



Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Action Council

Monday, November 20th, 2017 8:00 AM VU 460

Members: *Present: Rosa Rice-Pelepko (AS Legislative Liaison), Emma Scalzo (AS REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Anna Kemper (AS Local Issues Coordinator), Giovanna Orecchio (Student at Large), Nicholas Horvath (Graduate Student), Victoria Matey (ESC Rep), Zoe Evans-Agnew (Student at Large), Casey Hayden (Coordinator of Student Activities), Peter Condyles (Student at Large) and Natasha Hessami (Student at Large).*
Absent: Ana Ramirez (VP of Governmental Affairs)

Advisor: Casey Hayden

Secretary: Chloe Callahan

Victoria Matey called the meeting to order at 8:27 AM.

I. Introductions

Ana Ramirez was unable to attend the meeting and sent a letter moving her chair ship over to Victoria Matey. Matey asked the committee to go around and introduce themselves and share their plans for Thanksgiving break.

II. Information Items

A. VOTE Agenda Item

Rice-Pelepko said the agenda item was almost the same as the previous year, but she had added a section on supporting the Ballot Initiatives that push for these voting accessibility agenda items, if they were not passed in the legislature.

B. Tuition Affordability Agenda Item

Rice-Pelepko said she added a piece about rolling the 2.2% tuition increase and continued to advocate for the State Need Grant. They are not sure if there would be an opportunity for this change because it was not a budget year, but they still want to lobby on it. Hessami said the State Need Grant ran out of money and students awarded \$6,000 might only get \$1000. Rice-Pelepko said that around 23,000 students that are eligible for the grant are unable to receive it. She also mention how some legislators might have an issue with them asking for both a loan for undocumented students and requesting to refund the State Need Gant. Rice-Pelepko stated that the student lobbyist can remind the legislators that they could do both, support the low income and undocumented students.

C. Sexual Education Agenda Item

Kemper said they did more research about current legislation in place in Washington. She stated that the Healthy Youth Act encourages education be comprehensive and 'medically and scientifically accurate'. The agenda item wanted to expand on the Healthy Youth Act by including education on non-heterosexual identities, discussion of different gender identities, emphasizing consent and giving education on forms of harassment to young men, and

deconstructing the concept of virginity. Furthermore, requiring comprehensive HIV and healthy sex education for all K-12 public schools in Washington State. Kemper said that sex education was not required and they wanted to make it required. Hessami asked if there were any places that were successful in implementing a program similar to this agenda item. Rice-Pelepko said she heard some other countries provide a more inclusive sex education, but did not have specifics. Horvath asked about gender segregation for sex education. Kemper said she felt they didn't know how to enforce that and it might be up to the teacher to decide. Matey asked how Hayden felt about the issue, since he had children. Hayden felt that it would be a big eye opener for some children. Evans-Agnew asked if this agenda item only applied to public schools and if it could be applied to private schools. Horvath said they thought private schools could dictate their own agenda and don't have to rely on the state. Rice-Pelepko and Kemper talked about how to format the proposal and agenda item.

D. Support for Undocumented Students Agenda Item

Rice-Pelepko reviewed the agenda item that was approved by the WS A general assembly. Matey stated they would add more information on the detention centers and legal services on campus.

E. Civics Participation Agenda Item

Rice-Pelepko stated that the item was fairly similar to the agenda item proposed the previous year. The committee had no comments or changes to the proposed agenda item.

F. Revenue Agenda Item

Rice-Pelepko stated the proposal was different types of revenue they would like the state to legislate on. She said it was put on the agenda a few years ago and in the past they had asked for designated revenue instead of new revenue. Horvath clarified that the proposed carbon tax was only a suggestion of where the legislators could get the revenue from. Rice-Pelepko said they wanted to pass the carbon tax and added it because if the state had more money they would be more likely to help with higher education. Orecchio said she had an issue with suggesting the funds from the carbon tax going anywhere other than capital improvement budget because the point of the carbon tax was to reduce carbon; so the less carbon the less you can ask for. Condyles talked about the cannabis tax and how part of the tax stated it could go to education purposes and that was how it was proposed to voters. Horvath wondered if the cannabis tax was going more toward drug prevention programs instead of higher education. Kemper looked into the amount of money from the cannabis tax that went toward education and stated that Washington's cannabis tax gave little to none toward education. Condyles suggested that the committee include a note in the proposal about how part of the cannabis tax should be going to education, as the voters were told it would be.

G. Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault Agenda Item

Rice-Pelepko said the new proposal included endorsing the WS A recommendations on exempting higher education institutions from the Administrative Procedures Act and forming an educational model for conduct proceedings.

H. Student Success Agenda Item

Rice-Pelepko proposed to the committee that they remove this item from the agenda for that year because the student success agenda item had already received money the previous year and although the students could ask for more money it was not a budget year. Hessami said the tutoring center tracks who uses the tutoring center and the student demographics. She said in the future the committee could tap into that data, but agreed not to have this on the agenda that year. Orecchio mentioned that student success could also include providing legal aid for undocumented students, so the committee could use this item to ask for funding for that one staff member. Rice-Pelepko went over what departments got money the previous year: \$400,000 per year for the counseling center, \$215,000 per year for the academic advising center, \$ 135,000 per year for the tutoring center and \$200,000 per year for LGBTQ student support. Hayden said there were still a couple other spots that needed funds, but felt it made the committee look better if they didn't include the agenda item. He said if the committee kept the item on the agenda they would need to have a lot more information.

I. Student Trustee Agenda Item

Rice-Pelepko mentioned that the agenda item was asking for student trustee voting rights on the Board of Trustees and that the student trustee be elected by the students instead of hired by the governor. She said the agenda item did not pass during WSA general assembly and felt that with all the other items on the agenda this one could be pushed off to the following year. She proposed it not be on the agenda that year. The committee informally agreed. Horvath talked to the current student trustee and mentioned how she was frustrated with the process in place at the time. The student trustee had told Horvath that she felt it was not something the committee should be spending their time working on.

J. Student Unionization Agenda Item

Horvath wondered why this was brought forward if this was already passed at WSA. Rice-Pelepko clarified that the committee would be adding it to the Western student agenda for Western Toby Days because passing it at WSA simply put it on their agenda. The committee had no changes they wanted to make to the agenda item.

III. Discussion Items

A. Formatting the Agenda

Rice-Pelepko said that Scalzo did not like the format of the previous agenda. She asked the committee what they thought of the previous year's final agenda.

Victoria Matey adjourned the meeting at 9:24 AM.