

Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council

Wednesday, January 23rd

VU 460

Present: Natasha Hessami (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Henry Pollet via phone (REP Legislative Liaison), James Pai (ESC Advocacy Director), Katie Winkelman (ESP Director), Kayl Gillihan (SAIRC Representative), Patrick Kissinger (REP Local Issues Coordinator), Nicole Ballard (Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Anna Schorr (GSAC Representative), Brandon Lane, Bennett Massey, Mads Rackers, Gabbi Nazari

Advisor: Leti Romo

Secretary: Grace Drechsel

Guests: Alec Willis (REP Elections Coordinator), Cora Cole (REP Committee Coordinator), Colton Redtfeldt, Eric Baril

MOTIONS

No Motions.

Natasha Hessami called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Hessami added the Recall Election Code as a Consent Item.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hessami tabled the approval of minutes for next week's meeting.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM

a. Review of LAC Norms

Hessami reminded the committee that getting a request for funds from LACF passed is a full two-week process. The document needs to be sent to Hessami by Wednesday the week before the meeting that it will be coming as an Info Item. Hessami acknowledged that we have been doing Info/Action Items in one meeting for smaller, around \$100 requests, such as the ASL interpreter for the candidate forums, but it is important to have the longer timeline. Two weeks ago, committee members went on a long tangent concerning WILD, which was important in order to air all

grievances, but there is a line between discussion and airing grievances. She urged the committee to be mindful of that distinction.

V. INFO ITEM
a. WILD Agendas

Hessami pointed out that LAC has to pass agendas for WILD similar to how they passed the agenda for Western Lobby Day. There are DOC, SAIRC, ESC, and ESP agendas.

The committee reviewed the respective agendas, with the knowledge that Hessami would meet with the representatives from each office to talk about the agendas one on one. She wanted to make sure everyone on LAC were familiar with the agendas.

VI. CONSENT ITEM
a. Recall Election Code

Hessami gave the committee context to why they are reviewing the Recall Election Code. Usually the codes go through the ASBOD, but last week the ASBOD voted 6-1 to initiate a recall election on the ASVP for Business and Operations, Genaro Meza-Roa. Therefore, the REP doesn't have the time for it to go to the Board meeting this Friday. LAC will look at it and discuss if there are any changes that need to be made.

Cole said that there is a committee called the Elections Advisory Committee which creates these election codes. Traditionally, they spend a couple of weeks workshoping them in February and March, and then the elections codes get used in the spring for the ASBOD and Senate Pro-Tempore elections. This is the first recall election ever, and so a code doesn't previously exist. Willis added that there is a preexisting code that says that if a recall election occurs, it has to use the previous rules as AS Board Elections, which is an extremely impractical and outdated rule. The REP will be removing this from the code and then passing it on Friday at the ASBOD meeting, with any edits LAC would like to make. Cole clarified that although the recall election hasn't started, campaigning has, which is why this code is a pressing matter. The campaigning begins when a recall is evoked – which has already happened.

Willis said that the code is pretty much the same, besides the issue of spending money and the creation of social media pages. Lane said that is a big deal – putting himself in the shoes of someone who is less involved in the Associated Students, there wouldn't be a consistent way to get information if there aren't any posters or social media pages. This could severely limit the ability for people to access accurate information from the source or sources. Pollet pointed out that if we allow money for campaigning, then the REP would have to determine who the "official" campaign on either side of the issue is. It may make the most sense for social media pages to be allowed. Willis said he would take this into consideration, and perhaps require that pages be reported to the Elections Coordinator to monitor it that way – because they still need to follow the conduct agreement. If anyone campaigns on either side, they are implicitly consenting to follow the elections code.

Lane said that his fear with the notion of the implicit elections code is that anyone who goes out and campaigns on this issue, understanding that most people have no idea what the ASVP Business and Operations position is, that opens the door to a savvy bureaucrat filing multiple grievances. Pollet asked if a grievance against a student-at-large would have any impact. Willis said that a grievance has the ability to issue a fine through the finance office, however, the Elections Board has to

determine that it is a grievance worthy of fining. Also, all grievances will be sent to student publications and become public knowledge.

Hessami summarized the discussion thus far. First, campaign financing isn't very feasible because there would be no way to determine each side of the campaign to know who to give the funds to. The committee agreed. There was also a consensus that social media pages should be allowed for campaigning, in order to make information about the election more accessible to students-at-large. Schorr testified that she has already had multiple students complain to her about the lack of information accessible regarding this situation, and the lack of transparency, especially regarding Meza-Roa's side of the story. The committee brought up the idea of sending out a blast email concerning the election code and how to get information concerning this particular recall election.

VII. ADJOURN

Hessami adjourned the meeting at 7:04pm.