

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Legislative Affairs Council  
Thursday, April 16, VU 567**

**Present:** Heather Heffelmire (Legislative Liaison), Kendra Thomas (Local Liaison), Mayra Guizar (Western Votes! Rep), Cody Simrell, Sam Goldblatt, Nora Selander, Haley Newhouse, Luciane DeAlmeida, , McKenzie Dent

**Absent:** Sarah Kohout (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Belina Seare, Adam Schaefer

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

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

**Guest:**

## **MOTIONS**

**LAC-15-S-2** Approve the minutes from March 11 and April 9.

**LAC-15-S-3** Approve the NTE \$200 for another vehicle to WSA May GA.

**LAC-15-S-4** Support HB 2224

**Sam Goldblatt, Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs Council, called the meeting to order at 5:07pm**

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTION LAC-15-S-2 by Selander*

Approve the minutes from March 11 and April 9.

Second: DeAlmeida Vote: Unanimous Action: Passed

## **IV. Public Forum**

## **V. REPORTS**

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

Sarah Kohout was not present at the meeting.

### **B. Legislative Liaison**

Heather Heffelmire, Legislative Liaison, was not present at this point in the meeting.

### **C. Local Liaison**

Kendra Thomas, Local Liaison, said she's been doing a lot in the past few weeks. She's been meeting with people in city hall about rolling out information to students for registration program. She's starting to meeting with people at the university about posting those. It's still not final. She's meeting with university administration just to talk about getting that information out to students. When they move in in the fall is when the program will be implemented. So right now there's no way to tell students not to sign leases unless they have a certificate posted. But when they arrive in the fall landlords need to have those statements posted. They're just trying to make sure students know that when they show up. There was

the Mayors Neighborhood Advisory Committee last night. They brought a big presentation about water. They're doing something really cool. Storm water usually goes directly into water sources and they're starting to do treatment plants. Other than that she's been working on the debates for the AS elections. They'll be next week, hopefully it goes smoothly.

**D. Western Votes!**

Mayra Guizar, Western Votes! Rep, said she's really been focused on elections, this is the bulk of her job in the AS. For Western Votes!, they have a tabling photo campaign day of action. They were going to do cardboard replica of Carver Academic Facility talking about stability, but they didn't want to give off the message of being not supportive because the senate did support the bulk of Carver, but Western Votes! wanted them to know it still needs more funding. She hasn't had time to table. Luciane DeAlmeida said they were out until 4 p.m., some folks came up and they took photos of them with a white board sign with a short message and #savecarver. She's going to go through all the photos on the camera on Friday and post them on the Western Votes! twitter. McKenzie Dent said they had a bout 35-40 people take photos today.

**VI. Discussion Items**

**A. Congress Application Evaluations**

Goldblatt said she wants to look at the conference attendance documents to see if they can make them more accessible and make the choosing process more streamlined. Document 1 and 2 are the current applications and LAC guidelines for conference attendance. She wants to take down any edits the committee has for that. She'll give the committee four minutes for that. Does anyone have any edits or additions? Guizar said under #5, it says "delegations should be representative of WWU student population." She's not sure what it means because it's followed by "and seek to promote inclusivity and diversity." Is that to represent Western or to represent the student population Western or representing the currently population here. Goldblatt said yeah, it's vague and hard to tell what it means. Guizar said the majority of this campus is white, so it sounds like delegations would have one person of color with eleven other white folks. Lisa Rosenberg, Assistant Director for Student Activities, asked if she had ideas for other wording. Thomas said maybe if it said "by seeking to promote inclusivity and diversity." She feels like that's something they really promote in AS hiring. That's something that they could say they mean by representative. Guizar said she wonders if they could include something with the diversity question in AS hiring, they could take that question and rephrase it for this. She feels like what it's really trying to get at is representing Western with inclusivity and diversity. Rosenberg said it seems that there should still be some criteria in here that's able to articulate how they will further inclusivity. Haley Newhouse asked if they could just change one or two words. Goldblatt said she interested it reworking that question in AS hiring. Rosenberg said it would have to be both a question and criteria. Guizar said the question in hiring is "The AS has a strong commitment to diversity, inclusion, positive affirmation, and being accessible to all Western students. How has your experience and background prepared you to be effective at working in this environment, and how would you apply it to your work in this position?" Goldblatt said that would get at what the council expects of conference attendees without trying to define the student population. Thomas said she would change on #7 from "strongly encourage to abstain" to "shall abstain." DeAlmeida said the provision could be "shows commitment to promoting diversity and demonstrates they will bring that back from the conference." Goldblatt said she thinks that's a really good comment. DeAlmeida said "they should demonstrate or be dedicated to furthering inclusivity on campus with what they learn at the conference." Guizar said "delegations to conferences should be dedicated to furthering the AS's commitment to diversity, inclusivity and positive

affirmation.” Goldblatt said she underlined #8, which states that priority will be given to students that have not previously attended the conference to ensure that student money is being spent equitably. That was something that was definitely thought about with every applicant, but it was harder for newer applicants to get funding. Thomas said she underlined that too, because it’s vague. She thinks the way to fix it is, to choose two or three preferred qualifications that can be weighted. So choosing one qualification to be the most weighted. Then weighing all the preferred qualifications and ones that are more important weight them more. Rosenberg said it was important in the decision making to have one or two people who had gone to be effective leaders. So maybe there should be language prioritizing those who haven’t gone, but have returners in leadership roles. If all people have never been then it would have been intimidating. Goldblatt said it’s so difficult because if they put a cap on it, that would put a cap on how many returns versus new people, but when you rank them, you can’t put one person as the leader. It would be hard to decide how many leaders there would be. Rosenberg said part of the criteria could put value on a returner Goldblatt said a lot of those coming back are AS employees, so maybe the best place for them to get funding is the AS training fund. She wonders whether that could be made a more institutional thing. Obviously that won’t always work, but she’s thinking about alternate funds. Thomas said she’s not sure if this is the same intent as #8, but could they say something about priority being given to students who don’t have other funding opportunities through the AS. *Heffelmire enters*. Goldblat said that’s a great way to word it. There’s still the same sentiment behind that, but it’s more practical. Thomas said she can’t decide about saying access to funding, because people could have access to funding but they might not get it. Goldblatt said it would be key to have people seeking other funding earlier so they know they’re definitely seeking LAC funding. Rosenberg said it feels like a mixture of process and criteria. Goldblatt said this needs to be edited and revamped quite a bit to be effective. She asked the committee to think about ways to improve this over the next week. Rosenberg said maybe a small group could meet to work on it. Thomas, DeAlmeida, Rosenberg, Guizar and Heffelmire all agree to work on the documents. Heffelmire said it was one person that put this document together. Everyone just agreed on it.

## **VII. Action Items**

### **A. Funding Request for WSA General Assembly**

Lily Jaquith, Washington Student Association VP of Communication, said they’re asking for the funding for one other car to go to CWU on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for the WSA General Assembly. It’s really important to have the extra car because the first is essentially filled up with people who have to be there. They need a second so that people have the opportunity to experience a WSA and it’s a great leadership development opportunity.

*MOTION LAC-15-S-3 by Guizar*

Approve the NTE \$200 for another vehicle to WSA May GA.

Second: Selander                      Vote: 8-0-1                      Action: Passed

### **B. Support for HB 2224**

Heffelmire said she really thinks they should endorse this. It’s new revenue that could go to higher education and social programs in the state. Thomas asked what the name of the bill is. Heffelmire said it’s a capitol gains tax, she’s not sure if it has a specific name. Thomas asked if that’s the new source of revenue then. Heffelmire said yes.

*MO TION LA C-15-S-4      by Heffelmire*

Support HB 2224.

Second: DeAlmeida Vote: 9-0-0

Action: Passed

### **VIII. Other Business**

Heffelmire said every Thursday all the higher education stakeholders on campus have a meeting. They all talk about what's going on. They're still in the process of deciding the budget. That's kind of stopped on negotiations. The senate refuses to negotiate until the house passes their budget off the floor, they haven't done that yet. The session is supposed to end at the end of this month, she's sure it will extend into a special session. It seems like everyone in the university prefers the house budget. They're trying to figure out what would happen if they passed budget that's really good to higher education but bad for everyone else. Just something to think about there.

### **IX. Next Meeting Date**

**April 23, 2015**

### **X. Adjourn**

*The Meeting was adjourned at 5:52*