

Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

MS Teams

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

**Secretary:** Sierra Templeton

**Guest(s):** None

**Motions:**

**LAC-21-W-1** To approve the Western Lobby Day Agenda for 2020-2021 with the amendment that additional edits and changes will be allowed. *Passed.*

**I. Call to Order**

*Nicole Ballard, VP of Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.*

**II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**

None

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A. November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

B. November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

C. November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

1. LAC decided to table the meeting minutes to the following meeting.

**IV. Action Items**

A. Western Lobby Day Agenda 2020-2021- Ballard

1. College Affordability and Student Loan Forgiveness

- a. Ballard stated that one ask was narrowed to expanding forgiveness of health care and mental health care bills.

- b. Ballard stated that the ask with Washington State University Vancouver for Native American Tuition Assistance did not have support from tribal relations, so it was removed from the agenda.
  - c. Ballard stated that HB 1028 was added, to remove the EdTPA as a requirement for certification. If students can't get employed after graduation, they cannot pay back loans. Western is also advocating for this.
- 2. Environmental Justice
  - a. Ballard stated that SB 5000 was added to the first bullet point to support fuel efficient cars.
- 3. Mental Health and Wellness
  - a. Ballard stated that the recognition that the social climate is affecting underrepresented and BIPOC students more than others.
- 4. Facilitating Comprehensive Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training
  - a. Ballard stated that this item has not changed, but she is waiting for bills to drop over Winter Break.
- 5. Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence
  - a. Ballard stated that the reason for not reporting was clarified as well as the definition and response to interpersonal violence.
- 6. Coast Salish Longhouse
  - a. Ballard stated that she clarified information within the ask, and added a link to the video made by the Native American Student Union concerning the longhouse.
- 7. WWU, CWU, EWU and Evergreen's \$10 Million dollar Equity Funding Ask
  - a. Ballard stated that she added some language from last year about the importance of ethnic studies from last year's agenda (that was written by the Students for Ethnic Studies Coalition).
- 8. Support and Resources for Undocumented Students and DACA Recipients
  - a. Ballard stated that this ask mostly stayed the same except for the added budget provision for COVID-19 relief.
- 9. Meeting Basic Needs
  - a. Ballard stated that some wording was changed and expanded, and redundancy of asks was eliminated. Ballard stated that HB 1893 was added as well, to expand SNAP coverage, as well as funding for local government housing assistance and the mandate of close captioning in public spaces.
- 10. Dedicated Revenue
  - a. Ballard stated that two asks on the item were added from other advocacy groups, to provide more options of where to draw funding from taxes.
  - b. Chittenden asked if lottery winners from Washington are taxed. Ballard responded that she looked online and from what she can tell there is a federal tax but not a Washington State tax.
  - c. Chittenden asked if students could lobby against a bill, Hayden responded that if a bill was harmful to students, this would be possible.

*MOTION LAC-21-W-1 by Chittenden*

To approve the Western Lobby Day Agenda for 2020-2021 with the amendment that additional edits and changes will be allowed.

*Second: Ahmed*

*Action: Passed*

**V. Information Items**

A. None

**VI. Discussion Items**

A. Gift Card Winners

1. Chittenden volunteered to use a random number generator to pick students on the list of students who completed the survey.
2. The numbers pulled were 40, 164, 71, 88, 37, 38, 161, and 25.
3. Ballard stated that she will contact the relevant students.

B. Western Intersectional Lobby Day

1. Ballard stated that the following week the WILD agenda will be on the meeting agenda.
2. Wolters stated that there was not much time to work on the agenda over the break, so the agenda is still in the works.

**VII. Reports**

**Natale Szabo, Local Issues Coordinator** stated that the meeting with the city planner concerning zoning laws will be held next week, and she will be advertising the change in date. She is trying to find students who are able to testify personal experience.

**Jude Ahmed, Director of Legislative Affairs,** stated that she is working with the Washington Student Association, and doing training through the organization. She asked LAC members to provide information and advice for lobby day to add to the training material for Western Lobby Day.

**Nathalie Wagler, Organizing and Outreach Coordinator,** stated that has been working on the one-pagers and has been calling legislators to schedule meetings for Lobby Day.

**Nicole Ballard, AS VP for Governmental Affairs,** stated that the signups for lobby day close at the end of the week, and to make sure to advertise this.

**VIII. Other Business**

A. None

*Nicole Ballard, AS VP of Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 5:03 p.m.*