



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

Monday, May 7th, 2018 4:00 PM VU 567

**Members:**

*Present: Ana Ramirez (AS VP for Governmental Affairs), Casey Hayden (Assistant Director of Student Representation & Governance), Rosa Rice-Pelepko (AS Legislative Liaison), Katie Winkelman (ESP Director), Hannah Sear (Student at Large), Natasha Hessami (Student at Large), Zoe Evans-Agnew (Student at Large), Emma Scalzo (REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Victoria Matey (ESC Rep), Colton Redtfeldt (Student at Large), Greta Merkel (Student at Large), Peter Condyles (Student at Large) and Jacob Molloy (Student at Large)*

*Absent:*

**Advisor:** Casey Hayden

**Secretary:** Chloe Callahan

**Guest:**

**Motions:**

**LAC-18-S-9** Approval of the minutes for April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. *Passed.*

**LAC-18-S-10** Approval of the Carbon Tax Initiative to move to an information item.  
*Passed.*

*Ana Ramirez called the meeting to order at 4:14 PM.*

- I. Introductions**
- II. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. April 30<sup>th</sup>**

*MOTION: LAC- 18-S-9 by Winkelman*

Approval of the minutes for April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Second: Merkel Vote: 10-0-1                      Action: Passed

**III. Discussion Items**

**A. Carbon Tax Initiative**

*MOTION: LAC-18-S-10 by Rice-Pelepko*

Approval of the Carbon Tax Initiative to move from a discussion item to an information item.

Second: Hessami Vote: 11-0-0                      Action: Passed

Rice-Pelepko stated there was a statewide Carbon Tax Initiative that would hopefully be on the upcoming fall ballot. She was proposing that the committee and the AS Board endorse this initiative. At the time the initiative was in the signature gathering stage to get on the ballot. She noted there was several ways someone can get legislation passed: they can have legislators pass a bill during session or they can put it on the

ballot themselves if they collect enough signatures. She thought it was important to support this initiative because Western's legislative agenda had incorporated the carbon tax in the Revenue item. Rice-Pelepko thought it was important that Western show the many different ways to support initiatives and be civically engaged. She was hoping the committee could endorse the initiative and then request that the Board of Directors make a formal endorsement which would give the university the ability to work on the carbon tax. The goal would be aligning AS and committee values with concrete political actions. Ramirez stated that the Board of Directors had endorsed an initiative during the summer and it had not required a separate document, but the Board had added their names to list of the initiative endorsers. Molloy asked if there could be specific statements within the endorsement. Winkelman asked if the AS offices themselves could support and act on issues once the Board of Directors endorsed an initiative. Hayden said the program offices would still have to hold a more neutral positions on the issues because they were technically state employees. Winkelman wondered if it was alright that the ESP office could advertise what the Board was endorsing. Hayden said it was alright to spread the word and educate about their endorsements, but they could not lobby on the issues. Hessami mentioned that the endorsement on the carbon tax could move along to WS A to take further action the following year. She asked if it was within the bounds of the committee and the Board to not endorse or support an initiative. Rice-Pelepko felt that the committee could vote on a statement and put it in the AS Review. Winkelman asked if the initiative was the same as the bill proposed in the legislative session because that bill had not passed. Rice-Pelepko said it was similar rhetoric, but a different method of getting the bill passed. Evans-Agnew asked where the money raised from the tax would go toward. Rice-Pelepko said she did not know specifically where the money would go, but knew the intent was a positive overall impact with the funds. Winkelman thought that overflow funds from the tax would go to MATCA and other environmentally beneficial actions.

#### **B. Local Lobby Day Recap / Local Agenda Prioritization**

Hessami said overall Local Lobby Day went well. The training beforehand went well and people were able to get their message out. Rice-Pelepko said at the recap meeting they discussed how some meetings with city council members went and what they wanted to see in the future. Many students were interesting in the idea of the Civilian Oversight Board. The group discussed how lobbying was not a onetime thing but a consistent pressure. Some people were in favor of having more meetings throughout the year to add that pressure on council members. Molloy asked if there were any students that attended local lobby day that were new to activism and if the students seemed interested in continuing that effort. Matey said there had been new active students and she felt it had been the best lobby day. Hessami said they had gotten information from the students so they could reach out to them again about the other Western lobby days. Rice-Pelepko said city council was accessible and they could attend their open sessions for public comment. Hayden asked what the status of the local issues team was and wondered if it could be strengthened. Hessami felt it could have been revived. Rice-Pelepko disagreed and thought more student recruitment at the beginning of the year could be more beneficial. Molloy thought it might be a good use of resources for the committee to work with clubs that were already lobbying for issues. The committee decided to revisit the issue the following year. Hayden noted that recruitment piece was better done by clubs than the AS. Hessami stated she would try and keep the idea in mind to implement the following year. Hessami said the detached accessory dwelling units measure had passed in Bellingham the previous

weeks, which was a small step in the right direction for affordable housing. She also reminded the committee that the Housing Panel was the following week.

#### **IV. Reports**

##### **A. AS ESC Internal Coordinator**

She had been working on the Federal Lobby day training presentation and would be meeting with the group the following day to go over the training. She said they did not have any meetings yet, but someone would be scheduling them soon. Hayden noted that the Blue Group books had arrived.

##### **B. REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator**

Scalzo was planning a voter timeline event for the end of the academic year. The event would also mention what the WSA did throughout the year that benefited the students.

*Ana Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 4:41 PM.*