

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Tuesday, January 5, 2016 VU 567**

Present: Patrick Eckroth (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Haley Newhouse, McKenzie Dent, Bridget Doyle Williams, Henry Pollet, Josie Ellison

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg

Secretary: Bryce Hammer

MOTIONS

LAC-16-W-26 Motion to Approve the 2015-2016 Legislative Agenda. **Passed.**

Patrick Eckroth, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:14pm.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Patrick thanked everyone for coming then gave a summary of the last Board of Director's meeting. He presented the Board with the legislative agenda, there were only a few small complaints, mostly to do with the language, and after the Board meeting taking place on Thursday he'll have more information. One thing the Board wanted to be made clear was how much the out-of-state students' tuition and graduate students' tuition supplements the instate students'. McKenzie asked why the language under the voter access section was changed. Patrick said the wording was awkward and unclear so they changed it. He asked if anyone had questions. McKenzie asked if the council was looking to approve the agenda today. Patrick said yes, the council has seen it several times in various forms, unofficially for most of last quarter and then officially at the last LAC meeting before winter break. Haley asked if they should clarify the poll tax refers to the stamp that has to be put on absentee ballots. Patrick said they checked and in the legislation the stamp is referred to as a poll tax so he thinks it will be fine. McKenzie agreed. He said in the Board meeting there were questions about which VOTE! agenda items had priority. A few people wondered why Western isn't lobbying for an automatic voter registration system and are instead lobbying for a Motor Voter registration system. Patrick said it's because the automatic registration system, like the ones they have in Oregon and California, are just very efficient versions of the Motor Voter system. McKenzie said this agenda item got close last time so she expects it to pass. Patrick said it got through the House and then ran into some issues and they ended up not voting on it. Patrick said the New and Dedicated Revenue agenda item, which has previously been priority number one, got knocked down to the bottom of the list because they had some success with it last year and this is a policy year, not a budget one, so it's likely not a lot will happen with it. McKenzie asked if they could format it differently because it looks like a lot of words. Patrick

said he will be looking at how to make it fewer pages and clearer. He then called Josie. Josie said they can change the format however the council and Board wants. Bridget said under the Support for Survivors agenda item the second bullet point was confusing. Josie said the bullet point was meant to articulate that they're looking to bridge the gap between the services that are currently offered to survivors of sexual assault and what they actually need. Patrick asked if Bridget wanted the language to be changed. Bridget said leaving it vague could be beneficial but she's worried people lobbying on it won't know what it means. Haley suggested they talk to survivors of sexual assault to give suggestions on what they need so the language can be more specific. She also suggested combining it with another bullet point to make them both stronger. McKenzie said it would be helpful for reducing words. Patrick asked if anyone remembered why they changed some of the language and formatting for the New and Dedicated Revenue item. Josie said it was to balance the sentences and clarify their point. Patrick asked for questions, there were none.

MOTION LAC-15-F-26 by Pollet

Approve the 2015-2016 Legislative Agenda.

Second: Newhouse Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Motion passed, legislative agenda approved.

Patrick adjourned the meeting at 4:31pm.