

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Wednesday, February 25, 2015, VU 567**

Present: Sarah Kohout (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Heather Heffelmire (Legislative Liaison), Mayra Guizar (Western Votes! Rep), Cody Simrell, Belina Seare, Sam Goldblatt, Nora Selander, Haley Newhouse, Adam Schaefer

Absent: McKenzie Dent, Kendra Thomas

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Student Activities

Secretary: Lily Jaquith, Board Assistant for Representation Committees

Guest:

MOTIONS

LAC-15-W-13 Move Carver Lobby Day Funding Request to an action item

LAC-15-W-14 Moves to approve the Carver Lobby Day Funding Request

Sarah Kohout, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 5:10pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

MO TION LA C-15- W-13 by Kohout

Move Carver Lobby Day Funding Request to an action item

Second: Schaefer Vote: Unanimous Action: Passed

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IV. Public Forum

V. REPORTS

A. VP for Governmental Affairs:

Kohout said she's been working on carver lobby day. She's doing the majority of work on that one because of the legality behind the department helping out. She's working on the federal agenda and the federal lobby trip. She's helping out with Western Votes!, they'll talk about that later.

B. Legislative Liaison

Heather Heffelmire, Legislative Liaison, asked if there's anything anyone would like to talk about. No response. She asked if anyone know that it was policy cutoff on Friday. Adam Schaefer said he heard about it at Western Votes! Heffelmire said that means that no new bills can be filed. That has made this week interesting because no policy committees are meeting. It's all about Ways and Means and Appropriations. Monday she testified on SB 5457, which mandates at least a 2.5 GPA for students to get the state need grant. She's opposed to that, but she's wondering what the committee thinks. Goldblatt said she agrees with being in opposition to that bill. She thinks a good argument in opposition is that a lot of students that qualify for the state need grant receive a lower quality high school education, so they wouldn't be as prepared for college. Heffelmire said for sure, she feels the same way. She got to testify on that

on Monday, last time she did she got shut down. This time it was a positive experience. That was really nice. She's working on a paper she's been writing on experiences of people of color in Olympia. She's doing some interviews for that. Tomorrow she'll be meeting with some students from Latino/a Educational Achievement Project (LEAP). They'll be in Olympia on Friday for their lobby day. On voter access, it's really making some moves. Western Votes! did some great actions yesterday. Yesterday they delivered some handwritten notes asking them to move it out of committee. That's what she's been up to, she'll open it up for conversation. Belina Seare said they saw the WSA presentation on the different bills being talked about. Specifically on the textbook bills, she's wondering what's happening there. Heffelmire said those bills have gone to appropriations. They're going to be doing some emailing on that. She remembers hearing Seare's story about her textbook experience. She can send Seare the information of the chair of the committee so she can tell about her experience. She thinks that would be great. She thought about Seare's story when she heard about those bills Seare said she's down to talk about that. Schaefer asked about the pay-it-forward state need grant. Heffelmire said that bill is done for now. Kohout asked how the tuition setting authority being with legislature is moving forward. Heffelmire said that will be heard tomorrow and they're working to get a student to testify on that.

C. Local Liaison

Kohout said it looks like the third and final vote on rental safety will be on March 9. It would be cool to have lots of students there.

D. Western Votes!

Mayra Guizar, Western Votes! rep, said yesterday they had a meeting and she gave a USSA update. They did some phone calls to encourage representatives to vote in favor of voter access. That was pretty cool. Some people have been tabling for the day of action.

VI. Discussion Items

VII. Information Items

A. Federal Agenda

I. For Profit Collegess

Nora Selander presented on the for profit colleges proposal. Goldblatt asked if it would be advocating for removing the subsidies. Selander said they can add that, it will tie into the reauthorization of the higher education act.

II. State of Emergency

Seare presented on the State of Emergency proposal. Schaefer asked if there's actual concrete information on the end racial profiling act. Seare said she's not even sure if it's been introduced. Lisa Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Student Activities, asked if USSA is working on both these bills. Seare said yes.

III. Re-Authorization of the Higher Education Act

Kohout and Schaefer presented on the reauthorization of the higher education act. Goldblatt asked that students are able to have the Pell Grant for 12 semester or 12 quarters. Schaefer said they can have 12 semesters ever. Selander said she thinks it would be semesters because the majority of schools are semester. Goldblatt said they should think about whether or not that's a reasonable ask. Kohout said with the legislative agenda they had people bring them in paragraphs. She would ask groups to get that to her and Jaquith by 1 p.m.

VIII. Action Items

A. Carver Lobby Day Funding Request

Kohout said originally the department promised a lot of help. There are a lot of reasons that they can't, so they've had to downsize. It's March 2nd and they have 15 students registered. She's giving trainings and hoping they'll have a chance to talk to Becca Kenna-Schenk, Director of Government Relations, too.

MO TION LA C-15- W-14 by Goldblatt

Moves to approve the Carver Lobby Day Funding Request

Second: Guizar Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed

IX. Consent Items

A.

X. Other Business

Kohout said for those who are interested there's a Western Votes! action tonight. It'll be in the same room at 7. There's a Munrow Seminar event next week at 6 p.m., downtown.

Goldblatt said the vagina memoirs is happening this weekend. It's a really great performance piece and it's free.

XI. Next Meeting Date

March 4, 2015

XII. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:03