

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, March 3, 2014 VU 567**

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

Advisor: Kevin Majkut

Secretary: Amy Kleitsch

Guest: JulieAnne Behar (Organizing Director for the Washington Student Association)

MOTIONS

- LAC-14-W-14** Approve the minutes from February 10th, 2014. *Passed.*
LAC-14-W-15 Approve the 2014 Federal Legislative Agenda. *Passed.*
LAC-14-W-16 Approve the LAC Conference Policy. *Passed.*
LAC-14-W-17 Approve the Conference Attendance Application. *Passed.*

Kaylee Galloway, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:06pm

I. Call To Order

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

Galloway would like to have Bickel talk about Bellinghome, the status of the campaign, and the relationship they have with the campaign.

III. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION LAC-14-W-14 By: Levy
Approve the minutes from February 10th, 2014
Second: Doherty Vote: 9-0-0 Action:Passed

IV. Public Forum

V. Reports

A. VP for Governmental Affairs

Galloway attended the WSA Board Meeting in Olympia this past weekend. She said during this meeting they talked about the status of the current session. She said they had conversations about USSA, their different campaigns, and different events that are going to be held throughout this quarter. JulieAnne Behar added that the WSA General Assembly is going to be on May 3rd. She said this is where they are going to be setting their 2015 Legislative Agenda. She mentioned this is different than past years because normally they set it in November, but they changed it to May. She said they are already gearing up to drafting proposals for the May General Assembly meeting. They are also going to discuss what their priority issues are going to be because 2015 is going to be a budget year. Behar would like the committee to keep an eye out for advocacy work around in-state tuition for student veterans. She said this is one of their priority legislative pieces that they feel good about being passed. She said the next WSA meeting is going to be on April 5th at Bellevue college.

B. Legislative Liaison

C. Local Liaison

Levy and Samantha Goldblatt drafted a response to the mayor's rental safety proposal. They are going to present this to city council at next week's meeting. He mentioned there was a discussion about waterfront and downtown redevelopment at the Sehome board meeting. He is almost done petitioning for lighting in Laurel Park and is going to turn them into the Parks and Recreation Department soon. Levy wanted Bickel to give a brief update about the Bellinghome campaign. Bickel, Goldblatt, and Levy have been closely working to develop the Bellinghome campaign. He said March 5th and 14th, they will be tabling on vendor's row. He said they are trying to spread the word that there is a student-run campaign on campus that wants to change renting in Bellingham because the current rental conditions are unsafe. He has created a Facebook page. He hopes the more events they have and the more they talk about this issue would cause the number of "likes" on the page to rise. He would also like to reach out to local non-profits like Opportunity Council to see how they stand on this issue. He said it is essential to all people within Bellingham to see what their experience are, especially landlords. He wants to see policy's that affect and benefit everyone in Bellingham.

D. Western Votes!

Heffelmire said Western Votes! has their student debt teach-in tonight and urges everyone to come. She said this even is a great way to educate students on student debt and what to expect when they graduate. She said tomorrow is the WSA statewide day of action. She said their focus is going to be on the Carver Academic Facility and the problems that are facing that building. She said there are also going to be speakers talking about student debt. They are meeting in front of the Carver Academic Facility and march over to the PAC. She said if there is rain they might change their plans, but the rally is going to be from 1 to 3pm.

VI. Information Items

VII. Action Items

A. Federal Agenda (Doc. 1)

Maia Hanson suggested choosing two of the graphs in the student debt section rather than use all three. She would also like to know the purpose is for the underwater graph. Galloway said this graph shows the different types of debt and the ability people have to pay their debt. Doherty explained that this graphs shows that credit card debt is less dangerous in terms of possible delinquency than student loan debt, which suggests that student loans are being made at a size and rate that is irresponsible on both the lender and the borrower's part. Doherty explained that loan forgiveness is an aspect of their proposal under the Student Loan Fairness Act. He said this will expand current loan forgiveness programs, but doesn't think it would be feasible at the moment to pursue long forgiveness as a broad policy. Eckroth suggested changing the wording on the pie chart because the current wording makes it seem like most students don't accumulate a lot of debt. Bishop wondered how specific the bullet points should be because when talking about graduate students, it says "low interest rates" and this could mean different things to different people. Bishop suggested changing the wording so that interest rates for graduate students should be equal to undergraduate rates. Heffelmire suggested formatting the introduction sentence for the for-profit colleges so they align with the formatting of the 2 other Federal Agenda priorities. Blake suggested adding a graph for for-profit colleges because it makes strong accusations with no source or info backing it up. Heffelmire will try and find this information in graph form. Bickel suggested adding "creative potential" under bullet three of the Dream Act Proposal.

MOTION LAC-14-W-15 By: Doherty

Move to approve the 2014 Federal Legislative Agenda as amended

Second: Levy

Vote: 9-0-0

Action: Passed

B. LAC Conference Policy (Doc. 2)

Doherty got some feedback from the last meeting and made some changes to this document. He changed the wording from “out of state” conferences to “overnight” conferences because they were looking at conferences that were more of an expense and required hotel rooms, which makes it harder to send everyone who applies. Majkut wanted to clarify that this policy would be for all the conference funded by LAC and not just for students outside of the AS structure. He said he is concerned about number six because it seems like attendees would be forced into gender inclusive rooms. He doesn’t want people to be forced into uncomfortable sleeping arrangements, and thinks they should respect the rights to an individual’s privacy decisions. Doherty said the inspiration for this idea came from if they are sending for female identified students and one male identified student to a conference, then they should look at the added cost of filling that room. Galloway said it seems like there is financial conflict because it wouldn’t make sense to fund two students to attend a conference and for them to each have an individual hotel room. Doherty would hate people to screen applications regarding rooming situations and sending people that would be comfortable rooming together because it would not align with their goals. Hanson thinks this might be a more appropriate question to ask after they have been chosen. Galloway suggests erasing six and adding it in the committee legacy document. Levy wondered if this would be used for Viking Lobby Day. Galloway said that Viking Lobby Day isn’t technically funded through this budget and this document would be more for conferences with limited student attendance availability. Heffelmire wondered if the application would still be completed whether or not the conference is competitive or not. Doherty thinks filling out this application is a good process for conference attendees to reflect on in terms how they are going to present themselves professionally. Heffelmire suggests to make it known either way possible attendees are going to submit this application, but the actual screening process only comes into effect if the conference is competitive and there is limited amount of seats. Majkut suggests that every time they are funding a trip, they should look at the application in order to feel comfortable that it would be the best use of student dollars.

Heffelmire left the meeting

JulieAnne Behar liked number nine, but there wasn’t question asking if they have previous attended the conference on the application. Galloway suggests they add to this document that committee has the discretion to edit this document over time. Doherty said a good way to review this document in the future is by putting a year on the document.

MOTION LAC-14-W-16 By: Aguirre

Move to approve the LAC Conference Policy as amended

Second: Edgel

Vote: 8-0-0

Action: Passed

C. Conference Attendance Application (Doc. 3)

Levy suggested creating a question about if a student has previously attended and when they attended if they already had. Majkut thought the application didn’t address the purposes of the fund enough. He said this might be an appropriate place to talk about the legacy document because the funds are designated funds. Doherty thought if they wanted to steer a question towards the purpose of the LAF, it would be in the question regarding how their experience would benefit Western students. Galloway said often times there is a struggle because

attendees sometimes don't know what they are going to get out of the conference. Bishop suggested having the attendees attach an agenda if there is one available and mark the sessions they are looking to attend. He recommended to place the questions of what student activities the attendees are involved in near the top of the application because it is more of a demographic question.

MO TION LA C-14-W-17 By: Edgel

Move to approve the Conference Attendance Application as amended

Second: Eckroth

Vote: 8-0-0

Action: Passed

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Spring Quarter LAC Outlook

Galloway explained that LAC is going to get slower during Spring Quarter. She wanted to give the committee an idea of what is left to do for the rest of the year, and what they would like to accomplish. Galloway said that the WSA Statewide Proposals are due in the middle of April, if the committee would like to work on and refine previous or new proposals. Galloway mentioned that the WSA Spring Membership dues will need to be passed right when they get back from spring break. She plans for LAC to meet on the same time and place next quarter, which is going to be on Mondays from 4 to 6pm. She thinks the committee would benefit from creating an LAC Legacy Document, which would discuss comments, ideas, intent behind proposals, and when the proposals should be drafted by. She also would like the committee to draft different budget proposal options for the next year's committee. She would also like to have an in-depth conversations about USSA and craft a recommendation regarding direct membership. She said they also need to have a conversation about remain LAL money because there is about \$1,000 left that is available for student use. Galloway mentioned that there would also be a funding request for USSA congress. She anticipates that the meetings next quarter won't be two hours long, but she is going to block off two hours for the meeting just in case.

IX. Other Business

- Western Votes Teach-In at 6pm in VU 552
- Please send Amy spring quarter schedules

X. Next Meeting Date

- April 7, 2014

XI. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:33 PM.