



Associated Students of
Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council Meeting

Minutes February 6th, 2024, 4:30pm, VU 567

Attendees:

Council Members present:

Voting: Erin Godwin, Lauren Johnson, Lynna Hall, Gabby Laipenieks, Cole Farhat, Andrew Kudrna, Cole Burk, Lily Van Mullen.

Non-Voting: Aspen-Cates Doglio.

Council Members absent:

Voting: Dibora Markos, Sofia Trujillo, Kenia Soriano Hernandez, Binta Kolly, Stella Seth.

Non-Voting: Morgan Whitt, Kira Davis

Staff & Assistants present: Dhvani Rathore, Casey Haden.

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: 4:32pm

I. CONSENT ITEMS

a. Approval of Minutes – 2 minutes

Approve the [LAC meeting Minutes Draft 1.22.24.docx](#)

Johnson motions to approve minutes from 1/8/24

Second: Farhat

Vote: 8-0

Action: Approved

II. INFORMATION ITEMS-

a. Executive Board feedback on the [Legislative Agenda](#) - 10 minutes

- i. Add infographics to the agenda.
- ii. SB 5999 should be stripped off, add to SB 5904 saying we should continue to expand access to the WA college grant.
- iii. Important to have a trigger warning for bills discussing sexual assault.
- iv. The Executive board recommended placing health and wellness above student employment. Godwin agrees looking at the state of the student employment bills.
- v. A new section was added – providing abortion pills.
- vi. The length seems to be very long. Plan to talk to AS President Ryan about cutting it down.

Date Approved: 4/8/24

- vii. We go through edits/comments made on the document.
- viii. There aren't bills specific to the topics of Reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ rights because they are not under threat. However, the Executive Board's would like to put on the issue on the agenda. The compromise is to move to additional legislative asks.
- ix. Doglio mentions the incident in Seattle where LGBTQ+ bars were raided. Ask to acknowledge that incident to the Legislature. Godwin will research it more and talk to AS Senate President Wong about it.
- x. Erin can act as liaison to the Executive Board, when adding more things to the agenda. We can say something as our interest in that being addressed in agenda. They make the final decision.
- xi. The University admin budget request should not be in the conclusion as it is a separate issue. Conclusion – simply thanking legislators for their time.

b. Legislative Update – 10 minutes

- i. The 'nothing about us without us' bill died.
- ii. Anything that wasn't on agenda and didn't get voted on is dead.
- iii. More updates after 6pm today.
- iv. SB 5895 is opposed by the chair of Senate Ways and Means committee.
 - a. Plan to move it to the additional legislative asks. Lily agrees. Have a disclaimer that these bills are dead. The intention is to keep an eye on it in the future.
- v. HB 1889 was referred to a rules committee. In limbo right now.
- vi. SB 5631 has moved forward
- vii. HB 2242 - no update since last night. Does not look like it will be moving forward.
- viii. HB 2070 does not seem likely to pass.
- ix. Discussion on how comfortable members are with the executive board making major decisions on the agenda -
 - Laipeniecks – would like to see the document they edit.
 - Johnson – it would be nice to get their feedback and ideas, but it should be collaborative. They should not be making final decisions without consulting the LAC.
 - Burk – Likes the idea of having a conversation about it and is comfortable with them making a final decision as long as there is discussion.

The conversation tonight will be brought to the Executive board on Thursday.

- x. It doesn't make sense for the first bill on our agenda to be one that has died.

III. DISCUSSION-

a. Final Preparations for Lobby Day - 40 minutes

- i. Create a comprehensive appendix to our Legislative Agenda for participants.
- ii. Make a document with additional information regarding the agenda to give to students.
- iii. Template for summarizing bills, important highlights.
- iv. Prepare training materials for Lobby Day:
 - 1. Slideshow

2. Follow up email for food survey
3. Next week - talk more about volunteer capacity

IV. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Make final recommendations to the Executive Board- 15 minutes**
 - i. Members generally feel good about recommending the agenda to the Executive board, supposed to get approved on Thursday.
 - ii. Ask members of the LAC to come to the Executive board on Thursday.

V. GOOD OF THE ORDER – 5 minutes

- i. No meeting on February 19th. We will have a meeting after WILD to debrief Lobby Day.
- ii. Continue to bill track for the rest of the legislative session to see which pass.
 - a. The session ends the first week of march.
- iii. Farhat - we can further work on the presidential election, discuss what our role can be in that.
Laipeniecks – Plan for local lobby day. The typical format of sending students to city hall has not been effective. Reimagining what that looks like, perhaps an open house, meet and greet.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Next quarter we will be meeting at the same time and place (Mondays 4:30 pm in VU 567).
- b. Next Meeting: February 12th, 2024, 4:30pm, VU 567

Meeting called to order: 5:51pm

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

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