# Western Washington University Associated Students Legislative Affairs Council Monday, June 2, 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

**Advisor:** Kevin Majkut **Secretary:** Amy Kleitsch

Guest: Kendra Thomas (2014-2015 AS Local Liaison)

#### **MOTIONS**

**LAC-14-S-10** Approve the minutes from May 5, 2014. *Passed.* **LAC-14-S-11** Approve Legislative Action Fund Policy. *Passed.* 

LAC-14-S-12 Move to Approve a Delegation of Eight Attendees to USSA CongressWith the Stipulation That Half of Funding Be Allocated From the Account FXL ACE, and

Stipulation That Half of Funding Be Allocated From the Account FXLACF and Half From the Board of Directors. Additionally I Move to Select a Core Group of Three to Attend in the Event an Alternative Funding Source Cannot be Secured. The Top Three Student who Have Been Selected to Attend Include Heather Heffelmire, Sarah Kohout, and Belina Seare. The Top Eight Delegates Include Heather Heffelmire, Sarah Kohout, Belina Seare, Cristina Rodriguez, Mayra Guizar, Josie Ellison, Morgan Burke, and Annika Wolters. The Four Alternatives Include in this order Oscar Aguirre, Samantha Goldblatt, Patrick Eckroth, and

Jaleesa Smiley. . 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

## III. Approval of the Minutes

■ May 5, 2014

MOTIONLAC-14-S-10 By: Levy Approve the minutes from May 5, 2014

Second: Eckroth Vote: 10-0-0 Action: Passed

## IV. PUBLIC FORUM

## V. REPORTS

## A. VP for Governmental Affairs

Galloway had a meeting with one of the Vice Presidents of Western Washington University, Dr. Eileen Coughlin, about the Legislative Action Fund and its restructure. She said there are some processes that still need to happen in order to get the LAF Restructure approved. She thinks getting the restructure implemented may not be as easy as anticipated. Danny Edgel entered the meeting at 4:06pm.

Galloway asked the committee to contact her if they have questions regarding this outside of the meeting. She apologized to the committee for not having a more organized update. She said she didn't have time to fully prepare her report because she just had the meeting with Dr. Coughlin this afternoon.

# **B.** Legislative Liaison

Bobbink has nothing to report at this meeting.

# C. Local Liaison

Joseph mentioned that the Bellinghome even happened last week. He thinks overall the event wen really well. Jack Weiss mentioned at the meeting that it was the highlight for the day in terms of rental safety. Levy, Theo Bickel, and Kendra Thomas are turning in their petition next week with over 1,200 signatures. He said 11 people came to the City Council Meeting. He made a note in his legacy document that tabling might not be the most effective way to recruit volunteers. He said they recruited one volunteer throughout their 40 hours of tabling. Levy introduced Kendra Thomas who will be the new AS Local Liaison for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year.

### D. Western Votes!

Heffelmire said Western Votes is coming to a close. She said they elected their new board for the next school year. She gave a shout out to Oscar Aguirre who is going to be the new president of Western Votes. She mentioned tonight there is going to be the Western Votes final dinner where they will be giving out awards and prizes. She said this is going to be right after the LAC Meeting.

#### VI. Information Items

#### VII. Action Items

# A. Legislative Action Fund

## ■ Policy (Doc. 1)

Galloway said the rationale behind seeing this document today was because of the high level of knowledge this body has around the topic of the Legislative Action Fund. She mentioned that the creator of this document is also graduating as well. Her thought was to see this document and approve this today, but if the committee isn't comfortable passing this they can always tabling it until next school year. Edgel was wondering why they made the non-discretionary funds allowed to be changed by a 2/3 vote. He thought making items non-discretionary was based convenience because it is a yearly cost the committee needs to approve. Doherty said when different comes to look at different policies there might be some dissention. He said if the committee feels strongly about something they will have the option to change it. He said once these important decisions are decided they would like to have some continuity, which is why these issues are decided by a 2/3 vote. Galloway said this provides the opportunity for the council to change a policy or vote against something they don't want implemented anymore. She said at this point the only non-discretionary item they have right now is WS A membership dues. She said with the 2/3 voting policy it would allow modifications to be made to the committee's non-discretionary funds. Edgel was thinking that it shouldn't be changed and should be based on a majority vote. Galloway said it is a 2/3 vote because whatever is in the non-discretionary funds is a big deal and think there should be a stringent vote if the committee was wanting change. She said this would be subject to a vote at the Board of Directors level as well. Levy wondered if the Board of Directors could vote on this without bringing this up to the LAC. He wondered what the point of changing this is, since the Board of Directors can vote on something without having the LAC vote on it first. Doherty said there are certain things that are contentious that the committee spends about 20 hours a year discussing that never get resolved. He said they thought their time could be better spent on the discussion of

new topics and programs rather than on the same argument. Bickel mentioned that if a conversation comes up year after year shows that this is a conversation that needs to be had. He said if the LAC isn't going to be proposing different points and alternatives to conversations, then they should even have LAC. Doherty said the committee would still be able to have these conversations, but if there is a portion of the committee that would like to more on than they would be able to call for a vote. He said if they don't have 2/3 of committee members wanting to discuss it, then it won't be discussed anymore. Galloway said the point of this document is not to remove a say form the LAC. She said it provides accountability, so that more than one body is in charge of making a really important decision. Levy thinks that since this subject to a vote by the Board of Directors anyway, they should make this be a majority vote rather than a 2/3 vote. Bobbink said making by not making this a 2/3 takes the importance out of the decision to withdraw from WSA. 3 dittos. He thinks a vote like that should have a large majority. Edgel said if this body was the deciding vote on a decision like this than they should have a 2/3, but they are not. Levy moves to amend this document to read "that only by a majority vote of the Legislative Affairs Council". Seconded by Edgel. 2-8-0. Failed. Galloway would like to add a section saying that LAC has the authority to move time sensitive items to immediate action. She said each time they would want to move something to immediate action they would have to suspend the policy first and then make a separate motion. Doherty added a section to allow the LAC to move items to immediate action, but to try and follow the Info item-Action item schedule when possible.

MOTION LAC-14-S -11 by Eckroth

Move to Approve the Legislative Affairs Council Budget Policy as Amended

Second: Kohout Vote: 11-0-0 Action: Passed

## **B.** USSA Congress Application Review and Discussion

Galloway said review and discussion of these applications will be done in an executive session. She said anyone who is not a serving member on the committee will have to step out of the room and there will be no minutes or recordings during this conversation. Hanson wonders if the assurance of the extra money they would receive in the opt-out has decreased and if they need to reconsider how much money they are putting into this conference. Galloway said in terms of the outlook when it comes to the LAF, there is no way to know at this point what their prospects are. She still needs to receive insight from President Shepard about the LAF Restructure and she won't know the insight from the Board of Trustees until the day of their decision. Galloway and Sarah Kohout are bring a proposal to the AS Board of Directors to fund \$2,000 out of the \$4,000 for the eight person delegation to congress. She said LAC would be spending the same amount of money they would in order to fund three people, but then the Board of Directors would subsidize the amount to bring the other five people. She said the only downfall is that this decision hasn't been made, but when it was brought to the AS Board of Directors at last week's meeting everyone sounded on board to fund about half. She said if the committee doesn't feel comfortable with this gamble they could always approve only three people to attend this conference. Bickel said he and the committee are putting a lot of faith in Kaylee Galloway to understand what the LAF is doing. He doesn't know how much he can contribute because he doesn't have the same insight Galloway does when it comes to this topic. Galloway said she doesn't know if she understands what's going on either because there a lot of decisions and authorizations outside of her control. She can't tell the committee what the Board of Trustees will think about this. She said the committee has three options at this point. She said they can fund 0, 3 or 8 people to attend this conference. She said if they were to fund eight people, they would need the Board of Directors to fund about half. She doesn't feel comfortable approving the full \$4,000 solely

from the LAF account. Heffelmire said the issue of finances is big, but thinks the committee has already committed to send eight people. She said the committee opened the application process and would be frustrated knowing that a lot of time was put into reviewing these applications to not send eight people. She thinks the Board of Directors would interested in sending eight people, so they should go ahead and pass this. Doherty makes a motion to approve eight attendees with the stipulation that they assign three as designated attendees if funding isn't available.

LAC broke out into an executive session at 4:44pm.

LAC was called back to order at 7:25pm.

## MO TION LA C-14-S -12 by Doherty

Move to Approve a Delegation of Eight Attendees to USSA Congress With the Stipulation That Half of Funding Be Allocated From the Account FXLACF and Half From the Board of Directors. Additionally I Move to Select a Core Group of Three to Attend in the Event an Alternative Funding Source Cannot be Secured. The Top Three Student who Have Been Selected to Attend Include Heather Heffelmire, Sarah Kohout, and Belina Seare. The Top Eight Delegates Include Heather Heffelmire, Sarah Kohout, Belina Seare, Cristina Rodriguez, Mayra Guizar, Josie Ellison, Morgan Burke, and Annika Wolters. The Four Alternatives Include in this order Oscar Aguirre, Samantha Goldblatt, Patrick Eckroth, and Jaleesa Smiley.

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

**VIII. Discussion Items** 

IX. Other Items

X. Next Meeting Date

X. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm

Approved by Kaylee Galloway, AS VP for Governmental Affairs