

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Thursday, November 13, 2014 VU 567**

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

Absent: Mayra Guizar (Western Votes! Rep), Katie Savinski, Elizabeth Pebley

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Student Activities

Secretary: Lily Jaquith, Board Assistant for Representation Committees

Guest:

MOTIONS

LAC-14-F-26 Approve the minutes from November 6, 2014.

LAC-14-F-27 Moves to approve doc 5 as amended for typos.

LAC-14-F-28 Moves to approve the WSA December Meeting Food Funding Request.

Sarah Kohout, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION LAC-14-F-26 by Christenson

Approve the minutes from November 6, 2014

Second: Mayther Vote: Unanimous Action: Passed

IV. Public Forum

V. REPORTS

A. VP for Governmental Affairs

Sarah said one of the reasons that she has to call on people before they can speak is for the minutes. It's a formal committee and it's important for Lily Jaquith, Board Assistant for Representation Committees, to know who is being called on. She also asks that members don't spend the entire meeting on their phones. She just wants to make sure everyone knows that. She presented the legislative agenda to the board of directors last night. They have some substantial changes they want to make, however it will not come back to the committee. A concern did come up about the agenda being pretty progressive. So they're looking at how to frame it so it will be receptive to those from the right side of the aisle as well. She doesn't know if that's a concern the entire committee has. The agenda should be passed next week. The hotel is set for Viking Lobby Day, she working on the bel-air busses to take everyone down to Olympia. She met with the Student Business Office today. It was discovered that the two problems brought up, financial aid not paying for the fee and the fee only being charged to students taking 6 credits and above on campus, are both are happening. They will work to get

it assessed correctly and work with the financial aid office to get financial aid to pay for it. Neil Christenson asked where they are staying for VLD. Kohout said the Governor's Hotel.

B. Legislative Liaison

Heather Heffelmire, Legislative Liaison, said that lobbying can be really intimidating so she's having the event Western Takes Olympia next week. It's information on lobbying for all. There's lots of good training for VLD and being involved in general. She's partnering with the Political Science Association. She's hoping to have a great crowd there.

C. Local Liaison

Kendra Thomas, Local Liaison, said nothing big has happened. The work session for rental registration is next Monday. She will leave a written report for next week's meeting, as she will not be here.

D. Western Votes!

Kohout said Western Votes did not meet this week. General Assembly will be next week.

VI. Presentations

A. Justin Habler, USSA Legislative Director, Call In

Justin Habler, USSA Legislative Director called into the LAC meeting to update the committee about what is happening in Washington DC and on the USSA Legislative Update. He touched on how congress will change after the November mid-term elections.

B. USSA Legislative Update

C. USSA Plenary Minutes

Kohout said these are the minutes from USSA congress. If people have questions about the language on their Action Agenda items, those are in here. This gives background information. It's part of the conference policy that LAC see these minutes. This a frame of reference and something from the people they pay money to, to get something back.

D. Conference Policy

Kohout said something that's fast approaching is USSA's Legislative Conference. This committee approves the funding request for the conference and the attendees. They're going to send about five people to leg con. Thomas asked when this is. Kohout said March 27-30. They will be seeing this during finals week. They can figure out when they want that meeting to be. Early registration ends January 5 so that's the only time they can approve people to go. Plane prices will also go up.

E. Conference Attendance Questions

Christenson asked how long the conference application has been around. Kohout said last year. Christenson said he's concerned that they haven't asked them about their experience in the area. Cody Simrell said that's accomplished in the last question. Thomas said she thinks unique experiences encompasses that. Kohout said there is room for them to expand on that. It's up to the applicant to do that. Christenson said he's simply asking for their experience on whatever sort of conference it is. He has great reservations over prioritizing identity over experience. Heffelmire said the problem was that the lack of experience was a hindrance to people that might want to attend conferences. They want people trying to get involved to have that opportunity. Kohout said she's anticipating a lot of people applying. How do people feel about making it anonymous? Belina Seare asked if it was anonymous last year. Kohout said no. Seare asked how that weighed into decisions. Kohout said it's hard to say. The reasoning is so that they don't judge based on their outside knowledge. Thomas said assuming that most AS employees would somehow indicated that as is part of their experience, it might make it relevant to make all AS applicants be anonymous and the other students not necessarily. Christenson said he understands the logic of that thinking but there are some positions that

they should automatically approve to go by the nature of the office they hold. There might be something worked into the anonymity of that. Heffelmire said they need to make all or none anonymous. One policy for all applicants. Thomas said she agrees they should go one way or the other. There might be a reason why it was determined that they wanted to see the names. Sam Goldblatt said when she thinks about this she thinks about AS hiring. They don't block out names and they do know who people are. As long as there a stringent guidelines and that they're choosing qualifications over people. It's also about being upfront about who they know. That would be helpful. Taking a back seat if they know someone. Heffelmire said being a part of it last year she saw no glaring issues with it not being anonymous. One issue is that if she applied, she would be unable to step out during her application review. Kohout said that is a good point. She agrees with that. She think then they should look at names. She thinks they need to keep in mind that no one should be guaranteed to go. Especially since there are so few spots, no one should be given the automatic go head. That can be limiting. Goldblatt said that goes back to what she said. If there's something about an applicant, they need to be going based off of the guidelines. Having positions considered over others isn't in the guidelines. Chrsitenson asked if this is executive session. Kohout said yes there are no recorded minutes. It is extremely confidential. She doesn't want to hear about anything leaving the room. Seare asked how they publicizing it. Kohout said she's talking to the Political Science Association and other AS groups. There will be an email sent to the political science majors. Committee members should try to get the word out as much as possible. Goldblatt said she applied for a conference last year feels like the question about what you hope to participate in is a little inaccessible. Some more introduction included with the application would help clear that up for applicants. Thomas asked if they could we publicize it to other majors to. Kohout she she agrees, she is just in the political science department. They only have limited emails to all students. Members are welcome to reach out to their major department.

VII. Information Items

VII. Action Items

A. ALL Students Statement

Kohout said the only changes she will make will be reflective of her meeting with the Student Business Office.

MOTION LAC-14-F-27 by Christenson

Moves to approve doc 5 as amended for typos.

Second: Mayther Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

B. WSA December Meeting Lood Lunding Request

Kohout said she didn't make any changes.

MOTION LAC-14-F-28 by Christenson

Moves to approve the WSA December Meeting Lood Lunding Request.

Second: Heffelmire Vote: 9-0-0 Action:

VIII. Other Business

Kohout said VLD registration opens Monday and will be open for a couple weeks. She will need help tabling.

IX. Next Meeting Date

November 20, 2014

X. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:10