



**Associated Students of  
Western Washington University  
Legislative Affairs Council Meeting Minutes  
October 31, 2023, 5:30pm, ISB242 and Microsoft Teams**

**Time Meeting Started: 5:32 pm**

**Attendees:**

**Council Members Present:**

Erin Godwin, VP for Governmental Affairs – Chair; Stella Seth, AS Director of Legislative Affairs - Vice Chair; Kenia Soriano Hernandez, Blue Resource Center Student Staff Representative; Andrew Kurdna, At-Large Student; Lauren Johnson, AS Senator; Aspen Cates-Doglio, AS Civic Involvement Coordinator; Lynna Hall, Disability Outreach Center Student Staff Representative; Cole Burk, Sustainability Engagement Institute Student Staff Representative; Cole Farhat, Ethnic Student Center Student Staff Representative; Binta Kolly, At-Large Student; Gabby Laipeniaks, AS Local Issues Coordinator; Kira Davis, AS Voter Recruitment and Engagement Coordinator, Lily Van Mullem, LGBTQ+ Western Student Staff Representative

**Guests present for meeting:** Amaris Turner, Campus and Community Outreach Coordinator

**Staff & Assistants present:**

**Motions:** None for this meeting

**I. CONSENT ITEMS**

**a. Approval of Minutes**

- i** No minutes to approve at this time.

**II. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**a. Understanding the Legislative Process- 5 minutes (Seth) overview of the legislative process, how a bill becomes law**

**b. Lobbying 101- 5 minutes (Godwin)**

- i** What is lobbying? “The act of influencing public policy by exchanging political capital.”
- ii** One of the most effective ways to influence policy

**c. WSA- 5 minutes (Seth)**

- i** Quick overview: what it is, who runs it, what it does
- ii** Largest student run organization in WA, founded in 1982, WWU students pay WSA via tuition a total of \$15,000 and they provide us with resources and networks for lobbying, especially helpful for the DOLA

**d. Student Legislative Priorities Survey- 5 minutes (Godwin)**

- i** Four stages: research, writing, outreach, review
- ii** Sending a survey to students asking about issue areas that are important to them by the end of next week
- iii** Logistics
- iv** Timeline for the rest of the quarter

Minutes approved: 11/07/2023

v Discussion

**III. Discussion- 20 minutes (Godwin)**

**a. Intersectionality & Political Identity**

**i** Political identity

**1** Identities based on membership to a particular social group from which politically relevant interests and perspectives are derived.

**ii** Diagram of possible identities (socio-economic status, gender, nationality, etc.)

**iii** Went around and shared how our identities affect politics and vice versa (reproductive rights, lgbtq+ rights, ethnicity, etc.)

**iv** Example: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) legislation that makes it mandatory for public institutions to make things accessible for everyone

**v** Be aware of the privileges we hold and try to act as allies to marginalized groups.

**IV. Action Items**

**a. None for this meeting.**

**V. Good of the Order - 5 minutes**

**a.** Trust your instincts and have fun with the survey

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a.** Next Meeting: November 7th, 2023, 5:30pm, Location: Interdisciplinary Science Building 242

**Time Meeting ended: 6:24 pm**