

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, February 24, 2014 VU 567**

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

Absent: Blake Bishop, Theo Bickel, Matthew Bobbink (in Olympia)

Advisor: Kevin Majkut

Secretary: Amy Kleitsch

MOTIONS

LAC-14-W-13 Approve the minutes from February 3, 2014. *Passed.*

Kaylee Galloway, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:13pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MO TION LA C-14- W-13 By: Aguirre

Approve the minutes from February 3, 2014

Second: Edgel

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. REPORTS

VI. Discussion Items

A. USSA (Doc. 1-2)

Galloway called Chirag Bhakta who is the West Coast National Field Organizer of USSA. Bhakta explained that USSA is the oldest, largest, and most inclusive student run and led organization in the entire country. He said every year USSA puts on the National Student Congress where membership schools get together to work on what their goals will be for the year and what campaign items they would like to support. He said USSA mainly focuses on accessibility and affordability of higher education and issues regarding student debt. He said membership dues are spent on a variety of things like the budget, which helps pay employee salaries. He said the membership dues also goes towards travel expenses, conference spending, and the rental of office spaces. Bhakta said the benefits of USSA focuses more on a federal level than a state level. He said they bring more issues to the federal level, which plays a major role in higher education. He said it is very important for students to be involved in federal level advocating as well as state level advocating. He said as a member he would help with

organizing support to provide trainings and workshops to universities. Galloway wants to continue this conversation in the spring, but wanted to get everyone familiar with USSA. She said the passing of the restructured LAF fee would provide them with enough funding to acquire USSA membership. Galloway doesn't see direct membership this year and thinks this is a conversation for next year's council to make. She mentioned that in the past, the funds for direct membership have to be approved by the committee and thinks it would go to the board for final approval. Galloway said they currently hold Statewide Student Association member with USSA due to being a part of the Washington Student Association, but you have another option to have direct membership to USSA. She said they have seen increased involvement with USSA this year because direct membership is on Western Washington University's radar.

B. Legislative Action Fund Follow-Up (Doc. 3)

Galloway said this document was officially approved by the Board of Directors for \$1 a quarter. She said since the committee is more informed on this topic, she encourages them to bring this topic up to students in a nonpartisan way. She hopes they bring this topic up to students and encourage them to do research and vote in the election. She said as an entity they are not able to talk a stance on it, but they are able to take a personal stance if they would like to. Galloway said the LAF fee was chosen to be reduced down to \$1 because of the worry of one Vice President and one body of students handling nearly 6 figures of revenue during the first year of the fee restructure. Galloway envisions that within the next 5 plus years, there should be a critical assessment of the \$1 fee amount to see if they should increase it to \$2. Galloway said the summary of the proposal includes the referendum question and statement.

VII. Information Items

A. Federal Agenda

Galloway said she added in a section for the Higher Education Act this morning under the Student Debt section of the proposal. Hanson recommends deleting the third sentence from the student debt summary at the top. 3 dittos. Eckroth suggested introducing or transitioning into the listing of the bullet points. 4 dittos. He thinks the ending sentence of their value statements could act as a transition or introductory statement into the bullet points. Doherty suggested having a sentence in the dream act value statement of why they advocate for the dream act. Heffelmire suggested removing "state and local" from the taxes they pay because they are introducing this at federal level. Doherty suggest having a bullet point explaining that they would like to invest in the largest possible educated work force. Eckroth suggests combining this bullet point and the fourth bullet point together. He also suggests to keep the last bullet point and focus on retaining those that are educated. Galloway suggests cutting down the fourth bullet point. Doherty said they can mention them continuing on into careers as why they would need a pathway to citizenship. Galloway suggested including that this increases our global competitiveness. Hanson doesn't think they should focus on campus safety. Galloway dittos because they already have 3 long agenda items. Doherty suggests getting rid of or move the second bullet point for for-profit accountability. He thinks it is important information, but the rest of the bullet point seems more like actions. Heffelmire thinks that this statement sets up their overall argument. 1 ditto. Heffelmire mentioned they should take out the Post 9/11 GI bill and the Department of Defense tuition assistance program, but when they go into their bills they support, they should highlight these because these are the programs that are being taken advantage of by for-profit colleges. Galloway thinks they should still include this because even though the language is heavy, it is really important.

B. Conference Attendance Application (Doc. 4)

Doherty made some changes to this application. He said they removed gender from this application and included an example next to the portion that asks the applicants to explain

their unique experiences and perspectives. Heffelmire said the question of “what professionalism means to you” is broad and thinks they should add something that about how they would reflect Western Washington University in a positive light. 2 dittos. Kaylee has been emailing Kevin and he thinks they should focus on the purpose of the funds and how to relate the participation of the students to the purpose of the funds. Edgel said they can expand on the question regarding how students would use their experience to benefit WWU and mention how they could also increase student representation. 2 dittos. Aguirre suggests switching the fourth and fifth question because it flows better. 2 dittos. Galloway thinks this application could evolve over time. 2 dittos. Hanson suggests adding a question regarding if the student has any other things they would like to share to the committee. Galloway suggested adding contact information, their voting address, district number, hometown address, and date of birth. Levy suggested having the information on one page and then extending the questions to another page. Galloway said this document should include all the information in order to book the attendee for the trip. Doherty said if anyone has any other ideas to email him or Galloway.

C. LAC Conference Policy (Doc. 5)

Galloway wants the committee to go through this document and make changes to it how they see fit. Heffelmire thinks for number three they should brainstorm ideas of how they are going to publicize for conferences. Galloway mentioned the Vice President for Governmental Affairs probably won't have time to publicize the event, so this would have to be up to the discretion of the committee. Heffelmire suggests taking out number ten because this is what the application is for. 1 ditto. Galloway thinks the Vice President for Governmental Affairs' role in trip planning should more of the procedural stuff, and thinks the trip planning for the attendee should include details like how they are going to get to and from the airport. Doherty suggest leaving it broad because it could vary from trip to trip. Eckroth doesn't like how limiting number 12 is because there is something they might not be thinking of that they don't include in this document. Heffelmire said that if they want to keep this accessible for all students then they shouldn't make cost a barrier from being able to attend. Galloway said there are certain things this fund is able and isn't able to fund. She said this fund is only able to pay for conference registration, lodging, travel, and food. She said if the group wants to attend a museum than this fund cannot pay for that. She suggests changing the language for 12 to say that the fund may be eligible to pay for these things rather than the current language. She said this would be necessary because they are unable to guarantee that all of what the students need would able to be funded. She suggests adding the difference in being able to fun activity versus business travel and funding.

VIII. ConsentItem

IX. Other Business

X. Next Meeting Date

- March 3, 2014

XI. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:01