



Western Washington University Associated Students Legislative Affairs Council Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2022, 4:30 PM

Attendees:

Committee Members: Shrija Gandhi, Chelsea Joefield, Jennifer LeVeque, Anna Corinne Huffman, Breaker Chittenden, Jose Ortuzar, Zach Cohen, Grace Alkema, Teagan Hudson,

Guests: Eli Stanciu

Staff and Assistants: Delfine DeFrank

Motions:

Anna Corinne Huffman, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM

I. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approval of the Minutes

None at this time

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Changing Local Lobby Day from budget to local lobby day agenda
 - a. There was two local lobby day budgets on the agenda and there should have only been one local lobby day budget and one local lobby day agenda.
- b. Lobby Day Budget from an information item to an action item.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Teagan Hudson** – Different costs for lobby day were presented. Some of the budgets were approved earlier, a few meetings ago; these were the posters and banners. Those have been removed from this list: printing materials, training materials, and printing handbills for publicity. We will need some budget for event services; this will include setup and takedown. We will also have food for the in-person training. Dates that we are possibly looking at are April 28th for virtual training and May 5th for in-person training; May 6th would be the day of. We will need money for lunches the day of and the money for pizza, for training. We are also looking at renting transportation. If it is in person and we do decide

to have it in person. We are still contacting city council and what they want to do. A more precise estimate of what the budget would need to be is \$1251.00 plus a little cushion in there for any discrepancies, with the max being \$1400.00.

a. Breaker Chittenden – Is that an estimate from Pizza time?

i. Teagan Hudson – Yes, that is from pizza time

b. Breaker Chittenden – Is tax incorporated into that?

i. Teagan Hudson – I did not include it in this column but that would go into extra stuff because I don't know exactly how much it would be.

c. Breaker Chittenden – I've done big orders for Pizza before, and 60 seems really low to me. I thought maybe 100 would make more sense; even if you don't use it, then it's still there, and you don't go over. The other thing I was just curious about is, and I might be completely wrong, isn't there a certain amount for how much a lunch each meal can cost for each individual at an event?

i. Teagan Hudson – Yes, so it is \$18 for the day; previously, it was \$16. \$12 is the usual lunch budget per person.

IV. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS

MOTION

Motion by Shrija Gandhi

To Move Lobby Day budget from an information item to an action item

Second: Zach Cohen

Motion passed 6-1-0

Teagan Hudson – Abstain – Her funding request

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Teagan Hudson – Local Lobby Day Agenda

a. Most of you are somewhat familiar with local lobby day. I have a few things down that are just kind of an overview of what I have done so far. As I am going through it, I would love any ideas of things to add. For example, if you have heard any policies from other places that you think would be good here or if you've heard of things going on in Bellingham, or if these things just give you thoughts. I'm open to all of it. Legislative priorities survey, people were most passionate about shelter and housing.

People would like rent control things. I have learned the city has very little control over that. I decided then to go this route, a permanent ban on sweeps of encampments and then a redirect of funds to mental health resources and no barrier hosing. How much money they spent in 2021 sweeping encampments. Then a bit off of something I found called services, not sweeps. I believe it was based in LA, but essentially it would just instead of like the current model, which is where people can submit complaints about encampments, and then they go “clean up the encampment.” It’d be more scheduled cleanups, where people could move their belongings and then have things cleaned, and then they would be allowed to go back to where they were. Basic needs: I haven’t decided about this title yet or not; perhaps change it to food accessibility. I found a program in Cincinnati called produce perks, where essentially, at farmers’ markets and fresh food markets, people who use EBT cards can be given like 10 tokens and then they’re used as like a dollar-for-dollar match. If somebody has an EBT card they could go to the farmers market and buy like \$10 of their own money of vegetable and then use those tokens to also get 10 more dollars of produce. The idea is just more accessibility to fresh food and then also kind of mentioned supporting local agriculture a little bit about how climate change has affected our agriculture and Bellingham.

- i. **Breaker Chittenden** – What is the EBT card?
 - ii. **Teagan Hudson** – Food stamps, it is an aid for buying food
 - iii. **Breaker Chittenden** – How would the program work? Is there a booth at the event and at the farmers market, would the city have a booth and people would be able to trade it out, are all the farmers connected with it?
 - iv. **Teagan Hudson** – This one was set up to be like an information booth of the farmers market, which is standard for a farmers’ market. There is usually some place to ask people, but also that this should be tested out a little bit more. So, if you have suggestions on how it should be structured.
- b. **Teagan Hudson** – Local Lobby Day Agenda Continued:
- I will be sharing this document in the LAC chat on teams so people can go through and put comments or any ideas on it. On the agenda last year was establishing Bellingham’s Sanctuary City to protect undocumented folks. Whatcom County has made a statement they are

not going to enforce any federal immigration laws. The agenda said it last year and I think it's worth putting on again, but the threat of legal invention is still present. So, this would just be further steps. I don't know if you have ever heard of a pay as you throw program, but you pay for your garbage disposal like based on how much you throw away. Which I think is somewhat true of Bellingham because you must pay extra for extra bags and things like that. I had a difficult time finding the logistics of this. I am unsure of exactly how it works, but the purpose of it is to encourage people to recycle more. Also, to promote waste reduction because you are recycling more supports the purchasing of recyclable items.

- i. **Anna Corinne Huffman** – I would want to look at where it's been implemented and who it has helped or harmed. Buying zero waste items can be more expensive. What could be the unintended consequences of this?
 - ii. **Teagan Hudson** - The EPA website did list it as an equitable measure if you're not throwing away a whole bunch.
 - iii. **Breaker Chittenden** – Back to the sanctuary, I thought in 2017 the city passed, and the county refused to enforce federal immigration certain federal immigration rules, I am just curious about that. I guess I'm curious about what more extensive rules or protections we want them to enforce, because I imagine that talking to city and then saying we've already passed something like this.
 - iv. **Teagan Hudson** – People know that it is a safe city, there's only two technical sanctuary cities in Washington. Just to make it more official and known so that people can use it for its intended use.
 - v. **Anna Corinne Huffman** – In 2017 statement was Bellingham police alone would not enforce federal law, and I think a sanctuary city goes a little bit beyond in terms of there is cooperation, and ICE is further limited.
 - vi. **Teagan Hudson** – I will put a note here. That is a good comment, Breaker.
- c. **Teagan Hudson** – Local Lobby Day Agenda Continued: Safety – the first one I'm not entirely sure it is necessary to put on here because they are in the process of creating it, but I popped it on here so we could talk about it. They are creating a community police oversight board to allow for civilian oversight of law enforcement. In June 2021 they looked at some options

for what it might look like, but I couldn't tell if it was tangible. The plane or timeline as to when they're planning to like, implement this and I'm not sure if they're still playing around with it or if it is an actual official list of things they're doing. There are different options for what a council like this might look like and some of them only have review functions where they can look at the actions of police officers and look at them and decide if they were out of their realm of allowed or not. There is also an audit function where councils can look at the practices and the policies of police department. So, I'd want to include it just for that reason because they were looking at both types. I think it would be better for that it be both, and the second thing is the anti-racist and anti-bias training for police. The current policy is for there to be a refresher every five years. Which is a long time, I was putting it on to boost it from every five years to once a year. Also, to require the curriculum to be crafted by black, indigenous and people of color.

- i. **Breaker Chittenden** – I have two questions. First, I remember a year ago there was talk about the creation of a program that is an alternative dispatch program that would be able to dispatch people if it is not an emergency that need police to be present. I think it was supposed to resemble a program that is using another area in the country I think the program is called OWLS. Do you know if there is any more talk about it and if it has been implemented? Second, I was thinking that asking for refreshers every two years instead of every year. That may be more receptive than every year.
- ii. **Teagan Hudson** – I know that we are getting a 988 number, but I know they are implementing unarmed security downtown. I also think that every two years would be good as well.
- iii. **Anna Corinne Huffman** – City and law ordinances basically makes it illegal to sit and take up space in a public space. When I was talking to the Opportunity Council, they were talking about it being very problematic for people who are experiencing homelessness. It is called Municipal Code 1024-0-70. Sitting or lying-in public sidewalks is prohibited
- iv. **Breaker Chittenden** – In the shelter section, looking at the policies about the people who have not had too good of experiences, or don't feel welcome at the one shelter that is funded by the city and that is basecamp. Which is run by the Light House

Mission. There have been requests for the city to work with a group that is not secular and is removed from any religious groups.

Perhaps improve the current shelter system we have in the city or support more people to be able to use shelters.

b. Delfine DeFrank – I put it in the chat, the Bellingham Farmers Market does have a kind of matching incentive for EBT

c. Anna Corinne Huffman – We did reach out to several offices and student groups to contribute ideas and feedback as well. Hopefully we will be hearing from them and in the coming days or weeks. So, we can add incorporate new ideas as well.

VII. INFORMATION

a. Anna Corinne Huffman – Admin Lobby Day Funding Request. The intention with it is for students to be able to go ask questions to university admin, raise issues that students care about, and so the initial intention was that we would have a two-day town hall series and then one of them would be focused on like student life, campus life. The other own would be focused on curriculum and academics. It may be more of a combined event, if we don't get a ton of admin signed up but that is what we're working toward. Additionally, we want to help students meet, you know, one on one, with a group and an admin. The intention is to reserve some spaces in the Viking Union for an admin to sit for, for however long they will give us, hopefully a few hours to do a drop in type of meeting, and we'll help students sign up for that to make sure that you know the meeting rooms aren't overcrowded and that we have a flow going on, but that will be an opportunity for students to sign up for. One or as many meetings with admin as they would like to talk about issues on kind of a more personal basis. To reserve the two rooms for two days it would be a maximum of around \$275 for the space. Tech support would also be needed to make this a hybrid event, so we can stream, and people can ask questions like a webinar. Promotion would just be some posters from the publicity center and snacks from Costco, which brings us to an approximate total of \$1200. It is my believe that it will fall under that.

a. Delfine DeFrank – The money would come in, in terms of accounting for the hours. It is \$16.00 per hour for a room reservation would go into the labor of having a secure, like Wendy's security person.

b. Breaker Chittenden – I think the OCE would be fine with helping with what is needed.

- c. **Anna Corinne Huffman** – We also do have support from some executive board members and student senators as well that have indicated that they're willing to support.

VIII. ACTION ITEM

MOTION

Motion by Teagan Hudson

To move admin lobby day funding request to an action item

Second: Zach Cohen

Motion passed 6-1-0

Anna Corinne Huffman – Abstain – Her funding request

VI. ACTION ITEMS – COMMITTEE

MOTION

Motion by Anna Corinne Huffman

To cover event costs and food costs not to exceed \$1400.00

Second: Jose Ortuzar

Motion passed 6-1-0

Teagan Hudson – Abstain – her funding request

VI. ACTION ITEMS – COMMITTEE

MOTION

Motion by Teagan Hudson

To Funding Town Hall Event not to exceed \$1200

Second: Shrija Gandhi

Motion passed 6-1-0

Anna Corinne Huffman – Abstain – Her funding request

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Next Meeting April 18, 2022, at 4:30 PM

- b. Anna Corinne Huffman & Delfine DeFrank** – We are transitioning VP of Governmental Affairs Eli Stanciu.
- c. Breaker Chittenden** – Update on Dental Dam and Condoms – We got them; you can get them on the 5th floor currently. I am thinking about taking some of my funding and ordering more. We had a little bit of an issue with the sending over money for the dental dams. They wanted a bank-to-bank transfer and only accounts payable can do that. Additionally, because they are a foreign transaction, they had to file a tax exemption code. Hopefully we're going to be able to get more information about when they will be delivered soon. I am excited to be able to have those for the tabling over the next month or two.

Anna Corinne Huffman, Vice Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 5:23 PM