

Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

**Secretary:** Sierra Templeton

**Advisor:** Casey Hayden (Assistant Director for Student Activities)

**Guest(s):** None

**Motions:**

**LAC-21-W-3** To approve the meeting minutes from the dates of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, and January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. *Passed.*

**I. Call to Order**

*Nicole Ballard, VP of Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.*

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

None

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A. November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

B. December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

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

*MOTION LAC-21-W-3 by Chittenden*

To approve the meeting minutes from the dates of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, and January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

*Second: Wolters*

*Action: Passed*

**IV. Information Items**

A. WILD Agenda

1. Rodriguez stated that because SB 5010 is less about health insurance and more about house insurance, it may be cut from the agenda and SB 5007 or SB 5012 may be added in its place. More information will be added about HB 1009 to highlight the importance of reproductive medical coverage.
2. Ballard suggested adding more data specific to WWU student workers who aren't able to celebrate under the Juneteenth section.
3. Wolters stated that there was more information added concerning the workforce education investment act that increases financial aid for Washington State students. The agenda now asks for protection for financial aid programs due to potential COVID-19 budget cuts. Wolters stated that SB 5241 would implement an economic grant program especially for People of Color and rural communities.
4. Ballard stated that the SAIRC and ESC agendas overlap on some points which may need to be condensed before the final version.
5. Wolters stated that one ask is to expand eligibility for students trying to access SNAP in Washington, she asked whether it would be useful to ask for this change on a federal level or just statewide.
6. Ballard stated that it is hard to navigate around SNAP, but HB 1893, which was on the Western Lobby Day agenda, expands university requirements for providing food assistance.
7. Wolters stated that the asks concerning foster youth with disabilities as well as the ensuring equity in healthcare were altered in format and slight wording only. SB 5228 was added to expand requirements of postsecondary healthcare. Under the DEI ask, SB 5227 was added which would allocate a lot of money towards the goal. Concerning the support for undocumented students ask, Wolters stated that she met with the Blue Resource Center to talk about the wording of HB 1090 to make sure that if there is a ban of detention centers in Washington, prisoners could not be outsourced elsewhere. Wolters stated that detention centers are not included in the proposed federal ban on private prisons.
8. Ahmed asked whether the language of detention center excludes facilities run by ICE and transitional prisons.
9. Ballard stated that there is a certain percentage of furniture in dorms that must be provided by prison labor, and that this is something to address on the ask.
10. Wolters stated that SB 1044 was removed from the agenda due to the money that it allocated to the Department of Corrections. Wolters stated that especially since WILD was started by someone in the Disability Access Center, it's important to add more concerning disability access in public spaces. SB 5027 which mandates closed captioning in public spaces, for example.
11. Wolters stated that the graphics and registration for WILD has been posted online.

## **V. Discussion Items**

- A. None

## **VI. Reports**

Natale Szabo, Local Issues Coordinator stated that she will begin preparation for Local Lobby Day soon. Szabo stated that she will be putting out more information on city council meetings.

**Jude Ahmed, Director of Legislative Affairs**, stated that testimony on the floor for the DEI bill went well. Ahmed stated that feedback on lobby day has been coming in and seems as if it was very influential and impactful.

**Nathalie Wagler, Organizing and Outreach Coordinator**, was not present or report.

**Nicole Ballard, AS VP for Governmental Affairs**, stated that she is in favor of creating a resolution to be approved by the Executive Board in favor of supporting those living in Camp 210. Ballard stated that those facing houselessness have the right to a livable environment.

**VII. Other Business**

A. None

*Nicole Ballard, AS VP of Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 5:08 p.m.*