink (in Olympia)

Advisor: Kevin Majkut

Secretary: Amy Kleitsch

Guest: Nina Olivier

MOTIONS

LAC-14-W-01 Approval of November 25th, 2014 minutes. *Passed.*

LAC-14-W-02 Approval of December 6th, 2014 minutes. *Passed.*

Kaylee Galloway, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:09pm

I. Call to Order

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

III. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION LAC-14-W-01 By: Aguirre
Approval of November 25th, 2014 minutes
Second: Edgel Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed

MOTION LAC-14-W-02 By: Levy
Approval of December 6th, 2014 minutes
Second: Aguirre Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed

IV. Public Forum

V. Reports

A. VP for Governmental Affairs:

Galloway been planning Viking Lobby Day for the past week. She has been setting up the meetings, itineraries, and trainings. She mentioned there are a few spots left and let her know if you would like to attend Viking Lobby Day if you have not registered.

B. Legislative Liaison

Galloway spoke with Bobbink on the phone. He said that today is the first day of the Legislative Session. He said the Dream Act passed in the House of Representatives, which means that it not needs to be heard by the Senate. He said that the Senate vote is a toss-up right now.

C. Local Liaison

Levy met with multiple people from the Sehome Board and Roxanne Murphy from City Council. He met with the Sehome Board where they discussed and sent a letter to the Mayor regarding the riot. Levy also helped the Sehome Board with their petition to put more lights in Laurel Park. He said they got more than 50 signatures and are planning on petitioning again soon. Levy met with Roxanne Murphy and discussed rental safety. He said she was supportive of their cause to further rental safety depending on how they do it. He mentioned that she doesn't think rental licensing will be passable. He said if they approach this right, work with Jack Weiss, and make this seem passable, then she will support it. Levy said on February 3rd they are going to try to bring students to City Council and talk on behalf of their rental problems.

D. Western Votes!

Heffelmire said Western Votes! is having their first meeting of the quarter tonight at 6pm. She said there are going to have some days of action coming up because of the Legislative session. She said their focus is going to be on how they can help Matthew Bobbink and get students involved as well as helping items on the Legislative Agenda get passed. She said they have also been working with Galloway on planning Viking Lobby Day, which is coming up this weekend. Heffelmire is going to share with the committee the future days of action as soon as the dates are set.

VI. Presentations

VII. Information Items

A. Funding Request for Environmental Lobby Day (Docs. 1-2)

Nina Olivier is from the Environmental and Sustainability Programs. She said the ESP puts on events and provides services to students. She explained that something new they want to try this year is stepping into the political arena through an Environmental Lobby Day. She would like students to have the chance to gain experience lobbying about issues they are passionate about. She said this trip is open to everyone, but they have not decided if they are going to choose applicants based off of merit or first come, first serve. She said there will be a workshop Thursday, February 13th on what would be on the agenda and how to lobby effectively. Olivier mentioned the agenda they will craft is completely neutral and allows students to choose their own stance on environmental issues. She said the agenda is more of a guiding document explaining certain legislation rather than an agenda telling them their stance on certain legislations. She explained that students will be representing themselves and not the AS or Western because this agenda was not approved by the AS Board of Directors. Olivier said this trip is planned for President's Day and they are hoping to plan several meetings with legislators. She said this funding request they are proposing is going to help fund the bus for travel for one day. She said they plan on leaving early in the morning on Monday and return to Bellingham Monday night. Olivier is requesting \$1000 from LAC supplemental funding. Olivier and the ESP think this a justified request because it provides students an opportunity to get involved and take political and legislative action on topics they are passionate about. Galloway mentioned that during Viking Lobby Day registration, there was great demand for this trip. She recommends getting an estimate on fuel cost and gratuity for a better estimate of the costs. Olivier has spoken with Carly Roberts, Kevin Majkut, and some others about the agenda as well as this trip, however, the agenda was not approved by the AS Board of Directors because some of the issues being lobbied on don't directly affect students. She is able to use student funds because it provides students with an educational opportunity. Levy made

a motion to increase the amount of funding requested to \$1300. Seconded by Edgel. Galloway said next week this document will be seen as an action item. Olivier mentioned the Carbon Tax will not be on the Environmental Lobby Day agenda. She explained that since the Carbon Tax is on the AS Legislative Agenda and there are so many other issues affecting the community she didn't feel like it needed to be on their guiding document. She said a few topics they will have on their guiding document will be the Oil Spill Prevention Act, Closing Tax loopholes, and CEPA. Oliver hopes to bring the guiding document to everyone on the committee for feedback.

B. Funding Request for LegCon 2014 (Doc. 3)

Heffelmire explained that LegCon is a three day event in Washington DC put on by USSA. She said LegCon from March 14th to March 17th and is full of marches, rallies, trainings, with March 17th being the actual day they lobby on students issues. She said this trip will have a lot of representation from the AS and Western Votes!. Heffelmire requests \$6,000 to cover the cost of registration, transportation, hotel, and some food. She said this is a little higher than the predicted amounts, but wanted to leave some room just in case prices increase. Heffelmire said the earlier they can get the funding, the cheaper this trip will be. Galloway said three students were sent to LegCon and six students were sent to Congress through LAC last year. She said they want to send five people this year because that is the maximum amount of people they could fit into one hotel room. Bishop suggested depleting the fund for additional student lobbying efforts. He said there is only \$200 left in the fund as of now, and students are still able to request money from the Discretionary Fund for future lobbying efforts. He suggests depleting this fund before they pull money from other funds. Bishop moved to use \$4000 from USSA, \$1800 Discretionary Funds, \$200 from additional lobby day funds, and \$0 from the Reserves. Seconded by Doherty.

C. Issue Stance Protocol and Bill Tracking (Doc. 4)

Patrick Eckroth took this structure from the Washington Student Achievement Council and formed it to fit the AS's Agenda. He explained that there is individual tracking for bills for each different protocol, whether if it's for something the AS is taking a stance on or if it is just an informational testimony. He said there is a "track only" section that just tracks bills and reports them back to LAC or the Board of Directors. Galloway got this idea from the December 16th Washington Student Achievement Council meeting. She and Eckroth wanted to create a document similar to the Washington Student Achievement Council, but mainly focus on taking stances on certain bills and topics as well as tracking those bills. She said with this document, if a bill came up in accordance with the Legislative Agenda, they can put it in the tracker and have the AS take a position on it. Doherty suggested amending this document to include legislation that goes against what the AS supports. Galloway expressed that this document ideally would create an interactive process where students can play a more direct and influential role in the legislative process.

VIII. Action Items

IX. Other Business

Galloway mentioned there are no action items this week, but they will see both funding requests as Action Items at next week's meeting. Doherty said AS elections are coming up and encourages everyone to sign up to work at a polling station. He explained they are having a special election at the end of the month to fill the vacancy of the VP for Business and Operations position on the AS Board. He said January 27th to January 31st is going to be the voting days and on January 23rd there is a candidate forum where you can learn about the candidates. Galloway said next meeting they will start working on their Federal Agenda. She said this document is going to be what the VP for Governmental Affairs and the AS President lobby on behalf of in

Washington DC. She mentioned that the author for the Public Health and Safety proposal had to leave LAC, and that someone needs to step up and take on this proposal. She suggested Joseph Levy and Theo Bickel as good resources to use. Levy said this needs to be done so we can advocate these issues in a timely manner. He said the quicker this proposal is finished, the faster he can advocate on behalf of these issues. Bishop is not going to be on the Graduate Council this quarter, but is still communicating with them on graduate student issues. Galloway said LAC has to call a special LAC Meeting to approve the Funding Requests in a timely manner. She also mentioned the Elect Her registration link is opened now on the REP page. She said this event is targeted towards women, but it is opened to multiple identities and the information at this event will be useful to everyone.

- X. Next Meeting Date**
 - January 21, 2013, 5pm, VU 567**

- X. Adjourn**

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:22pm