

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Legislative Affairs Council  
Thursday, March 3, 2016 VU 567**

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

**Absent:** Josie Ellison (Legislative Liaison), Andrea Tompkins (Student at Large), Bridget Doyle Williams (Student at Large), Henry Pollet (Student at Large), Sarah Berglin (Student at Large)

**Advisor:** Lisa Rosenberg (late)

**Secretary:** Bryce Hammer

**MOTIONS**

**LAC-16-W-29** Motion to approve Eliminating the Poll Tax for the local agenda. Passed.

**LAC-16-W-30** Motion to approve Increased Lighting for the local agenda. Passed.

**LAC-16-W-31** Motion to approve Affordable Housing for the local agenda. 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. Eckroth added WSA Statewide Agenda under Discussion Items.

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Local Agenda Proposals**

**i. Eliminating the Poll Tax**

Eckroth said we should acknowledge the drop box that was installed on campus because City Council was helpful in getting it. Every campus in Washington had the option of getting one and most did, UW decided not to. Eckroth asked for discussion. Dent said she emailed the auditor to discuss it before they take it to lobby day.

*MOTION LAC-16-W-29 by Dearing*

Motion to approve Eliminating the Poll Tax for the local agenda.

Second: Bigongiari Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

**ii. Increased Lighting**

Dent said including specific locations. Hammer talked about the locations that need the lighting. Dent suggested passing it and then including specific neighborhoods in the handouts they'll be taking to Local Lobby Day. Dent said having an individual sheet for each proposal will work well for LLD structure so they can go more in detail about it. Eckroth asked for questions.

*MOTIONLAC-16-W-30 by Dearing*

Motion to approve Increased Lighting for the local agenda.

Second: Dent                      Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

iii. Affordable Housing

Dearing said finding other places to suggest would be good but she could not think of anything. Eckroth said someone brought up a development by Fred Meyer last week and he wanted to give an update. It's still unclear but it will be targeted towards students. It will include a shuttle to and from campus, tanning bed, a swimming pool, and other amenities. Eckroth said rates on campus might go down because of the competition. There will be an item concerning increasing housing and dining coming to the Board soon. Hammer asked how many people could live there.

*Nora Selander entered at 4:25pm.*

Eckroth said it could accommodate thousands. Dent said it would have 600 units and will be suite styled, floors will have RA like people. Newhouse said Grove is the company the facility is being ran out of. They discussed the facilities. Nora said they're predatory and Newhouse said she knows people who have hated living in places like this. Berhane said they have a website up with pictures. Eckroth said they'll keep the council updated because the university is concerned. Dearing said Samish Way and behind Samish were all she could think of for affordable housing. She asked Dent if the City Council approved the proposal for the Aloha Motel area. Dent said yes. Eckroth asked about the Forrest development. Dent said no. Eckroth asked for discussion. There was none.

*MOTION LAC-16-W-31 by Selander*

Motion to approve Affordable Housing for the local agenda.

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

**IV. REPORTS**

- A. Western Votes!: Selander said Western Votes! had a meeting and they're planning a town hall event for AS elections. They're thinking they might need a bigger venue because of the number of candidates. Nora said they're trying not to do a debate and instead want a forum for people to come to and ask specific questions to the candidates. They want to bring specific AS groups to those questions. People will be able to ask questions that they didn't include in their platforms. Today is a debate viewing party, there will also be one next Wednesday.
- B. Local Liaison: Dent said she is working with Councilmember Barker. For local lobby day there are 12 meetings scheduled and several waiting for a meeting time. There will probably be two or three shifts for students that have classes so they can rotate out. She sent in a PR request. Dent said they've got meetings leading up to it as well because some members could not meet that day. Joe Timmons and Steve Swan are also trying to meet with her.
- C. VP for Governmental Affairs: The Board of Directors is having a meeting with the Board of Trustees after the LAC meeting to discuss shared governance and only that. The WSA meeting for March will be happening over the phone. USSA NSPS arrangements have been made. There will be a delegation meeting soon. The Federal lobby Day wasn't mentioned in the legacy document that was left for Eckroth. There was supposed to be a meeting with the faculty some time ago but they never reached out and the AS was in the middle of planning Viking Lobby Day at the time so he's working on getting caught up. He has scheduled meetings with Steve Swan, the school's VP for University Relations. The Structural Review Committee is looking at its first proposed structure for the AS. In most schools there are three different branches in an AS; general facilities (like the VU and the Bookstore, the student senate (which would handle most of the AS's functions, and the executive branch which would include the AS President, the VP for Academic Affairs, the VP for Governmental Affairs, and then someone to handle business. There would be several committees that legislative action would go through instead of all of it being handled by the LAC. It would be modeled after the Oregon State University's taskforce system. Eckroth will be bringing in a revised budget policy for next year and wants to look into moving things from discretionary to non-discretionary, like WSA dues. He'd also like to look into how expenditures under \$150 could just be approved by him.

*Lisa Rosenberg entered at 4:40pm.*

The WSA General Assembly will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. Proposals for the agenda will be due a month before hand. Newhouse asked if they're having a meeting. Dent asked if people want to help write language for the actual agenda. Eckroth handed over the meeting to Selander at 4:42.

- D. Legislative Liaison: Eckroth said budget negotiations are happening, there are a lot of fiscal bills but none that have made it through both chambers. The 10<sup>th</sup> is the last day for actual session. The last few days of session will be ceremonial.

Hopefully Student Success will make it through. Western is almost certain to get the backfill that will come from underestimating enrollment for this year.

## **Y. DISCUSSION**

### **A. Parking**

Selander asked if anyone thought about parking yet. Dent said ideas are abstract. Nora asked what the main issue is. Dent said they were focusing on tenants that don't have access. Dearing suggested adding paving for parking lots.

*The Meeting was adjourned at 4:45.*