



Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Action Council

Monday, December 4th, 2017 8:00 AM VU 460

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

Absent:

Advisor: Casey Hayden

Secretary: Chloe Callahan

Guest: Bill Lonneman

Motions:

Ana Ramirez called the meeting to order at 8:22 AM.

I. Introductions

Ramirez asked the committee to introduce themselves and share what they are looking forward to during winter break.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. November 7th

The committee decided to table the decision to vote on the minutes.

MOTION: LAC-17-F-14 by Rice-Pelepko

Approval to postpone the approval of the November 7th, 2017 minutes till the following meeting.

Second: Kemper Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

B. Review November 27th

Ramirez clarified that this was not to approve the minutes, but to clarify portions of the minutes because Callahan was unable to attend and could not hear everything on the recorder. Rice-Pelepko stated that Emma Scalzo and Peter Condyles were not at that meeting. She said most of the votes passed unanimously, with the exception of 7-0-1 vote for the Vice-Chair position. Kemper and Horvath clarified they had approved the minutes at that meeting. Ramirez stated the minutes would be edited and come back the following meeting with the proper edits.

III. Information Item

A. Nurse Lobby Day Funding Request

Ramirez introduced Lonneman, a faculty member at Western, to explain their proposed funding request for Nurse Lobby Day. Lonneman stated every year the Washington State Nurses Association, the union for nurses in the state, does a legislative day. They shared it was great for students to learn about the important

issues in nursing and health care in general. The students travel to Olympia the day of, get educational training and then after lunch they meet face-to-face with legislators. He said about 10 students had signed up that year and was requesting their registration fees be covered, \$25 per person. He included his faculty registration, \$60, but understood if the committee could not cover that fee with student funds. He mentioned the group rents a van to get there for \$63 and requested an additional \$25 for parking in Olympia. He asked the committee if they could approve all or part of the funding. Rice-Pelepko asked where the agenda for lobbying came from. Lonneman said they try to stick to the agenda set by the state, but encouraged the students to focus in on one piece of the agenda that related to their experience and passion. Hessami asked if this trip had been done before. Lonneman said he did the trip the previous year and taught health policy in Woodring, so he was able to prep the students for this day in class. Rice-Pelepko said she was in favor of including the faculty registration fee. Ramirez said this would be an action item at the following meeting. Hayden said they would let Lonneman know what the results of the vote were.

B. Final Language for Agenda Items

Ramirez asked if everyone had made the necessary changes to their final language for the agenda items. Hessami clarified that the bullet points on the Revenue agenda item should be complete sentences, to follow the trend of other items. Rice-Pelepko said she had added to the final language document that morning. Ramirez asked if everyone felt their section was complete. Kemper felt hers was done. Hessami clarified that the 2 and 2.2% rollback was correct. Rice-Pelepko stated that was correct. Orecchio said that she felt hers was done, and wanted to keep the shorter bullets because it fit the space in the agenda. Hayden reminded everyone that their section might need to be cut shorter when placed into the final agenda. Kemper said the sex education agenda item was long, but could be cut down later for space. Hayden asked how final the document needed to be this week for the Board of Directors. Ramirez gave the committee one more day to finish the document. Matey stated she felt the undocumented students item was incomplete because it only focused on undocumented students. She stated she would make the changes for the following day. Kemper stated that she felt the civics education blurb was good. Horvath said their summary was pretty similar to the one from the following year and only made small modifications. He mentioned that the Board of Directors had wanted to include Betsy DeVos's actions about sexual assault in school. Hessami stated they did not feel it needed to be included. Horvath said he had included the word "unbias" to make it seem like they were implementing a system that was fair to both sides. Hayden clarified that the Board wanted to know if the committee wanted to way in on how Washington wants to react. Hessami asked if this was discussed at WSA. Rice-Pelepko said it was not because it hadn't been implemented or changed on other campuses. She felt they could go broad and state they did not want Washington schools to implement the rollback by Betsy Devos. Rice-Pelepko stated she wanted to remove the word "unbiased". She clarified if people felt they were officially done or if they had made changes since receiving feedback from the Board of Directors. Ramirez said she felt they could move to Board of Directors Feedback and come to this item after.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Board of Directors Feedback

Ramirez reviewed the notes she had taken at the Board of Directors meeting. She said that most of the notes were based on the whole in depth proposals instead of the final language. She explained the Board thought sex education and civics education items should be listed on the agenda first with the idea of focusing on K-12 education and then on the higher education agenda items. The Board would have liked the final language to explain why the committee wanted a sex education agenda item. She mention the sex education agenda item could be tied to the survivors of sexual assault item, stating if the schools taught students about consent then maybe there would be less sexual assault issues. Ramirez said some of the Board mentioned to research Sweden because the country had the lowest levels of sexual assault because they base their sex education on pleasure. The Board also wanted to see more data in regards to student unionization and the different effects to hourly and salaried positions. Hayden had mentioned to look into repercussion because students work over 19 hours even though they were not supposed to. Ramirez stated to reword this as a note on the work stress level in relation to the amount work students feel they need to get done. The Board had stated the proposal of survivors of sexual assault should be reworded because some statements sounded as if the committee didn't support rehabilitation of survivors and maybe include the effects of Betsy DeVos's rules. Ramirez said the Board wanted to expand the student unionization section because they viewed it as important. The Board also expressed wanting one pagers for each agenda item for the meetings and potentially personalizing each group for their focused legislators. They mentioned the idea of utilizing the AS videographer to make the proposals more interesting. Hovarth asked what statements in the proposal sounded as though the committee did not support rehabilitation of survivors. Ramirez said Gordon had not found anything in particular, but had said there were no statements of the committees support. Orecchio asked if the Board was suggesting specially curated handouts and stated she felt that was unrealistic. She felt the best they could do would be provide one pagers for the groups about the legislator and what committees they chair and sit on. Hayden mentioned the committee should spend time talking about the feedback on civics education and sex education. Hessami asked if it was normal to curate the asks for legislators. Hayden clarified that the previous year someone had discussed using the estate tax and the legislator did not receive it well. He stated the idea was to use a tax that makes sense for the specific legislator. Kemper stated she would utilize the Board recommendations when editing the sex education final language and mentioned she would review the proposal document for better understanding. Rice-Pelepko said the student unionization final language was straight forward. Hessami asked if there were student unions in the country. Hayden said yes and clarified that University of Washington had student unions and had also found a lot of private universities had an easier time creating them. He mentioned the University of Chicago had a lot of resources on the topic. There was a Supreme Court case at the time on the Right to Work laws. There were 28 states that had Right to Work laws, meaning the employees don't have to pay union dues and don't have to join the

union. Hayden asked how long the student unionization agenda item had been around. Rice-Pelepko said it had been brought up the previous year after Lobby Days, in response to the Resident Advisor situation on campus. She said for this session they would probably not push for a policy ask because they are working on it with the WSA to create a structure and do more research for the following year. Horvath was unsure how to implement the Betsy DeVos statements. Ramirez said the Board wanted to know how that statement would affect our proposal. Hayden said he felt the proposal was strong as it was. Hayden clarified that Gordon's comment was to involve rehabilitation of the perpetrators of sexual assault to try to prevent repeat actions instead of just punitive action. Hessami said the previous spring a student had come back to campus after committing sexual assault and the students had a huge backlash to his return. She felt that the students at Western might not be in support of rehabilitation for the perpetrators. She said the rehabilitation should be off campus and the committee agreed. She recommended that in regards to the Betsy DeVos statement the committee could include a sentence that states Western would like to maintain the "preponderance of the evidence" standard put in place in 2011. Ramirez stated she would gauge other university interest in an upcoming Title IX call.

B. Local Lobby Days

Kemper showed the committee the previous year's local lobby day agenda. She said for the upcoming agenda she wanted to consolidate the issues. She had already started consolidation based on student ideas and the survey responses. She brought up the results of the survey mentioning housing affordability, public safety and criminal justice reform, clean energy, and supporting undocumented community were important to the students at the local level. Kemper walked the committee through the different local lobby day proposals. She stated the highlighted portions of the proposals were points she felt were important to educating out student lobbyists. The hope was to have local lobby days be a two day event, the first day would be speakers and the second day would be lobbying. She asked the committee to review her edits and inform her if they agree with her consolidation. Rice-Pelepko mentioned that racism was brought up as an issue throughout the student survey and she felt it could be included in the Equity and Inclusiveness item. The committee noted that Kemper should do more research on the process and budget required for implementing more city-wide lighting.

Ana Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 9:48 AM.