

Hey all!

I apologize that it has been so long since a real update but I hope this is helpful and would love to hear your ideas about moving forward this session. I will pose some direct questions that I hope you all will respond to either on the call tonight or later in the week via e-mail.

Schedule of session/where we're at:

- **We have passed policy cutoff** (aka no new policy may be introduced this session and policy that did not make it out of a policy committee such as higher ed, is now dead)
- **We have passed fiscal cutoff** (aka if a bill didn't make it through the fiscal committee (Appropriations in the House or Ways and Means in the Senate, it is now dead)
- **We are quickly approaching House of origin cutoff** (aka if a bill that is in the House doesn't pass off the House floor before March 9th it will die)

What is Nora currently doing? Standing outside of either the House or Senate chambers all day long to attempt to pull members off the floor and push them toward passing a certain policies. The legislative building is marble, which gets warm, and there are not enough benches aka (why am I using aka so much?) it has been an interesting/exhausting part of session.

Ok ok so tell us about the bills....

Tuition and Revenue:

Tuition freeze - unfortunately it is still too early to tell on this. We haven't seen any budgets yet. The Senate will put theirs out first and I've heard that it won't come out until after the March revenue forecast (which attempts to predict how much \$\$\$ the state will bring in). The revenue forecast is in about two and a half weeks so we can expect the Senate budget in about 3-4 weeks and then the House will put theirs out and they will fight it out.

SNG- the same largely goes for SNG funding, it will be something that is decided in the budget. There was a bill that would have upped GPA requirements and attempted to funnel SNG (aka low income) (there I go again with the aka) anyways... funnel low-income students into "high demand" (aka STEM) degrees. That bill was 5820 and I don't think it is moving through the Senate and would 11000% die in the House so I don't think we have to worry much about it but it is bad policy and I have been advocating against it.

HB1488- This bill would expand College Bound and Opportunity Scholarship to undocumented students. Hansen was a bit down and out about this bill last week. It seemed like there might be concerns about it passing on party lines in the House

and potentially racist floor speeches that could come from that and those two things would up the likelihood of 1488 dying in the Senate.

HOWEVER, me, other students and a few other groups have been pushing him to keep going for this policy. We believe that it is good and it is necessary and students at WWU have shown me they are very enthusiastic about it. **SO this is where I need feedback, are the people of this committee excited about potentially organizing around this issue and pushing it as best we can??????**

Decoupling S&A Fees – Unfortunately, 5592 died in Senate Ways and Means after a somewhat strange hearing where lawmakers clearly didn't understand the issue.

1433 is still alive in the House and will likely be heard on Monday by the time we talk so if I haven't changed this sentence by then, please remind me to give an update – we think pushing it through the Senate will be easier because we will have more time to message it to Ways and Means members (I might need your help with this... I'm looking at you Rosa, but I'll let you know!)

Support and Success:

Student Success- We did not have a successful bill for this. 1561, sponsored by Rep Pollet had every student success ask from all the 4 year AND community colleges. You can imagine the fiscal note that went along with that—and so it is dead.

ANYWHO- we can still fight for this funding because it can go in the budget! We will need to push for this in the next few weeks. I will keep you apprised of how this goes. I think that Hansen is now talking in his sleep about our student success package because I mention it every time I see him (which is quite a bit, like more than once or twice a week...at least three or four) (I need sleep).

Support for Survivors- 5764 passed the Senate unanimously!!!! This bill makes sure that the communication between survivors and advocates who are employed by the university are CONFIDENTIAL because right now it is a technicality in the law that prevents full confidentiality. Next up, moving this bill through the House. We have been assured that Hansen will give this bill a hearing so it looks like this will be law! (aka fingers crossed).

As for the other top recommendations – we are putting together a workgroup to work on some of the other issues that came out of the task force report and this issues are not pressing for this session so when I come back this spring I would love some time at an LAC meeting to go through them as a group just for purposes of institutional memory and letting this body know how this issue will continue in the future.

This is the point at which Nora quit writing and went to bed... Vote stuff will be much more coherent if I write it in the morning (I hope).

Representation:

Vote-

Still happening:

- 1513 – 16/17 year old voter reg/motor voter **PASSED THE HOUSE**
- 1800- Voting Rights Act **PASSED THE HOUSE**
- 5192- Extending deadline to 8 days/same day VR for first time registrants at auditors office **IN RULES, NEEDS TO BE PULLED/HEARD ON SENATE FLOOR BEFORE THURSDAY**
- 5236- Civic learning bill **PASSED SENATE**
- 5008- REAL ID Compliance (we are against this) **PASSED SENATE, MIGHT PASS HOUSE**

Def not happening:

- 5480- Landlord VR **DEAD**
- 5019- Prepaid postage **DEAD**

Student Trustee-

Still not happening this year, I'm sorry. Get WSA on board for next year and it could happen.

Let me know if you have any questions!