



Western Washington University Associated Students  
**Legislative Affairs Council**

Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

5:00 PM VU 567

**Members:** *Present: Bryce Hammer (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Nora Selander (AS Legislative Liaison), Rosa Rice-Pelepko (AS REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Galen Herz (AS Local Issues Coordinator), Macey Crooks (Student at Large), Leanna Sauerlender (Student at Large), Sarah Gallagher (Student at Large), and Peter Condyles (Student at Large).*  
*Absent: Katherine VanDeWalker (Student at Large), Sofia Perry (Student at Large), Koyle Kendrick (Student at Large), and Ana Ramirez (Student at Large),*

**Advisor:** Lisa Rosenberg  
**Secretary:** Cora Cole  
**Guests:**

**Motions:**  
LAC-17-S-1 Approval of minutes from February 13 and March 6. *Passed*  
LAC-17-S-2 Moved funding for the WSA Students of Color conference to an action item. *Passed*  
LAC-17-S-3 Approval of funding for WSA Students of Color attendees, not to accede \$600. *Passed*

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Following the last meeting of winter quarter there was an online vote for the Funding Request for the Board Assistant for Lobby Days and the Funding Request for the Beef Day Event. The results of the vote were submitted on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as the following:

LAC-17-W-13 Funding Request for increased hours for the Board Assistant for Lobby Days *Passed.*  
LAC-17-W-14 Funding Request for Beef Day event. *Passed.*

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*Bryce Hammer called the meeting to order at 4:16 pm.*

**I. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Bryce said we need to be done by 5 so rapid fire

**II. Minutes Approval**

*MOTION: LAC-17-S-x by Selander*

Approval of the minutes from February 13 and March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Second: Gallagher Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

**III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. **WSA Students of Color Conference funding request:** The conference is this weekend and it conflicts with MEChA nationals which most of the ESC is attending. There is a maximum of six students attending from Western, so the cost estimation is \$264 for attendance. Bryce estimated \$600 for transportation and registration, as always funds not used will go back into the WSA. Central put a lot of funds into the event, partially because Richard Sherman is the keynote speaker and is being paid \$45,000 to speak. The committee was uncertain about the cost of transportation but Bryce had a general idea of how much it costs to take a van to Central. Bryce asked if we could move this to an action item.

**MOTION: LAC-17-S-2** By Rice-Pelepko

Move WSA SoC conference to an action item.

Second: Crooks      Vote: 7-0-0      Action: Passes

- b. **Voting Coordinator on campus lobbying for Food Justice:** The ESP Environmental Justice Coordinator reached out to Rosa about the Birchwood Albertsons lease. Birchwood neighborhood is a food desert and Albertsons has long-term lease on a space that doesn't actually have any grocery store. There is a community campaign outside of the campus to petition city to either, let up the lease or make Albertsons sell food. Rosa was asked if she could petition and educate students supporting that movement. She asked for the committee's thoughts on how she could/should proceed, given that this is an issue that effects the community and the students who live there. She would like approval of this goal and action because of the impact she sees it having on the community. Nora added that Students for Sustainable Food have been one of the most passionate and involved groups at Western, so the campus clearly wants this. Leanna asked about the specific goal, Rosa had Bryce pulled up the language written up by the Birchwood community petition. Galen mentioned that he thought the effort to get the lease dropped had already been successful; he and Rosa decided to look into it. Bryce said that the LAC can urge the Board to pass a resolution but that we can't pass it ourselves. Rosa said that she wanted to either get Albertsons to drop the lease or to have the city pressure them to do so. The city council and mayor all want to see it solved, Rosa added that having the information about this issue available to students was important even if there isn't anything we can do about it.

#### IV. ACTION ITEMS

**MOTION: LAC-17-S-3** By Gallagher

Approval of funding for WSA Students of Color Conference, not to accede \$600. Contingent on the ESC getting the attendance figured out.

Second: Herz      Vote: 7-0-0      Action: Passes

## V. DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- a. **Local Lobby Day Updates:** Galen said that he has been working with Bryce to get things organized and they are calling tomorrow to confirm with students attending. He is also following up with the issues through Local Issues Team by helping students to attend the city council meeting following the lobby day in order to present agenda to the community at large. Additionally, a professor in the ESJ minor wanted to have two full classes come to the lobby day, which he didn't have room for but is super excited about the energy surrounding the event. He has been talking to Labor Unions in town and trying to focus on a couple items to get pushed through in the next couple of months. Nora said that she has some documentation about prioritization from WSA that she can share with him. Rosa asked how long the items we have passed for the local agenda remain the position of the AS, Bryce explained that an agenda lasts until the next year's agenda is passed. Which means that next fall the REP and LAC can keep lobbying on the items that don't get passed this year. Galen said that Councilmember Hamell is working on capping move-in fees and preventing income discrimination. A recent study with Western and the city found that resident's priorities were, ending homelessness, housing affordability, and lack of jobs. He also wants to focus on the Blue Group's efforts surrounding the city ordinance.

## VI. REPORTS

- A. **Nora** reported that there were two budgets that came out in the last week. The Senate budget is mostly republicans and it wants a 2.2% increase in tuition, maintain the SNG service levels, removed \$47 million from TANF in order to add to SNG, no funding for student success, money for 100 new enrolments with 70% of those being STEM (not specifying how they would track and also not increasing the institutional support for those increases at regional schools). Western got less funding proportionally then other regional schools, which was sad but not surprising, and they half funded a mental health counselor for student veterans. The House budget, which was largely democrat, was more promising for Western. They funded backfill for a tuition freeze; the SNG got enough investment for 6,000 additional students, \$1.18 million for student success at WWU, and no funding for veteran mental health services. They also funded some faculty compensation, increased funding for higher demand degrees, which is most STEM degrees as well as the increase for tenure track faculty. Bill's bill was expected to fail, but it got in, so she doesn't know what is going to happen with that but it is a better budget then the senate.
- B. **Bryce** Reported that WSA had a meeting over conference call this last Saturday and there were some proposed changes to the WSA. Too many updates and not enough action, too much focus on liaisons, too partisan, no focus for East Side, and other schools are having trouble with funding. Transition of board every year means that institutional memory is lost, and Bryce added that research campuses have more power than the regional school because of satellite campuses; we could reach out to satellite campuses of our own. Rosa

thinks the statement of purpose needs to be less broad and Bryce added that it can be manipulated to justify taking more conservative stances on issues.

**At 5:03 pm, Nora Selander left for a call with the WSA Board and we lost quorum. The meeting continued as an informal discussion with minutes.**

The next meeting is April 15<sup>th</sup> in WSU tri-cities and following that meeting the Board members for next year are being chosen. Requirements for nomination that you have to go for a meeting at least once before May's General Assembly, and you can be nominated for any position. The General Assembly will also be where the items for next year are chosen. Because our lobbying efforts are most successful when the WSA and Western agendas are aligned, Bryce recommends that we have things we want to lobby for next year at that meeting. We will also be talking about the federal agenda next week. Our priorities will be to not cut Pell or college prep courses in high schools. They are trying to cut budgets by 30% in Housing and Urban Development, Education, and EPA, and we will do what we can to combat that.

In addition, AS elections are coming, there are debates in April and there's a transportation referendum, Bryce acknowledged that we would not live without WTA. There will not be an AS Review Referendum, but it may be a talking point during the election. Bryce will update the committee next week. Additionally, the committee can be involved in AS elections outside the room but you cannot use your membership to support a candidate.

- C. Rosa** reported that she is working on hiring and other events that she will tell us about later.
- D. Galen** reported that he was at city council for 8 hours on Monday and that because of conflict with business owners, the selection of land for a easy to access homeless shelter was delayed for another two weeks.

*Bryce Hammer adjourned the meeting at 5:16 pm.*

**The ESC ended up not using any of the allocated funds because they did not send any students.**