



**Associated Students of
Western Washington University
Legislative Affairs Council Meeting Minutes
November 14th, 2023, 5:30pm, ISB242 and Microsoft
Teams**

Attendees:

Council Members present:

Voting: Erin Godwin, Stella Seth, Gabby Laipenieks, Lily Van Mullem, Lynna Hall, Lauren Jouhnsen, Kenia Soriano Hernandez, Cole Farhat, Binta Kolly, Andrew Kudrna, Cole Burke

Non-voting: Aspen Cates-Doglio, Kira Davis

Council Members absent:

Voting: None

Non-voting: Morgan Whitt

Staff & Assistants present: Sophia Gubbels, Student Government Assistant

Guests present for meeting: Zinta Lucans, Sustainability Engagement Institute Student Staff Representative; Amaris Turner, Campus and Community Outreach Coordinator

Legislative Affairs Council Chair called the meeting to order at: 5:30pm

I. CONSENT ITEMS

a. **Approval of Minutes** – None at this time

II. INFORMATION ITEMS- 5 minutes

- a. Explanation of Gaza Resolution Meeting Cancellation (Godwin)
- b. Student Survey Review (Godwin)
 - i Not sent out yet (11/14/23)
 - ii Gabby -> maybe provide context/info on carbon pricing like easy description, on what a operational (non-academic) student employee is, and clarification on what DAC and DOC is,
 - iii Lynna -> Clarification for what accessibility is/means for question 9 “accessibility” is
 - 1 Like: Funding for infrastructure changes in universal design
 - iv Cole (sustainability) -> clarification on what “sustainability” is for question 9

III. Discussion- 45 minutes

- a. Legislative Agenda Outline
 - i LGBTQ+ gender affirming care (already present at WWU) but wanted across WA state public colleges.
 - ii Bills not passed last year will be passed this year (will be on the floor), the ones that went to the final stages but didn’t get passed
 - iii Missing/Murdered Indigenous Women bill passed this April 20, 2023
- b. Race ethnicity/nationality

Minutes Approved: 01/08/24

i Policing/police training

1 Let's Go WA organization (was collecting signatures) -Police Pursuit restriction repeal -> 80% of signatures collected already

a HB 1589 (2021-2022)

2 Police training in interaction with people with disabilities and people with mental health crises

a Bellingham does have an alternative mental health response team, funded by Bellingham police department, also is at county level

3 Undocumented students

a WSAC wants to access comprehensive undocumented students list to offer them offers of employment without a social security number

ii Sustainability/Climate Action

1 WWU SEI HB 1131/SB 5154 -> solidwaste management and reduction, recyclability and compost ability

2 Carbon pricing program (carbon tax) -> if carbon threshold exceeded then business have to pay -> money used to lower other taxes

a Close loophole (exploited by gas companies) so that consumers not exploited aka paying the fine

i Regulating cost of gas, monitoring oil companies' profits (taking advantage of consumers again)

iii Accessibility

1 DAC/DOC not well funded, DOC no pro staff

a Find bills for capital development plans that have already been established to fund programs

2 At Western, people with disabilities have to pay for accessible parking

3 New Red square ramp followed regulations but has no handrails

4 Major shortage of mental/behavioral specialists in Bellingham

iv Socio-economic/Economic

1 Basic needs, cost of living, food insecurity, houselessness

a Initiative 2

b Rent control

IV. Action Items

a. None

V. Good of the Order

Minutes Approved: 01/08/24

- a. President Sabah -> very interested in legislative agenda, Godwin might meet with Sabah
- b. Trans-Awareness Week

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Next Meeting: November 21st, 2023, 5:30pm, Location: Interdisciplinary Science Building 242

Meeting ended at 6:32pm

** All agenda items are subject to immediate action.*

Note: Proposed motions show what is being requested. The actual motion may differ.