

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Tuesday, January 12, 2016 VU 462A**

Present: Patrick Eckroth (VP for Governmental Affairs), Nora Selander (Co-Chair), Josie Ellison (Legislative Liaison), McKenzie Dent (Local Liaison), Haley Newhouse (Western Votes!), Henry Pollet (Student at Large), Briana Dearing (Student at Large), Sarah Berglin (Student at Large)

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg

Secretary: Bryce Hammer

Guest: Anna Kemper

MOTIONS

LAC-16-W-2 Approve the minutes from **11-19-2015, 12-3-2015, and 1-5-2016. Passed.**

LAC-16-W-3 Motion to adjourn the meeting. **Passed.**

Patrick Eckroth, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:11pm.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A.** Patrick added a funding request for the USSA January Board of Directors meeting and will be added before the funding request for the Environmental Lobby Day. Patrick then called Josie.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A.** Patrick said there are three sets of minutes to approve and he would let the council decide if they wanted to approve all three at one or do it separately. They decided to do it all at once.

MOTION LAC-16-W-2 by Pollet.

Motion to approve the minutes from **11-19-2015, 12-3-2015, and 1-5-2016.**

Second: Doyle Vote: **8-0-0** Action: Motion passed.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. USSA Board of Director's Funding Request—Patrick Eckroth

Since the funding request was so new Patrick let the council review it. He said the total is **\$800**. Josie said they should make sure there is enough funding for the transportation to be covered without having to cut into housing or food. Patrick

said the USSA wasn't supposed to have a January meeting this year which is the funding request came late. Josie said the organizational restructure probably necessitated another meeting. Patrick said Losa, the co-chair of the People of African Descent Caucus, is a Western student and is on the USSA Board of Directors, has attended all of the meetings thus far, which is a big help because Patrick gets updates from her. Patrick said if there were no more questions he'd move on.

B. Funding Request for Environmental Lobby Day—Patrick Eckroth

Patrick said this is the third Environmental Lobby Day that has been hosted by the Associated Students. The first year didn't resemble other lobby days the AS hosts. The second year there was more structure, they had one central agenda instead of students picking their own agenda items. Patrick said he met with Anna in the ESP, who will be at the meeting later to explain the agenda items, and they're looking for a way to give this ELD more structure, to make more permanent. They're focused on providing transportation, food, and publicity (which has never been done before) to open it up to campus. Part of the process, which might be included under publicity, is creating a small agenda leaflet to inform the lobbyists and then leave with the legislators. They don't want the leaflets to be too big because it's an Environmental Lobby Day. He asked for questions. There were none. He said they will see both funding requests next week. While waiting for Anna Kemper to arrive the council went through reports.

C. Environmental Lobby Day Agenda Proposals—Anna Kemper

i. Oil Transportation Safety Act

Anna said there are four items to the agenda, one of which is the Oil Transportation Safety. This one has already been passed but Western is bringing it to show support and encourage legislators to keep it strict. Anna said there is a railroad in Bellingham that can be pretty disruptive and has the potential to be disastrous in the case of an oil spill. This would be part of the greater Bellingham community. Another part of this would be specifying who pays for the oil spill. There was an oil spill in Canada that killed people and the oil company wasn't held accountable, the city had to pay for it and it put them in debt. Josie asked if the language can be framed as a thank you/encouragement "thank you and". Anna said she would work on that and there will be a sheet that will have the items and a thank you to leave with them.

ii. CAFOs

CAFO stands Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation and Western is advocating for strict permits. These are areas where a lot of animals are kept in one place. The concern with this is the manure doesn't have an effective way of being disposed of so it seeps into the ground and water systems in the surrounding areas. They used to be regulated but the permit expired so they're not being regulated any more. ELD will lobby for a requirement to be put in place that mandates a plastic liner to keep the air/water/earth around the CAFOs clean. Washington dairy farmers alone produce 20M pounds of waste per day. This isn't an actual bill; they're

asking legislators to support the Department of Ecology in creating a permit that's very strict. There are a few stipulations they want including requiring coverage for all the pits, mandatory surface and ground water monitoring, and better waste management practices. This issue could go either way so student support is big. Patrick looked up information about the CAFOs for the group. Anna said the runoff will go into rivers which disproportionately affect First Nations people. It's also a social environmental issue. Henry asked if this includes using brown water to water fields. Anna said she can look into it. Henry said he asked because he knows that's not regulated. Sarah asked what the strongest argument against this is. Anna said it's an opinion piece, it's a health and safety issue. Sarah asked if it would be an inconvenience to Washington dairy farmers. Anna said yes, that is part of the controversy especially on the behalf of corporate dairy farmers because it wouldn't affect local famers as much as it would corporate farms. Patrick said this is one of the bigger problems that used to exist in Bellingham,

iii. Toxic Free Kids and Families Act

Anna said this might have passed but she's not sure. In government buildings particularly, but in all buildings more broadly, furniture is coated with toxic materials to make them less flammable. They're hoping to ban these materials and bring in safer and more effective materials. A big part of this item is making the information more accessible. Josie said it hasn't passed yet this session. Nora said it was debated in committee last year. Anna said it passed the House but not the Senate. Anna said it was important because people don't think about it and it's all around us. Patrick asked if its focused on PBDs. Anna said yes. They're advocating that it be passed through the Senate. She asked for questions. There were none. Patrick asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

V. REPORTS

- A. Fegislative Fiaison: Josie said they've been in Olympia since Sunday and have been doing a lot of training with the other Fegislative Fiaisons through the WSA. Right now they're talking about the statewide student issues. Session started yesterday and they've been focused on setting up meetings with legislators and keeping tabs on the bills that Western advocated for last year. They've been put in charge of the VOTE! agenda item for the WSA. They've also been working on one pagers, informational sheets that will be handed out to the students coming down for Viking Fobby Day. They're scheduling trainings for students on Sunday and figuring out what to say during the capitol tours. Josie asked for questions. Patrick asked if any committees have met. Josie said they started meeting the day before. Ways and Means went over the proposed supplementary budget which has the backfill for all the regional schools, but not WSU or UW. The governor's budget does have the backfill funded but not the rest of the items on the student success bill. They're working on a way to thank the legislators while letting them know Western can't do anything to help its students in areas like academic planning and

student advising because it doesn't have the money. Josie said the Higher Ed committees met and went over the governor's budget. Josie plans on sending the budget out soon. Patrick said Becca Kenna-Schenk thinks the Student Success package might pass this year. Josie said it's looking pretty good this year, especially because the proposal originally came from Western and we're the only school they decided not to fund. They also said they've got a lot of good stories coming out of Western that will help their case, it's also directly related to the retention of students, it's a really easy problem to fix, and it's a big issue in the legislature right now. Josie said they would send out information to the council soon.

- B. Local Liaison:** McKenzie said City Council had a quick meeting. They ended the Clean Green program, which was a way for people to dispose of things in their home in an environmentally responsible way. It was a way to compost locally in Bellingham. A few people came to speak against it but they still voted to end it. There will still be a system for people to compost responsibly in cases of bad storms or things like that. They decided to end it because of the fiscal impacts, they had to subsidize a lot of it. This problem doesn't affect Western that much. They decided to support a letter from Mayor Linville to Governor Inslee which calls for a state of emergency on homelessness. McKenzie said she emailed Josie some of the bills the mayor cites in her letter because the AS is advocating for funding for homeless students in its legislative agenda. She thinks the LAC should be aware of it for that reason. She says she finished her local issues survey, which will be tabled by Bridget and Emma to get student feedback. Next week there will be another Tennant's Taskforce meeting on Tuesday at 3:30 pm.
- C. Western Votes!:** Haley said they're working on having one Exec meeting a week and creating more events on campus. McKenzie asked Nora if she had the brainstorms they worked on the day before. Nora said yes, she's been working with Stacey, the Elections Coordinator, to create an event surrounding committees and elections to the Board. They're hoping to get outreach done before to get student involvement. There will also be another event during February for Valentine's Day and legislators. They're also planning a bigger Western Votes! meeting.
- D. VP for Governmental Affairs:** Patrick asked Josie to briefly explain the trainings they're planning for VLD. Josie said the WSA meeting in January will be on the 30th and 31st in Olympia. The WSA will be doing organizing training, they're planning on registering people in the next few days. It will be focused on organizing in a few different ways including introduction to organizing, advocacy organizing, solidarity organizing, etc. They're going to break it down into smaller pieces like power relations, how to use it to your advantage, why they do the proposal process the way they do. There will be another training on how to build an organization, build relationships, coalitions, how that can be effective, etc. The next day will cover tactics and the escalation of tactics, why it's important to be aware of escalation during events, etc. The next one will be about how to use media to your advantage in organizing and how to work with media. There will be a training on how to do solidarity organizing including when, why, and how we should. They'll talk about accessibility in organizing and how important it is to be

critical of how accessible organizing is. There will be breakout sessions afterwards to talk about specific issues that affect campuses. Patrick thanked them for talking about it. He said he reserved motor vehicles from the AS so there are 14 spots that will be available to go to that meeting. Patrick said his report mostly consists of VLD. The final agenda was printed. Some people have dropped but they've been calling everyone to check if they're coming. He said they're moving into the ending logistics, including the group creations which will be happening tomorrow. Right now there are about 100 meetings scheduled but he's looking to add more. Not all of the representatives from campus have been scheduled, they're still missing one. Josie said they confirmed Congresswomen Tytton and Stambaugh for meetings. Patrick said they're trying to restructure Sunday so it's less dense. Sunday will include trainings, capitol tours, identity spaces, USSA/WSA info session, and check in. After check in there will be breakout sessions that will focus on the issues that we're lobbying on and Toby 101 training. There will be a legislative panel and a presentation from Becca and Joe. The council talked about their dissatisfaction with an article that had come out in the Western Front earlier that day and a meeting time for next week. Patrick said he might not make it to next week's meeting so Nora might have to chair. Josie and Patrick looked at the one pagers Josie had created thus far and the council offered suggestions on how to improve them. Anna Kemper then came in and Patrick returned to the Information Items.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION LAC 16-W-3 by Newhouse

Motion to adjourn.

Second: Pollet Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

Meeting was adjourned at 5:09pm.