

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Legislative Affairs Council  
Thursday, October 22, 2015 VU 567**

**Present:** Patrick Eckroth (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Josie Ellison (Legislative Liaison), McKenzie Dent (Local Liaison), Nora Selander (Western Votes), Luciane De Almeida, Bridget Doyle Williams

**Absent:** Danny Edgel, Seth Ceely

**Advisor:** Lisa Rosenberg

**Secretary:** Bryce Hammer

**MOTIONS**

<b>LAC-15-F-6</b>	Motion Passed, Proposed Budget Policy Approved
<b>LAC-15-F-7</b>	Motion Passed, Proposed Budget Allocations Approved
<b>LAC-15-F-8</b>	Motion Passed, Proposed Rules of Operations Approved
<b>LAC-15-F-9</b>	Motion Passed, Proposed Conference Attendance Application Approved
<b>LAC-15-F-10</b>	Motion Passed, Proposed Conference Funding Guide Approved

**Patrick Eckroth, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:04pm**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Legislative Agenda Proposals—Patrick**

Last week the council came up with four or five initial proposals. Patrick attached one from the WS A agenda last year that he and Sarah worked on for VOTE. Other than that there are no new proposals though the process will start moving soon. Patrick showed the form for proposals to the group. He suggested making an OrgSync form to make feedback easier. He sent out an employee wide email to the AS and he will be sending an email to students at large soon. On the form it has the proposed agenda items and an input section for student thoughts. A line about help for homeless students was added under student services. Voter access rights and engagement and faculty added. These make up the four agenda items that will be addressed first. The others, like decoupling S&A from tuition, were left off. There will be a section at the end of the form for students to suggest other proposals. They won't need to know specific legislative agenda, the council will do that. Patrick included the old proposals, in case anyone had questions about it, and to make adjustments if the legislation number changed. Josie said that the numbers for the legislation stayed the same. Patrick said that he included it so that everyone could see what a proposal looks like and know where the agenda was heading. He said he would be bringing it next week too and asked if anyone had questions about it. No one did.

**B. USSA Board of Directors Meeting Funding Request—Patrick**

When he recorded the summer expenses he included funding for assistance with travel for the USSA retreat and board meeting. The proposal is to do that again and for other miscellaneous expenses like traveling from the airport to the conference and back, assistance with food, etc. Patrick then gave the council a few minutes to read the request. After the break he asked if anyone had questions. Josie asked that when the proposal is put online we take off phone number and email, which the council agreed to. Josie also said traveling to the meetings gets expensive quickly but it's good for us to help them because we need representation on the board. Lisa suggested that the \$480 round trip get bumped up higher so the full ticket is covered. The council said that's a good idea. Patrick said we'll be seeing it next week.

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Budget Policy—Patrick**

Brought it to the board and the changes are based on the adjustments that were talked about at the last LAC meeting. Luciane asked for a brief summary. Patrick said that when looking at the reserves policy last year's reserve fund had the amount at a bit above the discretionary funds. This year we don't need that much so the plan is to decrease the amount of money in the reserve fund. It gets a little more complicated because what we're paying for doesn't happen in this cycle, also USSA is technically always paid out of the reserves because there is no revenue for that fiscal year until fall quarter starts and the fees are paid in the summer.

*MOTION LAC- 15-F-6 by Ellison*

Second: Selander Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Motion passes, policy approved.

**B. Proposed LAC Budget Allocations—Patrick**

The discretionary funds are well above the 50% that they talked about last time. Patrick began to set up allocations to slightly decrease the reserve level. Slight changes were made to the discretionary fund break down to help additional student lobbying effort and the students in general. He made a slight increase in the funding for Leg Con because it cost more than expected. Lisa asked if Patrick could explain what the \$6,400 over spending is and how it fits in. Patrick said yes. The sheet from last week explains the budget and how it was broken down last year. Patrick said that if we do end up doing an ESC lobby day this year he wants to utilize that fund so that it goes to a worthy cause and the fund is used how it was designed to be. Also, expenses will be higher around congress but likely won't be as high as what the sheet predicts.

*MOTION LAC-15-F-7 by Dent*

Second: Ellison Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Motion passed, allocations approved.

**C. Rules of Operation—Patrick**

Removed references to bylaws and changed to rules of operation. In terms of suspension, Patrick took the feedback from the last meeting and created a suspension policy that sits between the VP for Gov. Affairs and the Council. This allows for flexibility when trying to get quorum. McKenzie asked about the ESC position. Patrick said he talked to a few people and clarified some things but he will continue to work on it, he will be going to Steering Council and the ESC President's Council. The initial concern has been taken care of though. Luciane suggested the council wait until we have an ESC representative so they can look it over as well. Patrick asked if she meant they should wait until the ESC meeting or wait until the ESC position on LAC is filled. McKenzie said both. Patrick suggested approving the document as it is and then re doing it once that person is appointed. Josie asked if there is any reason not to post-pone it. Patrick said that there are only a few changes. Josie said we should figure out the suspension policy now and then do the ESC position later. McKenzie asked for clarification about the suspension policy. If they're unable to serve for an academic quarter or longer then they're voting rights are suspended by a 2/3 vote. If they're absent for three meetings then its consent, she wanted to know what consent implies. Patrick said it would allow for quorum so the meeting could start and then the council would vote suspending voting rights at that meeting. Josie said that the way he understood it was it would be a consent item at the meeting so the VP could open the meeting and the first thing on the agenda would be whether or not the VP could do that, and then the meeting could carry on from there. Patrick said the whole quarter absences isn't as pressing and won't need the flexibility that the 3-Absences policy will. Josie asked if the wording in the policy meant that the VP wouldn't have to enact this rule unless it was needed for quorum. Patrick said yes, so there is more flex room depending on the situation. Luciane suggested postponing Section 203.6 (ESC) but approving everything else.

*MOTIONLAC-15-F-8 by De Almeida*

Second: Dent                      Vote: 6-0-0                      Action: Passes, all sections besides the ESC position approved.

**D. Conference Attendance Application—Patrick**

Patrick said he pulled it from the OrgSync form from last year. Full legal name/preferred name section was changed. Question number two changed. Josie asked if there should be a cost for attendance slot because many people don't know the cost of attending conferences. Patrick said that question will be answered by the council, not the person attending. Especially for conferences outside of USSA conferences. Lisa said it will be for future conferences, not the

past ones. McKenzie said if the slot is going to be on there we could clarify it. Patrick said an estimated number might also work. Luciane suggested moving location and cost for attendee to a different spot so they don't seem associated.

*MOTION LAC-15-F-9 by De Almeida*

Second: Ellison      Vote: 6-0-0      Action: Motion passed, application changes approved with amendments suggested by council.

**E. Conference Funding Guide—Patrick**

This has no changes. McKenzie said that there was a discussion about it last week.

*MOTION LAC- 15-F-10 by De Almeida*

Second: Selander      Vote: 6-0-0      Action: Motion passes, document approved.

**IV. REPORTS**

- A.** VP for Governmental Affairs: The USSA West Coast National Field Associate, Aja Campbell, is coming to campus on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. She is interested in meeting with folks from the LAC. Patrick would like to know if anyone wants to set up a time for that. WSA General Assemble is coming up on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There's a pretty big list of people interested in going but LAC is still doing outreach before any decisions are made. Viking Lobby Day planning is starting. By the end of the week 30 hotel rooms will be booked as well as 2 charter buses. In terms of the agenda, he made the form and it will be sent out soon. Josie and Patrick are thinking of an event to promote the legislative session to get students engaged with the leg process. Patrick said there was a board meeting the day before but nothing significant happened that LAC needs to know about. Luciane asked if he would about the Office of Civil Rights report. Patrick said yes, the OCR is going to be on campus in November and asked Luciane to explain it further. Luciane explained that the school is being investigated for Title IX violations. They will be visiting the school and hosting listening sessions designed to hear student stories and input. There has been a problem with outreach to students. It is happening November 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The sessions will be held in three different places (VU, Rec Center, and Miller Hall). They're for anyone who has heard of or has experience with reporting sexual assault on campus, or even problems that happen with training on campus. Simultaneously, the same attorneys are doing a similar investigation into violations made by Western on the basis of disabilities. Josie gave a shout out to the ROP for getting students to the meetings and making the legal language more accessible. Luciane said that A, in the Sexual Awareness Center, has done a lot and deserves recognition for that. Patrick said this will likely be on our agenda soon.

B. Legislative Liaison: Josie is prepping for leg session and finding a place to live in Olympia. He is talking to people from Oregon about their agenda last year and how it was successful. There are a couple other things on their agenda this year that they're working on. Josie is looking at their strategies and seeing what would work for Western. Research on agenda items for this year has started and coordinating meetings for them will begin soon. As far as the event with Patrick goes, Josie was thinking of a town hall style meeting to get as many students involved with the process as possible. He is also working on a proposal for the student support services to bring to the general assembly. McKenzie said that for the town hall style, the hall councils didn't seem to have a huge amount of interest so we should work with the Presidents and VPs of the dorms.

C. Local Liaison: Bellingham Newsletter was sent out with a section about voter registration on the back. Also the Samish Way urban development plan was introduced. The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission met the night before and wasn't great. There is a general air of animosity towards students. McKenzie suggested bringing more students next time because they make up such a large percentage of Bellingham's population. There was representative there from Western, Steve Swan, who talked about parking issues, Lincoln Creek Park and Ride, student housing (they're looking into the possibility of two new dorms; one by Wade King, one by Buchanan Towers). He also talked about National Guard Armory, which hasn't sold yet because of the issues with it being a publicly owned building. They're trying to transfer ownership to Western Foundation so that goes smoother. The commission also talked about furniture on streets and the problems that its causing. The commission has decided to create a Tenant Waste Task Force, which currently has no students on it. McKenzie plans on talking to the VP for Student Life, Emma Palumbo, about that. Carmen from the Campus Community Coalition will be there and she's done a good job of trying to connect with students on the furniture front. McKenzie explained that it's a landlord problem because they're not checking the houses before they hand the keys over to the new tenants. The Commission is also creating a party patrol for Halloween. Friday night before Halloween they're identifying problem houses and giving advice to the people that live there. Puget Neighborhood is hosting a meeting about the Lincoln Creek facility, because they're concerned about parking around the new housing development on Lincoln. McKenzie plans on reaching out to the students at WCC because their school was talked about but no one was representing them at the meeting. Street lights are getting a re-vamp, putting LEDs in. Voter rights guide draft will hopefully be done by the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Making a short video to explain it and should be ready to print by the end of the next week. Josie asked how they're going to be identifying houses for Halloween. McKenzie said she's not sure but it will be probably be problem houses in the past. They're joining up with the police.

- D. Western Votes!: Meeting on Monday with pretty good turnout. There will be a lot of events this coming week to encourage voting. Phone banking is happening on the next two Mondays at Western Votes. Print and Plant is going on. Students can print ballots and drop their votes off. There will also be a photo booth by the drop box. October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm is Trick-or-Vote.

## V. OTHER BUSINESS

### A. Continue Brainstorming—Patrick

Patrick brought up the ASWWU 2015 Leg Agenda and asked for thoughts on the list. McKenzie found something called the Higher Education Access and Success for the Homeless and Foster Youth Act which is a federal document that she plans on sharing with the group. It's under Bill 1754 from 2013-2014. The main goals were to create a system for housing for between terms for students that need it, create one central place for students to go, collaborate with child welfare agencies, local school districts and other to create more access to higher education for homeless and foster youth. Also provides in-state-tuition to make schooling more accessible because of lack of financial support. Luciane asked if people have been working on it in the past week. The council said that no, not much progress has been made on the list. She asked what the bullet point labeled faculty is about. Josie said he's been working with the person that represents the faculty down in Olympia (Sarah Singleton) to be in solidarity with them. The faculty want to see more tenure professors instead of adjunct and NTT professors. They want to see more holistic efforts in recruiting diverse faculty. Actively recruiting diverse staff, there's a lot of things that that includes. Included TA support. Trustee on the Board of Director for students and faculty. It would be a good way to insure that. Basically this bullet point links the student agenda with the faculty agenda so that they can work together. Luciane asked if she could get on the services for students who are homeless. Nora asked if they could add support for survivors for sexual violence. Josie and Patrick said it's on the form. Bridget said she'd like to help out with that one. Josie suggested one proposal but three different sub groups for the support for student services bullet point. Council agreed. Bridget asked if they had considered including support for domestic violence. Josie said it was on last year's agenda and it might be on the USSA agenda for this year. Nora suggested we be more deliberate with the wording so it's more explicitly stated on the agenda. Luciane also wants to help with VOTE in a supporting role. Patrick said this is brainstorming around general student info. Luciane said that for data collection, the ROP has been talking about that, but for student of color there hasn't been an inclusive data collection. Also disability students. Basically all students with marginalized identities haven't been properly tracked. Patrick said proposals are due next week, November 5<sup>th</sup> is the final deadline for full proposals.

*The Meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm*