

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Legislative Affairs Council  
Monday, February 3, 2014** **VU567**

**Present:** Kaylee Galloway (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Joseph Levy (Local Liaison), Heather Heffelmire, Oscar Aguirre, Nie Doherty, Danny Edgel, Blake Bishop, Patrick Eckroth

**Absent:** Theo Bickel, Matthew Bobbink (AS Legislative Liaison)

**Advisor:** Kevin Majkut

**Secretary:** Amy Kleitsch

**Guest:** JulieAnn Behar, Lily Jaquith, Maia Hanson, Josie Ellison, and Sarah Kohout

### **MOTIONS**

**LAC-14-W-08** Approve the minutes from January 27, 2014. *Passed.*

**LAC-14-W-09** Approve up to \$1000 to send Matthew Bobbink, the AS Legislative Liaison, on the AS Federal Lobby Trip with the hope that all excess funds from FXXSBR not used by the AS President and AS VP for Governmental Affairs be allocated before the funds from FXLACF to help fund the AS Legislative Liaison. *Passed.*

**Kaylee Galloway, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:05pm**

#### **I. Call to Order**

#### **II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**

Galloway moved the Public Health and Safety Proposal back to an information item. She said this proposal has been currently renamed to Community Welfare.

#### **III. Approval of Minutes**

*MOTION* **LAC-14-W-08** By: Aguirre  
Approve the minutes from January 27, 2014  
Second: Edgel Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed.

#### **IV. Public Forum**

#### **V. Reports**

##### **A. VP for Governmental Affairs**

Galloway is skipping over the "Reports" section because of the packed Agenda they have for the evening.

##### **B. Legislative Liaison**

##### **C. Local Liaison**

##### **D. Western Votes!**

## **VI. Discussion Items**

### **A. Federal Agenda Update (Doc. 1)**

Galloway provided everyone with the brainstorm list they put together at the previous meeting to give everyone a recap of what they talked about. Blake Bishop, Nie Doherty, and Patrick Eckroth have begun their proposal on Student Debt, which is divided into three areas. Doherty is researching the Student Loan Fairness Act, Eckroth is researching the Fairness for Struggling Students Act as well as work study, and Bishop is researching graduate student loans. Bishop explained that right now they are in their brainstorming and investigation stage of this proposal. He said the whole idea of this proposal is to have lower student loan rates as well as lessen the burden for students when they repay back their loans. Doherty said they are still researching and picking apart legislation to ensure they align with their goals. Edgel and Aguirre have been researching information they would like to include in their proposal and they plan on meeting sometime this week to further work on it. Aguirre has reached out to the presidents' of clubs and students in the ESC, but as of now he hasn't had anyone interested in collaborating with their Dream Act proposal. Majkut suggested bringing the finished Federal Agenda to the last Board Meeting in February because it is at least a three week process to get something at the Board level passed. Galloway hopes to present this as an Information Item at the February 24<sup>th</sup> LAC meeting in order to get this Agenda passed at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. She would like to see the first drafts of everyone's proposals at next week's meeting.

### **B. Rental Safety Resolution (Doc. 2)**

Galloway explained that a resolution is a document drafted through the Board of Directors that ideates out stances the Board has taken. She said in coordination of the Rental Safety proposal they also wanted to pass an update to the resolution passed in 2010. Galloway is bringing this resolution to the Board of Directors meeting this Wednesday. She wanted everyone to see the most up to date version of the resolution and to collect the feedback they have before they pass this at the Board of Directors Meeting. Levy suggested rewording the language in the third WHERE AS to read "the lack of rental property owners in the city of Bellingham has allowed landlords to operate outside of the Residential Landlord Tenant Act". 3 Dittos. Majkut wondered if the fifth WHERE AS is an accurate statement or if this system is sometimes enforced. Doherty said the reporting based system is passive. Levy says the system works when someone files a complaint. Edgel suggested changing the wording to an inadequate or a poorly enforced system. Galloway changed the wording of the fifth WHERE AS to read, "The reporting based system is inadequately enforced placing an undue burden on tenants to take action in order to live in safe housing". Levy suggested changing the wording to say it is a complaint based system because that is what it has always been referred to as. Majkut wondered if it would be better to have consistent language in all of the statements. Levy suggested changing the second "to be resolved" to say "all relevant codes and laws". Galloway wondered if changing the language to read "all relevant codes and laws" would be redundant. Doherty didn't think so because one is about enforcement and one is about information. 2 dittos.

## **VII. Information Items**

### **A. SLAP Funding Request (Doc. 3)**

Patrick Stickney wants to send one person from the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP) to LegCon. He said there is already someone going who attends SLAP meetings, but wants someone else to also go along because they have a specific SLAP track of SLAP members from across the country going to these workshops to discuss furthering the goals of SLAP, which would also further the goals of Jobs With Justice and USSA. He also thinks it would be beneficial to send someone who is not a part of the student government structure right now in order to gain different perspectives of the conference and further the representation of multiple

communities on campus. He said SLAP is a joint initiative between USSA and Jobs With Justice. He said SLAP engages students to work on social and economic justice campaigns based on campus and in the community. He explained that a few projects SLAP has been working on is advocating for a debt free future, accountability for Sallie Mae, and making sure students aren't getting exploited due to the loans they have. Doherty wondered what the process was in selecting the student who would be attending. Stickney held a SLAP Meeting and asked who wanted to attend, and Jazzy Smith expressed interest in this opportunity. He said she has a couple more years at Western Washington University and has the time and availability to take on a leadership role in SLAP for the next couple of years. Majkut thought this was a good example of LAC using the Legislative Action Fund for student opportunities that are outside the structure of student government. He thinks they should keep in mind how they assess what could they be funding and what is the student group going to get out of this event, and if it would be a good use of student money. Galloway said when she assembles or leads a delegation to a big conference, she establishes group expectations. She said that all group members adhere this expectations to ensure they are representing the Associated Students of WWU the best of their ability and to ensure a return on investment. She believes the best way to bring experiences back to campus is through notes and reflection. She said there are potential ways in SLAP to do collaborative work through campaigns, LAC, or Western Votes to ensure a return on investment. Edgel wondered when the delegation of who to send to LegCon was put together and if there was consideration on putting together a group of students from different areas to ensure that each spot on the delegation has a specific purpose in order to maximize the utility of the group. Heather felt they did well at diversifying in several areas in order to send a diverse range of students as far as ethnicity. She said there is a lot of representation of Western Votes, WS A, and the AS through the students who are attending LegCon. She said there is a lot of representation from student government and clubs attending as well as diversity of the student's hometown districts. Galloway said the delegation chosen was intended to enhance the Associated Students and surrounding organizations within the AS. She said for the first round of delegates they weren't thinking about who from outside the organization could they bring in. She said they were also chosen based on diversity of identities, district representation, and who is involved in areas in which they could see their acquisition of information and skills being applied directly back to the organization. Galloway said there are early, regular, and late registration fees for LegCon. She said the 5 delegates they have already approved were able to register for the early registration price while Jazzy Smith will have to pay the Regular registration price. Majkut said that Edgel raised a good question about how to put together teams because there are students beyond the AS administration that would like to attend and benefit from these events, which is good for future students to look at. Edgel said his biggest concern is to make sure each seat in the delegation is subject to equal scrutiny just to make sure they are getting the most out of each student dollar spent. Doherty said it would be beneficial for LAC to develop a set of criteria of when they are sending people to these conferences. He could see in a lot of ways how people outside of this process look at this and say that they are picking six students to spend student money on a trip that that have been before and work in the AS already being paid to represent students. He thinks they should have clear expectations, applications, or statements of intent in which they describe what they want to get out of it and how they are going to use the experience to benefit Western Washington University, it would be a lot easier to make these decisions. He thinks this process is something the committee should look into considering. 3 dittos. Bishop believes there are more expectations from students that are not a part of AS administration to come back and share what they have learned and how they will be moving forward from this experience. He wants to know if Jazzy would like to present to LAC what she learned as a student what would like to bring back to campus. Patrick Stickney said she does have class during this time, so in terms

of coming to a meeting it would be difficult. He said they could wait until Spring Quarter to have her present to the Committee or write a statement regarding her experience because she is unable to make this meeting time. Edgel mentioned in the future regarding conference trips like this, he suggests having a more transparent selection process. He said with the LegCon proposal it was said to send these six people, but there was no proposal beforehand explaining why those students were selected to attend. Galloway agrees that these are student dollars and they should be spent in the best possible way. She said the intention was ultimately to assemble a delegation that would best benefit the students at Western Washington University. She said when going to these conference she was able to learn skills and apply them to lobby planning and events. She said this year they have been sending more delegates to these conferences than previous years. She thinks the committee should be critical during these funding requests because it is up to them to allocate the dollars in ways they see fit. She would like to see a set of trip guidelines and expectations of what students attending these conferences should bring back to campus. Stickney said SLAP is nonpartisan and issue based. He said they work with USSA and Jobs With Justice on the campaign and priorities that they have set. He also said there is a difference on what the national organization and local SLAP chapters do. He said it is on a federated bases like USSA is. He said even though SLAP started at the beginning of this year, they have been invited to be on the Student Leadership Committee with a SLAP chapter in Florida, Massachusetts, San Francisco, and Oregon. He said this organization is very much bottom-up. He said last quarter they worked on living wages on the waterfront and this quarter they have been working on expanding awareness about narratives on campus that perhaps aren't talked about in the broader community.

*Levy Left at 5:31*

Galloway would like Stickney expand this proposal to ideate expectations and standards for Jazzy, what you would hope for her to accomplish in SLAP, how it would benefit the AS, and have Jazzy write a paragraph of why she would want to attend LegCon and what she could bring to the delegation to improve Western Washington University. Blake suggests having her bring a letter of recommendation to the committee as well, if she has time. Galloway understands that Jazzy cannot attend an LAC Meeting, but thinks it would be beneficial to hear her point of view through writing. She also suggests having her meet with Galloway, since she has never attended a conference before and might not know what she is able to bring or take.

**B. WSA Lobby Day Funding Request (Doc.4 )**

Galloway originally put this funding request proposal together in order to fund snacks for WSA Lobby Day. She said from previous experience she has found that she could purchase 60 peoples worth of snacks for around \$100. She added that the Board of Directors passed funding for the bus at their last meeting, but it was requested for Galloway to bring this proposal back to the committee to fund up to 100 percent of the total cost of the charter bus. She is going to bring another funding request to the next LAC meeting regarding this topic. She explained the Board of Directors has approved the funding for the bus, but they are hoping for LAC to fund partial or all of expenses for the bus. Galloway said there are \$375 in "Additional WSA Expenses", they have untouched the "Available for Student Use" category, and they still have "Discretionary Funds" to use. She didn't budget for this bus in her original calculations because it was said to be covered by her Operational Budget, but it couldn't because her Operational Budget was exhausted through Viking Lobby Day. She said the bus will cost from \$1100 to \$1300 depending on the bus size they request. Galloway mentioned that there is flexibility regarding how much money they want to put towards the bus. She said last year this bus was funded through the LAL, but they were able to cut costs by partnering with the Human Services Lobby Day. Galloway said the budget allocations are flexible, but she wants everyone to keep in mind they are on the last couple thousand dollars in their budget. Doherty

recommends contributing to 50% of the bus. Edgel suggested funding it around to 75% to 80% because it would say more about their priorities. Levy suggests everyone to keep in mind that if they fund this and SLAP then they would be out of the money allocated for “student use”. Galloway said not many events happen in the last quarter of the school year. She said in the past year they funded students to go to Congress and funding for direct membership to WSA. Majkut said this is the time for students to be able to talk to their legislatures. Levy asked if he wanted to put on a local event, if the funds would come out of the LAL. Majkut said these funds are restricted funds in the sense they are there to increase lobby effort, and connect students their representatives in a state, local, or federal arena. Galloway feels it would be appropriate to cover from \$750 to \$1000 altogether for this trip. Galloway explained the Board of Directors was going to front the money, but they want LAC to pay them back in full, partial, or none. She is hoping would come up with a consensus at this meeting and she will draft up a funding request to bring to the next meeting. Edgel said if they fund 75% the funding number can vary because the price is dependent on the bus size. Levy suggest setting a limit on how much they are willing to spend rather than a percentage. 2 dittos. Galloway said this money is coming out of the Operational Enhancement fund on the Board of Directors side. Edgel suggests spending no less than \$850. Galloway said spending \$850 on the bus and then \$150 on snacks would mean that they would spend no more than \$1000 on this trip. She suggests depleting the rest of the WSA expenses and then pull money out of the discretionary fund. All dittos. She explained that when she created the “Lor Student Use” Category she ideally thought it would be used for students and student groups outside of the Associated Students to use, so it wouldn’t be ideal to pull money out of that account. She will bring as an action item to the next LAC Meeting.

#### C. Public Health and Safety Proposal (Doc. 6)

Galloway said this proposal is now being called Community Welfare. Aguirre explained that the two aspects they are going to focus on for this proposal is community safety and transportation. He said community safety aspect focuses on increased lighting in parks and on streets, which include Laurel Park, South Campus, and High Street. He said along with additional lighting they hope to expand on Panic Buttons and sidewalks. Bishop mentioned that the previous university he attended highlighted the aspect that wherever you were on campus, you could a panic button. He noticed that at Western Washington University, you couldn’t. Doherty asked where they specifically wanted to expand the lighting to on South Campus. Levy noted that the points of interests are Laurel Park, Bimam Wood, Harris, Donovan Ave., 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> St., and High Street. Levy said this proposal is going to act as his guiding document. Majkut said it is important to remember that this isn’t all about assaults and crime, but sometimes it can be physically unsafe to walk places at night due to uneven sidewalks. Edgel said the sidewalk from Bimam Wood to Buchanan Towers is poorly lit where there are cracks and often cause people to trip. Levy said they are tackling sexual assault prevention by advocating for more lighting and panic buttons, but as for sexual assault prevention and education it is not in his job title to address. Doherty suggested amending this to be Campus Crime Prevention so it would be all inclusive. Levy was unsure how to approach the issue of transportation because he does not know much about that topic. Galloway said they are looking at adding another shuttle route that extends to south campus and is more accessible for students. Galloway suggests scheduling a meeting Robby Eckroth about this topic.

*Heather Heffelmire entered the meeting at 5:02*

Nie suggested to also look into ways they could decrease the number of DUIs that occur on campus by encouraging students to use the late night shuttle or other means of safe transportation. Bishop added that they might see an increase in student activity in Lairhaven

because of the news bars and restaurants opening up. Majkut said the expansion of the shuttle is the Alternative Transportation Committee's decision, but it does affect the surrounding neighborhood. He said they would want to implement the new shuttle without having a negative impact on the surrounding neighborhoods. Galloway encourages the team to look at the master plan for AST AC because it encourages campus pedestrian, bike lane, and transportation improvements.

### VIII. Action Items

#### A. Funding Request for Federal Lobby Trip (Doc. 5)

Heffelmire amended this funding request to take out the professional enhancement out of this request. She said this will obviously be a part of this trip, but the committee didn't think including this aspect applied here. She also wrote in the diversity aspect and experience of having lobbied a full session that he brings to this trip. Majkut said if the committee is approving this, they are recommending to Galloway and the AS President, that Matthew would be a main part of this team and then authorizing his funding. He said over the past 15 years of this Federal Lobby trip, three seems like the most natural number. He thinks it would be good to have an assessment and reflection process to determine the most appropriate number of people to send in order to maximize the expenditure of student dollars. Heffelmire thinks it is natural for him to attend because the AS employed him as their official lobbyist. Galloway said Vice President Swan knows that Bobbink is attending and is fine with this addition to the group. She wondered if there were any unallocated funds from the budget that funds her and Carly Roberts, if they could use the unallocated money towards Matthew Bobbink's expenses to lessen the financial burden of the LAF. Majkut said she could make a recommendation to use the Federal Lobby Day budget money first.

*MO TION LA C-14-W - By: Edgel*

Move to approve up to \$1000 to send Matthew Bobbink, the AS Legislative Liaison, on the AS Federal Lobby Trip with the hope that all excess funds from FXXSBR not used by the AS President and AS VP for Governmental Affairs be allocated before the funds from FXLACF to help fund the AS Legislative Liaison.

Second: Bishop

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed.

### IX. Consent Item

- **Bill Stances:** HB 1011, HB 1267, HB 1279, HB 1278, HB 2400, HB 2429, HB 2537, HB 2537, HB 2236, HB 2697, SB 5955, SB 5173, SB 5026, SB 5028, SB 5027

**Galloway said all the bills they are considering today as a consent item will be placed on the information tracker. She said the four options the committee can place these under is to either move to support, oppose, place on the informational track, or chose to "track only".**

**HB1011: Move to support by Aguirre. Seconded by Doherty. 6-0-0**

**HB1267: Move to support by Doherty. Seconded by Eckroth. 6-0-0**

**HB1279: Move to support by Edgel. Seconded by Eckroth. 6-0-0**

**HN1278: Move to support by Heffelmire. Seconded by Aguirre. 6-0-0**

**HB2400: Move to support as long as the university administration wants it by Doherty. Seconded by Heffelmire. 6-0-0**

**Move to table rest of the bills stances due to time constraints by Edgel. Seconded by Bishop. 6-0-0**

**X. Other Business**

- Sign up for WSA Statewide Lobby Day! [www.tinyurl.com/WSAlobby14](http://www.tinyurl.com/WSAlobby14)

**XI. Next Meeting Date**

- February 10, 2013, 4pm, VU 567

**XII. Adjourn**

*The Meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm*