



Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council

Monday, April 23rd, 2018 4:00 PM VU 567

Members:

Present: Simrun Chhabra (AS President), Rosa Rice-Pelepko (AS Legislative Liaison), Casey Hayden (Assistant Director of Student Representation & Governance), Jordan Van Hoozer (ESP Rep), Hannah Sear (Student at Large), Anna Kemper (AS Local Liaison), Emma Scalzo (REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Greta Merkel (Student at Large), Jacob Molloy (Student at Large) and Natasha Hessami (Student at Large).

Absent:

Advisor: Casey Hayden

Secretary: Chloe Callahan

Guest:

Motions:

LAC-18-S-4 Approval of the minutes for April 16th, 2018. *Passed.*

Simrun Chhabra called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

- I. Introductions**
- II. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. April 16th**

MOTION: LAC-18-S-4 by Hessami

Approval of the minutes for April 16th, 2018.

Second: Van Hoozer Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

III. Discussion Items

A. WSA General Assembly

Chhabra said the beginning of general assembly the group spent a lot of time talking about what they all wanted WSA to look like. She said they covered budgets, elections and proposals. Western had one Graduate student run for a graduate student executive position, however she did not get the position. Chhabra suggested that the following year the Western Board of Directors members should be elected before WSA general assembly. She was talking with the current Board to discuss the potential of changing the elections timeline. She mentioned that in fall 2019 there might be a special election for the VP for Sustainability position as well as the new AS constitution might be complete at that time. Hayden suggested it might be easier to move general assembly than the AS elections. Chhabra said general assembly was set at that time because the majority of the other schools were semester schools. Molloy said they would support moving the elections earlier in the school year. Chhabra said the ethnic studies proposals (K-12 and Higher Education) were not presented. They were not finished and they felt there was more information that needed to be put on the proposal to be

impactful. She suggested they bring the item up in fall. They also did not talk about free menstrual products proposals because they did not have time. She said they talked about SNG eligibility and entitlement, student unionization, and support for undocumented students' proposals. She noted that they don't know the results of the proposals yet, but they did vote while at general assembly. Molloy said the student unionization proposal received suggestions about reaching out to unions that already exist. He said overall people seemed to be interested in the idea. Chhabra and Hessami mentioned the frustration they had with the organization of general assembly. Rice-Pelepko said the WSA by-laws needed to be updated and there was a committee that came up with four different versions for the general assembly to vote on. The general assembly was the only place that amendments could be made. Version one would keep the by-laws the same, but add information on the budgetary process and the legislative liaison program. Version two added on to version one, but give the Board of Directors more interim decision making power to change the legislative agenda items. The general assembly would still be responsible for setting the legislative agenda and the main budget. Version three was getting rid of the general assembly voting body and the board of directors would have the primary decision power. She said the discussion got heated because people wanted the Board of Directors to still have weighted votes all year round. Version four was similar to version one. She said most people wanted either version two or three. She noted the group was not organized and not well handled. Hessami said nothing was decided and they ended up tabling the items for the next meeting. Chhabra mentioned the dominant personalities were typically in power and there was a lack of marginalized identities represented and acknowledge. Hessami mentioned that UW had stressed they wanted to streamline the power to a few people and have less students at large. Molloy suggested that future general assembly's having a meeting beforehand to go over the agenda and items. Rice-Pelepko encouraged people to get to know the new WSA board early on and build those strong relationships.

IV. Other Business

A. Legislative Liaison Event

Rice-Pelepko said she would be collaborating with Emma Scalzo. She was hoping to bring a couple more people from the committee on board to plan the event. The goals were to build awareness to students and increase student engagement. The committee discussed potential event ideas and suggestions, but planned to finalize ideas later.

B. Federal Lobby Day

Chhabra had a discussion about what to lobby on federally and had decided that the only one that they felt was most important for students to focus on was support for undocumented students. The invitation has been sent out to members of Blue Group to go. Hayden mentioned how it was typically the AS President and AS VP for Governmental Affairs that went on the Federal Lobby Day trip. He said there was enough money to send a few students to lobby federally for support for undocumented students. He hoped to know soon about who would be able to go. He said there might be a funding request coming to LAC for more money for the trip. He clarified this was not an AS legislative agenda and was not something they had done before. In the past the federal lobbying was a unified effort with the AS and university administration. Since the university administration had gone earlier in the year, this brought up the question on whether or not the students lobbying federally would be an effective use of funds.

V. Reports

A. AS President

Chhabra reminded people to vote for the AS elections and to please remind their friends and fellow students to vote.

B. AS Legislative Liaison

Rice-Pelepko mentioned that she had sent out an invite to the Birchwood food desert rally event on that Thursday. She would send out more information that evening. She also said that from 9:00am-1:00pm there was a Blue Group takes over city hall event to pressure the city to take more of a stance on the issues. She said that support for the undocumented community was on the local legislative agenda and felt it was important to show up and physically represent/support that community.

Simrun Chhabra adjourned the meeting at 5:05 PM.