



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

January 28, 2022, 4:00 PM

### **Attendees:**

**Committee Members:** Anna Corinne Huffman, Shrija Gandhi, Chelsea Joefield, Breaker Chittenden, Ankur Handa, Grace Alkema, Zach Cohen

**Guests:**

**Staff and Assistants:** Jennifer Black, Annie Byers

### **Motions:**

*Anna Corrine Huffman, Committee Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM*

### **I. CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. Approval of the Minutes

*None at this time*

### **II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- a. Moving Tabling Funding from an Information item to an action item

### **III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. WILD Agenda Draft –
  - a. WILD is Western Intersectional Lobby Day – Cirque ESC and ESP offices, the Student Advocacy Identity Resource Center, Ethnic Student Center, and the environmental and Sustainability Programs come together and collaborate and create a legislative agenda and lobby on behalf of our office and behalf of the intersectional students. This is so we make agendas with input and advice from the students, and we then try to get students involved in lobbying as much as possible. The most significant difference between WLD and WILD is that it focuses more on minority groups.
    - i. There are currently five asks:
      - 1. Disability accommodations, specifically for the legislature, provide more access for disabled individuals to be on the committees when discussing affecting disabled individuals

and make the legislature more accessible to the public and training materials.

2. House Bill 1720 – More research is required for this ask. This is asking to create a leadership group or committee that will oversee any supportive housing resources.
3. Bill 5612 – giving domestic abuse or sexual assault victims the ability to speak at conviction trials for their assaulters and additional rights like having a separate room no contact with the defendant to ensure their comfort while the entire proceeding is happening.
4. Senate Bill 5688 – If there are personnel changes in staff for healthcare practices, the patient will be provided with documentation explaining those changes and how they may affect them. It does influence reproductive rights and gender-affirming rights.
5. House Bill 1851 – Healthcare providers that perform abortions. It stops the state from any penalties being put onto the pregnant individual or the healthcare provider for any outcomes of the abortion. In other words, any parties involved in the abortion, the pregnant individual and the healthcare provider, will be protected. It does have a companion bill in the Senate, and it is moving forward in the process.

ii. Blue is the overlapping agenda items

1. Both the Cirque and the ESC had these on their list.
  - a. House Bill 1659 – increases aid award, creates bridge grants to allow students to cover non-tuition-related expenses.
  - b. House Bill 1725 – The main focus is protections for indigenous persons missing, murdered, or trafficked. These would address the lack of resources available. This will create alerts for people who do not qualify for Amber alerts. It would notify law enforcement and government agencies, television, and radio stations of the missing people so that agencies can cooperate to recover the person.

- c. House Bill 1571 – increases communication between county officials and the families of missing indigenous people while also providing grants to aid human trafficking survivors and the rehabilitation efforts around that and adding requirements for the county coroners and medical examiners regarding spiritual practices and contact family members and returning remains.

2. ESC asks:

- a. Bill 58588 – works to better the discharge and reentry plans for incarcerated individuals so that while they're leaving facilities, they have a better chance of reentering society and not reoffending. These plans would create and maintain contact with family and children when appropriate. Also, identify if the person needs parenting classes or any steps before reunification with family and kids. It would also include a portfolio for each incarcerated individual that would have education, certifications, achievements, employment, and work experience that was received before and during incarceration. This document is created 45-60 days after sentencing. They would also address education, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, etc.
- b. House Bill 1776 and Senate bill companion bill 5639 – focus on restricting the use of solitary confinement. Stating that can be damaging and have lasting psychological impacts.
- c. Senate Bill 5551 – Addresses Medicaid Coverage for HIV antiviral drugs. This will allow for medication to be covered under Medicaid.
- d. House Bill 1461 – Health coverage for wrap-around services, like mental health and psychiatric care. This will include coverage for case management, care coordination, counseling, crisis, outreach and education services, special education, general education, family support, psychiatric consultations,

legal services, residential treatment, transportation to facilities. This also includes inpatient and outpatient services and medication. In other words, more coverage, better access, fewer barriers.

3. ESP asks:

- a. House Bill 1490 – marks clean energy for all. This bill would make sure that low-income people with disabilities don't have their heat turned off due to not paying their bills on time; energy for heating and electricity is a human right and should not be cut off due to someone's financial struggles.
- b. House Bill 1770 – strengthen energy codes, and it would make sure that Washington building codes or energy-efficient and are on target to meet statewide emission targets. This would save people money in terms of cost-saving for heating and electricity.

b. WILD is mid-February

c. Legislative Session Updates and Progress of bills

- a. 1601 is progressing
- b. 1659, 1736, 1853 – expansion of the Washington College Grant, the low-Income student loan bill, low-interest student loan bill, and FAFSA completion bill. All three of those are being heard in House Appropriation soon Monday.

d. Engagement Opportunities

- a. Get students to testify about the three bills, 1659, 1736, & 1853
- b. Tabling in Red Square – The OCE will be doing some tabling next week to get more folks signed up to provide testimony and get involved in the legislative session. We would like some funding to do this. It's a legislative session, and we want to do some printing and provide leaflets to hand out and perhaps some donuts. The request for this is not to exceed \$200. In the past, it cost about \$150.

## **V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS**

### ***MOTION Legislative Affairs Counsel***

*Motion by: Grace Alkema*

*To move funding request for tabling in red square to an action item*

*Second: Zach Cohen*

*Motion [passed/failed] 6-0-2*

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS – COMMITTEE**

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS – COMMITTEE**

### ***MOTION Legislative Affairs Counsel***

*Motion by Chelsea Joefield*

*To approve funding for tabling in red square*

*Second: Shrija Gandhi*

*Motion [passed/failed] 6-0-2*

## **X. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **a. Overview What to expect the rest of the Winter quarter.**

- a. Local Lobby Day and WILD days are coming up
- b. AS elections are in the spring

***Anna Corrine Huffman, Committee Vice-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:40 PM***