



Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council

Tuesday, October 17th, 2017 6:00 PM YU 567

Members: *Present: Ana Ramirez (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Rosa Rice-Pelpko (AS Legislative Liaison), Emma Scalzo (AS REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Anna Kemper (AS Local Issues Coordinator), Giovanna Oricchio (Student at Large), and Greta Merkel (Student at Large),*
Absent:

Advisor: Casey Hayden

Secretary: Chloe Callahan

Guests: Becca Kenna-Schenk

The meeting did not reach quorum, so the council continued as an informal discussion.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

- A. Ana started the meeting by having all attendees state their name, pronouns and position.

III. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

- A. Becca Kenna-Schenk apologized on the behalf of Joe Timmons for not being able to attend. Kenna-Schenk gave a brief overview of what the university administrations legislative agenda will be for the upcoming 2018 session. In the state of Washington the state's budget operates on a two year cycle. The big two year operating budget for the state includes funding for maintenance & operations at Western and funding for salaries. This budget passed on June 30th 2017 was for 2017-19. During the even years, in between budget sessions, is when the legislators makes adjustments. So the legislators are working on a smaller budget this session and hoping it will be a shorter session, only about 60 days. Kenna-Schenk handed out one pagers of the budget request that the administration will be using for the upcoming legislative session. The state passes the operating, capital and transportation budgets. As a university we submit an operating budget and capital budget requests. The one pager requests are for the operating budgets. The top priority for the administration for operating is addressing bottlenecks in STEM. Student's interest in STEM has grown over time and the university can't keep up with the demand. The GURS require entry level science and the increase in STEM interest has created bottlenecks in entry level STEM courses. All but one of the majors within the College of Science and Engineering had to start capping and creating waitlists for the majors. This funding would go to entry level math, physics and chemistry professors. The other priority is for a proposal for a new undergraduate program in Marine, Coastal and Watershed Sciences. This

would leverage the universities strengths in environmental policy and environmental sciences, and the expertise in the marine sciences majors. This undergraduate program would focus on both science and policy and potentially an economics focus as well. The university proposed both of these last year and saw more support for the new undergraduate program. Kenna-Schenk stated they don't know what the results of the session will be in securing the funding. On the capital side, the Tegislature failed to pass the two year capital budget last summer and the hope is to pass the compromise bill that has been sitting on the table since the end of July. At our state level we have slim splits between democrats and republicans in the legislature and the house. This has been the landscape in Olympia since 2013. There is going to be a special election in the 45th legislative district this year. Due to how this district is split there is potential for the control of the state senate to flip to either democrat or republican and this could determine how quickly the capital budget comes up for a vote. Kenna-Schenk wanted to mention that she has noticed that many times the university administrative agenda and student legislative agendas overlap. From her experience Kenna-Schenk thought it was great because they have seen success in overlapping the agenda. Recent examples Kenna-Schenk noted were the student success funding (\$1,000,000 in operating budget). It is believed this was successful because of student advocacy. Another was two years ago, 2015, funding for Carver Gym was advocated for by many different student groups. The university received a lot form the capital budget to renovate Carver. Tegislators talked about how impactful student advocacy was for those decision. Kenna-Schenk offered herself and Joe Timmons as resources this fall and during session. Rosa asked about the student success package and how that was implemented here at Western. Kenna-Schenk stated they received \$500,000 per year, for two years, about half went to the counseling center. Kenna-Schenk was not aware of when the new staff will be hired for the counseling center. When Western receives funding the budget office comes up with and expenditure plan and has to pass through Board of Trustees. The 2017-2018 budget was finalized in mid-July. Some money went to hiring TGBTQ coordinator/liaison. Academic advising got funding for one FTE and the tutoring center received money for student tutors, but is unaware of how many positions will be hired on.

IV. INFORMATION ITEM

A. Legislative Priorities Survey

- i. Rice-Pelpko put together a survey to reach out to the students about what their interests are for the upcoming legislative agenda. Rice-Peplko was hoping to get feedback from the committee on the how the survey was formatted and the questions asked. Kemper was hoping to get some money from the council to get a gift card. Kemper and Rice-Peplko walked the council through the survey and the council provided feedback for changes. This detailed discussion about specific wording of the survey lasted about thirty minutes. The survey is included here [Legislative Priorities Survey.](#)

y. REPORTS

A. AS VP for Governmental Affairs

Ramirez had nothing to report.

B. AS Legislative Liaison

Rice-Pelpko stated she has been on calls with WS A learning more about title IX procedures on campus regarding sexual assault cases. That Tuesday was WS A Day of Action and the REP members were in the Miller Hall collaborative space and educated students about their voting rights.

C. AS REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator

Kemper stated that she had been trying to get meetings with the city legislators. The city was going to develop an ordinance against discriminatory housing practices. Kemper also state she is working on the mayors neighborhood advisory council

D. AS REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator

Scalzo wrapped up voting registration at almost 3,500 registered students. Now they are creating programing to educate people on what they will be voting for and encouraging people to vote.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. WSA General Assembly Sign Ups

Ramirez asked who wanted to go to WSA GA. Ramirez said they have three voting spots left, but they can take non-voting members. The meeting is at Central Washington University in Ellensburg on November 12th.

B. October 31st Meeting

Ramirez asked if people wanted to move it to a different time of the week or if they will still show up. Scalzo said she would prefer to move it. Casey said he will probably not be here if we kept it on the same day. The council discussed times they might be able to reschedule. If we cannot find a time to reschedule it before the 1st, the council will still meet on Halloween.

VII. NEXT MEETING

A. Tuesday October 24th 6-8pm