

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council
Monday, December 8, VU 567**

Present: Sarah Kohout (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Heather Heffelmire (Legislative Liaison), Kendra Thomas (Local Liaison), Katie Savinski, Neil Christenson, Cody Simrell, Elizabeth Pebley, Belina Seare, Sam Goldblatt

Absent: James Mayther, Nora Selander

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Student Activities

Secretary: Lily Jaquith, Board Assistant for Representation Committees

Guest:

MOTIONS

LAC-14-F-32 Move to make the USSA Funding Request info-action.

LAC-14-F-33 Move to approve minutes from November 20, 2014.

LAC-14-F-34 Move to approve the LegCon funding request.

LAC-14-F-35 Moves that the five applicants chosen by the LAC to be funded by the LACF must not have been chosen by another funding source, i.e. the ESC steering committee or AS staff development.

Sarah Kohout, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

Kendra Thomas, Local Liaison, moves to make the USSA Funding Request an info-action item. Belina Seare seconds.

MO TION LA C-14-F -32 by Thomas

Move to make the USSA Funding Request info-action.

Second: Seare Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Thomas moves to approve. Goldblatt seconds.

MO TION LA C-M-F -33 by Thomas

Approve the minutes from November 20, 2014

Second: Goldblatt Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed

IV. Public Forum

V. REPORTS

VI. Information Items

A. USSA LegCon Funding Request

Kohout said that Seare has worked really hard to secure funding from the Ethnic Student Center Steering and AS Staff Development. There will be three ESC students and three staff

members attending. Thomas wonders if there's a way to put it in the discretionary fund, or is it not in there because the number changes from year to year. Kohout said if folks are interested they can look at it. It does change year to year, but not as much as congress does.

VII. Action Items

A. USSA LegCon Funding Request

Thomas moves to approve. Savinski seconds. Lisa Rosenberg asked if the lodging number needed to be revised. Kohout said they are looking at more funding to get one more student to go. Something similar happened last year, but the rooms will still be the same price.

MO TION LA C-14-F -34 by Thomas

Move to approve the LegCon funding request.

Second: Savinski

Vote: 9-0-0

Action: Passed

B. Leg Con Applications

Kohout said this is all extremely confidential information. What is discussed into executive session shouldn't leave the room. They'll have five minutes to read through each form. There are 16 applicants to look at today. Members should try as hard as they can to just base applicants off their applications and not off of outside bias. Sam Goldblatt asked if LAC is just choosing people going from their fund. Kohout said yes. Savinski asked if they should be picking the three best applicant even though they know they could go through the ESC or staff development. Kohout said yes, they'll keep the ranked lists. Lily Jaquith, AS Board Assistant for Representation Committees, and Kohout will add up the rankings. So the person with the least amount will be first, then second, etc. They won't announce who's going at this meeting because Kohout doesn't want people to know which fund they were selected from. People do need to stay after they've ranked in case of a tie. Heather Heffelmire, Legislative Liaison, asked when people would find out if they were selected. Kohout said by the end of the week. She isn't sure when the other groups are selecting. She wants people to know by the beginning of the year. Thomas asked if they can review what qualifications should be prioritize. Kohout said yes. The committee reviews the conference preferences. Kohout said there's nothing super specific. Also, folks that are asking to be consider will be asked to leave the room when they're application is being looked. For folks that did apply, they are welcome to vote for themselves. Thomas asked about the quorum providing justification for their selection. Kohout said the justification is in the group. The committee moves into executive session. Kohout said they have the applicants selected. Heffelmire asked if they applied for the conference could they ask Kohout if they were selected. Kohout said that would have to be a decision of the committee. She doesn't feel comfortable saying yes or no. She would love to tell the folks that go accepted, but she also doesn't want the folks who didn't to find out or to find out they were selected second. Guizar said if they were to directly ask her, they wouldn't go around talking about it and they wouldn't know who else was going. If she didn't get funded through this but that would give her a chance to refine her application to make it better or go about fundraising. Christenson asked if they way selections are going to happen is that the ESC would pick their three, AS will pick their three and those people will be selected and then the next five up from the LAC list would go. Kohout said yes. Christenson said on the matter of confidentiality, they are not in executive session, since it was done in executive session then there's already the assumption of confidentiality. So either Kohout trusts them to keep what was already said confidential or not. He doesn't see a confidentiality reason for why Kohout would not reveal the list. Especially since they're doing a final approval vote. He's not comfortable with it being a blind vote. Kohout said last year everyone knew within an hour who had been selected. Just after witnessing that and knowing the confidentiality of that, she's not comfortable with the

idea of letting everyone know now. But it would be a committee vote to decide what happens. Thomas said the thing about telling people if they got selected by this committee is that they could apply to other committees. She thinks it makes sense for people to be able to do that. But if they choose to do that they would need to notify everybody at the same time and let them know that can apply to other committees. Kohout said they are automatically applied to those committees, there's no reapplying. Thomas said she's confused about the whole process. Kohout said they fill out an OrgSync application, it can't be edited. Seare said Guizar or someone else could reapply if they didn't get it. Guizar said some people might not have applied for certain funds. Kohout said it's the same form though. Goldblatt said that the ESC and AS employee applications are due until Wednesday, would you be able to re-do the application, checking the other boxes? Savinski said she's concerned that students might be in the position where they didn't check all the boxes they applied to or if there as someone who was really stellar and just a student at large and they don't get through. She's worried because she hasn't seen, but she's also would be worried to see who was selected because they might not necessarily be the five that end up being chosen from LAC. Kohout said the vote is subject to change. In they sort of scenario they would pick the 6th, 7th, etc. person. The vote isn't final. Kohout has the information and says that they did select a really amazing group of people to go and they did receive a lot of amazing applications. Goldblatt said it's probably really important for the people that are choosing from the ESC and AS employee delegates not to know who LAC has chosen. Kohout said that's not going to be possible. Goldblatt said just as far as it's able to be possible. Kohout said they aren't big groups. For the ESC it's somebody from the ESC and an advisor and for the AS employees it's an employee and an advisor. Christenson said the point is that whoever picks for the ESC picks their top three people, whoever picks for the AS picks their top three people. Then from their list the next five people are chosen. Their list is the last resort. Seare said it puts precedence on their list. Savinski said so that's why they shouldn't know. Thomas said the main thing is that if there is anyone chosen by multiple committees, they are then given funding by the AS or ESC because that's a narrower pool and LAC has a wider scope. That's the main concern. Kohout said that's why they rank them 1-16 so if student are selected from the other pools there are other student that fill those spots. Christenson said so the way it works is that, ESC picks person A, B and C, then the AS picks person D, E, and F, then the next five people from the LAC list are chosen. Heffelmire said so if she was chosen as 4th then LAC and the 1st by the ESC, the question is which fund would she be removed from the running in. Kohout said removed from being chosen by the ESC. Christenson asked if it would be possible to change that since the ESC and AS selection is narrower and the LAC is selecting students-at-large. Kohout said if that's what the committee wants. Christenson moves that the ESC and the AS staff development committee choose to fund students before the LAC funds students. Thomas said she would like to amend it to include whether they are chosen by the LAC or not, then have a second motion that the five from LAC would be chosen... Heffelmire said if this was want the committee wanted, the committee should've met after the ESC and AS. That's something to keep in mind the next time this happens. They're already meeting today, this is a great way to get things straightened out. Let's keep that in mind and go from there. Seare said the only thing they can control right now is how the LAC decides how people get to go. If they have ranked their 16 and without any other money, those five would go. Then what Heffelmire suggested about that 4th person, if they make it through the ESC level then they get bumped up and if they don't, they stay. They're still not sure who will go and they can take that into account. Kohout said she scheduled this meeting long before they knew what would happen. Thomas said she thinks it's valid that they can't control how the other committees make their decisions. However it is valid to talk about the issue of who gets chosen from which fund. Seare said it's still being deliberated at this point. Kohout said they just found out Thursday how many people would be

going. Seare said so if LAC decides how they're going to choose, then they can inform them of that. Christenson withdraws his motion. Thomas moves that the five applicants chosen by the LAC to be funded by the LACF must not have been chosen by another funding source, i.e. the ESC steering committee or AS staff development. Christenson seconds.

MO TION LA C-14-F-35 by Thomas

Moves that the five applicants chosen by the LAC to be funded by the LACF must not have been chosen by another funding source, i.e. the ESC steering committee or AS staff development.

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

VIII. Other Business

IX. Next Meeting Date

X. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:30p.m.