



Western Washington University Associated Students

**Legislative Affairs Council**

October 27, 2016 6:00 PM VU567

**Members:** *Present: Bryce Hammer (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Nora Selander (AS Legislative Liaison), Rosa Rice-Pelepko (AS REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator), Leanna Sauerlender (Student at Large), Sarah Gallagher (Student at Large), and Lisa Rosenburg.*

*Absent: Katherine VenDeWalker (Student at Large) and Galen Herz (AS Local Issues Coordinator).*

**Advisor:**

**Secretary:** Cora Cole

**Guests:**

**Motions:**

**LAC-16-2** Approved minutes from October 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. *Passed*

**LAC-16-3** Approved Funding Request of \$450. *Passed*

*Bryce Hammer called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM, October 27<sup>th</sup>.*

**I. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Bryce added a last minute funding request to Information Items, with the hope that it could move to an Action Item and get voted on during this meeting.

**II. Minutes Approval**

*MOTION: LAC-16-1 by Selander*

Approval of the minutes from October 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Second: Sauerlender                      Vote: 5-0-0                      Action: Passes

**III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Bryce brought forward a funding request for 4 people's attendance to the Washington Student Achievement Council's Pave the Way Conference. The conference has panels and key note speakers, including Washington State Supreme Court Yu and Governor Inslee. Stephanie Cheng and Bryce Hammer will go on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, and Nora Selander and Abby Ramos are going for Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The attendees need money for transportation down and some money for food. The cost will be no more than \$450, but hopefully closer to \$350. These funds come out of the Tegislative Action Fund which comes from a \$1 /quarter student payment. The fund is pretty extensive right now because one of the conferences they budget for didn't happen last

year. There will be a full budget request for all the other conference trips that Bryce will bring forward next week.

***MOTION: LAC-16-3 By Sauerlender***

Move the funding request to an action item.

Second: Rice-Pelepko Vote: 5-0-0 Action: Passes

**IV. ACTION ITEMS**

***MOTION: LAC-16-4 By Sauerlender***

Approve funding request of no more than \$450 for the Washington Student Achievement Council, Pave the Way Conference.

Second: Gallagher Vote: 5-0-0 Action: Passes

**V. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Dedicated Revenue** Nora began explaining the first drafted proposal, the numbers are still rough, but this is the revenue part of the funding. When lawmakers ask where the money comes from it is more effective to tell them exactly where the money could come from. The text at the top of the proposal leads into the proposal, basically saying that state is funding education less now and they need to make it more accessible. The first option is taxing cannabis, the numbers on this are a bit outdated but it was calculated to be around \$304 million generated in the first five years and we are asking for at least part of that, the number on the document is \$3.3 million for student success but that could change. Second is lottery taxing; Washington does less tax on lottery winnings than most states. The third item is Extracted Fuel Exemption which is a leftover loophole from when we produced a lot of lumber, companies had ability to get cheaper fuel from plants. Currently oil companies profit off of the loophole, they have a lot of money and don't really need the tax exemption anymore. The Business & Occupation Tax might get taken off if Nora can't find more information on it. The Estate Tax Increase numbers are also potentially being edited, that point will get clarified before next meeting. The First Time Mortgage Lenders Tax Loophole was created for a specific Washington bank which no longer exists, so large corporate banks are the only ones who really benefit from it. The REET exemption doesn't tax the sale of foreclosed home, this item would close that loophole because it doesn't do much to help homeowners. It is much less partisan now then it was a few years ago. The Capital Gains Tax would tax gains of over \$25,000 a year, only taxing the amount over the \$25,000 mark. The issue is partisan but it would make an incredible amount of money without effecting most residents of Washington State. Nora will add an income tax to propose next week. She then gave the background of income tax in Washington, which can be found in the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minuets. We have a sales tax instead, which is regressive as all get out. The reason the Income Tax could work now is because McCleary decision could disrupt the cycle of proposed legislation and the WA State Supreme Court striking it down because of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. These items, excluding the Income Tax would bring in \$1 billion/year if they were all enacted. Lisa

asked about the proposed rate for the Estate Tax, Nora said she would look into it before the next meeting. Nora then asked if anyone had additional Taxation issues that they would like to include. Rosa asked that we look into Dairy farm exemptions and Cattle subsidies. Bryce said that could be a part of Environmental Lobby Day. She also clarified that not all of the funds that come from closing loopholes would go to higher education.

Given the shortage of time we decided to go over the agenda outline. Nora categorized the agenda items into themes: Tuition + Revenue, Support + Success, and Representation. Under Tuition + Revenue she put Tuition Policy and Dedicated Revenue. The Policy Item will be expanded on next week, but we want to challenge the proposed 2.1% tuition increase. The Student Need Grant is also here, as is the K-12 policy and S and A fee decoupling. We could potentially say that we don't want an increase in tuition until the Legislature funds higher education as much as they did before the recession, she will expand next week. Under Support + Success will be support for Survivors and Student Success programs. And under Representation will be Vote and Elementary Education in Civics and the Student Trustee issue. Bryce said she liked it and offered some formatting options for the Lobby Day pamphlet which would include a cover, figures, and a letter from the Board. Bryce added a side note that two weeks from today Joe Timmons, an administrative equivalent of an assistant to Nora, will be here to explain the admin side of things. There will also be an item for Woodring funding, in re-McCleary. The Committee then divided up the work load for helping to write items, Sarah is doing K-12, Leanna volunteered for Support for Survivors, and Rosa offered to work with Vote. Bryce asked if we could set up meetings with constituent groups to meet with the relevant Legislators on a specific issue. This would be a project for spring.

Nora said if anyone has issues that they want her to lobby for informally while she is in Olympia they should talk to her about it and then make one pager on the subject.

## **VI. REPORTS**

- A. Nora** reported that she has been researching the items. And working on Churros and Change, which is in ten minutes. Also talk to her about USSA agenda because she is working on that in the next couple weeks. Rosa set up a strategy meeting for the WS A conference next month on Monday from 4-5.
- B. Bryce** Reported that the WSA General Assembly is November 19<sup>th</sup>, the currently have 10 people going and could bring 4 more. Additionally, the WSA showed numbers for student registration. Central got 2,900 they beat our record for one day by going to the Central Fred Mayer night. The consensus was most schools don't want the tuition increase and that we need more dedicated revenue. WSA is getting a new logo and they are going to set up a state wide lobbying day, some weekend in the spring. Western Lobby Day board assistant has been hired; her name is Francesca. She will come to meet people soon but doesn't have office hours yet. Kalie Galloway, former VP for Governmental

Affairs, and her equivalent for Rick Larson will be here on November 16<sup>th</sup> and Bryce and Nora will meet with them then.

***Bryce Hammer adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.***