

Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Wednesday, February 20th VU 462A

Present: Natasha Hessami (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Henry Pollet (Legislative Liaison), Patrick Kissinger (Local Liaison), James Pai (ESC Advocacy Director), Nicole Ballard (Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Kayl Gillihan (SAIRC Coordinator), Maddie Rackers, Gabbi Nazari, Bennet Massey, Grace LaMonte

Advisor: Leti Romo

Secretary: Grace Drechsel

Guest: Nora Harren (REP Director), Astrid Duenas (Board Assistant for Lobby Days)

MOTIONS

LAC-18-W-9 Pass the minutes from January 30th, 2019.

Natasha Hessami called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

A friendly amendment was made to move Local Issues Coordinator's report to after the WILD recap so that Kissinger could leave early and make it to another commitment.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION LAC-18-W-9 by Rackers
Pass the minutes from January 30th, 2019.
Second: Gillihan Vote: 8-0-0 Action: *Passed*

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. WILD Recap.** Gillihan said that it went well, however some legislators were hard to work with and there were some hiccups with the hotel. 75 people ended up attending. Harren asked who has the notes from the meetings with legislators, and Gillihan recommended to get in contact with Katie Winkelman. Gillihan also noted that they are going to be working on exit surveys and thank you notes now.
- B. Local and Federal Lobby Day.** Hessami said that she is currently planning Federal Lobby Day with Becca Kenna-Schenk. Millka Solomon, the AS President, and Hessami will be the only ones going – a decision made by Becca. It will take place on April 29th and 30th, so unfortunately Hessami won't be able to attend Local Lobby Day. Becca and President Sabah make the agenda, but Hessami said that it will consist of Title IX issues, Pell grant, funding for research, and DACA support on the federal level.

V. REPORTS

A. Local Liaison

Kissinger reported that he is working with the Work Study student in the REP to develop the Local Lobby Day agenda, using last year's agenda as a reference. He is trying to engage the student body as much as possible to develop the agenda. The two big hot-button issues in Whatcom are the Cherry Point moratorium and the county jail. Other issues to consider is overturning the "No More than 3 Unrelated Persons" housing ordinance, and addressing the lack of lighting in areas and neighborhoods around campus. Hessami said that this lobby day has a more relaxed timeline, and allows LAC to go more in depth with the issues. It's also more accessible for students, since it's a 10 minute commute to lobby on a Thursday versus a 2 day commitment for Western Lobby Day. She said that LAC will really flesh out the agenda the end of Winter quarter and the beginning of Spring quarter. We will use the skeleton of last year's agenda, but will go more in depth with some of the issues, since the politics have shifted since last year.

B. VP Governmental Affairs

Hessami reported on the Evergreen Promise – a bill that makes it so 6 high schools around the state promise to fully fund their students' education for free; giving students \$20,000 per year for higher ed. Although it probably won't pass as a law, it's a good starting point. She said that she is doing a lot of the VP for Business and Operations work right now since that position is currently vacant. She also reminded the committee that there is 1 position open for a Student-at-large position on LAC.

VI. Info Items

A. Funding Request for Organizing and Outreach

Ballard is requesting \$500 or doing Red Square outreach. She is requesting money for Co-op coffee and Rocket Donuts, as well as a banner and bullhorn which could be used for future events and outreach.

Rackers asked how the LAC budget is doing. Hessami said that it is doing pretty well, especially considering that there is a separate fund for Federal Lobby Day, and only 2 people are going. That will save the LACF fund about \$4,000 compared to last year. The next big payment will be \$12,000 to WSA in the spring.

VII. Other Business

Ballard reminded everyone of the candidate forum for the VP for BusOps on Monday in FH101 from 5-7pm.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09pm.