

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, January 28, 2013**

VU 567

Present: Patrick Stickney (AS VP Governmental Affairs, Chair), Amy Stavig, Andrew Taylor, Ben Crowther (Legislative Liaison), Evan Fowler, Graham Marmion, Neil Christenson, Tom Durham, Eileen Pollet, and Marc Oommen. *Absent:* Nathan Haugen and Joseph Levy

Advisor: Kevin Majkut

Secretary: Kaylee Galloway

MOTIONS

LAC-13-W-06 Approve the minutes from January 14, 2013. *Passed*

LAC-13-W-07 Approve the minutes from January 18, 2013. *Passed*

LAC-13-W-08 Approve the LegCon funding request to send three people. *Passed*

Patrick Stickney, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:05pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION LAC-13-W-06 by Taylor

Approve the minutes from January 14, 2013

Second: Pollet Vote: no dissent Action: Passed

MOTION LAC-13-W-07 by Taylor

Approve the minutes from January 18, 2013

Second: Pollet Vote: no dissent Action: Passed

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. REPORTS

A. VP for Governmental Affairs

Stickney said that there were about 60 students who all met with over 60% of the legislature. He said that as he looked over the meeting notes, legislators seem positive about GET but not as much for the Washington State DREAM Act. He said that Saturday was the WSA Board of Directors meeting, where they took stances on many bills. He said that WSA also discussed ideas for the Day of Action. He said that students will target Jay Inslee and Rodne Tom regarding revenue. He said also that there will be a dodge ball game in front of Old Main lawn where students will write their debt on the dodge balls. He said that there will also be a workshop on the student strike in Quebec. Today, he went to talk to the City Council to talk about rental safety ordinance. He also went to Whatcom Community College to talk to the Student Achievement Council about aid for students who are undocumented as well as funding and online education.

B. Legislative Liaison

Crowther said that it is the start of the 3rd week of session. He said that he received the notes from lobby day. He said that the DREAM Act bill should drop tomorrow. He said that

liaisons are trying to secure support from Republicans in both the House and Senate. He said that there is resistance from some House leadership on the bill from those who feel it comes at too high a cost of political capital and that higher education should be funded first. He said that waiving the 1-year residency requirement for veterans to receive in-state tuition, received a hearing in the House Higher Education Committee last week. He said that there is an amendment being proposed by Representative Pedersen to require veterans to have been stationed in Washington for at least one year before their discharge date delayed a final vote on the bill to next week. Crowther also mentioned that there might be a chance to testify to the Senate Higher Education Committee this week and to the House Higher Education Committee in several weeks to respond to testimony from industry representatives about their goals for higher education. He said that both HB 1322 and SB 5195 dropped, which would grant students at public non-profit colleges, such as Western Governor's University, eligibility for the State Need Grant. He said there is a good chance the bill will pass, but that a proposed strategy if the bill cannot be defeated is to amend the bill to include accountability measures.

He said that liaisons met with the WGU lobbyist today and she is great. He said that the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program has come under a lot of scrutiny. He said that Democrats are trying to save it and Rodney Tom is trying to get rid of it. He said that currently, funds are not sufficient to pay for everyone. Crowther said that two voter access bills are being heard in the House Government Operations and Elections Committee on Tuesday, including HB 1290 (requiring one permanent ballot box per 3000 students on college campuses) and HB 1278 (concerning prepaid postage for ballot envelopes). He said that HB 1043 (limiting differential tuition) and HB 1109 (requiring higher education institutions to provide veterans with early registration) will receive a hearing in the House Higher Education Committee on Tuesday and will go into executive session on Thursday.

C. Western Votes

Taylor said that Western Votes has been working on workshops. He said the first one is regarding the Quebec movement. He said there will be additional workshops prior to each smaller lobby trip. He said that Western Votes is currently trying to find recruitment for the lobby trips. He said that for people who are interested, they should talk to Pollet.

D. Student Senate

Fowler said that the Senate is talking about 50/50 by 2020 tomorrow.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. WSA Bill List

Stickney said that WSA took a stance on several bills. He said that WSA opposed the closure of GET. WSA also opposed SB 5087 which would prevent illegal aliens from qualifying as resident students for purposes of in-state tuition and financial aid. There were several voter accessibility bills. WSA supported all of them, some of them with concern. He said that WSA also supported bills that would remove differential tuition. He said that WSA also voted to support several veteran bills, including HB 1011, SB 5061, and HB 1109. WSA also supported HB 1459 (regarding viticulture), HB 1176 (restricting bonuses and other incentives in higher education), and SB 5180 (students with disabilities—improving access to higher education for students with disabilities). He said that WSA also decided to not take a stance on HB 1160 (sales tax exemption on textbooks). One side thought that it would be hypocritical to need new revenue yet ask for a tax exemption and the other side found it difficult to oppose any measure that attempts to help students. WSA also supported online student advising and opposed resolutions that would amend the constitution to require a 2/3 majority on raising taxes.

B. Federal Agenda

Stickney said that this is the agenda that he and Ethan Glemaker will be taking to Washington DC to advocate on the federal level. He said that he would like to continue to support the

DREAM Act, but also find bills that have not really been discussed yet. He said that last year, Western did a great job of advocating for the Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Bill and increasing support. Marmion wondered about the FY 2012 Omnibus Bill. Stickney said that it was the bill that authorized funding for the fiscal year 2012. He said that they produced the minimum maximum of the Pell grants. He said that it use to be that if families made less than \$32,000, then they would have an estimated family contribution of \$0. It was moved down to \$23,000. Taylor wondered if Western should expand the section on accountability to include all online not just WGU. Stickney said that he would like to find a specific and solid piece of legislation that Western could take a stance on. He said that legislators are looking to include the GI bill as a part of the plan. He said that veterans are heavily recruited by for-profit colleges because they are not included in the 90% and including them in would ensure that they are protected. Marmion wondered what Western motivations regarding for-profit universities. Stickney said it is in solidarity with the students who have had gainful employment problems because a lot of the time, they do not receive the quality education that they should. Pollet said they are not for profit and therefore they should get grants. She said that these universities actively seek veterans above other students because they receive money from the government for helping veterans obtain higher education. Taylor said that these universities also charge a very expensive tuition that is not proportional to the quality of education students are getting. He said it is a disservice for student veterans because the quality of the degree obtained is not that high. Pollet said it is a matter of consumer protection. Taylor said it is like false advertising and a financial aid scam. Stickney said requested that LAC do some research, think about topics to include, and find specific bills.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. LegCon Funding

Stickney said that he has expanded these funds to include sending Crowther, Taylor and Galloway to LegCon.

MOTION LAC-13-W- 08 by Taylor

Approve the LegCon funding request to send three people.

Second: Durham Vote: 7-0-1 Action: Passed

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

February 4 2013

IX. ADJOURN

X. OUTSIDE OF COMMITTEE WORK

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:34pm