



Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Action Council

Tuesday, March 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), Zoe Evans-Agnew (Student at Large), Hannah Sear (Student at Large), Emma Scalzo (REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Peter Condyles (Student at Large), and Natasha Hessami (Student at Large).*

Absent:

Advisor: Casey Hayden

Secretary: Chloe Callahan

Guest: Simrun Chhabra (AS President), Jacob Molloy and Colton

Motions:

LAC-18-W-15 Approval of the minutes for February 27th, 2018. *Passed.*

LAC-18-W-16 Approval of the LAC Outreach Funding Request of \$275. *Passed.*

Simrun Chhabra called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

I. Introductions

Chhabra asked people to share their name, position, pronouns and a fun fact.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 27th

MOTION: LAC-18- W-15 by Hessami

Approval of the minutes for February 27th, 2018.

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

III. Action Item

A. LAC Outreach Funding Request

MOTION: LAC-18-W-16 by Scalzo

Approval of the LAC Outreach Funding Request of \$275.

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

Hessami requested that people sign up to help with the outreach that will start the following week.

IV. Discussion Items

A. WWU President Update

Chhabra had met with President Randhawa to talk about what Federal Lobby Day looks like. He had said they could add three to five more students to the federal lobby day trip. She said they were working on what the students would be doing while in D.C. Hessami asked what group usually ran the federal lobby day. Hayden stated the President's office and Western's Governmental Relations. He said the agenda was not an AS agenda but a university agenda. He would call Becca Kenna-Schenk and Joe Timmons to see what their agenda would be that year, to determine whether or not the student and university priorities meshed. Chhabra said so far the federal lobby day was focused on more funding for work study and Pell grant, support for undocumented students and more funding for research.

B. Graduate Student Representation

Chhabra went to a meeting with Cora Cole, Casey Hayden, Gautam Pillay (Dean of the Graduate School) and Michael Barr (Associate Dean of the Graduate School) to discuss the representation of graduate students. Hunter Eider (AS VP for Academic Affairs) and Chhabra would be attending the next Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) meeting to see how the graduate students would like to be represented in committees, lobbying and the AS as a whole. Rice-Pelepko asked to mention the WSA was considering having a VP for Graduate Affairs in the meeting with graduate students. Hayden said in the future GSAC would be appointing the representative for committees.

C. Legislative Update

Rice-Pelepko said session would be over on that Thursday. She shared that about 9 out of 10 bills students were pushing for had passed. She said bills would now be signed by the Governor and a couple of the bills would go to Concurrence. She said the budget had yet to come out yet, they were hoping the State Need Grant was held to the House version of funding. She asked that the committee work to find a way to inform students about the bills that were passed that year that would affect them. She noted that WSA General Assembly was coming up in April where the students would vote for a new executive board and create a tentative agenda for the following year's legislative session. She explained the agenda was voted again in fall but the tentative agenda allowed universities to continue to work on the items. She asked that the committee try and find at least one student per vote Western is allotted.

D. Bill writing

Merkel mentioned three priorities the committee had previously discussed: student unionization, APA recommendations, and support for undocumented students. Merkel asked the committee which one to write about, she was leaning toward writing a state loan program for undocumented student's proposal. Matey suggested reaching out to Blue Group to get their input. Merkel thought they could write the proposal and get it passed during the WSA GA to be on next year's agenda. She asked if the proposal was passed if it would be put into bill form for the following legislative session. Rice-Pelepko said typically the WSA took the agenda items and tried to find legislators that would sponsor and write a bill on the topic. Merkel asked if the WSA would be

supporting of a potential loan program. Rice-Pelepko felt the WSA would support the proposal.

E. Local Lobby Days

Hessami said Anna Kemper, the Local Liaison, would be back the next week. She reviewed the local lobby day agenda which includes; Housing Affordability and Livability, Equity and Inclusiveness, Public Safety & Criminal Justice Reform, Voting Accessibility, and Environmental Stewardship & Green Jobs. Rice-Pelepko said housing might be an item the committee could bring up at a state level as well. Hessami mentioned that on-campus housing would also be increasing in 2020. Rice-Pelepko suggested reaching out to students to get more information on issues they would like to see Western lobby on locally.

Simrun Chhabra adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM.