

**Western Washington University**

**Legislative Affairs Council**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

**MS Teams**

**Board Members: Present:** Nicole Ballard (VP for Governmental Affairs), Mariam Wolters (Outreach and Representation), Jude Ahmed (Director of Legislative Affairs), Natale Szabo (Local Liaison), Ebon Oluchi (ESP Director), Daniela Rodriguez (ESC Representative), and Breaker Chittenden (Student At-Large).

**Secretary:** Sierra Templeton

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

**Guest(s):** None

**Motions:**

**LAC-21-W-7** To move the Local Lobby Day funding request to an action item. **Passed.**

**LAC-21-W-8** To approve the Local Lobby Day funding request. **Passed.**

**I. Call to Order**

*Nicole Ballard, VP of Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.*

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

None

**III. Approval of Minutes**

None

**IV. Information Items**

**A. Local Lobby Day Survey- Szabo**

1. Szabo stated that she went over the survey into its final stages and asked if it is confusing or clear and accessible. Szabo stated that she would like to make Indigenous issues its own section but would appreciate more input on items that could fit under that section.
2. Oluchi asked if there were things to add to the agenda to address Sabah Randhawa's email on the Equity Office to ensure it isn't performative.

**B. Local Lobby Day Funding Request**

1. Szabo stated that the gift card request is the same as requests for previous lobby days. Szabo stated that everyone who fills out a survey will be entered to win one of eight \$25 giftcards, totaling \$200.

**MOTION LAC-21-W-7 by Chittenden**

To move the Local Lobby Day funding request to an action item.

**Second: Szabo Action: Passed**

**MOTION LAC-21-W-8 by Chittenden**

To approve the Local Lobby Day funding request.

**Second: Ballard Action: Passed**

C. Bilingual Educator Cohorts Proposal

1. Ahmed stated that WWU has started lobbying for the ask of an operating budget of \$700,000 per biennium to establish bilingual cohorts in the King County Highland School District. Ahmed stated that this would open up an avenue for Woodring students to receive specialized training and would connect Latinx educators with Latinx students. Ahmed stated that the area educators would be located in has a lower median household income and a larger percentage of families who don't speak English.

V. **Discussion Items**

A. Election Grievance Process

1. Ballard stated that she will be presenting the new Grievance Board model on Friday at the AS Executive Board meeting, and that this model would go into effect for the Spring elections.
2. Ballard stated that if a candidate breaks the elections code then a grievance can be filed against them. The current model is that Eric Alexander and an Elections Board Chair chair the Elections Grievance Board to which twelve Students At-Large are appointed to by the AS Executive Board. Ballard stated that this process is underdeveloped and not usually thought about until after the elections. The chair is not consistent, recruitment for the group is difficult, and having a student chair the committee is biased and could put them at a disadvantage on campus. Ballard added that the elections are announced even if grievances are filed.
3. Ballard stated that the new process would be that the chair is a Resident Director and there is a Student Coordinator to schedule meetings. Grievances would go to a panel of three students (plus the chair and coordinator) who would decide if the grievance moves past the panel. If it does not, the students can make an appeal.
4. Ballard stated that the students working in the process would be compensated, \$15.35 hourly for the Student Coordinator, and a \$150 stipend for students sitting on the board. Ballard stated that funding may be drawn from the Legislative Action Fund (LAF) for this year but would need to come from a more sustainable source in the future. Ballard stated that she saw

this process as a third branch of the student government at Western to improve election accountability.

5. Chittenden asked if there has been conversation about this with the Resident Directors.
6. Ballard responded that Alexander has been working on this model with her. She added that Resident Directors and students would have trainings on the AS Elections Code and Constitution as well.

## **VI. Reports**

**Natale Szabo, Local Issues Coordinator** stated that she finished up the survey for the Local Lobby Day and is working on graphics to advertise online. She will be looking at responses to make sure the agenda reflects student opinion.

**Jude Ahmed, Director of Legislative Affairs**, stated that the House of Origin cutoff is in six days so she has been watching a lot of floor debates and amendments happening. She stated that almost everything on the legislative agenda has gone through the House of Origin. Ahmed stated that Governor Jay Inslee signed funding for immigrants and SB 5227 to require DEI training in higher education passed the house. She met earlier with members of the Washington Housing Alliance and the Bellingham Renters Union who asked for support on the bills that they are advocating for. Ahmed stated that there is a Northwest Women's Caucus putting on a campaign training this weekend.

**Nathalie Wagler, Organizing and Outreach Coordinator**, was not present to make a report.

**Nicole Ballard, AS VP for Governmental Affairs**, stated that she has been mostly working on the grievance process and Administrative Lobby Day. She stated that she restarted the AS VP for Governmental Affairs Instagram which can be partisan and share information on bills that have passed or are in session.

## **VII. Other Business**

- A. None

***Nicole Ballard, AS VP of Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 5:01 p.m.***