

Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council

November 6th, 2020

MS Teams

Board Members: *Present:* Nicole Ballard (VP for Governmental Affairs), Mariam Wolters (Outreach and Representation), Jude Ahmed (Director of Legislative Affairs), Natalie Szabo (Local Liaison), Ebon Oluchi (ESP Director), Daniela Rodriguez (ESC Representative), Jade Hedeem (Student At-Large), Kaeli McKinley (Student At-Large), and Jennifer Leveque (Student At-Large).

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): None

Motions:

LAC-19-F-1 To approve the meeting minutes from October 30th, 2020. *Passed.*

LAC-19-F-2 To approve the Survey Funding Request to become an Action Item. *Passed.*

LAC-19-F-3 To approve the Survey Funding Request. *Passed.*

I. Call to Order

Nicole Ballard, VP of Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

None

III. Approval of Minutes

October 30th, 2020

MOTION ASB-20-F-1 By Ahmed

To approve the meeting minutes from October 30th, 2020.

Second: Chittenden

Vote: 9-0-1

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

IV. Information Items

A. Survey Funding Request- Ballard

1. Ballard explained that the five gift cards are to incentivize students in order to take the survey but providing gift cards for students for groceries is helpful to support

student basic needs. In the past, the LAC has spent quite a bit more on advertising, so she stated that she believes this is a reasonable ask.

2. Chittenden asked if students could request what grocery store they would like the gift cards for. Ballard responded that she will ask the Business Office if this is possible.
3. Ahmed asked if it would be possible to pass in the case of Chittenden's idea, with the option of passing just as general gift cards if this is not possible.
4. Chittenden asked if Ballard had the information for the current LAF funding. Ballard stated that there has been so much shifting in the last couple months that she is unsure.
5. Ahmed stated that usually the LAC spends 16,000-20,000 on lobby day, so the committee will probably be saving money in the long run since lobby day won't be held in person.

MOTION ASB-20-F-2

By Chittenden

To approve the Survey Funding Request to become an Action Item.

Second: LeVeque

Vote: 9-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

V. Action Items

A.

MOTION ASB-20-F-3

By Ahmed

To approve the Survey Funding Request.

Second: Szabo

Vote: 9-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

VI. Discussion Items

A.

Survey Updates

1. Chittenden asked if it could be included that the agenda for Lobby Day will be informative to the lobby days for the rest of the year. Ballard confirmed to add this.
2. Ballard stated that the personal information at the beginning of the survey will only be used to confirm that the student is at Western and to include them in the possibility of receiving a gift card.

B.

LAC Timeline

1. Ballard stated that the drafting will start after the survey closes on November 15th.
2. Ballard stated that Listening sessions will most likely be held on the 20th and the 25th, and they may hold separate listening sessions for different groups on campus as well.
3. Ballard stated that the drafts for the agenda will come to the agenda as an information item on the first week of agenda and will likely come back in the first week of classes in Winter Quarter.

C. Proposal Process Clarifications

1. Ballard stated that anyone is able to bring an ask or proposal to the LAC meeting. Jude will be able to lobby on these bills or items if it passes through the committee.

D. Specifying Asks within Umbrella Topics

1. Chittenden stated that, in relation to the Mental Health Resources and Reform ask, there was a bill in Oregon passed to allow three mental health days to K-12 students as excused absences.
2. Szabo stated that she would like to see a mandatory anti-racism training in higher education statewide.
3. Wolters asked if funding to build a longhouse will be included in the survey items, Ballard added it to the survey.
4. Chittenden asked to look into supporting a law protecting students for their right to use their preferred bathroom.
5. Szabo stated that the Blue Group does not receive funding from the university, and she would like to see an item asking it to be mandatory for Washington universities to give funding to groups supporting undocumented students.
6. Rodriguez added that she would like advocacy concerning accessibility to DACA
7. Chittenden stated that initiative 1234, which is focused on lifting the ban of Affirmative Action in Washington state is something to look into. He also stated that if you are voting on paper, you do not necessarily need to provide an ID, but if you are voting in person, you must. He would like to see more online voting accessibility.
8. Ahmed stated that Inslee has talked a lot about the Green New Deal and asked to add this to the ask list.
9. Ballard added SNAP benefits, and the idea of scholarships at Washington universities for COVID assistants to the ask list.
10. Chittenden stated the need for a state funded survey surrounding housing insecurity.
11. Ballard added the strengthening of Title IX in Washington State, and childcare for students and faculty at Western, because schools are cutting back on funding and childcare seems to be something that is being cut often.
12. Szabo asked to add accountability for students and staff who commit racial transgressions.
13. Ahmed stated that it may be a large topic for the WWU AS lobbying agenda, but maybe adding the decriminalization of hard drugs, in the similar fashion as Oregon.
14. Rodriguez asked for a model to increase affordability for students using the Student Health Center.
15. Ballard stated that Eastern Washington, Central Washington, Western Washington and Evergreen University are partnering together to ask for equity funding for the four universities.

VII. Reports

Natale Szabo, Local Issues Coordinator stated that she met with the Program Manager for Off-Campus Living who informed herself and Ballard that the Bellingham City Planners are looking at redefining what the city considers a family so that university students are not evicted because there are three or more people that are not related living

together. She has been working with Lisa Poole, the head of the planning committee, to hold a listening session with students, concerning this issue.

Jude Ahmed, Director of Legislative Affairs, stated that she is getting prepared for legislative drafts and listening sessions, as well as connecting with different groups about their priorities.

Nicole Ballard, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, stated that she met with Brian Burton from the ESJ to talk about Ethnic Studies, which now may take a more integrative approach, first starting out as classes within a college, and growing as the program receives more funding.

VIII. Other Business

A. None

Nicole Ballard, AS VP of Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 5:40 p.m.