

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, May 19, 2014 VU 567**

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

Absent: Theo Bickel, Joseph Levy

Advisor: Kevin Majkut

Secretary: Amy Kleitsch

MOTIONS

LAC-14-S-08 Approve the minutes from April 21, 2014. *Passed.*

LAC-14-S-09 Approve the minutes from April 28, 2014. *Passed.*

Kaylee Galloway, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:04pm

I. Call to Order

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

Galloway will try to end this meeting by 5pm today because of the Teach-In for Bellinghome. She said after the Teach-in they are going to carpool to City Council to speak and observe them in regards to the Rental Safety Ordinance. She encourages everyone to participate in this event. She is tabling reports, LAF Budget Recommendations, and Legacy Document drafts so they will be able to attend the Teach-In.

III. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION LAC-14-S -08 by Aguirre

Approve the minutes from April 21, 2014

Second: Eckroth Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

MOTION LAC-14-S -09 by Smith

Approve the minutes from April 28, 2014

Second: Kohout Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. REPORTS

VI. Information Items

A. US SA Congress Funding Request

Galloway would like to schedule a special meeting next week because the committee might not be ready to move this funding request to an Immediate Action Item. Sarah Kohout, Heather Heffelmire, and Kaylee Galloway met to talk about attending USSA Congress at University of California Irvine, since they are members of USSA through WS A until the end of August. Kohout said the number of people they will be able to bring to this conference will be determined on whether they have an opt-in or an opt-out system. She said the number of attendees will

either be three or eight people. She said three people is the lowest cost it will be for one hotel room and if they had eight it would be cheaper to drive to California rather than to fly. Galloway asked the committee if they should approve funding for eight people. She said if they approve this, they would run the risk of the restructure not being implemented next year and deplete the reserves to an unhealthy low. She said if they decide to send eight they would operate under the LAC Conference Attendance Policy, but if they were to send only three people it would be the AS President, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, and the AS Legislative Liaison attending. Heffelmire mentioned that if they open up the LAC Conference Policy Applications they need to be mindful that there are diversity requirements that USSA mandates for this conference in order for a delegation to have full voting rights. Galloway said they will not be attending the conference at the USSA Direct Membership price since they are still technically going as a part of the WS A delegation and direct membership will only happen if the LAF restructure is approved and implemented. She thinks as of now the price reflected on the document is what they are going to be locked into paying at the conference, but moving forward from this conference they will be receiving direct membership benefits as soon as WWU officially becomes direct members. Doherty thought it might be better to ignore USSA's diversity requirements because it could look exclusionary to students. He thinks when picking the delegates, their diversity doesn't need to be something that they necessarily look at because USSA isn't going to prevent them from attending this conference because they do not meet their diversity requirements. Galloway said as a WS A delegation, if they don't meet the diversity requirements then they don't get voting rights. Edgel wondered if they could suspend the LAC Conference Policy until next school year. Galloway said since they didn't have an effective date for this document, they would have to suspend this regarding how the committee had interpreted this document. Hanson thinks it would be better to go with the opt-in funding scenario because in the future it would be more of an option to send eight people. She doesn't think depleting the reserves a significant amount before next year starts is a good idea. Galloway said if they fund the opt-out scenario, they would deplete about half of their reserves. Doherty said next school year, if the restructure is implemented, there are going to be quarters where the LAF is a part of the opt-in and the opt-out system, so it wouldn't be a full opt-out year in next year's budget. Galloway thinks that if they have an opt-out system implemented by August then the opt-out process would start in the fall. Doherty doesn't think the Student Business Office would start the opt-out process in the fall because students already said they didn't want to donate to the LAF when they registered for Fall classes in the Spring. Edgel wondered if they could ask the Student Business Office about this before they take a vote. Galloway will try and ask the Student Business Office about this. She said they have enough money to fund an eight person delegation, but it just depends on how comfortable the committee is putting the reserves at low level. Edgel wondered if they could pass the opt-out eight person delegation with an advisory amendment stating that if the opt-out structure doesn't get approved they should send only a three person delegation. Galloway said they have to register for this conference before they know if the opt-out structure is implemented, so they cannot change the number of people in the delegation once they already commit. Heffelmire thinks they should assume the LAF restructure would get passed and recommends sending the eight person delegation. 3 dittos. She said at this conference they setting agendas and policies that the organization is pushing. She said this conference sets the direction of the organization for the next year, so they should send as many people as they can. She said it would be good for Western Washington University to have a say in this because they are thinking of becoming direct members to USSA. Hanson wondered if they pass this document next week how will they go about advertising because students are going to be on summer vacation in two weeks. Galloway said advertising is at the discretion of the committee. She said the committee could also do targeted outreach for this conference. She doesn't think they

could effectively advertise to the whole school with the limited amount of time they have. She said an alternative could also be to suspend the LAC Conference Attendance Policy for this conference. Doherty thinks they need to acknowledge that they established a Conference Attendance policy process. He thinks this is something they have to do and find a way to make this work. He thinks they should get into the habit of going through this process they have established. Galloway said they only need the application process if they approve funding to send an eight person delegation to USSA Congress. She said if they open the applications today than the close date would be June 2 because the application has to be open at least 14 calendar days before final LAC approval. She said they could approve the funds and the delegation on June 2nd. She said because of this they wouldn't need to have a meeting next week, but requests that the committee meets with her separately to talk about the LAC budget recommendations, budget policy, and legacy documents. Galloway said LAC would still be able to adhere to this policy if the committee is comfortable with this. Heffelmire thinks in this situation they should suspend this conference policy. She thinks the people would be attending this conference should still fill out these applications, but she doesn't think there should be a large scale application and review process. 2 dittos. Edgel thinks they passed this application process for a reason, but this issue is getting brought up really close to the time they need to reregister the conference attendees by. He thinks the committee will take on more than they are able to if they try and select eight people to attend this conference through the LAC Conference Attendance Policy Application process. Galloway suggested suspending parts of the conference policy or strategically publish this. Edgel thinks they should consider moving this to an immediate action item during this meeting and have a discussion about how many people they would like to attend before they figure out if they need to implement the LAC Conference Policy Application process. The USSA congress funding request will not be passed tonight. Galloway doesn't feel comfortable taking an action on this tonight because she thinks the committee is still split when it comes to sending either three or eight people. Doherty said if they send three people to this conference they have a legitimized reason why they didn't follow the LAC conference attendance policy because the AS President, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, and the AS Legislative Liaison were elected and hired to represent students in this capacity. Galloway said selections for delegations in the past have been very strategic. 2 dittos. Doherty said they know this, but his concern is more from an outsider's perspective. He said due to the size of Western, the people who are strategically chosen are often the people you were really closely with. He said this Application Policy was enacted for transparency and so people wouldn't have to explain why they chose a certain delegation. He said the odds are the people ultimately going will likely be similar to the people they would've chose to attend, but this application process gives more of a reason why these people are chosen. Galloway said if they voted to approve three people than the conference policy should be off the table. She said if they wanted to go through with the conference policy they will have to open up the application today and keep it open for 14 days. Edgel moves to the USSA Congress Lunding Request to an Immediate Action Item. Seconded by Doherty. 4-4-1. Lailed. Galloway said the funding request will not be an immediate Action Item tonight. She said they can decide what they would like to do with this funding request next week or the week after. Doherty would not want to send eight people without using the conference policy. Galloway would rather send eight people with the conference policy over sending three people without it. Hanson thinks they should decide whether or not they would send three or eight people tonight before they adjourn the meeting. Edgel thinks in the opt-out scenario they will be drawing a lot from the reserves to an unhealthy amount. He said are taking a risk because the future LAE revenues are uncertain, and if the LAF Restructure didn't go through LAC would not have a lot of funding for the rest of the year. Doherty mentioned if the opt-out restructure didn't happen and they sent 8 people to USSA Congress then they couldn't send anyone to LegCon next year. Kohout

thinks it is more important to send students to USSA Congress because this conference sets the direction of the organization for the next year. Heffelmire wonders what the probability would be of the Board of Trustees not passing this restructure. Galloway said that since the referendum passed with strong support from students she believes there is a more than likely chance it will get passed. Doherty thinks the Board of Trustees will approve this, but is wary of the time it will take to get implemented into the system. Eckroth moves to amend the USSA Congress funding request to the opt-out scenario with a not to exceed amount of \$4,000. Seconded by Heffelmire. 8-1-0. Heffelmire thinks they should amend the LAC Conference Policy to a week and thinks they should publicize that they there are diversity requirements. Doherty thinks that 10 days would be enough time to get the application process up and running and allow them time to review the applications. Galloway said if they pass this then they would see this at the June 2nd meeting. Doherty moves to follow LAC Guidelines for Conference Attendance Amending #2 to Read “At Least Ten Calendar Days” Until the LAC Approval of Lunds with the Caveat That They Consider USSA Diversity Requirements in the Marketing and Selection Process”. Seconded Eckroth. 9-0-0.

B. Legislative Action Fund

- Policy
- Budget Recommendations

VII. Action Items

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Legacy Document

IX. Other Items

X. Next Meeting Date

- TBD

X. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:22pm

Approved by Kaylee Galloway, AS VP for Governmental Affairs