

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Legislative Affairs Council  
Thursday, February 11, 2016 VU 567**

**Present:** Patrick Eckroth (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Nora Selander (Vice Chair), McKenzie Dent (Local Liaison), Haley Newhouse (Western Votes!), Henry Pollet (Student at Large), Briana Dearing (Student at Large), Andrea Tomkins (Student at Large), and Emma Bigongiari (Student at Large).

**Absent:** Josie Ellison (Legislative Liaison), Losa Berhane (Student at Large), Bridget Doyle Williams (Student at Large), Sarah Berglin (Student at Large),

**Advisor:** Lisa Rosenberg

**Secretary:** Bryce Hammer

**Guest:** Merrill Paez-Hunt

**MOTIONS**

**LAC-16-W-20** Approved the minutes from 2-2-2016. **Passed.**

**LAC-16-W-21** Motion to add the item “Environmental Lobby Day Agenda Item—House Bill 2980” as an Action Item. **Passed.**

**LAC-16-W-22** Motion to let Environmental Lobby Day lobby in favor of HB 2980. **Passed.**

**LAC-16-W-23** Motion to make a subcommittee for the USSA Conference Applicant Selection Process. **Passed.**

**LAC-16-W-24** Motion to adjourn. **Passed.**

**Patrick Eckroth, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:08pm.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. MOTION LAC-16-W-20 by Selander**

Approved the minutes from 2-2-2016.

Second: Newhouse Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed.

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Local Agenda Proposals—McKenzie Dent**

Patrick gave everyone a minute to read over the proposal. McKenzie asked for questions concerning the Tenant Waste Proposal. Patrick asked for a summary. McKenzie said she’s been going to the meetings and they’re looking for a solution for tenant waste and these are the solutions that came out of it. Three main things.

1) Require Landlords to provide adequate numbers of recycling and garbage containers. 2) Education to tenants, zero cost and low cost options. Campus community coalition is working hard on this. 3) Having landlords make sure places are completely cleaned out before they hand the keys over. Briana asked what holding landlords accountable would look like. McKenzie said rental requirements have been imposing new requirements on landlords and this could be worked in. Emma asked what methods of education the university would use. McKenzie said flyers, door knockers, canvas module for reference, clinics, and events like Housing and Hash Browns. McKenzie said these things are happening anyway but it would be good to have a position to take a stance on. Nora said they should add students who have had to put things out on the street under coalition building. Bryce explained the lighting proposal, the city is currently putting in LED light bulbs in some of the current street lights, there are a couple options the council could go with including lobbying for some of those LED light bulbs to be put in around campus and lobbying for new light poles altogether. Patrick said he'd like to pass an item for the Environmental Lobby Agenda that's happening on Monday. Andrea asked how many people are going. Patrick said 37 people have signed up which is the biggest ELD so far. Patrick said there is a bill in the House that would prohibit new facilities being built that would jeopardize air quality in areas that have recently failed to meet air quality standards, which would affect Tacoma in particular. Patrick said it's inefficient but slightly better for sustainability. Emma and Briana said they supported the prohibition. Briana said it was an environmentally racist because the high concentration of people of color in areas that have failed to meet air quality standards. Patrick said the Department of Ecology would not be allowed to issue notice of constructions to a new source that produces pollutants (like those that refine or convert natural gas, crude oil, or other fossil fuels into other marketable products). Henry said he agreed with the bill and it would lower the amount of fossil fuel that Washington ships to China, which is good. Patrick asked if people were okay with letting ELD lobby against it. The council said they were. It would allow Environmental Lobby participants to lobby on it but it wouldn't be added to the official agenda because they've already been finalized.

*MOTION LAC-16-W-21 by Pollet*

Motion to add the item "Environmental Lobby Day Agenda Item—House Bill 2980" as an Action Item.

Second: Dearing Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed.

**B. USSA Conference—Application Choosing Process**

Patrick asked who can make it to the next meeting, because that will help determine if a subcommittee is applicable. Andrea asked how the applications are going. Patrick said it will close on Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday the applications will be in the Board of Directors office, to keep them confidential, but

the council should come look at them. They started talking about the application selection process. Patrick said they'll be figuring out who gets to choose, how they'll be choosing, if they'll be ranking, who will be voting. Henry said he's against letting people who are applying also be the people who are choosing. Emma and Briana agreed. Patrick said the best way to do it and keep the ranking system is to make a subcommittee. McKenzie said she doesn't like the idea of self-voting but she worries about having such a small group of people making a big decision. Andrea suggested not letting the people in the room who applied look at other applicants in the room. McKenzie suggested two meetings, one LAC, one subcommittee. Henry said the subcommittee could decide where their rankings would stack up. Bryce suggested an average score instead of holistic, based on the number of people that look at each applicant. McKenzie said the people on the committee need to help make the decision. Patrick said there still needs to be a subcommittee.

*MOTION LAC-16-W-23 by Dent*

Motion to make a subcommittee for the USSA Conference Applicant Selection Process.

Second: Newhouse Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed.

#### **IV. ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. Environmental Lobby Day Agenda Item—House Bill 2980**

*MOTION LAC-16-W-22 by Dearing*

Motion to let Environmental Lobby Day lobby in favor of HB 2980.

Second: Selander Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed.

**Emma left at 4:47.**

#### **V. REPORTS**

- A.** VP for Governmental Affairs: Patrick said the Academic Bill of Rights is a piece of legislation proposed by Manweller. Students were submitting complaints about him at his university about microaggressions so he introduced a bill to prevent students from being able to hold teachers accountable. Henry said the proposition would eliminate all safe spaces in relation to universities. Patrick said there was one part about microaggressions and there was a fine involved. Another part involved trigger warnings. There was also an area about making all universities free speech zones so students wouldn't need to apply in order to do an action. There were also two parts, one that would allow student employees whistle blower protections and one that would let lawyers represent students in academic hearings. That bill has been struck down because no one liked it. Environmental Lobby Day will be on Monday and they might share a bus with ESC. Next

weekend there's another WSA meeting in Olympia. It'll be right before the end of session. WSA is focusing on budgets, trying to hire an organizing director and in order to do that they need to spend less money on the lease.

**B.** Local Liaison: McKenzie said the public hearing was Monday, a couple students spoke, and the discussion was lively. She met with the League of Women Voters. There will be a panel regarding voter turnout in local elections at the Bellingham public library that she'll be speaking on. Housing and Hash Browns is next Saturday. Patrick asked if the planning director was at the meeting. Yes, though he kind of misunderstood their purpose. McKenzie said they were excited students were there. Haley said her sociology professor is going to the DNC and the RNC in July. She wants to know if they can be involved in that. Patrick said no, it can't go towards any partisan efforts. Haley said they're going to watch, not participate. Patrick said it's still a partisan convention though it sounds interesting.

**C.** Western Votes!: Nora said Western Votes is meeting this Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> in VU 562. They'll be in different rooms for the rest of the quarter. Western Votes was also invited to be in a state wide coalition that's trying to get governor candidates to debate, as well as senate race debates. Western, in specific, is trying to get one in Bellingham or on campus. There is also a day of action scheduled for tomorrow, for text books.

## **VI. ADJOURN**

*MOTION LAC-16-W-24 by Newhouse*

Motion to adjourn.

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

*The Meeting was adjourned at 4:59.*