



Associated Students of Western Washington University Legislative Affairs Council Meeting Minutes

January 22nd, 2024, 4:30pm, Viking Union 567

Attendees:

Council Members present:

Voting: Erin Godwin, Lauren Johnson, Lynna Hall, Gabby Laipenieks, Cole Farhat, Andrew Kudrna, Dibora Markos, Sofia Trujillo, Cole Burk.

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

Council Members absent:

Voting: Kenia Soriano Hernandez, Binta Kolly, Stella Seth, Lily Van Mullen.

Non-Voting: Morgan Whitt.

Staff & Assistants present: Dhwani Rathore

Guests present for meeting: Liam Pratt

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: 4:32pm

I. CONSENT ITEMS

a. Approval of Minutes – 2 minutes

Johnson motions to approve 1.8.24 minutes.

Second: Farhat Vote: Unanimous Action: Approved

II. INFORMATION ITEMS-

a. Update on WILD – 2 minutes

i. We got 20 new signups today.

b. Legislative Update – 5 minutes

i. Stella Seth testified on behalf of Western speaking in support of SB5895 (operational student employee collective bargaining rights).

c. Executive Board Feedback - 5 minutes

i Godwin relays the feedback they got from the Executive Board meeting on 1/1/24.

ii One of the primary concerns was with the formatting of the agenda. Members of the Board recommended that there should be a description of the issue area first and then list the bills.

iii Another recommendation was that the agenda could have more items on it, the length of the agenda shouldn't be a concern.

III. DISCUSSION-

a. Lobbying Exercise – 30 minutes

Date minutes approved: 2/5/24

i Members practiced lobbying by getting into pairs and acted as legislators/lobbyists discussing our legislative agenda.

ii Practice spending 2 minutes talking about each topic.

iii Reminder that bringing data helps, along with personal anecdotes.

1 Our approach is having numbers on the physical agenda, which gives students the opportunities to identify with these bills.

b. Redrafting the Legislative Agenda – 45 minutes

i. HB 2049, SB6251 – potentially low priority list, further discussion continued.

ii. Bill related to SNAP is tabled for the moment, further research needed.

iii. HB2114 – high priority for housing affordability, aim to keep on the agenda.

iv. Bills for sustainability include HB2049, HB2070, and HB6052. Plan to address the sewage leak in the Outback Farm through environmental justice bills.

v. Financial aid consists of 3 bills.

vi. Student employment consists of 3 bills.

vii. Health and wellness consist of 4 bills – discussion to potentially remove HB2145 from the agenda. Laipeniaks to research more data.

viii. Equal pay act removed from the agenda as it has a lot of support.

ix. Drafting the Value statement, incorporating our five issue areas.

x. Plan to research how many students use the WA state college grant.

xi. Godwin drafts the statements for each category.

1. ACTION ITEMS

a. None for this meeting.

2. GOOD OF THE ORDER – 5 minutes

a. None for this meeting.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Next Meeting: January 29th, 2024, 4:30pm, Location: Viking Union 567

Meeting adjourned: 6:00pm

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

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