

Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council

November 17th, 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), Breaker Chittenden (Student At-Large), and Jennifer Leveque (Student At-Large).

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): None

Motions:

- LAC-20-F-4** To approve the mandatory DEI Training Proposal. *Passed.*
LAC-20-F-5 To approve the Title IX proposal. *Passed.*
LAC-20-F-6 To approve the Removing the EdTPA Requirement for Teacher Certification Proposal. *Passed.*
LAC-20-F-7 To approve the Banning Education Institutions from Hiring Officers with Disciplinary Records Proposal. *Passed.*
LAC-20-F-8 To approve the CARES/GEER Funding Proposal. *Passed.*
LAC-20-F-9 To move the Gift Cards Funding Request Information Item to an Action Item. *Passed.*
LAC-20-F-10 To approve the Gift Cards Funding Request. *Passed.*

I. Call to Order

Nicole Ballard, VP of Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

None

III. Approval of Minutes

None

IV. Action Items

A. Mandatory DEI Training

1. Ahmed stated that these proposals allow her to lobby on these items in Olympia with legislators.

2. Ahmed stated that she would like student input for an appropriate and effective onboarding process. She would like to work with Representative Debra Lekanoff to try and include faculty and staff in the training as well.
3. Chittenden asked if the proposal recommends a way the training could be created, and if each university would create a different program. Ballard answered that the training would be tailored to each campus, flexible for students to address different issues.
4. Oluchi asked if the training would be for students when they are admitted to a university, or after they begin. Ahmed responded that the training would be similarly set up to how it is currently in that it would be available after starting and would have time to be completed until about January.
5. Ballard stated that the training is a requirement for students to sign up for classes at Western. Mandating this training would ensure that Western cannot discontinue DEI training.

MOTION LAC-20-F-4 *by Szabo*
To approve the mandatory DEI Training Proposal.

Second: Leveque *Action: Passed*

B. Title IX Proposal

1. Ahmed stated that the Title IX Proposal is meant to maintain current rights since the Secretary of Education stripped Title IX rights. Namely maintaining sex-discriminatory rights to protect LGBT+ students and affirming states' responsibilities in protection for survivors.

MOTION LAC-20-F-5 *by LeVeque*
To approve the Title IX proposal.

Second: Szabo *Action: Passed*

C. Removing the Ed TPA Requirement for Teacher Certification Proposal

1. Ahmed stated that the proposal would allow K-12 teaching programs to develop their own processes of certification, which would then be approved by the Washington board of teachers. The current process is discriminatory and impacts students of color unevenly.

MOTION LAC-20-F-6 *by Chittenden*
To approve the Removing the EdTPA Requirement for Teacher Certification Proposal.

Second: Rodriguez *Action: Passed*

D. Banning Educational Institutions from Hiring Officers with Disciplinary Records Proposal

1. Ahmed stated that the proposal's concern is basic safety. The main source of debate is figuring out what the definition of a disciplinary record is in this situation. Whether the record has to do with force, whether it is racially motivated, whether the record has to be personal or work-related, etc.
2. Ballard stated that this item is broad at the moment, but session has not started yet so it should be able to expand.

MOTION LAC-20-F-7 by Oluchi

To approve the Banning Education Institutions from Hiring Officers with Disciplinary Records Proposal.

Second: Rodriguez Action: Passed

E. CARES/GEER Funding Proposal

1. Ahmed stated that this proposal would mandate institutions to create standardized reports on how funds are used, as well as to advertise the report so students are able to access it.
2. Ballard stated that some institutions report the amount of funding received from the federal government, which leaves a lot of unaccounted money left over.
3. Ballard stated that all students are welcome to bring up proposals or bills that they would like Ahmed to lobby on.

MOTION LAC-20-F-8 by Szabo

To approve the CARES/GEER Funding Proposal.

Second: Leveque Action: Passed

V. Information Items

A. WSA Dues Funding Request

1. Ballard stated that the Washington State Assembly (WSA) helps amplify Western's lobbying effort. This year, five out of nine proposals from the WSA originated from Western Washington University. The WSA dues are \$7,500 per semester (\$15,000 yearly). This request would aim to pay for the yearly dues all at once rather than once at the beginning of the year and once at the end. This would be helpful to the WSA because normally around session WSA has a hard time meeting needs due to funding.
2. Szabo asked if this money goes to pay WSA employees. Ballard responded that the dues pay for WSA space in Olympia, staff, the general assembly meeting, and students to travel to Olympia to meet with legislators. The dues do not pay for student employees (such as Ahmed's positions of the DOLA), but pays for resources for the DOLA (Director of Legislative Affairs).

B. Gift Cards Funding Request

1. Ballard stated that the LAC already approved for five of the gift cards to be given in a raffle to participants of the LAC priorities survey, and this budget request is just to ask for five more as the number of applicants has significantly increased. Looking at previous years, \$250 is a small amount for the LAC to spend on outreach and goes a long way to increase survey participants and help meet student's basic needs. Ballard stated that students are able to request where the gift card can be used.

MOTION LAC-20-F-9 by Chittenden

To move the Gift Cards Funding Request Information Item to an Action Item.

Second: Ahmed Action: Passed

MOTION LAC-20-F-10 by Chittenden
To approve the Gift Cards Funding Request.
Second: Wolters Action: Passed

VI. Discussion Items

A. None

VII. Reports

None

VIII. Other Business

A. None

Nicole Ballard, AS VP of Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 10:06 a.m.