

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Legislative Affairs Council  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015, VU 567**

**Present:** Sarah Kohout (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Heather Heffelmire (Legislative Liaison), Kendra Thomas (Local Liaison), Mayra Guizar (Western Votes! Rep), Cody Simrell, Belina Seare, Nora Selander, Haley Newhouse

**Absent:** Sam Goldblatt, Adam Schaefer

**Advisor:** Lisa Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Student Activities

**Secretary:** Lily Jaquith, Board Assistant for Representation Committees

**Guest:** Luciane DeAlmeida, McKenzie Dent

## **MOTIONS**

**LAC-15-W-12** Approve the minutes from January 21 and 28

**LAC-15-W-**

**LAC-15-W-**

**LAC-15-W-**

**Sarah Kohout, Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm**

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

## **II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**

## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTION LAC- 15-W- by Thomas*

Approve the minutes from January 21 and 28

Second: Kohout                      Vote: 8-0-0                      Action:

## **IV. Public Forum**

## **V. REPORTS**

### **A. VP for Governmental Affairs**

Kohout said she's been working on the two lobby days that happened on Monday. She was in Olympia on Monday to be there with the lobby groups. It was really cool. She met with Senator Pam Roach about motor voter. She'd already given it a second hearing. They delivered some valentine's they made at Western Votes! She's working with Mayra Guizar, Western Votes! rep, for USSA LegCon and working with Annika Wolters, AS President, and Zach Dugovich, AS VP for Student Life, to plan the federal lobby trip. She's working on carver lobby day. They're going to have PEHR students go down in March to lobby on carver academic facility. There was a WSA meeting. The budget proposal approved by the Board of Directors was to have a 15,000 cap, which affects Washington State University Pullman and

University of Washington Seattle. It's optional though, so WSU-P doesn't have to participate. UW-S is going to run an opt-in system referendum. They also allowed them to keep different votes for ASUW and the Graduate and Professional Student Senate. They're also looking at some new WSU campuses. They will have to make some cuts. It was a quick meeting. They gave legislative of the year awards to Senator Barbara Bailey and Representative Gerry Pollet on Monday.

#### **B. Legislative Liaison**

Heather Heffelmire, Legislative Liaison, said things have been moving really quickly. There's been a lot of testimony and bills. On voter access, they're at the point where they've given as much testimony as they can. Tomorrow she has a meeting with Sen. Roach's Legislative Assistant. They're going to try and figure out where she is on those bill. That's where the student body comes in to have students take action on these and reach out to her for support these bills. It would be really great if she heard from the people that drafted the agenda and to motivate her to get them to executive session. Sen. Roach is not the biggest fan but if she hears from students across the state that might change her mind and motivate her. Kohout asked if they need to do that by Friday. Heffelmire said she's not sure, she's unsure of the cutoff. On the new and dedicated revenue team, they're putting together a one pager for that team. There's not a lot of budget talk right now. They want to put a student story on the one pager to emphasize why they need new and dedicated revenue. So if anyone wants to share their story and be on that one pager, let her know. She testified on the advising bill. Western has the short end of the stick of the advising. Students could essentially graduate without advising. They're hoping to see that moved. Western really needs to get it together. Today she testified on the house higher education committee on HB 2024. It mandates that campuses use leftover housing for homeless students. Western does already do that but they keep it on the down low because of the legality. These resources should be out there. She's not sure of any other bills that would be coming up. Hopefully they'll have a proposal about joining the revenue coalition. Belina Seare asked when do she wants the one pager done by. Heffelmire said if she could get the blurb about the student, all she needs is the story. Heffelmire asked if anyone from LAC has an issue they're getting more information on or anything they want to know more about. Schaefer asked about the WSA bill tracker. Heffelmire said she can share people on it. The intern in the Representation and Engagement Programs office will make an ASWWU specific bill tracker too. Kendra Thomas, Local Liaison, said that Sarah Wilson, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services, said that she gets some bill tracker from the university. That resource might already exist. Heffelmire said she is shared on that, but it differs from the associated students.

#### **C. Local Liaison**

Thomas said she met with Wilson to talk about the local agenda and get the feel for that. There's still a lot to do before that can be implemented because the inspection portion of rentals won't be implemented until 2016. She met with Carmen Rasmussen, Campus Community Coalition Coordinator, it looks like there will be an education component. Rasmussen is coming to campus on March 4. She wants to see how it goes, so she would appreciate if everyone would make sure to come on that day.

#### **D. Western Votes!**

Guizar said at Western Votes! it was the only time for Kohout and her to do LegCon planning. But from what she's heard they'll be doing a day of action on Wednesday, February 25. It'll be in VU 462A, they'll be calling legislators. They'll be giving a training session beforehand.

## **VI. Presentation Items**

### **A. WSA Bill Presentations**

Kohout gave a presentation on bills WSA looked at.

B. Break Off Into Federal Agenda Groups and Work on the Agenda

Kohout said next Tuesday is when she's looking to have the federal agenda items as an information item. She wants the council meet and get together with their groups to schedule a meeting. They have the point person. It just has to be a meeting with their groups. The agenda will be an information item next week, so it can be a rough draft.

**VI. Information Items**

A.

**VII. Action Items**

**VIII. Consent Items**

**VIII. Other Business**

**IX. Next Meeting Date**

February 25, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

**X. Adjourn**

*The Meeting was adjourned at 6:07*