



**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council Meeting Minutes**

February 10, 2022, 4:00 PM

Attendees:

Committee Members: Jose Ortuzar, Anna Corinne Huffman, Ankur Handa, Teagan Hudson, Zach Cohen, Marlowe Larson, Shrija Gandhi, Breaker Chittenden, Chelsea Joefield
Staff and Assistants: Annie Byers

Motions:

Ankur Handa, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM

I. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Shrija Gandhi

To Approve

Second: Anna Corinne Huffman

Motion Passed 6-2-0

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Addition of an information item about the WSA board retreat
b. Add Local Lobby Day Funding Request to an action item

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Teagan Hudson - Local Lobby Day funding request
- i. We will be talking to city and county council members. Hoping to do some tabling in early March about legislative priorities and we're working on a survey now. Similar things that we've already been doing. I am asking for a \$25 gift card to do a raffle for whomever participates in the Legislative Priorities survey.

- a. Breaker Chittenden – I was curious about how much money is remaining in the LAC budget for this year and if we could increase that to maybe have several gift cards so that perhaps more people may be able to get the gift card. I know previously we have given 3-4 gift cards.
 - b. Ankur Handa – I do not have that information
 - c. Teagan Hudson – Perhaps if we could pass this one now and depending on what you guys are thinking, we can at least start planning for that. Then Anna Corinne or Ankur can get back to me about the remaining budget and could decide if we wanted to do more on a later agenda.
- b. Anna Corinne Huffman - Legislative Session Updates
- i. Fiscal committee cutoff was on the February 7, 2022. Any bills that weren't out of their appropriations or Ways and Means are dead.
 - ii. Most of the financial aid package bills that we were supporting have passed through appropriations. A few of them have been cut down a bit, which from the primary sponsor is something to be expected. It is just part of the appropriations process.
 - iii. Bills: 1659, 1835, and 1736 are all good. The Washington College grant, the fastest completion bill, and the student loan bill. They are in rules right now and they are waiting to be pulled. The WSA Liaisons have been waiting to see if they get pulled, but we are just in a holding pattern and there isn't a ton of action on it.
 - iv. We are going to start sending emails to members to start pulling those for a floor vote.
 - v. Anna Corinne Huffman will be sending out a script to send out to legislators along with [e-mail addresses](#) for them.
- c. Bill 1601, expanding the pilot program for homeless student support
- i. This bill is dead effectively, it is being listed as a budget proviso instead, so it's being altered in some way. It is anticipated that there shouldn't be any problems with it as a budget proviso.
 - ii. The advantage of that according to Zach at the WSA is the funding, the fiscal note, wasn't very big on the bill, and the primary sponsor suspected there would be a more clean-cut approach to just have it as eight provisos.
- d. Anna Corinne Huffman - Washington Student Association

- a. We're having a board of directors meeting in April. The plan is for this to be in person. It'll be like a post session kind of debrief type of thing and then three members from our campus are able to go. That will likely be Ankur Handa, Glory, and myself we are trying to figure out funding for it.
 - i. One proposed way to fund this would be to pull some money from LAC and talk to Delfine and it would be at the absolute maximum \$600 for all of us to go for one night in Ellensburg. It would be in Central Washington University. I looked up the cost of a hotel in Ellensburg for one night and it was about \$85. It will likely end up costing us more like \$400 with each of us getting a room for one night.
 - ii. Another option would be to see if Glory's budget would cover her and Ankur and then have the LAC fund Anna Corinne Huffman's housing.
 - iii. In other words, we could vote on it, if you're comfortable with LAC paying or free up that money, or if you are comfortable with LAC paying only if the discretionary budget doesn't cover.
 - iv. Teagan Hudson – would it be a too strenuous for the other budget and completely drain the other budget.
 - v. Anna Corinne Huffman – I don't know what is in Glory's budget, but we could vote on it being a contingent.
 - vi. Teagan Hudson – I retract my question
 - vii. Ankur Handa – I have a travel budget that should be able to cover my travel for this.
 - viii. Anna Corinne Huffman – We can wait and make it an action item for when we have more information
 - ix. Ankur Handa – I think that we should wait for when we have more information.
 - x. Anna Corinne Huffman – Agreed
- e. Chelsea Joefield & Shrija Gandhi - WILD Legislative Agenda
 - a. Shrija Joefield - We had to delete a couple of bills, but it is better because we have more curated.
 - b. Chelsea Joefield – Anna Corinne Huffman has helped us a lot in updating the status of bills and what we still have.

- i. **Priorities now: health accessibility, incarcerated populations, House Bill 1756 is safe and is still including 5588, Equity and Justice, support for undocumented and mixed status families at Western Washington University and within Washington State, resources for infrastructure for students, DOC insert for disabled communities.**
- ii. **14 bills that are on our agenda and 12-13 are active**
 1. **We are asking for this to be past with the stipulation and understanding that the edits are still being made, and there are bills between now and the 21st of February end up dead we will be keeping them on the agenda, but we will be asking for support should they come up again and in the next session.**

IV. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS

Motion by Chelsea Joefield

To Approve two gift cards for \$25 each for Local Lobby Day funding request

Second: Anna Corinne Huffman

Motion passed 6-2-0

V. ACTION ITEMS – COMMITTEE

Motion by Ankur Handa

To Pass WILD Agenda Contingent that some edits will be made in the next week

Second: Shrija Gandhi

Motion passed 6-2-0

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Ankur Handa - Satellite Campus outreach updates**
 - i. **Still waiting to hear back from them**
- b. **Breaker Chittenden – Special Elections has ended for the statewide special election on February 8th, there was one election here in Bellingham. It was a school bond, and it was based on the current results. There’s also not final, but they currently only have 50 votes left**

to count. The vote result is 60.6% in the yay and under state law for attacks to be passed, you must get reach supermajority of 60 so it has reached above that, so the school bond path will probably pass.

Ankur Handa, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:34 PM