



# Associated Students of Western Washington University Legislative Affairs Council Meeting Minutes

January 8th<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 4:30pm, Microsoft Teams

## Attendees:

### Council Members present:

**Voting:** Erin Godwin, Lauren Johnson, Kenia Soriano Hernandez, Lynna Hall, Gabby Laipenieks, Cole Farhat, Binta Kolly, Andrew Kudrna, Dibora Markos

**Non-Voting:** Aspen-Cates Doglio, Kira Davis, Casey Haden

### Council Members absent:

**Voting:** Stella Seth, Lily Van Mullen, Sofia Trujillo, Cole Burk, Zinta Lucans

**Non-Voting:** Morgan Whitt

**Staff & Assistants present:** Dhwani Rathore

### Guests present for meeting:

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

*Legislative Affairs Council Chair called the meeting to order at: 4:34pm*

## I. CHECK-INS

- a. **Introduce New Members – 5 minutes**
  - i Dibora Markos representing the Black Student Coalition.
- b. **Winter Break Ice Breaker – 15 minutes**
  - i Favorite things that happened over break!

## II. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. **Approval of Minutes – 5 minutes**

*MOTION LAC-24-F-1 by Godwin to approve the minutes*  
Johnson motions to approve the minutes  
Second: Farhat      Vote: 7-0-2      Action: Passed

## III. INFORMATION ITEMS-

- a. **Review Legislative Agenda Draft – 15 minutes**
  - i Financial aid – plan to collect data of how many people at Western use the WA College grant along with demographics (income level, gender, class status). Agenda includes asking for more funding.
  - ii Student employment – Lowering work requirements to 15 hours for student employees in order to enroll in the SNAP ( ) can be brought up in discussion with legislators.  
Plan to collect data of students with food insecurities and students using SNAP at on campus.
  - iii Bill addressing undocumented students' employment – Davis states it is important to lobby for this bill. Hall seconds, bill added back to agenda.

Date minutes approved: 1/22/24

iv Godwin provides information on the legislature website – how to read bills and how to support them.

v Health and Wellness – Hall and Godwin have a meeting with Litav tomorrow to find ways to support the DAC (Disability Accommodation Center).

*HB 2145* is applicable to mental health services supporting college students.

A bill ensuring access to abortion pills has not been introduced.

Supporting the reduction of drug overdose is largely supported in congress, including having access and education to administering Narcan (overdose prevention).

vi There are other ways to support bills (eg. Environmental bills) as lobby day has a limited time frame.

**b. WA Legislative Session Update – 15 minutes**

i Action plan – mobilize on advocating for the bill supporting undocumented students.

ii Updates – None (first day of session)

iii Reminder that bills may not make it through the committee, therefore putting in more detailed work in the next 2 weeks will be beneficial, regarding continuity and making more of an impact.

**c. Western Intersectional Lobby Day Budget Proposal – 10 minutes**

i Proposed budget for lobby day is \$30k

ii **Event planning includes:** Securing hotels and buses, Arranging meetings with legislators and Publicity (posters, banners, social media).

**iii Main Goals**

1. Getting students to sign up (target of 80 people) – Deadline to register is Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, hotel registration deadline is Jan 29<sup>th</sup>.

2. Legislators meetings

iv Farhat and Markos are working together on promoting Lobby Day to the ESC (Ethnic Student Center)

v 10 Classroom visit times have been approved in the Political Science Department.

Other majors people are interested in visiting: Sociology, Women Gender & Sexuality Studies, Economics, Environmental Studies, and Urban Planning. Spreadsheet made.

vi Possible issues – problems with sharing rooms/beds. Rooms can be cancelled before Jan 29<sup>th</sup>. Plan for a maximum of 130 people.

vii Catering ideas – Meconi's Subs, Panda express, Chipotle. Reminder to account for dietary needs. Budget for food \$6-\$15.6k

**IV. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Budget Proposal – 5 minutes**

i *Godwin motions to approve the Budget Proposal*

Second: Graves, Johnson      Vote: 9-0-0      Action: Passed unanimously

**b. Create Lobby Day Planning Subcommittee – 15 minutes**

Date minutes approved: 1/22/24

i Classroom and Club visits – Markos, Doglio, Davis, Johnson, Farhat, Graves and Laipenieks

**ii Social Media Publicity**

**iii Organizing Meetings with Legislators**

iv Arrange Food/Catering – Laipenieks, Doglio, Kolly.

## **V. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- a. Start of the quarter is tomorrow!
- b. Read over the bills for next meeting.

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Next Meeting: January 15th, 2024, 4:30pm, Location: Microsoft Teams

*Meeting called to order: 5:44pm*

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

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