

Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council

November 24<sup>th</sup>, 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), Daniela Rodriguez (ESC Representative), and Breaker Chittenden (Student At-Large).

**Secretary:** Sierra Templeton

**Guest(s):** None

**Motions:**

**LAC-20-F-** None

**I. Call to Order**

*Nicole Ballard, VP of Governmental Affairs, called the unofficial meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.*

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

None

**III. Approval of Minutes**

1. Due to lack of quorum, minutes and items could not be approved.

**IV. Action Items**

1. Due to lack of quorum, minutes and items could not be approved.

**V. Information Items**

None

**VI. Discussion Items**

**A. Draft of the Western Washington University Lobby Day Agenda**

1. College Affordability
  - a. Ahmed stated that the asks for college affordability protect the current program as budget cuts are expected due to COVID-19.
2. Environmental Justice
  - a. Ahmed stated that the first bill on the item, SB5489 proposes writing environmental justice into state institutions and offices so that all offices

must consider the environmental justice lens when bringing new policies and legislation. The second bill, SB5322, advocates for clean water.

- b. Ballard stated that environmental justice gets its own agenda during Western Intersectional Lobby Day.
3. Mental Health and Wellness
  - a. Ahmed stated that the first ask, for funding for the counseling center is also an ask on the administrator's lobbying agenda. The next ask is to confirm that undocumented students have access to on-campus resources, the third ask needs to be narrowed down.
4. Mandatory DEI Anti-Racism Training
  - a. Ahmed stated that the ask for DEI training is a joint ask including Western Washington University, Eastern Washington University, and Evergreen.
  - b. Ballard added that asking for inclusive success expands recruitment and outreach efforts.
5. Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence
  - a. Ahmed stated that there are on-campus resources, but now that learning is remote, this item is to address students that are falling through the cracks.
6. Advocating Funding for a Coast Salish Longhouse
  - a. Ahmed stated that she had reached out to the University Tribal Liaison but had not heard back.
  - b. Chittenden asked if there is space on campus for this. Ballard responded that the administrators have been advocating for this for years, and it almost passed last year.
7. Supporting Joint College Equity Funding Ask
  - a. Ballard stated that this ask would create an endowment scholarship for BIPOC students.
  - b. Ahmed stated that the idea is to ask for the 3.4 million dollars to see if legislators can add certain expectations to the bill to ensure responsible use.
8. Support and Resources for Undocumented Students and DACA Recipients
  - a. Ballard stated that this asks to close the North West Detention Center (which was renamed to the North West Processing Center).
9. Meeting Basic Needs
  - a. Ahmed stated that SB 5800 creates housing assistance for foster youth kids, another ask would remove the zoning requirement of the amount of unrelated people who can live in a house, and to create a housing fee assistance pilot program so that students are able to borrow money and pay it back overtime, possibly with Western partially covering it. Another ask is for the funding of the WHOLE pantry and food and clothing assistance on campus. Ahmed added that there is a community college program that allows students to receive SNAP, possibly this could be added to the agenda, but for public universities.
10. Funding for Western Washington University Ethnic Studies Program
  - a. Ahmed stated that the Ethnic Studies Coalition is not operating right now, and there needs to be funding allocated for building the institute and curriculum.
11. Dedicated Revenue
  - a. Ballard stated that this item shows places where taxes could be increased or added that would help fund the asks.

**VII. Reports**  
None

**VIII. Other Business**  
None

*Nicole Ballard, AS VP of Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 10:07 a.m.*

DRAFT