

Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Wednesday, March 6 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), Katie Winkelman (ESP Director), Anna Schorr (GSAC Representative), Maddie Rackers, Gabbi Nazari, Bennet Massey, Grace LaMonte, Brandon Lane, Astrid Dueñas

Advisor: Leti Romo
Secretary: Grace Drechsel
Guest: Nora Harren (REP Director)

MOTIONS

- LAC-18-W-10** Pass the minutes from February 20th with the edit of the correct date. *Passed.*
LAC-18-W-11 Approve the funding request for the Red Square tabling event put on by the Organizing and Outreach Coordinator. *Passed.*

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION LAC-18-W-10 by Winkelman

Pass the minutes from February 20th with the edit of the correct date.
Second: Pollet Vote: 13-1-0 Action: *Passed*

III. ACTION ITEM

A.

MOTION ASB-19-W-11 By Winkelman

Approve the funding request for the Red Square tabling event put on by the Organizing and Outreach Coordinator.

*Second: Rackers Vote: 13-1-0 Action: *Passed**

IV. REPORTS

A. Legislative Update and Legislative Liaison

Pollet reported that things have been going well on non-higher-ed focused bills. The sex education bill is scheduled for committee in the House, and it passed in the Senate. The Ethnic Studies bill passed in the Senate.

We are still waiting on the College Promise and the Entitlement State Need Grant. They are holding off as long as possible to schedule it so that the revenue package can come out which includes SNG, some Student Support services, and the Native American opportunity scholarship that WSA is working on.

Pollet reported that the SNG and the Revenue Package have a 50/50 chance of passing in the Senate.

He added that some legislators have some concerns about how student lobbyists are framing issues. Pollet said that he was talking to a Legislative Assistant who was bothered by the way students have framed Ethnic studies to their legislator.

B. VP Governmental Affairs

Hessami reported that the Constitution passed in the special election. There will now be a full restructure of the AS. The AS Board of Directors has been renamed the AS Executive Board.

- C. Kissinger reported that Local Lobby Day will take place on May 2nd, and the registration date will close April 22nd. Individuals from Western have compiled a survey of Bellingham residents, and the asks that the organizers of Local Lobby Day are looking to put in the agenda are very in line with the majority of Bellingham residents' opinions. The top issues will probably be homelessness, housing affordability, neighborhood safety, and economic development. Subcommittees will be looking into some of these issues and using Google surveys as a template. Kissinger said that he hasn't reached out to the LAC members yet, but he would really like some help digging into the issues of housing issues/renters rights, safety/lighting in neighborhoods/the jail, responding to mental health on a city/county level (relating to homelessness), and the civilian investigative panel. Kissinger will be bringing a rough draft agenda by next week's LAC.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm.