



Western Washington University Associated Students  
**Legislative Affairs Council**

Tuesday, March 13th, 2018 5:30 PM YU 567

**Members:** *Present: Simrun Chhabra (AS President), 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), Anna Kemper (AS Local Liaison), Emma Scalzo (REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Greta Merkel (Student at Large), and Natasha Hessami (Student at Large).*

*Absent:*

**Advisor:** Casey Hayden

**Secretary:** Chloe Callahan

**Guest:** Colton Redtfeldt

**Motions:**

**LAC-18-W-17** Approval of the minutes for March 6th, 2018. *Passed.*

**LAC-18-W-18** Approval of the consent item to remove Jevne Meyers from LAC as a student at large. *Passed.*

*Simrun Chhabra called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM.*

**I. Introductions**

Chhabra asked the committee to share their names, pronouns, and their favorite weather.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**A. March 6th**

*MOTION: LAC-18- W-17 by Hessami*

Approval of the minutes for March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Second: Evans-Agnew Vote: 8-0-1 Action: Passed

**III. Information Items**

**A. Local lobby day agenda**

Kemper shared the updated Local Lobby Day agenda. She said she had reduced the agenda from the previous year to make it easier for students when talking to legislators. She planned to send out a survey to the student body to get some feedback and testimonials. She had reached out to Matey to changing the wording “support WWU Blue Group” to “Supporting ask by the undocumented community”. Matey said the previous year the Keep Bellingham Working campaign, started by WWU Blue Group and C2C (Community to Community), was a successful effort and is still ongoing. She suggested working with C2C to see what they were thinking about how to support the undocumented community. They had notice city council did not keep up with what they said they’d do. Kemper said they were following up with C2C. She asked what

the committee thought about the agenda. She said the REP had tabled in Red Square the previous day and got student feedback and interest for Local Lobby Day. Hessami asked when Automatic Voter Registration would take effect. Rice-Pelepko thought it would go into effect July 2019 or July 2018 depending on the agency. She said the bill did not do as much as people thought it would. Individuals would still have to interact with the Department of Licensing or the health benefit exchange. Those agencies would be implementing the AVR electronically. She said a lot of voting initiatives would stay the same to help update voter registration. Kemper asked whether or not they should keep in the part about requiring property owners to provide voter registration to new tenants. Rice-Pelepko thought it would be a good idea to keep it on the agenda. She asked if it was addressed the previous year. Kemper said last year the city council felt this item would be hard to enforce, so they might change the wording to “encourage” instead of “require”. Rice-Pelepko said the previous year the committee had talked about hosting an event before Local Lobby Day where students could talk to city council members even if they could not go to the official lobby day. Kemper said she would take that into consideration. Hessami asked if there would be training for lobbying. Kemper said there would be a mandatory training. Evans-Agnew asked how many students were anticipated. Kemper expected about 30 students to show up and participate.

**B. WSA GA budget proposal**

Chhabra said this funding request was for breakfast, travel to Olympia and dinner before leaving Olympia for the upcoming Washington Student Association general assembly (WSA GA). She said they expected about 14 students to attend and the event would be April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Redtfeldt asked what WSA GA was. Chhabra said the spring general assembly would introduce agenda items and vote for the executive board. She said WSA held another GA in November that officially determined the legislative agenda. Hayden said the \$700 estimate for dinner was too high a number and stated the budget code was actually LXXLACL not LXXLAL. Hessami asked who was invited to general assembly. Chhabra said currently the Representation and Engagement Programs office, LAC and the Board were invited to attend because they were the members that were already engaged in the process.

**IV. Consent Items (*subject to immediate actions*)**

**A. Student at Large - Jevne Meyers**

***MOTION: LAC-18- W-18 by Hessami***

Approval of the consent item to remove Jevne Meyers from LAC as a student at large.

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

**V. Discussion Items**

**A. Legislative Update**

Rice-Pelepko said she was working with WSA to put together a press release talking about the higher education student issues that had been passed during the legislative session. She mentioned it was the first time in about 4 years that the 60 day session had ended on time, the previous few years Washington had to hold extended special sessions. She said her new focus would be outreach on education and new legislative agenda items, working on proposals for GA and putting together training for the next Legislative Liaison.

**VI. Other Business**

**A. Proposals**

Chhabra asked the committee if there were any proposals being brought to WSA for general assembly. Evans-Agnew asked if the proposal would go through a formal

process. Chhabra explained the proposal would be submitted ahead of WSA GA, then they would present the proposals, and then it would be voted on for whether or not to have that on the WSA agenda the following year. Matey noted writing bills would help keep the agenda items alive that had not been addressed in the legislative session. Chhabra asked what the committee wanted to do. Evans-Agnew asked if the person that wrote the proposal had to be in attendance at the GA. Chhabra replied no. She asked whether or not the student trustee proposal passed the previous WSA GA. Rice-Pelepko said the WSA had voted no on the proposal the last fall. The committee decided to sign up for specific proposals outside the committee and bring the drafts to the committee the following quarter.

## **VII. Reports**

### **A. AS President (Chair)**

Chhabra said she would be meeting with Melynda Husky, VP for Enrollment and Student Services, the following day to talk about Federal Lobby Day. Hayden mentioned he would be talking with Becca Kenna-Schenk and Joe Timmons that week about what items they would be lobbying on during Federal Lobby Day.

### **B. AS Legislative Liaison**

Rice-Pelepko wanted to get more students involved in LAC and suggested LAC host a potluck the following quarter to get more student engagement.

***Simrun Chhabra adjourned the meeting at 6:07 PM.***