

# LAC Legacy Document

## USSA, WSA, and Western Votes

### USSA

- Approve funding for USSA conference delegation
- Implement USSA updates through the WV Representative
- Ensure LAC members have a general knowledge about USSA, what the organization does, and what our relationship with USSA is
- Implement USSA issue choosing process to how LAC proposes state, local, and federal agenda items

### WSA

- Approve funding for WSA dues and hosting WSA board meetings
- Provide funding for WSA lobby day travel and organization
- Ensure LAC members have a general knowledge about WSA, what the organization does, and what our relationship with WSA is
- Give LAC members the opportunity to attend WSA board meetings and General Assemblies
- Provide LAC members with regular WSA updates through the WV Representative

### Western Votes

- Provide LAC members with regular WV updates through the WV Representative
- Encourage LAC members to attend WV meetings and participate in WV campaigns
- Ensure LAC members have a general knowledge about WV, what the organization does, and what our relationship with WV is

## Local Issues

### AS Local Liaison and the LAC

- Meet with fellow students keep the LAC members in the loop about local issues being pursued
- Respond to direct concerns proposed by the LAC as well as resolutions drafted by the body that will go to the Board of Directors
- Draft a local agenda that will be the main focus for the entirety of the job term

### Developing LAC Proposals

- Drafting topics for student advocacy at the local level is an important part of the Associated Students. Take this opportunity to reach out to students on-campus who normally aren't associated with the AS
- Look over local news and local politics to see what sort of activities are going on

### LAC and the Bellinghome Campaign

- Timeline:
  - o Draft proposal for Rental Safety began in Fall of 2013
  - o Rental Safety Draft underwent reformatting and editing in LAC

- o Rental Safety was approved unanimously by LAC and sent to AS Board
- o On December 11th 2013 the AS Board Approved the Rental Safety Proposal
- o Bellinghome is proposed within the Rental Safety Proposal and begins to mobilize as of Winter 2013
- Important Notes:
  - o Consider the Associated Students LAC as both an advisory body and an appointed committee to spearhead student advocacy

## Issues in Bellingham Community

- Safety Issues:
  - o Rental Safety - Code enforcement policies
  - o Community Safety - Lighting, Sidewalks, Crosswalks, etc.
- Community Relations
  - o Relationships with Police
  - o Relationships with Neighborhood Associations
  - o Relationships with Campus-Community Coalition

## Strategies and Ideas

- Utilizing campus organizations to inform students of LAC policies (tabling, petitions, etc.)
- Include pictures and diagrams in the proposals to illustrate the information in the proposal
- Establish connections with the Legal Information Center in order to reach a wider audience (feel free to edit this one)
- Distribute a survey so students can voice their concerns

## Resources and Important Information

- 2012 Off-Campus Student Life Survey
- 2011 Survey of Rentals
  - o Comments on the Rental
  - o Comments on why Issues were not reported
  - o Comments on the Cost of Renting

## **Graduate Student Representative Legacy Document DRAFT - Blake Bishop**

### **A list of main duties, responsibilities and activities.**

It is the duty of the Graduate Student representative to maintain a working knowledge of issues within WWU that could pertain to all graduate level students. Also, be proactive to know what state and federal issues pertain to graduate students so you can speak on how any decision or topic being decided upon or discussed within the LAC could impact graduate students at WWU. Even though you are not actually elected, you do directly represent 6% of the WWU population.

**Meet & Greet-staff, faculty, administrators, community members, etc that you should meet and how you work with them/why they are important.**

Get to know the AS Board of Directors, as well as the Graduate School office staff including but not limited to Kathy Kitto and Michael Barr.

**What worked well?**

It was great that I was a part of the Graduate Council as well as the LAC. This kept me up-to-date with the latest happenings that involved graduate students. This also gave me access to the right people at times

**What did not work well?**

The only thing that didn't really work well was when I wasn't prepared to give my opinion on how something could impact the graduate student body.

**Advice and “how-to” suggestions.**

My advice is to meet graduate students from other fields such as Geography, Math, English, and Secondary Education. They have been my best sources and a great way to bounce ideas and topics that I would bring into the LAC.

**Information that could have made the job easier (I wish someone had told me)**

Lay out the situation and background of issues more.

**Ongoing situations to be aware of.**

- Bellinghome
- USSA (United States Student Association) membership

## Legislative Affairs Council Legacy Document: Issue Proposals and Bill Tracking Process section

Since the Legislative Affairs Council is tasked in its Charge and Charter to formulate the Associated Students legislative agendas and aid in the process of crafting the Washington Student Association's statewide agenda, it is important to be familiar with both the process of bringing issues to the council for consideration, and the process of tracking the approved issues if action is taken by the legislature.

### Issue Proposals: AS WWU

One of the most important factors that must be considered when deciding which issues to bring to the LAC for Legislative Agenda items is whether it is in line with Western and the Associated Students of Western's mission statements. While there are many issues that may impact a large number of students at Western and across the state, it is important that those issues do not go against what the institutions we represent stand for.

Then, when bringing issues to the LAC for consideration and possible adoption to the legislative agenda for the associated students, it is important to also think about how salient the issues are for the students of Western Washington University. Issues that more students feel willing to stand behind and fight for gain more ground with the legislature and grow a stronger voice as a movement. For example, students were more willing to participate in events based around the DREAM/ REAL HOPE Act than they were for Voter Access bills 1267 and 1279.

Another factor to consider is how many students at Western the issue will actually affect. These issues may not build as strong of a student movement as the previous issues but they are still important to address in order to properly represent the student body of Western. These are the issues such as increasing dedicated revenue for higher education or increasing funding for academic advising on campus. While

these are not "hot-button" issues, they still must be addressed to open a dialogue with the state legislature and ensure that we are working to increase accessibility to higher education for all students.

Overall, when bringing issues to the LAC to help craft AS lobbying agendas, it is important to make sure that they represent student interests, can build a movement that helps enact change, and do not work against AS and University mission statements, charters, or long term goals.

## Issue Proposals: WSA

The Washington Student Association is another beast to work with. While all of the above considerations must be addressed, there also have to be considerations as to the issues' effects on the students of all WSA member institutions from WWU to WSU, which can be a hard balance to find. Beyond simply finding issues that represent all Washington higher education students, the issues brought also must be heavily researched in order to survive the WSA general assembly's questions and concerns that will certainly exist. When bringing a proposal, having as many questions answered as possible helps keep the proposal alive and in the form it came in. Finally, it is also important to try to collaborate with another member institution. This helps spread the work load and increases the proposals strength due to the variety of research and the fact that it clearly represents more than just Western students' interests. This is not meant to be a scary process, and it really isn't. It is best, though, to be as prepared as possible when bringing a proposal that would ideally end up representing at least 150,000 students in this state.

## Issue Proposals: Specific Bills of Interest

The final issues that the LAC usually propose are those that entail specific bills that have been dropped by a member of one of the legislative chambers of the state. These may or may not be outlined by our legislative agendas. One example is the DREAM/REAL HOPE ACT, which we passed on the ASWWU agenda and the WSA Statewide Agenda. However, it was still important to bring the specific bills that represent these issues to the LAC and the AS Board of Directors for explicit approval/endorsement. This process is generally done by the Representation and Engagement Programs' Legislative Research Intern to keep the process facilitated by one person who can research the bills and present the issues to both bodies in the AS. This is more important as a means of keeping other bills that we did not cover in agendas from slipping through the cracks so that the Legislative Liaison can still know what to do for those specific, **ancillary** bills.

## Bill Tracking Process

This process involves the last step for the majority of the work. There is an official AS Bill Tracking table and Issue Stance Protocol that helps the LAC and Board of Directors figure out where to place the bills based on a specific protocol. Once the Agenda is created, those area all available for immediate action and testimony. Other ancillary bills and issues will be placed at the discretion of the BOD after recommendations from the LAC and presentations from the Legislative Research Intern. Those then will be tracked and placed by the AS VP for Governmental Affairs, the Legislative Liaison, and the Research Intern to follow progress.

Bill Tracking Table

Bill Tracking: AS Position

| Bill | Title | Description | Status | Sponsors) | AS Position | Position Rationale | Bill Notes |
|------|-------|-------------|--------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
|      |       |             |        |           |             |                    |            |
|      |       |             |        |           |             |                    |            |
|      |       |             |        |           |             |                    |            |

# ASWWU Legislative Issue Stance Protocol

## AS Position

*ASWWU Board of Directors have authorized staff to support, oppose, or comment on legislation.*

- \* Legislation directly supports the AS Legislative Agenda
- \* Legislation directly supports resolutions passed by the AS Board of Directors
- \* Legislation falls directly under WSA Statewide Agenda umbrella

## Informational Testimony

*No position unless AS Board of Directors vote to form an official position. Staff may still provide informational testimony.*

- \* Legislation impacts AS structure
- \* Legislation impacts WWU
- \* Legislation impacts students of Washington

## Track Only

*No position or testimony is to be given towards this legislation. Staff will track legislation and update the AS Board of Directors as necessary.*

- Legislation indirectly affects Washington students, WWU, or the AS of WWU
- \* Legislation indirectly relates to University or AS mission

## LAC—Maia Hanson

As a junior in the biology department, I joined the LAC half way through winter quarter. I became interested in the AS and the LAC after I attended the environmental lobby day put on by the environmental center. The experience I had lobbying in Olympia empowered me and created in me a desire to encourage others to lobby and become more involved in student movements across campus. My interest in supporting others as they advocate for issues which they are passionate about drew me to the LAC. Another of my reasons for joining the LAC was the goal of seeing STEM majors represented in the AS. Often it is those in political science, business, and policy majors who are proactive in joining committees and becoming involved in the AS. I think it is important to ensure that a diverse set of departments and student voices are represented in committees and I hope to encourage more STEM majors to become involved.

Thoughts:

- Make efforts to advertise opportunities where STEM majors will be likely to see them (chemistry, biology, math, engineering, and physics departments).
- As a new member, having the past minutes available to browse through was enormously helpful.
- A list of LAC goals would have been beneficial for someone coming in later in the year.