

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, April 7, 2014 VU 567**

Present: Joseph Levy (Local Liaison), Heather Heffelmire (Western Votes! Representative), Oscar Aguirre, Nie Doherty, Danny Edgel, Blake Bishop, Theo Bickel, Maia Hanson, Patrick Eckroth, and Jazzy Smith

Absent: Kaylee Galloway (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Matthew Bobbink (Legislative Liaison)

Advisor: Kevin Majkut

Secretary: Amy Kleitsch

Guest: Samantha Goldblatt, Sarah Kohout

MOTIONS

LAC-14-S-01 Approve the minutes from March 20th, 2014. *Passed.*

LAC-14-S-02 Approve the minutes from March 24th, 2014. *Passed.*

LAC-14-S-03 Approve WSA Spring Membership Dues. *Passed.*

Heather Heffelmire, Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:07pm

I. Call to Order

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

Heather Heffelmire is acting as chair for this LAC meeting due to Kaylee Galloway being in Washington DC lobbying on behalf of the Federal Agenda. Heffelmire said the WSA spring membership dues are fast approaching, and suggests moving them from an Information Item to an Action Item if everyone feels comfortable doing so. Levy Moves to move WSA Spring Membership Dues to an Action Item. Seconded by Aguirre. 8-0-0. Levy would like to move the Bellinghome presentation that is under Discussion Items to the first thing on the Agenda because Sam Goldblatt has to leave the meeting early. Levy moves to have the Bellinghome discussion item to the first item on the Agenda. Seconded by Hanson. 8-0-0. Doherty enters meeting. Heffelmire would like to move the Action Items before the Information Items. Levy moves to vote on the Action Items before Information Items. Seconded by Doherty. 9-0-0.

III. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION LAC-14-S-01- By: Edgel

Approve the minutes from March 20th, 2014

Second: Eckroth Vote: 8-0-1 Action: Passed.

MOTION LAC-14-S-02 By: Eckroth

Approve the minutes from March 24th, 2014

Second: Aguirre Vote: 8-0-1 Action: Passed.

IV. Public Forum

V. Reports

A. VP for Governmental Affairs
(in Washington DC)

B. Legislative Liaison
(in Washington DC)

C. Local Liaison

Levy went to the Sehome Board Meeting last week. He said on June 1st there is going to be a Sehome Neighborhood Barbeque. He said there isn't too much to report because Spring Break was last week.

D. Western Votes!

Heffelmire said that Bellinghome is presenting at the Western Votes! tonight. She said the meeting is going to be in VU 462A. She said they are going to do a federal action to further extend their involvement with USSA. She said things have slowed down on the stateside, and thinks their meetings are going to focus more on planning events. Heffelmire said this quarter they are going to do the Education at a Crossroads event again. She thinks this is applicable to do spring quarter because this is when a lot of students are about to graduate.

VI. Information Items

A. WSA Legislative Agenda Proposals (Docs. 2-5)

Heffelmire said that on May 3rd WSA is going to have their General Assembly where they will draft their statewide policy proposals. She said these proposals are what WSA and the AS Legislative Liaison are going to lobby on next legislative session. She said the proposals Western Washington University are working on the State Loan Program, Cost Outside of Academic Instruction, Dedicated Revenue, and Increased Funding for Mental Health Services for Students. Heffelmire said at the last May WSA General Assembly they voted to have these proposals drafted in Spring so the liaisons could come in Fall quarter and no what they would be working on. She said WSA uses the same proposal drafting forms that FAC uses. She said if people are interested in helping out to contact her, Sarah Kohout, or Kaylee Galloway. Sarah Kohout said the deadline the proposals are due is going to be sometime next week because it is usually two weeks before the General Assembly. Doherty said Kaylee Galloway has currently outreached to students to work on these proposals, but the information given today is for people who would want to be involved in providing supplemental information. Eckroth mentioned that a lot of these proposals have been done in the past, so there is some language currently crafted online. Kohout explained that Matt Bobbink spoke in favor of it being in May. She said that it would have really helped him if he knew in advance what he is was going to lobby on behalf of. Heffelmire thinks this would be best for the organization and thinks they just have to give it a year. She would like anyone who is interested in participating in one of these proposals to let her know.

VII. Action Items

A. WSA Spring Membership Dues (Docs. 1-2)

MO TION LA C-14-S-03 By: Edgel

Move to Approve the WSA Spring Membership Dues

Second: Eckroth

Vote: 9-0-0

Action: Passed

VIII. Discussion Item

A. Bellinghome

Bickel said this presentation is on what the Bellinghome campaign for tenant safety has become. He explained that Bellingham is connected with inside Associated Students, but also

has been independent so it has the ability to reach out to many community organizations as well. Samantha Goldblatt said they wanted to educate the committee on what has happened and reach out to anyone that would like to get involved with this campaign. Bickel said Bellinghome has recently been tabling and reaching out to students. He said they have been doing publication inside the Western Front where they are talking about issues that are currently facing students and what Bellinghome is trying to promote. Bickel added that they have also launched a Bellinghome Facebook and WordPress page. He mentioned that on the Facebook page they share stories students have posted along with provide help for people dealing with security deposits and repairs. Goldblatt said with the online portion of this campaign, they really want to engage students and to have them feel like it is a safe space to talk about the problems they have endured while renting. Bickel said off campus there has been political discussions among city council and the mayor about this issue. He mentioned the mayor released a proposed registration system to address some of the tenant safety issues. He said this getting the conversation on the table, but the enforcement regarding this policy appears to be weak. He said City Council has been debating this issue for years, but there has been a lot of recent political pressure regarding this issue. Goldblatt said an important aspect of Bellingham is that it is a reputable organization, which is good way to start communicating and networking with organizations and build partnerships within the community. Bickel hopes to do a lot more tabling in the future and would like to have a weekly tabling time. He said there will be more outreach to students and clubs on campus. He said they would also like to increase participation on their social media websites and to let students know that the Bellinghome Facebook page is a resource for them to use. Goldblatt said they are also looking to have Bellinghome present at a youth in government meeting to try and pull more people in the organization. She said in the future they are also looking to have an event with the REP. Bickel would also like to have people be able to post picture of their current houses on the Facebook page. He is also hoping to reach out to the Health and Fire Department, schools, and to hold more public events downtown because they want to reach out to the public directly. He said on April 21st, the mayor's second rental proposal is going to city council. He said this is going to be a revised version of the first proposal. Goldblatt said this would be going to the City Planning committee, which would be at 10:30am. Bickel wonders if anyone would be interested in joining Bellinghome and advocating for tenant safety. Bishop wonders what the feedback has been from the owners of the rental properties. Goldblatt explained that the property owners she has talked to have been pretty positive, especially since their campaign partially revolves around education. Bishop suggested to keep in mind that if they use a scare tactic of using pictures of poor rental houses, they might receive negative feedback from property owners in the future. Heffelmire wonders if everyone still agrees that the Mayor's rental registration is still ineffective. Goldblatt said the feedback on the actual proposal has been negative, but the feedback on the Associated Students response to the proposal has been positive. Doherty asked what they foresee the organization doing if it is able to accomplish the goal of getting a rental registration system enacted. Goldblatt mentioned that in the Mayor's proposal, the actually enactment period was around 3 to 5 years. She said even if something was enact this year, there would still be a lot to do like providing input on the implementation. She thinks what is going to come out of city council is most likely going to be more moderate that what Bellinghome is ultimately looking for. She also mentioned a big part of this education about renter's rights and aspect would be continuous. Doherty wonders what their fundraiser structure is. Goldblatt said as of now they have only had to pay for publicity materials, and as of now this has not been an issue they've had to address. She thinks this is a good thing for them to think about, but also thinks it would be beneficial for them to operate on a small budget. She thinks that the low funds part of their organization makes them to be low cost in order to think about how to be effective. Levy suggests severing their funding from

Youth in Government in the future to seem more legitimate as an organization. Goldblatt said this is also why they want to organize more because as of now they are not in a place where they could ask for funding.

IX. Other Business

Heffelmire said the LegCon presentation is going to occur at the April 21st meeting due to scheduling conflict. She said as of now they are going to be dedicate the whole meeting to this presentation.

X. Next Meeting Date

- April 21, 2014

XI. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:49pm

DRAFT