



Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Action Council

Tuesday, February 6th, 2018 5:00 PM VU 567

Members: *Present: Rosa Rice-Pelepko (AS Legislative Liaison), Victoria Matey (ESC Rep), Casey Hayden (Assistant Director of Student Representation & Governance), Emma Scalzo (REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Nicholas Horvath (Graduate Student), Zoe Evans-Agnew (Student at Large), Peter Condyles (Student at Large), Hannah Sear (Student at Large), Greta Merkel (Student at Large), and Natasha Hessami (Student at Large).*

Absent:

Advisor: Casey Hayden

Secretary: Chloe Callahan

Guest: Julia (ESP), Dee Mooney (DOC)

Motions:

LAC-18-W-4 Approval of suspending the Rules of Operation for nomination votes.
Passed.

LAC-18-W-5 Approval of Emma Scalzo as interim Vice-Chair for Legislative Affairs Council. *Passed.*

LAC-18-W-6 Approval of the minutes for January 23rd, 2018. *Passed.*

LAC-18-W-7 Approval of the Environmental and Sustainable Programs Agenda.
Passed.

LAC-18-W-8 Approval of the Ethnic Student Center Agenda, the updated version posted on the AS Board website with the removal of “SB 6131”.
Passed.

LAC-18-W-9 Approval of the suspension of the Rules of Operation to approve the Disability Outreach Center Lobby Day agenda in order to vote that day. *Passed.*

LAC-18-W-10 Approval of the Disability Outreach Center Lobby Day Agenda.
Passed.

The committee called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM.

I. Additions to the Agenda

A. Appoint a Vice-Chair

Hayden explained the previously voted Vice-Chair was unavailable that quarter, so the committee would need to vote in a new Vice-Chair to continue to run the meetings. Hessami asked that the new vice-chair be an interim vice-chair instead of permanent. The committee went over the role of vice-chair. Emma Scalzo nominated herself for interim vice-chair. Horvath asked if the committee felt okay suspending the ruled of operation in order to speed up the election process.

MOTION: LAC-18-W-4 by Evans-Agnew

Approval of suspending the Rules of Operation for nomination votes.

Second: Horvath Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

MOTION: LAC-18- W-5 by Horvath

Approval of Emma Scalzo as interim Vice-Chair for Legislative Affairs Council.

Second: Hessami Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

II. Introductions

Scalzo had the committee go around and state their name, pronouns and what they are looking forward to during quarter.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. January 23rd

MOTION: LAC-18- W-6 by Hessami

Approval of the minutes for January 23rd, 2018.

Second: Evans-Agnew Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

IV. Information Items

A. Environmental and Sustainability Programs Agenda

The committee did not have any questions about the Environmental and Sustainability Programs agenda.

MOTION: LAC-18- W-7 by Matey

Approval of the Environmental and Sustainable Programs Agenda

Second: Evans-Agnew Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

B. Ethnic Student Center Agenda

Matey said they had one spot left for Lobby Day and she was excited because a lot of new students had applied. She said two agenda items were pulled from the Western Lobby Day agenda, with a couple additions. The Support for Undocumented Immigrants agenda item had added creating legislation to make it illegal for ICE to collaborate with any State funded agency and to require the Department of Ecology to test the water in the NW Detention Center in Tacoma. The Revenue item had more emphasis on reinvesting in communities of color. She noted that the document posted on the LAC website was not the most up to date. The committee went to the Board of Directors website for updated version of the document ([here](#)). The Enhancing Student Success for Marginalized students was to increase the resources for students of color. Ethnic Studies K-12 asks that the schools to better Ethnic Studies and to

hire more teachers of color. Matey requested the committee suspend the rules of operation to pass the agenda that week to allow the ESC time to print.

The committee spent some time to read the most updated document.

Rice-Pelepko noted that SB 6131 did not make the cut for that legislative session, but could potentially be revived the following year. Matey said they would remove the direct mention to SB 6131. Hessami said she was confused about the bullet point asking for more funds for WWU Counselling center. Matey said the focus would be that the students of color needed more accessible counseling on campus. Hessami asked why the last few bullets on Student Success item were more open ended and not direct asks. Matey answered that she wanted students to have a chance to share their testimonies. Hayden asked about the Tribal Tiaison position. Matey said they kept the item on the agenda to show that the ESC wanted this position to be a norm throughout statewide universities.

MOTION: LAC-18- W-8 by Hessami

Approval of the Ethnic Student Center Agenda, the updated version posted on the AS Board website with the removal of “SB 6131 ”.

Second: Horvath Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

The committee noted that there was a mistake in the parliamentary procedure, this was the first time the committee was reviewing the document and should have suspended the Rules of Operation if they wanted to approve the agenda that week. There were no objections to the process so the committee held with their initial vote.

C. Disability Outreach Center Lobby Agenda

Horvath asked if there was actually legislation that allowed individuals with disabilities to be paid less than others. Mooney responded yes and asked for feedback. Matey said it might have been helpful to break the paragraphs into bullet points. Scalzo clarified that there should be a body statement and then the bullet points could be the specific asks. Rice-Pelepko said the agenda didn't have to be in bullet point form, but as long as it was visually appealing and easy to read it would be okay. Hayden said formatting of the agenda did not need to pass through the committee. If the committee liked the content they could approve the agenda and Mooney could make formatting changes later. Hessami asked if there was a specific ask for the first agenda item, Improved Funding for Accessibility and Disability Services at Public College and Universities. Mooney said there was not an official bill associated with it but was more of an awareness item. Rice-Pelepko mentioned the capital budget had included money for Western Washington University to improve accessibility on campus. Hayden said there was an Elevator Preservation, Safety and ADA upgrades proposal had been approved. He mentioned this would be important to know in lobbying to point out what the proposal did or did not cover.

MOTION: LAC-18- W-9 by Hessami

Approval of the suspension of the Rules of Operation to approve the Disability Outreach Center Lobby Day agenda in order to vote that day.

Second: Matey Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

MOTION: LAC-18- W-10 by Horvath

Approval of the Disability Outreach Center Lobby Day Agenda.

Second: Hessami Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

D. State Need Grant Trip Funding Request

Horvath asked how the committee was voting to approve funds that had already been spent. Hessami said she had just gone to Olympia for this event earlier that week. There had only been 3 students that attended and the only cost that needed to be covered was the cost for gas of \$150 for the University van. Hayden said it was not normal for the committee to approve funds that had already been spent. However, he had previously talked with Ana Ramirez about letting Hessami still attend in hopes that the committee would approve funds after.

V. Discussion Items

A. Legislative Session Update

Rice-Pelepko asked if anyone had questions about her recent update. Condyles asked about an update the Carbon Tax. Rice-Pelepko said she had not been following that too closely, but would include more information in the next update. She encouraged members to look up bills on the Washington Legislative website. Hessami asked what Ways & Means meant. Rice-Pelepko said the bill moves through committees based on what was in the bill and who it applied to. Ways & Means was the Senate budget committee, Appropriations was the House budget committee. She explained that Transportation was another budget committee because in Washington there are three different budgets: capital, operation and transportation. If a bill was going to Ways & Means that was typically a good sign. Rice-Pelepko said HB 1488 got voted out of Appropriations that day and was on the way to Rules Committee. She shared the Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) was voted out of committee to Rules. Hessami asked where a bill went after it was voted out. Rice-Pelepko said after a bill goes through a fiscal committee it goes to Rules and then the bill gets pulled from Rules and placed on the floor calendar. The primary sponsor typically didn't pull their own bills, but a secondary sponsor might. Rice-Pelepko mentioned the Student Loan Bill of Rights would establish specific guidelines for making sure students are not taken advantage of by loan companies. She said this bill was doing well in Olympia. Rice-Pelepko shared another highlight from the previous week included an AVR phone bank and she thanked all the students for participating.

B. Legislative Session Update Survey

The committee discussed how they would like to receive feedback on the Legislative Session from the Legislative Liaison.

C. Engagement Opportunities Now and in the Future

Rice-Pelepko asked how people wanted to be involved. She said there were a lot of projects she could use help with while she was in Olympia. Evans-Agnew said she like knowing what bills to call legislators on and would be willing to help Rice-Pelepko write the AS Review pieces on the Legislative Session. Matey asked the committee to think about how to engage more students beyond the committee. Hessami said the committee could spend more time tabling in Vendors Row to get students to call their legislators. Scalzo said outreach at Vendors Row and Red Square reached a wider variety of students than holding an evening event. Matey asked how to engage the students with local actions. Merkel suggested creating a weekly leaflet to hand to students about the local issues. Matey suggested the committee connect with other resources on campus and potentially incentivize students for taking action. Merkel said she wanted to see the committee involved in more bill writing and seeing the committee expand their involvement. Hayden suggested a sub-committee for bill writing that reported to LAC and could utilize the REP as a resource. The committee decided to table the issue and bring back ideas.

VI. Reports

Hayden said the Board of Directors would decide what would happen with the vacancy of the AS VP of Governmental Affairs position. The discussion would occur in the following Board meeting.

Hessami reported that she went to the State Need Grant (SNG) trip, with the purpose of educating not lobbying to legislators. She shared that 21,000 students that were eligible for the SNG did not receive it. She said the groups were assigned legislators to educate them on the issue. Van Werven, and Morris were supportive of the SNG, but Mary Dye had said she had other priorities. Hessami felt the Student Engagement Network was doing a great job of getting students down to Olympia to help educate.

Emma Scalzo adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.