

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Legislative Affairs Council  
Thursday, November 19, 2015 VU 567**

**Present: Patrick Eckroth (VP for Governmental Affairs), Nora Selander (Western Votes, Vice Chair), Josie Ellison (Legislative Liaison), McKenzie Dent (Local Liaison), Bridget Doyle Williams, Briana Dearing, Henry Pollet,**

**Absent:**

**Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg**

**Secretary: Bryce Hammer**

**MOTIONS**

- LAC-15-F-20** Approve the minutes from 11-5-2015 and 11-12-2015. **Passed.**
- LAC-15-F-21** Motion to approve the Student Success Agenda Proposal. **Passed.**
- LAC-15-F-22** Motion to approve the Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. **Passed.**
- LAC-15-F-23** Motion to approve the VOTE Agenda Proposal. **Passed.**
- LAC-15-F-24'** Motion to approve the High School Civics Engagement Agenda Proposal. **Passed.**
- LAC-15-F-25** Motion to adjourn. **Passed.**

**Patrick Eckroth, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:09pm.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- A.** Patrick added the WSA Board of Director's Meeting Funding request under Information Items, added the discussion of the agenda's language under discussion items, and removed the ESC discussion from discussion items.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A.** *MOTION LAC-15-F-20* by Dent

Approved the minutes from 11-5-2015 and 11-12-2015

Second: Ellison Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Motion passed, minutes approved

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A.** WSA Board of Director's Meeting Funding Request

The WSA Board meeting is going to be at Western this December, students are welcome and encouraged to come. Usually the hosting campus pays for lunch because the meetings last so long, this is a request for hospitality. Patrick said he doesn't have specifics for the dietary restrictions or the menu or the price so looked at last year's proposal and made a rough estimate. Josie asked when he is trying to get the Expenditure Request in. Patrick said he could probably get that in at any point. Josie asked when it needs to be done. Patrick says this week because the meeting is on the 3rd. Patrick said that having funding secured will make it easier but if people want it to go through the longer cycle that would also be fine. Patrick said he would entertain a motion. There was none.

## V. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Student Success Agenda Proposal—Josie

East week the new and dedicated revenue piece was approved. Josie said this one is pretty well aligned with the administration's proposal. There is a demand for increased funding for academic advising, tutoring center, increase retention of students of color, housing for students that are homeless in the long term, not just the short, etc. Basically it will increase funding to support services on campus. They asked for questions. Patrick said he had a meeting about the homeless student services, wherein long term housing issue was the focus. They'll probably be discussing it when they talk about the local agenda. Leonard Jones has worked with the larger Bellingham community on this issue. It's a problem that's very clear in Bellingham. Josie said they feel like its community wide but that shouldn't be an excuse for not solving the problem on campus. McKenzie said there should be dorms or an off campus alternative. Patrick said this proposal is the only item so far that is fully reflected with the admin's lobbying effort. There are a few differences but he's hoping the language will match closely. Josie said there were a few other proposals. There will be a few that aren't as intense. They're also looking at the IT situation with relation to the Student Technology Fee. The AS didn't think that it deserved top priority in the agenda but they do support it. Patrick said it's a good idea to lobby on it. Patrick said they should have a discussion about how to fit it in on our campus. Lisa said it's been on campus for a while, since the late 80s early 90s. Patrick asked for final questions. There were none. Josie explained the motion making system to the new students.

*MOTION LAC-15-F-21* by Dearing

Motion to approve the Student Success Agenda Proposal.

Second: Selander Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Motion passed.

### B. Support for Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence—Bridget

The goal of this proposal is to increase for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. It's similar to last year's proposal, though this year's has added support for survivors of domestic violence. Bridget said this proposal is particularly important this year because survivors often don't know where to go and the Title IX investigations happening on campus make this topic increasingly relevant. Patrick asked for question, there were none.

*MOTION LAC-15-F-22* by Doyle

Motion to approve the Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.

Second: Selander      Vote: 7-0-0      Action: Motion passed.

### **C. VOTE Proposal—Patrick**

Patrick said the council has seen this before, he brought it to the council several times to ensure that he got enough feedback on it. Nora said the Vote drive on Western's campus is big, as are voting issues that impact Western. On many of the items on the proposal the vote was very close last year. She asked for questions. Patrick said the Motor Voter got close and Josie said California and Oregon both passed it since our last session. Patrick asked for questions, there were none.

*MOTION LAC-15-F-23* by Dent

Motion to approve the VOTE Agenda Proposal.

Second: Selander      Vote: 7-0-0      Action: Motion passed.

### **D. High School Civics Proposal—Josie**

Josie said this one is important because everyone in WA should have the same kind of access to student engagement. This will be looking at different kinds of engagement that can be modified in high school history and government classes. They said that they'll be looking at increasing the amount of civic knowledge that people graduate with and making sure that the state is teaching people how to become engaged. They said how they lobby for it will depend a lot on what comes up during session. Briana asked what it will look like in implementation. Josie said there isn't a lot of model so they won't be advocating for it until they can all talk about it. Basically it will give Josie clearance to work on it in Olympia. Generally they'd like to see more explicit conversations in high school about getting involved with civic engagement. Henry asked if this could be a part of the McCleary decision. Josie said possible but they're wary of getting involved with the McCleary decision but it would be an interesting angle to approach this from. Patrick said this proposal wouldn't need to change but the expected communication vs. actual with school districts might need looking at. Josie said

there are a lot of possible allies out there to work with. Also the WSA is working to increase the tracking of legislation. Which is a good ground work to build a coalition. Patrick said he wants to involve people that are teaching or plan on being a teacher. Lisa said Josie should look into the civic education initiative through the superintendent. There are some new requirements, not a lot, but a few that would address certain parts of civic engagement. Patrick said this is one of the positions that is up for election and he wants to know if it's an initiative that can be dropped if someone takes over that spot. Josie said probably. Lisa said there is a social studies advisor in the office. Patrick asked for questions.

*MOTION LAC- 15-F-24* by Pollet

Motion to approve the High School Civics Engagement Agenda Proposal.

Second: Dearing Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Motion passed.

## **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Language for the agenda**

Patrick said all of the language that goes to the board comes from this committee and though it is far away they might want to break into groups to get draft one done. Patrick wants to get the purposes behind the proposals drafted. He then pulled up the legislative agendas from 2015 and 2014. He showed the council what the agenda looked like last year and said that we have a good framework for this year because four of the proposals from last year will carry over to this year. Patrick said he'll email out the last 5 years of agendas. He said he's like to break these different agenda items down and get people into groups. Bridget asked when he expects this to be done. Patrick said the Thursday of dead week is when it needs to be done by, ideally it will be done before winter break. Josie said they should plan on having it done by the end of finals week. Lisa asked if they want to do that now. Patrick said maybe but he'd at least like to break down the list now. Josie and Briana are doing the dedicated revenue. Student Success—Briana, Josie and Patrick. Support for survivors—Bridget and Nora. VOTE—Henry, Josie, Nora. High school civics—Josie. Patrick said he would send an email with the agendas from the AS and from the WSA, WSA is normally influenced by the AS's agenda.

## **VII. REPORTS**

- A. VP of Governmental Affairs:** Patrick said he went to the WSA general assembly. It was last Saturday at Central Washington University and they deferred the budget until the next general assembly because they don't know how much money they have because five years ago they didn't pay any taxes. They have been paid but there are also fines that need to be covered. They also approved three new agenda items. One of which is decoupling the S&A fee from tuition, which was approved. Josie said that the biggest thing is the interpretation in the legislature because they were concerned about a potential 15% cut from the fee. This is one we were going to bring but we now won't have to. Patrick said the

other two are on affirmative consent, which is Yes Means Yes, and the third is to try to get rid of waiting periods for students with disabilities. Right now there is a lengthy application for students with disabilities to receive help and in the time when it's being processed students are expected to go to the class without the aid. There was discussion about repealing the decision to cut higher education. Also the West Coast Field organizer has been at Western for several days and Patrick will continue to have meetings with her. We received an invoice for dues which we will be talking about soon. It was supposed to increase 5 cents but it actually increased 12 cents so we have to reevaluate our membership with the USSA. Viking Lobby Day Registration is open, 110 spots are open and it's first come first serve, though some people drop out.

- B. Legislative Liaison:** Josie said they've been working on shorter versions of the agenda items they've seen and will soon be doing outreach. They'll also be working with the ESC and ESP to work on the agenda to collaborate the tasks. We're trying to collaborate everything into one agenda so there aren't several. ESC is also planning their own lobby day and Josie is helping with that. They've been meeting with admin and different folks they'll be working with down in Olympia, as well as Sarah Singleton. The united faculty of WA will be making sure we hold onto the funding that was dedicated to them last year. It will come from the backfill that we're trying to advocate for. Josie said education has rather suddenly become a voting issue. During the WSA meeting the agenda was tentatively decided on. A few of them are iffy. One of them is already in the WAC but is still being lobbied on. Bridget asked what they want to do with that. Josie said they don't think the WSA knew that it was in the WAC. Originally it was going to be but as an organization there was no conversation about that. Josie said they'd like to see a more holistic approach to reform sexual consent on campus. They said there was a proposal in the WSA but it could've been done better. Josie said the legislation right now is not finalized but the AS has tentatively endorsed it. Josie said they have two new work studies in the office and Bridget is one of them. Having people in the office do outreach will be helpful.
- C. Western Votes:** Didn't have WV this week but the next meeting will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm. They'll be talking about VLD and the legislative agenda and how students lobby. Josie said they will also be finding a replacement for them. Nora said they will be planning an executive board meeting about that.
- D. Local Liaison:** McKenzie said there was a Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting and a City Council meeting. At the Mayor's council there was a presentation about making maps for the watering shed and gathering places. The sustainable infrastructure group, GreenLink Bellingham, is working to assess and give recommendations for the new green infrastructure in Bellingham. Someone from the Public Access Channel came as well and said they're looking for content to put on their channel. She said that KVIK might be interested in that. There was a really long discussion about ADUs. Some people have houses with an extra addition that gets rented out, often to students, and many of them do so without the correct permits and regulations. They're looking at legislature to

make it more specific. The tree lighting ceremony will be happening downtown soon. MNAC was supportive about voter registration Western had on campus in the Fall. The new Tincoln St. apartments were talked about. They're planning on charging \$650-\$700 per month for rent which is a little high for students, especially because they're supposed to be affordable housing for students. She will be looking into talking to the developer. As it stands the students that can afford to live there already have places and students that live on a student salary won't be able to afford it. She is working on the flat pages for the website and the AS Review. She is planning an event with the TIC and the coalition to talk about renter's information, neighbor information, and fire safety. They will be videotaping some of it so that it can be re-used later in the year. City Council was on Monday and they voted to establish the smoking ban in parks and trails. Also, a new website was launched for the city of Bellingham. It looks good but they're still working out the bugs. It should be better for mobile devices. At City Council, they talked about adding an extra tax exemption in Fairhaven and Barkley Village for developers so they can build affordable housing. Some people aren't happy about it but they've decided to table the conversation until December 7th. Bridget asked what they constitute as affordable. McKenzie said they have specific numbers and they're online but she doesn't remember them right now. They weren't too bad now. Henry said there is a state definition for affordable housing that they'd need to follow. McKenzie said the tax exemption already exists on Samish and Fountain district. She said her only concern is that Barkley is far and most students wouldn't live there but Fairhaven might attract students. Overall she doesn't see a problem with increasing affordable housing. Josie said they are working on the legislative updates in Olympia and they'll be partnering with KUGS and the AS Review for outreach. Short sessions means they'll be able to do weekly updates and regular email updates. They've been talking to Kelly. There is a limit on the number of bull's eye emails that Josie can send. ESP and ESC and WV meetings will be called into. They'll try to call into the Steering meetings and the ESC president's council. They're also trying to get as many people as possible signed up. The link attached to their position is dead. Elect her will no longer be an event the AS offers. The campus has progressed passed what they will let us do so we're trying to create a program that will encourage all marginalized identities to run for office. Registration for that will be happening soon. McKenzie said there are commission vacancies in Bellingham. She's going to get the word out about that. Briana said some of them need to be professionals. McKenzie said she'd look into that. It would be good to get students on some of those.

### **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Patrick said there is only one more meeting left this quarter. He will be sending out a doodle soon to set up times for winter quarter meetings.

*MOTION LAC- 15-F-25* by Pollet

Motion to adjourn.

Second: Selander Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Motion passed.

*The Meeting was adjourned at 5:25*

DRAFT