

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Legislative Affairs Council  
Monday, February 10, 2014** **VU567**

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

**Absent:** Blake Bishop, Matthew Bobbink (AS Legislative Liaison)

**Advisor:** Kevin Majkut

**Secretary:** Amy Kleitsch

**Guest:** Maia Hanson

## **MOTIONS**

**LAC-14-W-10** Approve Community Welfare a Local Legislative Agenda item. *Passed.*

**LAC-14-W-11** Approve SLAP Funding Request. *Passed.*

**LAC-14-W-12** Approve WSA Funding Request. *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 wants to talk about the LAF in “other business” if they have time. She would like to talk about LAF in regards to moving forward with the referendum.

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

### **IV. Public Forum**

### **V. Reports**

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

Galloway said the Organization Director from the Washington student Association (WSA), Julieanne Behar, was here on visit. She and Julieanne attended a higher education forum on Tuesday at the Bellingham Technical College. She said this was a unique opportunity to help her gain insight to issues that community and technical colleges face. She mentioned the rental safety resolution was passed at last week’s Board Meeting. The committee’s next step is to work with Joseph Levy to determine how they want to present this resolution. Galloway attended Elect Her this past weekend and gave kudos to Graham Marmion for hosting this event. She said their next meeting will be at a special time because President’s Day is next Monday. She would like everyone to send their availability to Amy Kleitsch, so the meeting can get scheduled as soon as possible.

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

Galloway spoke on behalf of Bobbink. He reported that the legislative session is moving slow at the moment. He said that everything they have been advocating for is also passing. He isn’t hearing anything new since the policy deadline has passed and the House of Origins deadline is February 19<sup>th</sup>. He said the session might pick up later this month, but at the moment it seems to be quiet.

### C. Local Liaison

Levy went to the Sehome Board Meeting last week. He said they are still discussing putting lights up in Laurel Park, and they are going to have another petition going around this week. He is thinking about doing a joint petition regarding putting up lights in Laurel Park and the idea of hosting a fundraiser to raise money for new lights. Levy and Samantha Goldblatt from the Legal Information Center have canceled their Rental Safety event where they would bring students to speak at the City Council Meeting. They want to talk to Cathy Lehman and Jack Weiss to figure out the most effective method in helping out with Rental Safety. Levy said the Mayor has released her Rental Safety proposal. She would like to implement a registration system where landlords would be on a registration list. Levy said one hole in this proposal is that it is going to take about five years to implement, inspects only 1% of the houses per year, heavily relies on education, and is based on circular logic. He said the punishment for not being on their registry is a citation and if you get three citations you get kicked off the registry. Levy is not completely satisfied about this proposal, so he would like to speak with Jack Weiss about what to do. However, he thinks this proposal is a step in the right direction.

### D. Western Votes!

Heffelmire mentioned that tonight is the Western Votes! General Assembly where they are going to put together their proposals. She said they are also going to be making valentines that they will send to legislators who approved the REAL Hope Act. She mentioned on February 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a Washington Student Association Day of Action. She said Western Votes! will be doing phone banking regarding Voter Access. She said Western Votes! will have a student Teach-in on March 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding student debt. On March 4<sup>th</sup> there will be rally focusing on the Carver Academic Facility and securing funding for the renovation. Heffelmire said this event will be around 1 to 3pm.

## VI. Discussion Items

### A. Federal Agenda

Galloway received draft proposals from everyone. She said so far they have a For-Profit Accountability proposal, a Dream Act proposal, and a proposal on Student Debt. She said they still need a committee member to work on the proposal regarding Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators if they are still interested in this topic. She said historically they tend to take on a proposal that revolves around student health and well-being. She recommends seeing if there is a connection between Obama's Expansion of Title 9 and this topic. Theo Bickel and Maia Hanson volunteered to research and work on this proposal. She said HR 2083 is a bill number that relates to this issue. She suggests looking into this topic to see if it is relevant to students on campus.

#### Dream Act

Aguirre wondered if they are going to promote the entire immigration bill or just work on the dream act. He said in Section 2103 they talk about the Dream Act, but there are a lot of other stuff inside the bill. He wondered if they could just support a section of the bill rather than the whole thing. Galloway said they could and historically they usually stick to higher education related themes. Edgel has spoken with a few people in the ESC to see if someone would like to collaborate with them on this proposal. He said no one has been interested in collaborating with them on this proposal yet, but he would also like to talk with students about how they would feel if this entire bill was passed as a whole rather than just the dream act. Galloway would like to test the political climate in case the Dream Act is a package deal with other immigration reform. She said if this is a package deal with other immigration reform issues then they might want to weigh the benefits if supporting the whole package. Aguirre said there are a lot of aspects of immigration bill that are realistically out of their realm of knowledge, like

the topic of boarder security. He said there are things in this bill that he is unsure if they should take a stance on. Galloway recommends to be realistic about this and say that they ideally would want the Dream Act to be passed by itself, but if they it could get passed only as a package deal then they would have to determine what they would want their stance to be on it. She said that she recommends them drawing up one scenario regarding if this issue is winnable based on the Dream Act alone and another scenario regarding based on passing the whole immigration bill. Edgel said ideally he would like to talk to someone in a club about this in order to get their view on this topic. Doherty's concern is that since it is couple with a whole legislative package there are a lot of parts of the bill he doesn't think they should speak too. He thinks it would be more appropriate to advocate towards a standalone dream act. Levy supports this, but asked if it would be worth advocating towards something that is not plausible. Doherty thinks they could say they support the Dream Act without having to say they support the whole bill. He doesn't think the committee doesn't has the resources to fully research the complete package of the bill it's in or speak for Western Washington University student on such a broad topic. Majkut said at the Federal level, pieces of legislation get pulled out of bigger bills all the time. He recommends the Agenda should be specific and clear of what their interests are and as a lobbyist they can modify their language in terms of meeting the goals on the legislative agenda. Heffelmire sees an advantage in taking a stance on something that realistically won't get passed because it would help mobilize students. Aguirre asked if they could say they are in support of the immigration bill getting passed if it leads to the Dream Act because at the moment, passing this whole bill is the only way the Dream Act would get passed on a Federal level. Galloway recommends sticking solely to the Dream Act and not taking a stance on the whole bill. She recommends incorporating more facts, benefits of fast tracking to citizenship, and to start crafting the language they would like to see on the Agenda.

#### For-Profit College Accountability

Heffelmire was looking into for-profit institutions and found the Protection Of Students and Taxpayers (POST) Act of 2013. She said for profit institutions tend to have really high dropout and incompleton rates. She explained that these institutions get 90% of their funding from federal money and the remaining 10% the students have to pay themselves. She said the POST Act wants to change title 4 of the Higher Education Act. She said this act would change it so that these institutions can only receive 85% of funding from federal money and limit what they would consider nonfederal funds. She said this bill has been sent to committee in the House and Senate, but it has a very small percentage of being passed. She thinks there would benefits taking a stance on this issue because in the future for-profit institutions are going to increasingly become a big deal in higher education. She said the amendment made to the Higher Education Act will only affect for-profit institutions and not traditional higher education institutions. Galloway said they have had for-profit accountability on past Federal agendas and recommends reviewing past LAC documents and minutes revolving around this topic as well as the topic of the DREAM Act.

#### Student debt

Patrick Eckroth wanted to run it by the committee to drop work study from their proposal because it is hard to find eligibility requirements and usually the only requirements are filling out a financial aid request form. He said work study funding didn't seem to be a problem and there were often more work study positions than people with work study. Galloway suggested a route they could take would be to lower work study requirements and make it more accessible to more people. She also suggests him researching data and facts if they would want to go that route. Eckroth said the eligibility requirements tend to vary by university. Doherty

said the Federal Government assigns the work study funding and thinks they assign more of that funding to research institutions. He also said state funding could also go into work study fund, so some schools get more work study funding than others. Majkut said is a Federal Financial Aid system and a State work study system. He said there are limited positions that would be funded and usually relate to direct job training or development. He said if Eckroth was interested he has administrative contacts in the student financial aid office that he could talk to. Galloway suggests they should keep the work study section even if as just a value.

**B. Legislative Action Fund Budget Update (Doc. 1)**

Galloway drafted up an update on how much is currently unallocated in their budget. She said the committee has expended all of the USSA expenses, additional lobby efforts, \$975 for their additional WSA expenses. She said nothing has been spent from the available for student use category and have allocated \$2800 out of their discretionary funds. She wants everyone to think about if they want to transfer funds from one fund to another. She said these were debt up to be guidelines and are flexible. Levy said there is \$2,725 left in their budget for the year. He commented that it seems like they spend a lot on USSA. Galloway said the \$8,000 taken out for USSA was spent last year, but taken from this year's budget. Levy said this seemed like a lot of money because they've spent about 60% of their budget so far on USSA. Doherty wondered if they don't have \$8,000 left in their reserves this year would that make them unable to send students to congress. Majkut said based on the expected revenue for next year's committee, they can front the money and send students to congress. Doherty is concerned about leaving next year's council in a position that wasn't as financially stable as they were in. She said right now predicting the revenue is tough because it is currently an opt-in system and they don't know exactly how much money they are going to have every quarter. She said over the past years the revenue they received has been as low as \$16,000 and as high as \$23,000. Majkut thinks this year they had the chance to really get involved in USSA to decide if it really is a viable organization for the Associated Students to be involved with. He said it is not unusual for there to be extra expenditures this year to try this out.

**VII. Information Items**

**A. LAC Conference Policy (Doc. 2-3)**

Galloway appreciated Edgel and Doherty preparing this document because it is good as a committee to continually think about their policy and procedures. Heffelmire has a problem with number six because for the point of some of these trips to build connections and foster relationships with other organizations. She thinks it is unfair to exclude people from attending conferences because they have already gone once and thinks they are limiting themselves if they do this. She thinks students would be able to gain more from attending a conference a second time because they know people there and have made connections. Levy agrees, but this could be reworded to suggest that priority is given to people who haven't been. Edgel suggests having no more than one student re-attend a conference because he thinks it is important for someone be a group leader for the rest of the students attending the conference. Heffelmire said that participants who have attended before tend to play a more pivotal role by serving as a leader to the rest of the students as well as having their foot in the door with these organizations already. She thinks they should send the students who have the greatest vision on the trip and know what they want to bring back. Galloway likes the priority language and keeps the discretion of who attends to the LAC. Heffelmire thinks this would serve as a punishment to students who have had prior involvement. Patrick Stickney said students set the direction for USSA and means the students may have to be there multiple times and if they are giving priority to students who haven't gone before than they are excluding Western Washington University from setting the direction of the organization. He said students who have attended multiple times are the ones who leadership positions in the caucuses. He said if

they exclude students from going multiple times than Western Washington University would always be outnumbered because school across the country send students multiple times. Bickel mentioned the institutional knowledge and positions to make Western Washington University heard within the organization sounds very different than this being a training event. He likes the idea of there being priority to first time students, but also thinks there should be someone experienced there as well, so they don't have a four year period of the same people going and then having them all graduate at the same time making no one able to attend. Edgel said sending people that have gone before to have a bigger place in the organization makes it appear like they are sending them to personally reap the benefits of being a member of the organization rather than provide opportunities to get involved for students. Doherty suggested to remember that the Associated Students of Western Washington University are not a direct member of USSA. He said the students who are paying into the LAF are not paying to send students to influence USSA and they are donating money for them to advocate for students and accomplish things. Levy suggested having the VP for Governmental Affairs and the AS President be able to attend these trips multiple times. Majkut suggested that number four could be limiting, number 5 it is always difficult to force people to abstain their vote, and number 6 could be reworded to find more of balance of how to meet the needs of participate in the organization and to meet the needs of those who want to go again. Aguirre suggested that in number five it should be up to each person to decide if they want to abstain their vote and doesn't think it is something the explicitly need to address in this document. He suggests that they should come up with a ratio they think would best benefit the students on this trip. Galloway is bring this document back as another info action next week because this topic is generating a lot of discussion.

## **VIII. Action Items**

### **A. Community welfare (Doc.4)**

Galloway said this document is going to be passed through the Board of Directors where they can do the fine tuning. Levy said this proposal focuses on adding more lighting and panic buttons, and the expansion of sidewalks. He said Laurel Park is on the top of list for lighting and panic buttons because it is where the riot started and is what the neighborhoods have been pushing for. Edgel suggest adding Bimam Wood to the list where they should include more lighting. Levy spoke to Robby Eckroth and he said ASTAC can focus transportation, and they can remove it from this proposal. Galloway said this joseph guiding document and they can add to this proposal in the future if they need too.

*MOTION LAC-14-W-10* By: Edgel

Approve Community Welfare as an item on the Local Legislative Agenda as amended

Second: Levy

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

### **B. SLAP Funding Request (Doc. 5)**

Patrick Stickney said Jazzy Smith added a letter explaining why she wanted to attend LegCon. He thinks she will be a good person to go and bring and bring a lot back as well as give a different perspective because she is not completely involved in the official AS structure. Doherty wondered what is on the Slap Track. Stickney said the SLAP Track talks about what a Campus Compact is and how to recruit and organize SLAP Members. He said these trainings aren't limited to SLAP members, but it is made with SLAP members in mind in hopes they will be able to attend. Edgel said as of now LegCon is taking up 44% of the budget, and if they approve this separate LegCon request then USSA would be taking up to 49% of their budget. He said considering that USSA isn't really something the students have shown support for or aware of when they donate \$2.

He thinks 6 students is already a big number to be sending to an event of questionable utility to the student body and adding another student then adds to that questionability. Stickney said this budget is for outside student groups and even though she will be attending LegCon along with 6 others, she is attending for a specific purpose that is outside the current delegation. Levy thinks they need to have outside of the Associated Students representation, but isn't sure if \$725 for one student has a large cost-benefit. Galloway wants to know if there are any other sources they might be able receive funding from. Stickney said as of now they don't have any other sources, but they could have other sources of funding in the future through the setup of student membership. He said they are going to discuss this as they close-out the year in SLAP, bur with registration closing soon they wouldn't be able to find alternative funding this year. Heffelmire wonders if someone already a part of the delegation could attend the SLAP Track without being directly affiliated with SLAP and bring the information they learned back to SLAP. Stickney thinks learning information and being able to train people with that information is completely different. He said this is an event where he thinks you can only really learn by being present and having those conversations and then bring them back. Stickney said Jazzy Smith has been involved with SLAP since the beginning of the quarter. He explained she was previous interested in being involved with SLAP, but was studying abroad winter quarter. He also said she has made a commitment to stay with SLAP throughout next year. Galloway said the 'available student use' fund is new this year and part of the reason it hasn't been used is because it has not been advertised. Edgel suggests having a compromise if this funding request gets voted down. Galloway would like to meet up with Jazzy Smith to trip plan.

***MO TION LA C-14- W-II By: Eckroth***

Approve \$725 to send Jazzy Smith of SLAP to LegCon

Second: Aguirre

Vote: 5-2-0

Action: Passed

**C. WSA Lobby Day Funding Request (Doc. 6-7)**

Galloway made a few edits that she wants the committee to read over before they pass this document.

***MO TION LA C-14- W-12 By: Doherty***

Move to approve \$975 from the Legislative Action Fund to WSA Fobby Day with \$525 being from 'Additional WSA Expenses', \$200 from 'Discretionary Fund', and \$250 from 'Available for Student Use'

Second: Heffelmire

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

**IX. Consent Items**

**X. Other Business**

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

**XI. Next Meeting Date**

- Special meeting needed. Please sent availability to [as.board.rep@wwu.edu](mailto:as.board.rep@wwu.edu)

**XII. Adjourn**

*The Meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm*