

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Tuesday, February 2, 2016 VU 567**

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

Absent: Sarah Berglin, Losa Berhane, Andrea Tompkins, Emma Bigongiari

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg

Secretary: Bryce Hammer

MOTIONS

- LAC-16-W-16 Motion to approve the minutes from 1-26-2016. **Passed.**
- LAC-16-W-17 Add a funding request under Action Items to the agenda for the purpose of funding the vehicles going to the City Council meeting. **Passed.**
- LAC-16-W-18 Approve funding not to exceed \$10 for the purpose of paying _____ for the vehicles going to the City Council Meeting. **Passed.**
- LAC-16-W-19 Motion to Adjourn. **Passed.**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

A.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Approved the minutes from 1-26-2016

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

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Local Agenda—McKenzie Dent

Patrick opened the floor for the Local Agenda item discussion and gave everyone time to read over the documents. Briana asked how many people were surveyed. McKenzie said in the online survey there were 67 responses and in the one handed out at Viking Lobby Day there were 71. Patrick said it's interesting that people were saying the shuttle wasn't accessible because that's the reason they changed it. McKenzie said the opinions on the shuttle very pretty varied. She said when

students were asked what the most pressing problem in Bellingham was the most common answer was tuition so she'd like to rephrase to get a more local issues driven response. The written responses were more helpful than the survey ones because it was hard to know how solid those were. Lighting was mentioned frequently, she's thinking of adding it to the agenda. Bridget said people were talking about lighting issues near the Park and Ride, trails through the woods, and in the Fairhaven district. Bridget said she sprained her ankle. Patrick said it would be a good item to add. Bridget said when you apply to rentals the application fee was a problem. McKenzie said the tenant education proposal should include info for those fees and suggested LAC team up with legal education center. They'll be holding an event soon with a few speakers to spread information about renting in Bellingham. The main thing she wanted to talk about wasn't agenda centered. There is a proposal for the Aloha Hotel that would include affordable housing., they'll be discussing it at the City Council Meeting at 7 on Monday February 8. She sent out an email to the Viking Lobby Day list to look for students to speak. Patrick said there is a funding request for \$5 for the vehicle to get students to the City Council meeting which could potentially be added to the agenda. Patrick brought up the public comment letter. McKenzie wrote a letter supporting the redevelopment proposal. This would have to go through the council. McKenzie said all of the things in the letter will be things she'll say in the meeting and she, Bridget, and Ta Frese are giving testimony. McKenzie said there will be an email sent out about who volunteered to do what proposal and then she'll send out another email concerning each proposal and breakdown similar to the State agenda. McKenzie went over the local agenda items. Henry volunteered to work on the high school civics project, Patrick did voter registration, Bryce did lighting. Patrick asked when the agenda needs to be approved. McKenzie said preferably by the 25th. Local Lobby day will be April. She'd like more by next week. There will be some that need more work than others. McKenzie wants to transform the tenant education one to become more general instead of student specific. Henry asked if the civics item was similar to the state agenda. McKenzie said yes and she'd like a program where Western students could go to high schools in Bellingham which can be brought up during the next legislative session. Patrick said before submitting LAC should talk to superintendents. McKenzie said talking to social studies or civics teachers might work.

B. Federal Agenda—Patrick Eckroth

Patrick said he attached the federal agenda from the last few years. He asked for updates from Josie with the WSA. Josie said there are several things they could talk about but they're all happening now. There are a couple things to add but none of them will go anywhere in an election year. Patrick said it's early for the federal agenda but getting the conversation started is a good thing.

C. USSA National Student Power Summit—Patrick Eckroth

Patrick said the application was opened, outreach will be starting soon, and he's working on an email to be sent to all students. They'll be approving 12 students and they're hoping for a good pool of applications. He'll send an email to AS employees and then an email to all students. He hasn't heard from Abby Ramos,

VP of Diversity about the additional students. They have a policy to make the application process as open as possible. Patrick asked for outreach from the council, particularly in talking to classes or friends. He'll be going to RHA with Emma Palumbo, VP of Student Life, to talk about AS elections and the USSA trip. Committee members who apply will be asked to leave the room while they're being discussed. He said he's trying to determine how the voting will happen. McKenzie said the year before there was confusion about who council members could and couldn't vote for. Nora said people voted for themselves last year. Patrick said that wouldn't happen this year. Nora asked if there's another way to do it. Patrick said he'd looking into it. McKenzie said if quorum can be reached it would be best to abstain entirely. Henry said it might not be an issue, depending on application pool. Bridget asked if Danny Edgel was still on the council and could he be a part of the decision. Patrick said he wasn't on the list but it's possible. Patrick said a subcommittee might be good because of the different requirements. Subcommittees can't be more people than quorum. Pat moved into criteria. Nora said USSA has a statement about marginalized identities and encouraged expressing a similar statement in the proposal process. Patrick said the other thing to discuss is the delegation, balance between new and old students. Especially with the two leaders. People too involved with USSA don't enjoy having to lead a group. Patrick said the reflection includes 5 set questions. Bridget asked what kind of questions they'll be. Pat said it's similar to full circle effect and the questions asked during applications. He'd added some questions to see how people experience the trip. Will review the week of the 15th. Bridget asked about outreach. Patrick said there hasn't been a lot of outreach. Nothing went out to the employees, mostly word of mouth. Bridget asked about sending an email to people who participated in VLD. Patrick said he'll send out to departments, AS, VLD, WV...etc. Bridget asked about tabling. The discussion items will probably come back because they're in early stages.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. MOTION LAC-16-W-17 by Eckroth

Add a funding request under Action Items to the agenda for the purpose of funding the vehicles going to the City Council meeting.

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

B. MOTION LAC-16-W-18 by Newhouse

Approve funding not to exceed \$10 for the purpose of paying for the vehicles going to the City Council Meeting.

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

VI. REPORTS

A. Local Liaison: McKenzie said there would be a planning event soon.

- B. Western Votes: Nora said there was a delegation to the WSA Board Meeting and organizing training. Learned a lot about organizing. Should be Western Votes meeting soon.
- C. VP for Governmental Affairs: Initiating outreach phase for USSA. During the WSA trip they talked about the budget, they're trying to get an Organizing Director for next year which they need. Only five schools stayed for the full training, which was productive. AS elections were discussed to see what the process was at other schools. Some were strict, some were relaxed. They also discussed Higher One (financial aid reimbursement vendor) to see what everyone else does. The February meeting will be in Olympia. March meeting will be over the internet. The short session means there isn't a lot to talk about as far as legislation goes. The Board of Directors has been having work sessions to determine what needs to be on the agenda for next year. There will be a Board meeting on February 5th in the 6th floor lobby at 9am. Lisa said it'll be an interesting experience. Patrick said there will be a sound system so everyone can hear.
- D. Legislative Liaison: Josie said they'll be sending a general update to the council. They'd like to get the council's opinion on a couple pieces of legislation including free community college for two years, especially from students at a four-year university. There are a lot of benefits and drawbacks to it. There's a press conference on Wednesday with Hansen about a bill that would make the last quarter free for people who dropped out and only have a quarter left to finish. WWU had a pilot program for this a few years ago and it worked well. Josie will be speaking about it at the press conference. There's a bill that would repeal the affirmative action ban on campus. The campus vote system probably won't get hearings in the House or the Senate so other schools won't be able to have the voter registration system that Western does. Automatic registration, or Motor Voter, is looking good. Friday is the cutoff for any bills that don't have a fiscal note. They said they'll send out a calendar with all of the important dates. Budget stuff will be picking up soon, especially funding for student success. Patrick said Friday is also the cutoff for things that haven't made it out of committee. He said session closes March 10th. Bridget asked Josie to explain what was happening with the sexual assault bill. Josie said Senator Ranker was thinking of designing a bill for increased support services for survivors but they would've only had a week to write it which isn't enough time to bring in everyone they wanted to bring in. It made more sense to create a bill for the next budget session. They're trying to get as many students that are involved with the problem as possible. Patrick said the REP is holding an event called We Should Be In Office. Nora said there's an OrgSync link and a Facebook page for it. Patrick asked for other business, there was none.

MOTION LAC-16-W-19 by Newhouse

Motion to adjourn.

Second: Selander Vote: 6-1-0 Action: Passed

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:12pm