

Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council

March 6th, 2020

VU 567

Board Members: *Present:* Grace Drechsel (VP for Governmental Affairs), Phoebe DeMeerler (Local Issues Coordinator), Nicole Ballard (Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Kayl Gillihan (Outreach and Representation), Nora Harren (REP Director), Grace LaMonte (Student At-Large), Collin Thrower (Student At-Large), Kaitlyn Davidson (Student At-Large), and Jennifer Leveque (Student At-Large).

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): None

Motions:

- LAC-19-W-15** To adopt the addition of the Rick Larsen Event funding request as an information item. *Passed.*
- LAC-19-W-16** To approve the meeting minutes from the date of February 28th, 2020. *Passed.*
- LAC-19-W-17** To move the Rick Larsen Event funding request to an action item. *Passed.*
- LAC-19-W-18** To approve the Rick Larsen Event funding request. *Passed.*

I. Call to Order

Grace Drechsel, VP of Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

A. Rick Larsen Event Funding Request

MOTION LAC-20-W-15 by Thrower

To adopt the addition of the Rick Larsen Event funding request as an information item.

Second: LaMonte Action: Passed

III. Approval of Minutes

A. February 28th, 2020

MOTION LAC-20-W-16 by Gillihan

To approve the meeting minutes from the date of February 28th, 2020.

Second: Leveque Action: Passed

IV. Discussion Items

- A. Local Lobby Day Survey
1. Drechsel stated that this survey was put together by DeMeerler and has basically the same outline as the statewide lobby day survey.
 2. Ballard mentioned adding voter accessibility as an option for selection, as the LAC lobbied on this last year. Also with the city and council item, she suggested to add i.e.: snow on walkways.
 3. Leveque commented that an average student may not know about BP's Cherry Point Refinery, so maybe add limiting expansion of the refinery as clarifying information.
 4. Thrower asked what environmental issues the LAC could focus on currently, and DeMeerler responded that legislation concerning oil pipelines, and Lummi nation rights (ex: fishing).
 5. Harren suggested adding the question "are you interested in attending local lobby day," and then if so, adding a section where participants can enter their email to start a list of interested contacts for the event.
 6. Drechsel noted that it would be good to keep the survey short so more students fill it out, but that this is a good start.

IV. Discussion Items

- A. Rick Larsen Event Funding Request
1. Davidson stated that the Young Democrats of Western are hosting Rick Larsen on Monday, March 16th for a social and a town hall where students will be able to ask him questions. They are asking for \$250 for pizza for the social part of the event, they probably won't use all the money but they want to make sure they have enough for the amount of people they hope will attend.
 2. Thrower asked whether it would be allowed for this partisan group to receive money from the LAC, Davidson responded that bringing elected representatives to campus has been supported previously with LAC funds, for example Obama's speechwriter was brought to campus in the past. The fund is available for all students to access.
 3. Harren stated that the last time this issue occurred, Leti Romo asked whether the LAC would allocate the same money for a republican group.
 4. Davidson stated that at this time Young Democrats aren't endorsing Larsen, but maybe at a later date they will. She added that the event is being organized with Massey-Helber's help, and that she will bring committee flyers to the event.
 5. Harren noted that if this turns into a problem, the LAC could make it clear that students wanting to hold political events are able to access the fund.

MOTION LAC-20-W-17 by Thrower

To move the Rick Larsen Event funding request to an action item.

Second: LaMonte

Action: Passed

MOTION LAC-20-W-18 by Gillihan

To approve the Rick Larsen Event funding request.

Second: LaMonte

Action: Passed

V. Reports

Phoebe, Local Issues Coordinator stated that she had nothing to report.

Bennett, Director of Legislative Affairs, was not present to make a statement.

Nicole, Organizing and Outreach Coordinator, stated that the ballot box will be out in Red Square on Monday and Tuesday, but there are still spots open on the sign-up sheet. She has been making a lot of fun posts on Canva for the Western Votes Instagram, and she stated that if there's something unclear about the voting process she'd love to know so she can make an informative post. The new ballot box should've arrived in September and that is a battle she is still fighting.

Grace, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, stated that in Olympia the Undocumented Student Loans passed, as well as the Title IX regulations bill and a Voting Accessibility bill which means the auditor legally will have to help Western in the future with ballots.

VI. Other Business

A. None

Grace Drechsel, AS VP of Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 1:34 p.m.