



Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Action Council

Tuesday, February 27th, 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), Katie Winkelman (ESP Director), Zoe Evans-Agnew (Student at Large), Hannah Sear (Student at Large), Emma Scalzo (REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), and Natasha Hessami (Student at Large).*

Absent:

Advisor: Casey Hayden

Secretary: Chloe Callahan

Guest: Simrun Chhabra (AS President)

Motions:

LAC-18-W-14 Approval of the minutes for February 13th, 2018. *Passed.*

Emma Scalzo called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

I. Introductions

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 13th

MOTION: LAC-18-W-14 by Winkelman

Approval of the minutes for February 13th, 2018.

Second: Evans- Agnew Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

III. Information Item

A. LAC Outreach Funding Request

Hessami stated the funding request was for food through spring 2018 to encourage students to participate. They hoped to make a banner stating “Call your legislators” and they wanted funding to laminate documents, legislators phone numbers and a script, so they could be reused. She stated herself and Merkel had started to work on scripts for students to use when they call their legislators at the tabling events.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Legislative Update

Rice-Pelepko said the House proposal for the budget included \$25 million next year for the State Need Grant (SNG) and a three year plan to fully fund the SNG in the future. The Senate proposal for the budget approved \$9 million for the SNG and no plan to fully fund. She said the hope was to have the Senate bring their proposal amount closer to the House proposal. She said Senator Ranker dropped a bill the previous week making the SNG an entitlement program. This would make it harder for the state not to fund it, basically forcing the state to fund the SNG. She stated she had sign in favor of the bill, but did not testify at the Council of Presidents. The bill

had passed Ways and Means Committee. Hayden asked where the committee could find exactly what the \$1.50 per student would fund. Rice-Pelepko was unclear on what the money would be used for and would bring that issue up. Hayden felt the bill should state what exactly the fee was for. Matey said her biggest concern was the amount of money each school would be giving to the state and that there was no guarantee the money would go to administering the State Need Grant. She felt frustrated because the state need grant should be the responsibility of the state to fund, not the students. Hessami wondered why the state would need more funding when there was already a process in place to administer the SNG. Rice-Pelepko said she would bring up the questions the committee had about the fee with WSA to learn more about what they were thinking about the bill. She said the committee members could contact Senators on the Higher Ed Committee so see their opinion and potentially get an amendment to the bill. She mentioned that the Senate was still unsure about whether or not it would pass overall. Hayden felt it was a big deal for the state to start taxing the students.

B. WSA Update

Rice-Pelepko said the WSA was going through a bylaw change. One of the biggest changes was in regards to membership because some schools, University of Washington- Seattle campus, had not paid their dues that year. They were adding a portion about what it looked like for a school to be in good-standing and what to do when not in good-standing. She said they were also making the funding request process more clear, editing general WSA Board member roles and adding the liaison program. She said there was a WSA Bylaws Committee if people in LAC wanted to get involved. Scalzo said she would be interested in helping. Rice-Pelepko said the WSA had 7 executive board members, volunteer positions. They were hoping to create stipends for the board members in the future. She stated the executive positions were a great opportunity for students to get involved in statewide issues. Students could run for board member positions or be a student at large. She said the elections would happen at the General Assembly (GA) in April. Chhabra felt it might be beneficial to bring as many student to GA as possible so people can learn more about what WSA was about. She thought it was a great way to get more students involved. She suggested doing a prep day to review what would happen at the GA meeting and the agenda. Chhabra suggested doing more outreach on campus about the opportunity to run for an executive position. Hessami suggested the LAC Outreach table could include a “how to get involved” section covering LAC and WSA. Chhabra stated maybe doing email blast to all students would be beneficial.

C. Agenda Priorities

Rice-Pelepko wanted to wait till the end of session before creating a formal list of suggestions for the following year’s agenda. She said she would be meeting with ESC, ESP and DOC to debrief about their lobby days to see if they might have agenda items to add for next year. Matey said in her experience the groups had met with a lot of staff members and not the actual legislators.

V. Other Business

A. Local Lobby Days

Hayden said he wanted to committee to start thinking about what needed to get done for Local Lobby Days before the end of the quarter and they could talk more about it the following week.

B. Federal Lobbying

Matey brought up the idea of LAC sending more students to lobby federally. She stated there was a lot happening at the Lederai level that was relevant to the Western agenda.

Specifically, there was a bill passed that week that stated if an undocumented person was detained they lose all right to due process, including permanent residents as well. Hayden said the official Federal trip that Western held included the university President, Becca Kenna-Schenk, Joe Timmons, AS President and ASVP for Governmental Affairs. He felt the committee should look at doing a separate trip and see if there was a national organization that already had a plan or conference that was looking for testimonies. He stated the students would not go on the behalf of Western but as students. Matey and Chhabra said they would look into forming a group to lobby at the federal level.

Emma Scalzo adjourned the meeting at 6:13 PM.