



**Associated Students of
Western Washington University
Legislative Affairs Council Meeting Minutes
November 21th, 2023, 5:30pm, Microsoft Teams**

Attendees:

Council Members present for meeting:

Voting: Erin Godwin, Stella Seth, Lynna Hall, Lauren Johnson, Sofia Trujilo, Kenia Soriano Hernandez, Andrew Kudrna

Non-Voting: Aspen Cates-Doglio

Guests present for meeting: Liam Pratt, Vice President for Sustainability

Staff & Assistants present: Sophia Gubbels; Casey Hayden, Office of Civic Engagement Advisor

Current membership and position titles found here: <https://as.wwu.edu/committees/legislative-affairs-council/>

Motions: None at this time

Legislative Affairs Council Chair called the meeting to order at: 5:39pm

I. CONSENT ITEMS

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

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Fossil Fuel Divestment resolution- Liam Pratt

Fossil fuel divestment at WWU has been a decade long initiative. The purpose of the resolution is to show the WWU foundation that students and faculty oppose investing in fossil fuels. WWU's current investment firm is the Russel investment firm. The resolution calls for increased transparency for what the university invests in and how it uses the money. It also calls for the implementation of student and faculty representation in the oversight of WWU's investments. There will be a public comment period on December 8, 2023 for the resolution and WWU's investments.

b. Review Survey responses review

i 100 students responded to the survey within 1 week.

ii One of the survey questions concerns the Carbon Pricing laws. The Washington Carbon Pricing repeal reached has 400,000 signatures which means it will likely be on the upcoming ballot.

III. DISCUSSION

a. Updating the Legislative Agenda

i ~~University Administration Budget Priorities~~

1 Has 3 operational priorities: academic access and outreach (support students) (\$1,078,000), establishing an electrical and computer engineering masters program (\$886,000) and College in the High School (\$130,000)

Minutes approved: 01/08/24

- a College in the High School and Academic Access and Outreach would be helpful for future potential WWU students
 - b Will **not** be adding this to the LAC agenda due to this being the University's priority, we have other priorities we can focus on
 - ii WSA (Washington Student Association)
 - 1 Ensuring median family income threshold is permanent, ensure bridge grants are permanent, creating Native American scholarship program, expand WA student loan program to include more fields in graduate school, allowing student employees to work an average of 20hrs/week so they are eligible for the WA Basic Food program (WSAC would notifies SNAP recipients of their WCG eligibility)(allows WSAC to access student contact information for WCG eligibility)
 - 2 Reducing # of required credit hrs from 12 to 10 for eligibility for financial aid
 - 3 Removing barriers (lack of ramps) for students with disabilities and providing more resources (blind people) for them
 - 4 Requiring SANE (sexual assault nurse examiner) nurses at student health centers and/or being easily accessible to students trained to help students of all genders (rape kits do not hold up in court but SANE nurses do)
 - 5 Student-led review committee of departments handling faculty misconduct (administration issue), would give students more agency
 - 6 Access to preventative resources for safe drug use (fentanyl test strips), education and destigmatization, and treating substance use disorder
 - 7 Expanding funding for on-campus childcare facilities, programs, and employees also universal childcare access (currently only offered at Fairhaven: Campus Childhood Development Center but available to all students/staff/faculty)
 - a More funding would mean lower fee for students
 - 8 Expand students experiencing houselessness support
 - iii WSAC – Not discussed due to lack of time.
 - iv Post Secondary Basic Needs Coalition-- Not discussed due to lack of time.
- b. 1:1 Meeting with President Sabah by Godwin
 - i Godwin asks committee members for recommendations on what Godwin should discuss with WWU President Sabah.
 - 1 Committee members recommend discussion of WWU administration's failure in handling the Gaza conflict.
 - 2 Members recommend discussion of improving accessibility in classrooms, architecture layout of the campus, and for people with hearing/vision impairments.
 - 3 Members recommend discussion of improving the student health center's resources for reproductive and mental health.
 - 4 Members recommend discussion of Sabah or university administration to increase access for undocumented students to majors that require external internships in their degree completion requirements.
- c. Figuring next quarter's meeting time
 - i Using When2meet to determine meeting time, the minutes will be 90 minutes long.

IV. ACTION ITEMS – none at this time

Minutes approved: 01/08/24

V. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a. Division of labor to tackle the various Lobby Day interest topics - Hayden
 - i Council members are to assign themselves to topic areas or legislative priorities on the Lobby Agenda Workflow excel sheet and fill out the relevant information.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Next Meeting: November 28th, 2023, 5:30pm, Location: Interdisciplinary Science Building 242
- b. Nora Selander, the University Administration Director of Governmental Relations, will be present at the next meeting to talk to the council about the LAC operations, the university administration plans, and Lobby Day operations.
- c. Godwin says that by December 5, 2023 the LAC will finalize first draft of LAC Lobby Day Agenda

Meeting called to order: 6:31pm