

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Thursday, November 6, 2014 VU 567**

Present: Sarah Kohout (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Heather Heffelmire (Legislative Liaison), Kendra Thomas (Local Liaison), James Mayther, Katie Savinski, Neil Christenson, Belina Seare, Sam Goldblatt, Nora Selander

Absent: Cody Simrell, Elizabeth Pebley
Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Student Activities
Secretary: Lily Jaquith, Board Assistant for Representation Committees
Guest: Anna Waham

MOTIONS

- LAC-14-F-10** Approve the minutes from October 23, 2014
- LAC-14-F-11** Amend the New and Dedicated Revenue Paragraph title and paragraph to read “New and Dedicated Revenue” and in the second sentence it will read “we set out to recommend politically feasible sources of revenue generated from closing existing tax loopholes creating new sources of tax revenue or increasing existing taxes and indicating that revenue to the funding of higher education.” Finally including the language change of “possible expiration of the B&O tax.”
- LAC-14-F-12** Moves to add a fifth bullet specifying that possible sources of new revenue could be from cannabis taxes.
- LAC-14-F-13** Moves to approve document 6 as amended.
- LAC-14-F-14** Amend the title to read “New and Dedicated Revenue” and in the second sentence it will read “we set out to recommend politically feasible sources of revenue generated from closing existing tax loopholes creating new sources of tax revenue or increasing existing taxes and indicating that revenue to the funding of higher education.” Finally including the language change of “possible expiration of the B&O tax.”
- LAC-14-F-15** Moves to have the document read with instead of about, and change “we need to see” to “ASWWU advocates for.”
- LAC-14-F-16** Moves to approve document 8 as amended.
- LAC-14-F-17** Amend the paragraph to include ASWWU to being in line with other language, change “making registering to vote more accessible will increase...” and say “participating in elections” at the end of the paragraph.
- LAC-14-F-18** Amend the paragraph to add “recently these policies have gained widespread support by county auditors and election officials.”
- LAC-14-F-19** Amend the paragraph to remove the phrase update to their new address.
- LAC-14-F-20** Moves to approve document 10 with the amendments.
- LAC-14-F-21** Amend the paragraph to say the state has already invested 7.3 million in design and ASWWU is asking for 73 million more is required for the project.
- LAC-14-F-22** Moves to approve document 13 as amended.
- LAC-14-F-23** Moves privilege motion to recess for six minutes
- LAC-14-F-24** Move to approve student success proposal as written.
- LAC-14-F-25** Moves to approve 2015 legislative agenda including

Sarah Kohout, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION LAC-14-F-10 by Thomas

Approve the minutes from October 23, 2014

Second: Savinski

Vote: 7-0-1

Action: Passed

IV. Public Forum

V. REPORTS

A. VP for Governmental Affairs

Kohout said she has been working on some stuff the committee will see today. She's trying to figure out the legislative action fund. She has a meeting next week with the Student Business Office. The fee is not being collected properly. She working on Viking Lobby Say. Currently the hotel, food, publicity and transportation are all being worked on. She will send out an email about tabling. The tentative deadline for applications is December 3. If there is more room they'll extend the deadline.

B. Legislative Liaison

Heather Heffelmire, Legislative Liaison, said she will also be tabling for Western Takes Olympia, the lobbying event the Representation and Engagement Programs is putting on to get students prepared for VLD. *Belina Seare and Sam Goldblatt enter*. She's been in the process of organizing that. She will be tabling at the end of next week. She's doing that on collaboration with the Political Science Association. If members are interested in helping out, talk to her.

C. Local Liaison

Kendra Thomas, Local Liaison, said she met with Mayor Kelli Linville yesterday. They discussed the future of rental registration, student housing and the local agenda that LAC will be setting in January and February. They will be presenting some items at a work session on the 17th. Mayor Linville will be presenting a proposal on rental registration. It is similar to what she originally proposed. She is pushing for mandatory inspections of all units. She's definitely in line with students' interests. She wants to start pushing for more student housing. The mayor suggested putting housing at where The Aloha is. They want to make Sammish more friendly by putting more people in there.

D. Western Votes!

Mayra Guizar, Western Votes! Rep, said Evelyn Kennedy, Vote Coordinator, and Patrick Eckroth, REP Director, have been working hard with Western Votes! on Get Out The Vote efforts. Last week was dorm storming. This past week to celebrate the hard work they did, Western Votes! had trivia night and Heffelmire won. That was fun. That's the work that they've been doing recently.

VI. Presentations

A. USSA Legislative Update from USSA Director

Kohout said this is an update from Justin Habler, USSA Legislative Director. She will give people a minute to look over it. Habler will be calling in next week to transition the committee from the

state agenda to the federal agenda. If members have any questions she can write them down and ask him. Neil Christenson said he's curious what independent advocate means in this case. Katie Savinski said it's probably someone specific they've brought in to deal with that situation. Thomas said this person probably doesn't have any interest in the school. Christenson said he's curious on whether or not it's a counselor or prosecutor. Thomas said on bill 2612, she doesn't know why that is there. Christenson said this is just the list of all higher education bills going through congress, not necessarily bills that USSA endorses. Kohout said she definitely will ask about the other issue. If people have questions over the next week they can ask USSA.

VII. Information Items

A. WSA Funding

Kohout said this was probably the cheapest meal they could get. She encourages everyone to attend this meeting. Christenson asked if she's sure that's enough coffee. Kohout said she can definitely up it. Thomas said three gallons is a lot of coffee. Most people don't need more than one for large events. Kohout said she doesn't want to see wasted coffee.

Heffelmire said she thinks two is fine. Christenson asked if the committee should just inform this. Kohout said she just wants to get the exact amount before they approve it. She can cancel if it isn't approved for next week.

Legislative Action Fund ALL Students Statement

Kohout said she has realized the fees are currently not being assessed correctly. She went to the registrar's office to talk about the different metrics of how these are charged. It's currently charged on students taking six credits on campus. Her argument in the statement is that all students are positively affected by the fee. Every student is affected regardless of their status, so it should be charged to all students. It's a really important statement to have. Then they will bring it to Eileen Coughlin, Senior Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services. It might be assessed until the end of the year.

VII. Action Items

A. Dedicated Revenue Proposal

Kohout said they're going to pass each item individually and then pass the entire agenda. Once it's passed through the board it will be an official document. Christenson said in previous years we had passed individual pieces and then what we knew it would look like because the design can have an impact on how it is presented. Kohout said she was personally going to design it off of last year's and the university's proposal. She doesn't see her creating it to the point where it has a negative impact. Savinski said they could just give a final approval without a vote. She asked if they aren't responsible for dictating the language. She figured the board would change the language. Kohout said she would prefer it be fixed in the meeting today. It doesn't have to be perfect, but it should be as final as possible. Savinski said she really likes the dedicated revenue proposed paragraph. Something that came to mind was that dedicated revenue is a solid ask, but something that happens year after year is that students are competing with others asking for money that they'll never win against. She would advocate for including the language of new revenue in the paragraph. Because students do lose out year after year. So include the language "new and dedicated revenue." So new revenue in addition to trying to take from the pot that we usually don't get money from. Thomas said she wants to change it to read "allocate revenue from the possible expiration of the B&O tax." Heffelmire said that's fine. Christenson moves to amend the title to read "New and Dedicated Revenue" and in the second sentence it will read "we set out to recommend politically feasible sources of revenue generated from closing existing tax loopholes creating new sources of tax revenue or increasing existing taxes and indicating that revenue to the funding of higher education." Finally including the language change of "possible expiration of the B&O tax." Savinski

seconds. Heffelmire said she likes the creating new revenue portion. Thinks adding it is fine, but legislators would rattle students about tax codes. Christenson said he would agree, but since its vague language about creating new taxes, not specific new tax language, that it is fine. Motion approved 8-0-3. Thomas moves to add a fifth bullet specifying that possible sources of new revenue could be from cannabis taxes. Guizar seconds. Christenson said teachers are leery of the idea just because of the image. They wouldn't like it to be associated closer with college. He is also is leery of the idea. There is an image issue. Kohout said it is also being associated with K-12. It's a revenue source. It's not necessarily a problem.

MOTION LAC-14-F-11 by Christenson

Amend the title to read "New and Dedicated Revenue" and in the second sentence it will read "we set out to recommend politically feasible sources of revenue generated from closing existing tax loopholes creating new sources of tax revenue or increasing existing taxes and indicating that revenue to the funding of higher education." Finally including the language change of "possible expiration of the B&O tax."

Second: Savinski Vote: 8-0-3 Action:Passed

MOTION LAC-14-F-12 by Thomas

Moves to add a fifth bullet specifying that possible sources of new revenue could be from cannabis taxes.

Second: Guizar Vote: 8-1-2 Action:Passed

MOTION LAC-14-F-13 by christenson

Moves to approve document 6 as amended.

Second: Thomas Vote: 10-0-1 Action:Passed

B. Support for Sexual Violence Survivors on Campus

Savinski said they decided to go with a support lens rather than a prevention lens. They thought that WWU specifically could deal with prevention issues until it becomes safer to have that conversation in the legislature. She has come up with a fourth bullet point that she would like to add. Christenson asked if under training for all faculty and staff, that includes student employees. Savinski said she chose to say "all faculty and staff who interact with students in a supervisory, administrative or academic capacity" because if it was all WWU employees that would be too broad. They're giving a specific direction for where the training should go to help create a more a more direct impact. Thomas asked what the framework for establishing effectiveness would be. Savinski said she's not sure. Its part of their duty already, they're just asking them to do their job. Rosenberg said she wondered if including examples she has would help. Christenson said they could leave it vague in the agenda and the make the point to train students lobbying on it. Thomas moves to add language to proposed paragraph, seconded by Christenson. Passes 10-0-1. Christenson move switch with to about and omit "we need to see." Guizar seconds. Savinski said if they omit "we need to see" they would need to change the structure of the verbs to match that. Christenson said they could change it to ASWWU supports. Thomas said or advocates for. Something that is more consistent with what students will be doing. Christenson amends the motion to change "we need to see" to "ASWWU advocates for," seconded. Christenson moves unanimous consent. No objections. Motion passes.

MOTION LAC-14-F-14 by Thomas

Moves to “Give direction to the Student Achievement Council with assessing the effectiveness of current codes of conduct at universities in WA state in regards to sexual harassment and sexual assault in concordance with RCW 28.BÍ. 10.030” to the proposed paragraph

Second: Christenson Vote: 10-0-1 Action: Passed

MOTION LAC-14-F-15 by Christenson

Moves to have the document read with instead of about, and change “we need to see” to “ASWWU advocates for.

Second: Guizar Vote: Unanimous Action: Passed
Consent

MOTION LAC-14-F-16 by Christenson

Moves to approve document 8 as amended.

Second: Thomas Vote: 10-0-1 Action: Passed

C. Voter Access Legislative Agenda Proposal

Kohout moves to amend the paragraph to include ASWWU to being in line with other language, change “making registering to vote more accessible will increase...” and say “participating in elections” at the end of the paragraph. Mayther seconds. Christenson moves unanimous consent. No objections. Rosenberg said before the bullet point she would like to include ASWWU advocates for. Christenson said looking at document six it goes straight into the bullet points. That could be something that’s changed once they’re actually looking at the design. Heffelmire asked if they want to add something about gaining the support of the SOS and auditor. Christenson said he doesn’t support this. That could be included in the lobby training instead of taking up paper space. Kohout said she doesn’t want to leave that up to the students. They’ve done that already and that leaves too much responsibility to them. Heffelmire said they also won’t be having meetings with every legislator. They will be just dropping this agenda off. Heffelmire moves to amend the paragraph to add “recently these policies have gained widespread support by county auditors and election officials.” Guizar seconds. Christenson asked where that is added to. Heffelmire said after young people participating in elections. No objections, motion passes. Thomas, moves to amend the paragraph to remove the phrase update to their new address. Christenson seconds and moves unanimous consent. No objections. Motion passes.

MO TION LA C-14-F-17 by Kohout

Amend the paragraph to include ASWWU to being in line with other language, change “making registering to vote more accessible will increase...” and say “participating in elections” at the end of the paragraph.

Second: Mayther Vote: Unanimous Action: Passed
Consent

MO TION LA C-14-F-18 by Heffelmire

Amend the paragraph to add “recently these policies have gained widespread support by county auditors and election officials.”

Second: Guizar Vote: Unanimous Action: Passed
Consent

MO TION LA C-14-F-19 by Thomas

Amend the paragraph to remove the phrase update to their new address.

Second: Christenson Vote: Unanimous Action: Passed
Consent

MO TION LA C-14-F-20 by Guizar

Moves to approve document 10 with the amendments.

Second: Christenson Vote: 10-0-1 Action: Passed

D. Carver Academic Facility Legislative Agenda Proposal

Kohout said members can take a five minute recess. *Thomas leaves.* Kohout said she would like to add the cost of 73 million. Christenson would like to see that. Kohout moves to say the state has already invested 7.3 million in design and ASWWU is asking for 73 million more is required for the project. Savinski seconds. No objections, motion approved.

MO TION LA C-M-F -21 by Kohout

Amend the paragraph to say the state has already invested 7.3 million in design and ASWWU is asking for 73 million more is required for the project.

Second: Savinski Vote: Unanimous Action: Passed
Consent

MO TION LA C-14-F-22 by Mathyer

Moves to approve document 13 as amended.

Second: Guizar Vote: 9-0-1 Action: Passed

E. Student Success Proposal

Christenson asked if they need the bullet point on sexual violence. Savinski said they brought this up last meeting and decided to keep it because the specific support item is broader and different. Heffelmire said she doesn't think you can talk about student success without talking about the issue. She's wondering if on the last bullet point they can include that ASWWU and WWU admin stand together on this and take the last bullet point away. Goldblatt said she agrees. They should have the last part of the last bullet point though. Goldblatt moves to change it so that the last sentence point reads "ASWWU and WWU admin stand together in supporting." Savinski seconds. Christenson said he feels like that statement should be reserved for policy. Heffelmire said maybe they can move that last bullet point to the paragraph. Goldblatt agrees with Christenson. Christenson proposes that the committee talk about this informally without restrictions. Christenson moves privilege motion to recess for six minutes, Mayther seconds. No objections. Committee reconvenes at 7:57. Goldblatt withdraws her motion.

MO TION LA C-14-F -23 by Goldblatt

Moves privilege motion to recess for six minutes.

Second: Mayther Vote: Unanimous Action: Passed

MO TION LA C-14-F -24 by Goldblatt

Move to approve student success proposal written.

Second: Christenson Vote: 9-0-1 Action: Passed

MO TION LA C-14-F-25 by

Moves to approve 2015 legislative agenda including

Second: Savinski Vote: 9-0-1 Action: Passed

VIII. Other Business

IX. Next Meeting Date
November 13, 2014

X. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:01