

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Wednesday, April 13, 2016 VU 567**

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

Absent: Haley Newhouse (Western Votes!), Bridget Doyle Williams (Student at Large), Henry Pollet (Student at Large), Briana Dearing (Student at Large), Sarah Berglin (Student at Large), Andrea Tomkins (Student at Large), Losa Berhane (Student at Large). Some members were temporarily revoked membership so that quorum could be reached.

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg
Secretary: Bryce Hammer

MOTIONS

- LAC-16-S-9** Approved the minutes from 3-30-2016. **Passed.**
LAC-16-S-10 Motion to move item from Information to Action. **Passed.**
LAC-16-S-11 Motion to approve funding for the USSA Board of Directors meeting for an amount not to exceed \$750. **Passed.**
LAC-16-S-12 Motion to adjourn. **Passed.**

Patrick Eckroth, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:16pm.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A.** Eckroth added a funding request for the USSA Board of Directors meeting. He also removed USSA National Student Congress proposed budget from Information Items. Ellison said the USSA National Congress will likely be on the east coast.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A.** *MOTION LAC-16-S-9 by Ellison*

Second: Selander Vote: 5-0-0

Action:Passed.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A.** USSA National Student Power Summit Feedback

Eckroth said the delegation that went over spring break has submitted their feedback, for the most part, and the council will look over it today. Ellison asked if he is giving out another deadline. Eckroth said he is going to push them to respond soon, as it was a part of their application and acceptance. Ellison asked if it would impact other people's funding. Eckroth said maybe, but the sooner he gets the feedback, the better. Eckroth allowed people to read over the responses and then asked the council for their thoughts on how the value of USSA is returning back to campus. Eckroth said we can send students to the conferences without being members, and asked how the council feels about the resources USSA gives to Western, and what the return on the investment is. Ellison said that USSA is in a complicated place. The things we want from them will require more funding to hire staff. They need more time and attention devoted to conferences, which means they usually end up being inaccessible. That being said, in previous years they've showed a lot of potential for intersectional representation. The campuses themselves aren't the problem, but the actions they plan are inaccessible and insensitive and they don't account for varying comfort levels. They don't always consider everything they should when they plan an action, which is because they're running so many campaigns with such few staff. Also, USSA does a lot with students of color and support for them. In a more internal discussion, the USSA was running a campaign for support for survivors but were not dealing with instances of sexual assault within their own organization. More inclusion and money would help. Ellison will be available for questions later. Eckroth asked them to describe the membership situation. Ellison said there is discussion about an organizational restructure, which is why they haven't been hiring for staff positions. Campuses are re-evaluating what USSA does for them. WS A left and the OSA has some qualms. The UCSA is back but not paying dues until next year, which is a pretty big chunk of student representation in USSA. A lot of the east coast campuses are campus members but not state associations and when they are they're not due paying state associations. Not paying members in the same way that WS A is. Because of this they'll be looking at different membership structures. Which would look like different chapters, so Western Votes! could be a chapter. Losa Berhane would be a good person to talk to. Eckroth said with Western being the only WA rep, and with OSA thinking of pulling out, and the UCSA not being there he was concerned Western pulling out would kill the organization. Ellison said if the UCSA was going to be lost long term, then there would be a discussion about whether or not they needed a west coast field organizer, but they'll be returning in the upcoming academic year. Eckroth said there will probably be a longer conversation about this at the end of the quarter. Selander asked how different it would look to send students to conferences but not be due paying members. Ellison said there is a lot of support provided for students working on USSA campaigns, so they should talk to students about the west coast field organizer, Aja. Eckroth said there was only one visit this year.

B. WS A Statewide Legislative Agenda

Eckroth said there are issues that Western has brought that need to be brought back but there have been no proposed new issues, which there should be. Soon, they'll

need to bring the proposals to LAC in order to get them to WS A. He asked how they could create a structure that would include more input from the students. Ellison said the Liaisons talked about keeping the proposals from last year, which frees up space to create new ones. Eckroth said college affordability is a generally flimsy proposal. Ellison said they'll be writing it with Emily Strode so it'll have priority on the agenda, which they decided as a group. Ellison said something that Western could do would be, having an item about New and Dedicated Revenue. They think it would make the agenda stronger, and WA has a regressive tax structure. Western could look at new funding/new tax structures. They said it'll be a little contentious, because not all of the Legislative Liaisons agree that it would be a good idea to include a section on dedicated revenue. Ellison said it would look similar to our dedicated revenue agenda. They'd have to look closer about income tax, because of the dysfunctional sales tax system. The income tax one will have to be careful when we're presenting it. Ellison said there was an estate tax and a property tax. Ellison said they'll reach out to their list of people interested in session. Eckroth said they'll be in touch about the general assembly, which will be 14 people and he'll be reaching out soon.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Legislative Action Fund Proposed 2016-17 Budget Allocations

Eckroth said this wasn't the final version but it was close. There were a few changes about spending over the summer and small amounts that don't need to go through process. There is a new line about the President and the VP and student activities. He asked for thoughts and concerns. It will be reported back to the committee. There will be proposed allocations soon. There will also be changes in USSA and job descriptions. There was a revenue of \$41521.00 this year, with a \$14 Bad Debt Expense. Eckroth said that there were 180 students who didn't pay it, so they waved it because it would've cost more to track those students down than to wave the fee. Rosenberg said the veteran's affair place approved funding before the fee went into effect and it would've cost more to go back and fix it. Got a few more thousand than last year. He said there is some extra money on the tracker not on the sheet so he'll look into that and figure out what's going on. Congress was about 8K. USSA Power Summit was about 10K and lodging was around 3K. USSA Board 2K. WSA Expenses was 1.5K. Additional Lobbying efforts 1.3K. Discretionary total was 37.150K. The VLD BA will be on there and WSA dues, it will total 7K with will put us 3K into reserves. They'll be looking at 16-18K in reserves.

B. USSA Board Meeting Funding Request

Request to send Losa Berhane to the USSA Board of Directors meeting. Total travel is included and food.

MOTION LAC-16-S-9 by Ellison

Motion to move item from Information to Action.

Second: Dent

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. USSA Board Meeting Funding Request

MOTION LAC-16-S-9 by Selander

Motion to approve funding for the USSA Board of Directors meeting for an amount not to exceed \$750.

Second: Bigongiari

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. *MOTION LAC-16-S-12 by Ellison*

Motion to adjourn.

Second: Bigongiari

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01pm.