

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, June 3, 2013**

VU 460

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

Advisor: Kevin Majkut
Secretary: Kaylee Galloway
Guest: Glen Tokola

MOTIONS

LAC-13-S-09 Approve the minutes from May 3, 2013. *Passed.*

LAC-13-S-10 Approve Funding Request for USSA's 66th Annual National Student Congress. *Passed.*

Patrick Stickney, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 4:04pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Taylor moved to have the funding request for USSA Congress as an action idea. Levy seconded.
Passed 6-0-0. *Stavig entered 4:05pm.*

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION LAC-13-S-09 by Taylor

Approve the minutes from May 3, 2013.

Second: Levy

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. REPORTS

A. VP for Governmental Affairs

Stickney said the Legislature will not approve a budget until June 18th. He said the lobby trip to DC was well timed because the federal government was considering a loan act that would tie interest rates to the market. He said that he and Ethan Glemaker spoke against the bill, the "Smarter Solutions for Students Act".

B. Legislative Liaison

C. Western Votes

Taylor said that the last Western Votes meeting is today and there will be some planning for next year. He said that a group went down to Oregon for the USSA Board meeting. He said that there was some discussion on fee structure, organizing efforts, and USSA Congress. Stickney said that getting rid of student loan autonomy is scary.

D. Student Senate

Tokola said that there might be a social for the last meeting. He said that the Senate is also wrapping up ideas for reform.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Funding Request for USSA's 66th Annual National Student Congress

Stickney said the funding request specifies the six individuals who have been recommended to attend, which includes the AS President, ASVP for Governmental Affairs, ASVP for Diversity, REP Associate Director, Legislative Liaison, and the Western Votes President. He said that the early registration time period has passed, which means that the registration fee increases to \$245 per person for a total of \$6350 from the LAF. Galloway said that she made another amendment. She said that she spoke with Sarah Kohout, the President of Western Votes, who is not able to attend USSA Congress. Since there is a strong organizing training component to USSA Congress, Galloway thought the Vote Coordinator would be the next individual who would best benefit from attending. Pollet agreed that the Vote Coordinator would benefit from the training. She thought that it would be problematic to not have anyone from Western Votes attend because Western Votes is the organization on campus that will be carrying out the efforts on the decisions that are made at congress and Western Votes deserves a voice in those decisions. Galloway said that was the rationale with having the Western Votes president go. She said that if both her and Graham Marmion, the REP Associate Director, go, then both would advise and relay information back to Western Votes. Galloway said that if LAC decides to pass the funding request for six people, then an alternate list can be created and can give priority to Western Votes members. She also said that there is a diversity requirement that WSA must meet in order to have their votes. She said satisfying those requirements must also be kept in mind. Tokola said that he has requested to go so that he can bring the information back to Western Votes. Pollet said that the lack of Western Votes voice in the WSA has been an issue. She said that a direct participant of Western Votes would be ideal to send to USSA Congress. Taylor wondered if people could be registered under WSA. Stickney said that for LegCon, Western went as a non-member. He said that Central and Bellevue will be sending a delegation to USSA Congress as well, which is why Western would need to register as non-member. Taylor said that WSA only has 8 votes. He said that there are several other campuses who are planning to send people. He said that this means that there would be people who do not have a vote. He also acknowledged the importance of meeting the diversity requirements and was worried about setting any of the recommendations in stone. Galloway said that Western shouldn't just plan on sending the same number of people as votes. She said that she does not know what the vote division will look like, but that this experience is more than about the vote. She said that even though each person may not have a direct vote, people will still be learning a lot and able to bring the skills and knowledge back to campus. She said that the folks she has recommended would mean 2 women, a woman of color, queer, and working class. Levy said that if Galloway is going to be there, and although she is not a member, she is going to be a valuable asset to Western Votes, and it will be fine. Pollet said that institutionally, the VP for Governmental Affairs attends Western Votes, but not the AS President. She said that people going to USSA Congress are voting for issues that Western Votes will have to carry out and that it is important to have a Western Votes voice. She said that this could be more of an issue in future years. Stickney said that this is only a funding request and that individuals recommended to attend can be changed in the future. He said that the funding request does not set precedent. *Christenson entered 4:17pm.* Majkut wondered what the budget looked like. Stickney said that the LAF has about \$20,000. Taylor wondered if everyone has confirmed they can go. Galloway said that she has touched base with everyone, but that not everyone has given her a definite answer. She said that this is why there is an alternate as a back-up plan. She asked the committee what they recommended for a selection process. Pollet said that if a spot opens for an alternative, then the priority should be given to people who fill the diversity requirements, then someone from the REP office or Western Votes. Majkut said that if alternate individuals are going, then there should be justification to why they are going. He

said that there is a logical purpose for each of the people recommended. Galloway said that there should be some accountability for the people who agree to go and that people should take the skills and knowledge learned and apply it back to campus efforts.

MOTION LAC-13-S -10 by Levy

Approve the Funding Request for USSA's 66th Annual National Student Congress.

Second: Durham

Vote: 8-0-0

Action: Passed

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Reflection

Stickney requested that LAC members send a reflection to Galloway including ideas and suggestions for next year.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Taylor said that there is a conference call happening with Elizabeth Warren right after this meeting. He said that it is about student loans. Pollet encouraged people to attend the Western Votes meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22pm

Approved by Patrick Stickney, AS VP for Governmental Affairs