

5 to show where downtown Bellingham is located. He mentioned last Friday the mayor and Bruce Shepard wrote an editorial about the riot. Levy mentioned that University is not going to be deemed as student housing, but instead be considered multifamily housing.

D. Western Votes!

Heffelmire went to the last Western Votes! last meeting of the quarter this past Wednesday. She said at this meeting Western Votes! discussed their future goals and what their role will be during the upcoming legislative session. Western Votes! has been tabling for Viking Lobby Day to encourage students to sign up. She reminded everyone the WS A board meeting is on December 14th at Western Washington University. Bickel asked if the WSA board meeting is going to be structured similar to the General Assembly. Galloway is unsure what will be on the agenda for the WSA Board Meeting, since she will not receive that document until a week before the Board Meeting. She anticipates this meeting will predominately focus on Legislative Session Preparation.

VI. Presentations

A. Legislative Agenda Preview (Board Document) (Doc. 1)

Galloway said this document was brought to the last board meeting. She said this gave the board the opportunity to ideate out what was discussed at the last committee meeting.

VII. Information Items

A. Funding Request Proposal for WSA Membership Dues (Doc. 2-3)

Galloway said the membership dues for the Washington Student Associated is \$1.05 per full time student. She said there are two billing cycles to pay WSA membership dues. The first cycle is during fall quarter, and the second billing cycle is during Winter or Spring quarter. She said this document contains the first half of their dues and since Winter Break is approaching, they should get this document passed as soon as possible. She explained that being a part of WSA is important because this is the only student run and led advocacy group in the state of Washington that represents the collective interests of all students in public colleges and universities across the state. She explained since WSA is student funded every full time student pays \$1.05 to fund their budget, which will go towards staff budgets running the organization. Galloway said the committee is going to see this item as an Action Item at next week's meeting.

VIII. Action Items

A. Funding Request Proposal for December WSA Meeting (Doc. 4-6)

Galloway amended last week's WSA Funding request proposal to include coffee and tea. She said the estimate of coffee and tea for about 50 people will increase the total cost of the Board Meeting expenses to \$850. Galloway said they have expended \$125 out of the allocated \$1500 because anything related to the WSA Board retreat was calculated before she allocated these resources. She said the purpose behind the \$1500 budget is to cover the costs associated with WSA travel and meeting expenses. She says that after the costs of this meeting, they will have about \$525 for future meetings. Galloway only foresees them needing to fund a bus for the statewide Lobby Day. She suggested if they run out of the operational budget, they can pull money out of the discretionary fund. She reminded everyone that these numbers are based on projected revenue because their revenue is from a donation account. She will know within the next month about the donations that were made during winter quarter registration.

MOTION LAC-13-F-09 By: Bickel

Move to approve the Funding Request for Coffee, Tea, and Lunch for the December WSA Meeting.

Second: Aguirre

Vote: 10-0-0

Action: Passed

B. Legislative Priority Agenda (Doc. 7)

Galloway brought in some questions that the Board of Directors had about the Legislative Priority Agenda at their work session. She wants to go through them, especially dedicated revenue. She said the language in this document is still in draft form and wants to take time today to read through and edit their priority agenda.

Dedicated Revenue to Higher Education

Pollet suggested that since there is a large list of tax loopholes, they should decide which ones should get spelled out clearly and which ones shouldn't. Galloway suggested taking out the fourth bullet point on the list to avoid confusion because a lot of them are technical and not accessible to students. Galloway said the Board of Directors had questions regarding the state tax, and what people would be affected by this. She said the Board's general concern about the state tax was understanding this and what type of firms would be affected by the fourth bullet point. Pollet said legislatures are familiar with and understand these tax loopholes and they should still include these bullet points even though some students don't understand this.

Galloway asked if this list of tax exemptions is worded in a way legislatures will understand what this proposal is addressing. Pollet suggests the possibility of the shortening the extent of language being used by listing the name of the document rather than what the document is. Doherty suggested their first bullet point being about securing dedicated revenue for higher education because this is the proposals main point.

Matthew Bobbink entered at 5:01pm.

Pollet suggested writing multiple bullet points of why this dedicated revenue important and then have one main bullet point of the things they can do to secure the funding. She said with this one bullet point they can list tax loopholes that could be exempt. Majkut thinks is this a practical idea and likes having where to find dedicated revenue as a backstory. Doherty said ideally when they show legislatures the dedicated revenue proposal it will hopefully make them think of a tax loophole they can't stand, which might not even be on their list. Pollet suggested making a separate part of this proposal with the actual tax loophole legislation listed on it. Majkut said this would provide some level of bipartisan support for dedicated revenue by talking about the importance of dedicated revenue and have legislatures provide direct students and provide them with information. Galloway suggests having two bullet points of why dedicated revenue is important and one bullet point with suggestions of how to generate this revenue. Galloway mentioned that during the meeting she had with Matthew Bobbink, Carly Roberts, and Senator Baumgartner they discussed a bill he proposed dedicating revenue. This bill would dedicate a penny to every dollar spent on sales tax to higher education and already had support from some legislatures. Pollet said this would be a cut to the general fund. She said this takes a penny from the sales tax from everyone else and would cut funding of K-12 education, human services, and the public defender's office. She suggested not having the details of certain tax loopholes on this proposal because they can decide later whether or not they support specific legislation. She thinks it's crucial to explain why this topic is important so legislatures can work to close the tax loopholes rather than the committee giving them a list of loopholes that are a priority to close.

Dream act

Aguirre suggesting changing the first bullet point to say that undocumented students contribute their fair share of taxes. Heffelmire suggests changing "Washingtonian's" to "individuals"

because it sounds like they are citizens when they are not. Galloway said the idea behind using “Washingtonian” is to develop a sense of community and that we are all in this together. Bickel said the using the word “higher education” seems vague because it is not only students who are benefitting from this. He thinks students are the first beneficiaries, but society as a whole is going to benefit the most from this. Pollet said to keep in mind that proposal will represent all Washington State young people. Doherty said the State Need Grant is benefitting undocumented students being on campus and have access to higher education, which is what they need to focus on. Galloway said that students benefit from more diversity and more diversity doesn’t only benefit the campus and the community, but also in our education and curriculum. Galloway said saying “higher education” is more inclusive because it include technical and community colleges, graduate programs, and 4 year colleges. Majkut asked if they are trying to discuss the benefits of working with a diverse population of students, faculty, and staff in helping preparing people to move out in the larger community because they are talking about higher education being an economic engine. He thinks everyone benefits from having a more robust campus. Pollet said the fourth bullet point doesn’t seem as if it belongs. Galloway said this is beneficial to include because legislatures like to be bi-partisan. Aguirre suggested phrasing this bullet point to say there is existing bi-partisan support and this is a winnable issue.

Carver Academic Facility Renovation

Galloway said the AS Board was concerned how much the LEED platinum certification will cost. She explained that this is why they wrote they were going to explore additional funding to increase the Carver Academic Facility to the Platinum level of LEED. The VP of Student Life said it might increase the cost by 30 million dollars as well as increase the amount of time it would take to renovate the Carver Academic Facility. Doherty suggested creating new bullet points to address the issues of sustainability and LEED certification. Aguirre suggests adding that they are working with other students on campus about this issue. He suggested phrasing the second to last bullet point to say that the Carver Academic Facility acts as a representation of Western Washington University to the greater community through athletic activities and graduation. Pollet suggested we keep this bullet point, but add that this is the only part of campus most visitors ever see. Doherty suggested adding that with this renovation, they will be adding a LEED certified building to Western Washington University’s campus. Bickel mentioned this building is not currently not American With Disabilities Act accessible either. Galloway mentioned this document will go through the Board of Directors at the next two Board meetings. She welcomes everyone to attend these meeting if there is something that should be added.

MOTION LAC-13-F-10 By: Doherty

Move to approve the Legislative Priority Agenda as amended pending Kaylee’s revision of the Tax Loophole bullet section.

Second: Edgel

Vote: 10-0-0

Action: Passed

C. Rental Safety

Bickel said over the last few weeks they have been working on Rental Safety and thinks it is an attainable goal for this year. He said that City Council wants the status quo to change because it is not only hazardous to students, but also to half the population of Bellingham. He said currently a lot of students don’t know their rights and a lot of homes in Bellingham are not up to code. He said the only way to solve this problem is by enforcing stronger ordinances and legislation. He said this is a time to facilitate communication between landlords, student, tenants, staff and faculty, neighborhood associations, non-profits, and the city of Bellingham.

He mentioned that reforming landlord-tenant polices will increase property values and also have other economic benefits within Bellingham. He said City Council stated that health and safety is a priority for them and they should veer this topic in this direction. Bickel mentioned there is a Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance passed in the city of Seattle, which is a great program they can look to. Levy mentioned they haven't taken a stance on what they are going to do about rental licensing because this proposal mainly talks about rental safety. He said they have tried to tackle rental licensing in the past, and they don't know how realistic this is. Bickel said these reforms can increase costs to renters in the immediate time after rental policies have been passed, but after homes have been inspected and improve the costs tend to disappear. He expects landlords within this community being the largest opponents of this. Doherty's suggests to say that vulnerable populations are harmed, not solely students because this is more than a student issue. Pollet said the big rental companies are strongly opposed to everything against rental safety and have huge sway. She suggests bringing together groups of small landlords to voice their opinions about this topic. Heffelmire suggested establishing that they should be required to provide rental rights to students when renting under "solutions".

MOTION LAC-13-F-11 By: Doherty
Move to add Rental Reform as discussed to the Local Agenda.
Second: Heffelmire Vote: 10-0-0 Action: Passed

IX. Other Business

X. Next Meeting Date:
- December 2 , 2013

XI. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:01pm