

Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council

January 20th, 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), Ebon Oluchi (ESP Director), Daniela Rodriguez (ESC Representative), Breaker Chittenden (Student At-Large), Kaeli McKinley (Student At-Large), and Jennifer Leveque (Student At-Large).

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Advisor: Casey Hayden

Guest(s): None

Motions:

LAC-21-W-2 To approve the meeting minutes from the dates of November 6th, November 11th, and November 17th. **Passed.**

I. Call to Order

Nicole Ballard, VP of Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

None

III. Approval of Minutes

A. November 6th, 2020

B. November 11th, 2020

C. November 17th, 2020

MOTION LAC-21-W-2 by Chittenden

To approve the meeting minutes from the dates of November 6th, November 11th, and November 17th.

Second: Leveque

Action: Passed

IV. Action Items

A. None

V. Information Items

A. Western Intersectional Lobby Day (WILD) Agenda

-SAIRC

1. Wolters stated that not a lot has dropped in the Washington legislature pertaining to the agenda in the past week. Wolters stated that she would like to find a bill focused on food and housing insecurity, as well as adding more support behind Title IX legislation and comprehensive mental health reform.
2. Wolters stated that under the section Creating Prison to Post-Secondary Education Pathways she added HB 1044 which would expand resources to postsecondary education, and possibly add Wi-Fi as a basic need for remote learning.
3. Wolters stated that under the section Supporting Our Undocumented and Mixed Status Community at WWU and Washington State she added the ask for a stipend for students who fill out WAFSA.
4. Wolters stated that the agenda will be coming up as an information item in the Student Senate and the Executive Board next week.

-ESC

1. Rodriguez stated, regarding the ask of making Juneteenth a legal holiday, the black community are often the same people who end up working on holidays such as this. Rodriguez stated that there may be changes to the ask to ensure it is not performative.
2. Rodriguez stated that under the Equitable Living and Housing ask she added SB 5007 that would address economic challenges due to COVID-19 and HB 1009 which would impact student healthcare coverage on campus.
3. Wagler asked if there is a way to know if these bills have already been discussed or gone through committee in the legislature. Ballard responded that these agendas are a statement on behalf of the AS WWU and even if these bills have already gone through committee, students can still advocate for the asks.

VI. Discussion Items

A. Update on Western Lobby Day (WLD)

1. Ballard stated that students at WLD met with around 70 legislators on Monday, 40 students attended, and some testified.
2. Wolters stated that WILD will be held on February 15th, and her goal is to pass the agenda through the Senate, the Board, and LAC the week of February 1st through the 5th.

VII. Reports

Natale Szabo, Local Issues Coordinator was not present to report.

Jude Ahmed, Director of Legislative Affairs, stated that Western Lobby Day went well, and legislators had only positive feedback. Since Lobby Day, the bill regarding the EdTPA requirement has moved through committee but hasn't been scheduled

for an executive session because it is being amended. Ahmed stated that the DEI bill is scheduled for a hearing on the following Tuesday and she invited students of color to testify for the bill.

Nathalie Wagler, Organizing and Outreach Coordinator, stated that she has been working on things in the OCE for Black History Month, and invited LAC members to reach out to her for collaboration.

Nicole Ballard, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, stated that Lobby Day went very well as the first virtual lobby day to happen this year. Ballard stated that session is underway so there's been backup with getting ahold of legislators.

VIII. Other Business

A. None

Nicole Ballard, AS VP of Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 4:47 p.m.