

Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council

Wednesday, November 7th

VU 462A

Present: Natasha Hessami (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Henry Pollet (Legislative Liaison), Patrick Kissinger (Local Issues Coordinator), James Pai (ESC Advocacy Director), Katie Winkleman (ESP Director), Kayl Gillihan (SAIRC Coordinator), Colton Redtfeldt, Grace LaMonte, Gabbi Nazari, Brandon Lane, Bennett Massey

Absent: Maddie Rackers

Advisor: Eric Alexander

Secretary: Grace Drechsel

Guests: Nora Harren (REP Director)

MOTIONS

LAC-18-F-17 Table the Approval of minutes until next meeting.

LAC-18-F-18 Fully fund the Bellingham Herald Funding Request

LAC-18-F-19 Fully fund the request for WSA GA funding.

Natasha Hessami called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

MOTION LAC-18-F-17 by Hessami

Table the Approval of Minutes until next meeting.

Second: Lane

Vote: 10-0-1

Action: *Passed*

III. INFO ITEMS

a. Funding Request for Travel to Senate Higher Ed Committee in Olympia

Pollet explained that he needs to go to Olympia on November 15th for a committee meeting. It will be a long drive, and he needs reimbursement for travel. The request also accounts for a per diem due to the length of the trip. This will come back as an action item next week.

IV. ACTION ITEM

a. Bellingham Herald Funding Request

MOTION LAC-18-F-18 by *Pollet*

Fully fund the Bellingham Herald Funding request.

Second: Nazari Vote: 10-0-1 Action: *Passed*

V. CONSENT ITEMS

a. WSA GA Funding

Hessami presented a funding request for Washington Student Association General Assembly, which is taking place on Saturday, November 10th. The hosting school, which is us, should feed the other schools breakfast and lunch. The exempt order from Aramark is approved, and so we are going to get breakfast foods such as muffins, etc. from Costco, and order pizza and co-op salads for lunch. We also need to pay for parking, although we are going to change the request from 18 spots to 10 spots since less people are coming than we expected. Harren asks if having a lower number of parking spots means that we should need a lesser amount of food. Hessami says probably not – we just really overestimated the number of car spots. Pollet wanted to add that this is a really reasonable ask, because we would be spending the same amount if not way more to send 8-10 students to Central or a different Washington school that could potentially be hosting.

MOTION LAC-18-F-19 by *Winkelman*

Fully fund the request for WSA GA funding.

Second: Nazari Vote: 11-0-0 Action: *Passed*

VI. DISCUSSION ITEM

a. CHSS Discussion

Redtfeldt wanted to give an update related to the Pre-healthcare decision and the things happening in CSE. He reminded the group that there has been a lot of concern over the lack of representation through faculty in the different colleges, especially CSE. All of the colleges face this problem. Redtfeldt met with Pai, and they talked about what they can do to try and get more diverse faculty into the different colleges. They talked about creating a policy where the university has students on different hiring committees and they expand how they are posting their open jobs to reach more people. He is hoping to take these issues to the dean of CHSS, and he expects her to be pretty receptive. He wants the backing of LAC for these issues.

Hessami says that she agrees and supports everything that Redtfeldt said. But however, LAC shouldn't be throwing our official support behind this because we are more concerned with external

legislative affairs. If anyone wants to join Redtfeldt in this, let him know. She suggested that Redtfeldt look into other committees around campus that deals with this more closely. She also adds that this is something that CSE is responding to positively, and she hopes CHSS does the same.

Winkleman adds that she has been working with Huxley on the same issues and it has been pretty productive. One roadblock that she has faced and something Redtfeldt should keep in mind is how the university is structured. It is very messy and can be difficult to navigate, and she offered to share her knowledge around this with Redtfeldt. She agrees that having a student-led effort is important, and if there isn't a student-led committee readily available to take on this issue, then there really should be.

VII. REPORTS

a. VP for Governmental Affairs

Hessami brought up the issue from last week concerning the statement to CSE and the university that students and the Board of Directors probably will not be supporting the Pre-Healthcare Decision Package unless there is rapid change within CSE in terms of supporting students of color. She reported that it is going well, and there seems to be urgency within CSE.

b. REP Director

Harren and the REP have been working with Levi Eckman and the Board to figure out Senate elections. It is a little hectic but going well overall.

c. Legislative Liaison

Pollet said that he has been very focused on the Midterm election, and is pleased that we will have a legislature that is most likely open to our policies and funding requests that we will be lobbying for.

d. Local Issues Forum

There has been a lot of talk about housing

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

a. WSA General Assembly

A doodle poll will be going out for training on how to present the proposals at WSA. There will be food!

Hessami adjourned the meeting at 5:54pm.