



**Associated Students of
Western Washington University Legislative
Affairs Council Meeting Minutes December 5th, 2023,
5:30pm, ISB 242 and Microsoft Teams**

Attendees:

Voting: Erin Godwin, Stella Seth, Lauren Johnson, Kenia Sorano, Lily Van Mullen, Sofia Trujillo, Lynna Hall, Cole Burk, Gabby Laipeniaks, Cole Farhat

Non-Voting: Aspen-Cates Doglio

Council Members absent:

Voting: Andrew Kudrna, Binta Kolly

Non-Voting: Kira Davis, Morgan Whitt

Staff & Assistants present: Dhvani Rathore, Casey Hayden

Meeting called to order at 5:33 pm

Guests: Neal Seli

I. CONSENT ITEMS

a. Approval of Minutes

- i** 11/7/23 Meeting Minutes
- ii** 11/14/23 Meeting Minutes
- iii** 11/21/23 Meeting Minutes
- iv** 11/28/23 Meeting Minutes
- Postponed until next meeting

II. INFORMATION ITEMS- 30 minutes

a. WSA Committee Day Report – 5 minutes

- i** Godwin reports on experience in Olympia
 - 1** Rep. Joe Timmons of the 42nd Legislative District
 - a** WSA centric.
 - b** Brought up WWU Admin agenda to create new master's program
 - c** Timmons brought up his interest in supporting student mental health and asked for suggestions.
 - 2** Rep. Alicia Rule of the 42nd Legislative District
 - a** Talked about Computer Science/Engineering Master's program, undocumented students' ability to work and participate in internships, Operational Student Employees having the ability to participate in collective bargaining, and Mental Health.
 - 3** Attended Postsecondary Education and Workforce Committee Meeting

- a High priority to meet a threshold of 70% of adults in Washington State having postsecondary degrees.
 - i Emphasis on non-traditional students.
 - ii Insight into current agenda
 - 1 Need to get our agenda down to one or two pages.
 - 2 Have to present a cohesive message in 15 minutes.
- b. **Reviewing the Legislative Survey - 5 minutes**
 - i Top 3 issues will be prioritized along with Support and Resources for Undocumented Students.
 - ii Differentiate between University specific issues and ones that are relevant to the State Legislature.
- c. **Breakout Groups on Legislative Proposals - 10 minutes**
 - i Discussion in groups to prepare presentations.
- d. **Legislative Proposals Group Presentations - 15 minutes**
 - i Student employment: Andrew, Sofia, and Cole F
 - 1 Aim to improve public relationship with public employers and employees
 - 2 The state limits student employees to 19 hours a week for eligibility in SNAP benefits. Requires 20 hours, we are asking for one extra hour to acquire the benefits or consider lowering SNAP hours to 15.
 - 3 Discussion around Western potentially having its own SNAP program to aid food insecurity on campus.
 - ii Financial aid: Aspen, Cole B, Gabby and Sofia
 - 1 Strengthening the Washington College Grant and codifying the Median Family Income at 70%.
 - 2 Ensuring Bridge Grants are permanent.
 - 3 Securing more funding for the Homeless Student Stability Program to \$10 Million.
 - iii Health: Cole B, Lauren, and Binta
 - 1 Providing abortion pills at the Student Health Center.
 - a Emergency contraception is available
 - b Contraceptive vending machine is coming soon.
 - 2 Aim to have SANE nurses at Western, push back from SHC.
 - 3 Investing in mental health
 - a Need to reach out directly to Counseling & Wellness Center to learn how to best support and advocate for them.
 - b Push back from Rep. Rule on telehealth, wants to invest more on increasing number of providers through lowering cost of education and other barriers.

- 4 Increase funding for the DAC&DOC, still waiting on specific details.
 - 5 Support harm reduction for illicit drug use by providing free Narcan and fentanyl testing strips with education on how to use them.
 - a Narcan is available on campus, but students are not aware of how to access it.
 - 6 Services are available for students without health insurance
 - a Students have difficulty navigating SHC services
- iv Subcommittee for tracking bills over Winter break: Erin, Stella, Cole F, Lauren and Aspen.

III. Discussion- 20 minutes

a. **Crafting a Values Statement**

- i Godwin goes through the Western Intersectionality Values Statement, further brainstorming:
 - 1 Underserved communities
 - 2 Holistic needs

IV. Action Items – 5 minutes

a. **Budget Proposal for WILD**

- i Not discussed this meeting.

V. Good of the Order - 5 minutes

- a. Compiling the information provided – Stella and Erin.
- b. Winter subcommittee – should reach out to Stella for facilitation.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Next Meeting: TBD

Meeting called to order: 6:30 pm

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

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