

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Thursday, May 19, 2016** **VU 460**

Present: Patrick Eckroth (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Nora Selander (Vice Chair, Western Votes!), Josie Ellison (Legislative Liaison), McKenzie Dent (Local Liaison), Bridget Doyle Williams (Student at Large), Henry Pollet (Student at Large), Losa Berhane (Student at Large), and Emma Bigongiari (Student at Large).

Absent: Briana Dearing (Student at Large), Andrea Tomkins (Student at Large).

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg

Secretary: Bryce Hammer

MOTIONS

LAC-16-S-25 Motion to approve the minutes from 5-5-2016 and 5-12-2016. **Passed.**

LAC-16-S-26 Motion to approve funds, not to exceed \$8,700 for USSA Congress. **Passed.**

LAC-16-S-27 Motion to adjourn. **Passed.**

Patrick Eckroth, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

A. Eckroth asked for revisions. There were none.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

LAC 16-S-25 by Ellison

Motion to approve the minutes from 5-5-2016 and 5-12-2016.

Second: Pollet Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Eckroth said that Aja would be here this weekend so they'll be able to get work done with her. It'll be a check in and a transitionary meeting. Aja is the West Coast field organizer for USSA. Ellison explained the relationship between USSA and Western. Eckroth said that USSA has not made changes to their website for the Congress so it's hard to make plans. Selander asked if someone inside the org

knows. Eckroth said he's hoping and asking Aja. Ellison said they probably planned it for the last Board meeting that Berhane just attended. Williams said she's meeting with the next Organizing and Outreach Coordinator soon so they can get on it. Ellison asked if they'd be here. Bigongiari said Rosa Rice-Pelepko would be out of town. Ellison said Aja has expressed interest in the WSA retreat over the summer so they can meet there. Eckroth said there are only a few meetings left so if they're planning on sending students then they need to provide funding for it so they can keep the process going if it ends up happening. He would not like to just do it himself and they won't have time to do the outreach that they want. Ellison asked how much can be done over the summer if they don't find out what needs to be done until the last week. Eckroth said outreach will be the hardest part, which will limit it to people that have already gone. Other than that it can be done over the summer. Rosenberg asked if we could do outreach without details. Provide basic information and ask for interest so that we can contact them later. Ellison said they can do generic marketing without specifics. Williams asked what it would look like. Ellison said an email sign up. Eckroth said they can still do an OrgSync form. Ellison said they can do an email sign up and include a link with the application. Williams asked if they wanted an email to the whole student body. Eckroth said ideally. Williams asked how long that would take. Eckroth said he'd have to check with the Comm Office. It depends on how important they think it is. Williams asked if the details missing would affect the decision. Eckroth said if they have a vague timeline and a description of the event then it should be fine. Ellison said its where they elect the national staff and it needs to happen by August 10th because old terms expire. Pollet asked if anyone has trouble for the emails because that might affect the people who would be applying. Williams said she thinks doing tabling during finals week might not be effective. Bigongiari said its typically hard. Eckroth said what they do is dependent on the time they have and they can include a link. Bigongiari asked if they know where it will be. Eckroth said no, nor when, regardless, he wants to pass a budget for Congress. He said they also have to decide on how the process will go during applicant process. Pollet said no broken link. Eckroth said they need to figure out how to select the applicants. Ellison said they trust the budget but they said reaching out to next year's employees to figure it out would be good. They made a list of possible candidates. Eckroth said there is a funding request. It is a little uncertain because of not knowing where or when it is. Eckroth asked how they feel about cost per person. Bigongiari asked what the total cost was last year. Ellison said they sent more people last year. Eckroth said the money came out of different funds but was about 10K. Ellison said the per diem is high in Vegas. Eckroth said if they're spending over 1K per person then this might not be fine. But otherwise it will be.

LAC 16-S-26 by Ellison

Motion to approve funds, not to exceed \$8,700 for USSA Congress.

Second: Selander

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed.

V. REPORTS

- A. AS VP for Governmental Affairs: WSA had its general assembly but lost quorum before the agenda was finished. They elected a new Executive Board, including Pollet and Selander. Ellison read out the other VPs. Eckroth said they pushed the agenda setting off to the next GA. Ellison said they will look at the Board of Directors in June and then make a recommendation. They passed a budget which included moving to a new building so it'll have accessibility and meeting spaces. Ellison said the issue of moving offices started by budget discussions and then turned into an accessibility and comfort issue. The WSA will be moving to the labor council building.

Berhane walked in at 5:42.

Eckroth caught Berhane up on the meeting. Berhane said USSA Congress will be at UM Amherst and it will be the third weekend of August. It's a good school that has good organizing. It'll be expensive to fly and they'll need ground transportation because the airport is far away. Berhane said they pushed it back as late as possible so they have enough time to plan. Berhane said they're going to endorse a chapter in membership agreement that will change the constitution. If students on campuses don't have control of student government funds, then they can still be USSA members. Membership dues might increase to \$1.50 per students and they haven't planned an implementation date. Williams asked what sort of staff increase they're expecting. Berhane said they haven't figured out what that'll look like. She said the increased fees will provide an organizer on every campus. Ellison said Kaylee Galloway negotiated paying \$.50 per FTE per year. Eckroth said the contract was supposed to stay in place. Berhane said they'll be running the VOTE campaign and they want a person to be the point person. Ellison said the Organizing and Outreach Coordinator will be that person on Western's campus. Eckroth said the Board of Directors is going to be seeing the Operational Budget tomorrow. Leg Liaison update is in there.

- B. Legislative Liaison: WSA GA did not get to agenda items. Van Werven, Erickson, and Buys were on campus. There was a lot of discussion around open carry on campus. Might want to address in agenda next year. They're working on transition stuff.
- C. Local Liaison: MNAC was last night. Likely discussion on the comprehensive plan, especially around ADUs. Galen Herz got introduced and it was a good meeting for him to see.
- D. Western Votes!: WV is not meeting next Monday because of conflict. Committee Recognition is happening.

Berhane asked what will happen if the flights for USSA Congress end up being more expensive. Ellison said it will be up to Hammer over the summer.

LAC 16-S-27 by Ellison

Motion to adjourn.

Second: Selander

Vote:6-0-0

Motion: Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01pm.