

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Wednesday, March 30, 2016 VU 567**

Present: Patrick Eckroth (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Nora Selander (Vice Chair), Josie Ellison (Legislative Liaison), McKenzie Dent (Local Liaison), Henry Pollet (Student at Large), and Emma Bigongiari (Student at Large).

Absent: Briana Dearing (Student at Large), Sarah Berglin (Student at Large), Andrea Tomkins (Student at Large), Losa Berhane (Student at Large), Haley Newhouse (Western Votes!), Bridget Doyle Williams (Student at Large)

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg
Secretary: Bryce Hammer

MOTIONS

- LAC-16-S-1** Approved the minutes from 2-25-2016 and 3-3-2016. **Passed.**
- LAC-16-S-2** Move the Federal Agenda Proposals from Information Items to Action Items. **Passed.**
- LAC-16-S-3** Motion to approve the Voter Empowerment Act of 2015 for the Federal Agenda. **Passed.**
- LAC-16-S-4** Motion to approve the End Racial Profiling Act of 2015 for the Federal Agenda. **Passed.**
- LAC-16-S-5** Motion to approve the Propriety Education Oversight Coordination Improvement Act for the Federal Agenda. **Passed.**
- LAC-16-S-6** Motion to approve the Pell Grant Protection Act, the Year-Round Pell Grant Restoration Act, and the Pell Grant Cost of Tuition Adjustment Act for the Federal Agenda. **Passed.**
- LAC-16-S-7** Motion to approve the Federal Dream Act for the Federal Agenda. **Passed.**
- LAC-16-S-8** Motion to approve the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. **Passed.**

Patrick Eckroth, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:11pm.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MOTION LAC-16-S-1 by Ellison

Approved the minutes from 2-25-2016 and 3-3-2016.

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

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Federal Agenda

Eckroth said he sent out the agenda from last year and they'll be working on that. Ellison said they're not doing proposals for this one because of the time line and the proposal process is set up to run a campaign and that's not necessary for the federal lobby trip. Eckroth said he figured out we'd be having a federal lobby trip really recently. Steve Swan requested we finish the agenda by the end of the current week. The first item is the Voter Empowerment Act, broken up into two acts: Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility and Voter Registration Modernization Act. Rosenberg asked if it was the same language as last year. Ellison said they and Eckroth are tweaking the language soon, the language is currently pulled from the actual leg website. Eckroth gave everyone time to read the document. Hammer asked about laws that require two forms of ID in order to vote. Bigongiari asked which states are the "eligible" ones. Ellison said they would guess it means states that already have systems set up that compliment it. Eckroth said the "registration of 17 years of age" section might mean pre-registration. Dent said she assumes they mean pre-registration. Pollet said it might mean 17 year olds who are going to be 18. Ellison said its already in there. Ellison said they could do both. Move onto next section. Hammer asked about university voting. Ellison said would allow for students to vote within the university system on a national level. Pollet said the 80% or unopposed thing isn't cheap because recounts are expensive. Ellison said suggesting some way to pay for it would be good. Selander said the elections official cannot take an active role in someone's campaign unless they're family. Eckroth said the "chief state election administration official" is vague. Selander said it also doesn't disqualify the candidate, even if they are the chief official. Eckroth asked what should be included or taken off. Selander asked how it'll fit into the agenda form. Ellison said it'll probably mirror the way they talked about voter registration on the AS state agenda. Eckroth said it probably won't affect Western very much. Eckroth said they're fixing the registration [link](#) on Web4U. Eckroth said they're moving on to the next thing, the End Racial Profiling Act. Eckroth asked for changes or suggesting. Hammer asked who will be determining which practices engage in racial profiling. Ellison said probably the DOJ. Bigongiari asked what "US being injured by racial profiling" means. Pollet said he thinks it means the federal government could sue a state for racial profiling. He moved onto the next proposal, the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Improvement Act. Pollet said this wouldn't make it illegal for a for profit institution to be benefiting from loan programs. It would put them on a list. Selander said it would only put them on a list if the committee found it to be unfair. Eckroth said the government can benefit from loans. Pollet said it could be stronger (DeVry Case). Ellison said this will be a revision of higher education, and will be looking at ways to make sure this has teeth. Eckroth said these types of institutions are predatory towards students. The legislation last year wasn't very different but had a different name. Ellison said it might also end the federal tax subsidies for for-profit institutions. The last proposals passed without any questions.

MOTIONLAC-16-S-2 by Pollet

Move the Federal Agenda Proposals from Information Items to Action Items.

Second: Selander Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. *MOTION LAC- 16-S-3* by Ellison

Motion to approve the Voter Empowerment Act of 2015 for the Federal Agenda.

Second: Selander Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

B. *MOTIONLAC-16-S-4* by Selander

Motion to approve the EndRacial Profiling Act of 2015 for the Federal Agenda.

Second: Bigongiari Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

C. *MOTIONLAC-16-S-5* by Selander

Motion to approve the Propriety Education Oversight Coordination Improvement Act for the Federal Agenda.

Second: Ellison Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

D. *MOTION LAC-16-S-6* by Ellison

Motion to approve the Pell Grant Protection Act, the Year-Round Pell Grant Restoration Act, and the Pell Grant Cost of Tuition Adjustment Act for the Federal Agenda.

Second: Dent Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

E. *MOTIONLAC-16-S-7* by Selander

Motion to approve the Federal Dream Act for the Federal Agenda.

Second: Pollet Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

F. *MOTION LAC- 16-S-8* by Selander

Motion to approve the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Pollet left.

Quorum was lost at 4:55pm.

V. REPORTS

- A.** VP for Governmental Affairs: Eckroth said he's began making arrangements for Federal Lobby Trip. The WSA General Assembly will be in May so the committee will be starting on the state wide agenda next week.

- B.** Legislative Liaison: Ellison said that since session officially ended the representatives will begin fundraising soon. Not much has changed for Western. The final budget that included backfill for 802K. Senate proposed budget had cut state need grant funding. College Bound Scholarship increased and 1,100 students would've been bumped but that got filled so it won't change. We did not get student success. Made into Senate budget but not the House's. Ellison is confident that it'll happen next year. Budget priorities were the wildfires and the Western Mental Health Hospital, because they came under federal interest. Ins lee vetoed 27 bills because neither chamber was passing a budget. Once the budget was passed they overrode all the vetoes. They'll begin working on writing proposals for WSA's agenda. Ellison is working on ones for academic advising, college affordability, and a couple of smaller ones. They have a list of what other campuses are working on, which will be open to LAC. Rosenberg asked if it would be the agenda for next leg session. Ellison said it's the WSA agenda for 2017-2018. Ellison said they can turn it in a little late. Eckroth said the last week of April will be the deadline. Eckroth said the Board of Trustees have a preferred candidate for president. Ellison said he seems like a good candidate, and students will have an opportunity to meet him soon.

- C.** Western Votes!: Selander said she is setting up WV tomorrow. She's going to look at the doodle poll for LAC to determine the best time. The AS elections Town Hall is on the 12th.

- D.** Local Liaison: Next Friday is the Local Lobby Day, there is an application on Orgsync. Dent said she needs 3 other people for group leaders. The more people that sign up, the more group leaders they'll need. Each group will have five or six meetings. The agenda is in the same format as the state agenda was. Over spring break Dent and the REP Director, Griffin Crisp, meet with the local auditor. The auditor was not overly enthusiastic about their plan, and prefers online registration. She did specify how they want the addresses formatted. Don't want the 516 High Street part added. Selander said Bimam Wood and BT aren't on High Street. Ellison said it might conflict with precincts. Eckroth said he's

concerned about ballots getting to students. Dent said the auditor said she's wants another ballot drop box on campus, near South Campus. Dent said she's meeting with Joe Timmons and Steve Swan, Friday at 9. Eckroth said the university is planning on reforming the C lots. Ellison said Campus Services would be good for south campus. Dent said there is no drop box on Lummi Island and suggested looking into it. When new neighborhoods get one, Lummi complains. Rosenberg said the Board payed for the one the bookstore has.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12pm.