



Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council

Thursday December 1st, 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), Sofia Perry (Student at Large), Koyle Kendrick (Student at Large), Ana Ramirez (Student at Large), Peter Condyles (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-F-10 Approval of minutes from November 10th and 17th. *Passed*

LAC-16-F-11 Transfer of USSA fee from non-discretionary to discretionary. *Passed*

LAC-16-F-12 Continue payment of USSA fees. *Died*

Bryce Hammer called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

I. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The budget information was moved to the USSA Action Item.

Lisa Rosenberg entered at 6:06 PM

II. Minutes Approval

MOTION: LAC-16-F-10 by Selander

Approval of the minutes from November 10th and 17th.

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

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A.** Vice Chair Elections: Last time we discussed it, we nominated Sara and Sofia. So Bryce passed out paper, for voting members, for voting and they both gave speeches on what brought them to LAC and what their relevant experiences are, and why they want to be Vice Chair.

Sofia left the room at 6:12

Sara came to LAC from an education in Woodring, she has been active in the Student Washington Association. She is excited to get involved in Legislation

in Education and came here to get involved in the Higher Education Side of things, which is why she wants to be the vice chair.

Sofia reentered and Sarah left at 6:13

Sofia came into LAC because of experiences with lobbying in her home town around bans on Tabaco advertisement as well as being a member of an Underage Drinking Committee. She wanted to get more involved with representation in college, especially Asian-American and immigrant representation. She wants to be Vice-Chair because she would like to be able to represent Western here.

At 6:15 Sarah reentered and the votes were presented by Lisa.

Sofia won the positon.

Bryce explained what the Chair does.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **USSA Membership:** Bryce explained the history of the Western involvement with WSA (notes on this can be found in the minutes from November 17th and November 3rd). USSA offered some training in direct action organization and support for specifically of color. While WSA did not do those things in the past it is shifting this year to provide more advocacy for students of color on college campuses. Recently USSA has not been providing any staffing support to the west coast and the conferences that are normally really good networking opportunities for students of color have been replaced with video conferences. These things combined with the sudden up-tick in cost has led the council to question our membership. The reason this issue comes to this council is because we control the fee and currently spending on that is non-discretionary and to move it, or cancel our membership, we need a 2/3 majority. The money might go to bringing organizers to campus, or sending students to regional conferences, or increasing lobbying efforts. Sofia asked if one of the biggest draws was support for students of color and Bryce said that it had been, but they no longer offer that level of support. Ultimately the Board has the final say and both supporters of leaving and those who dissent are encouraged to attend and speak at that meeting. Nora added that if they get their stuff together we could attend spring conference without being due paying members. Bryce added that we have also talked to other schools in the west about working together for advocacy. Rosa asked how we would make the freed funds protected for students of color. Bryce said that this year we could do that through motions and next year we could put it in the Charge and Charter that some funds are protected for students of color. The thing we are voting on today is to move the funds from discretionary to non-discretionary and then voting on removing membership

MOTION: LAC-16-11 By Rice-Pelepko

Move USSA fees from non-discretionary to discretionary.

Second: Selander Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passes

MOTION: LAC-16-12 By Sauerlender

Move to continue paying USSA Fees.

Second: Perry Vote: 0-9-0 Action: Dies

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. **ESC Lobby Day:** Vicky said that every club that has responded is willing to bring at least two member-lobbyists and most are asking to bring more than two. Bryce explained that Vicky organizes clubs and events in the ESC. ESC Lobby Day is created for specific communities, students of color on campus, and the agenda is being crafted by Steering Committee and being supported by this council in terms of resources and funding. Rosa asked when the agenda needs to be finalized, Bryce said ESC and Environmental Lobby day are both on February 20th, and the agenda has to be reviewed by the Board and LAC so the agenda needs to be finished by the last week in January. The same is true of Environ and Local Agendas. Anna Kempner was supposed to be here but had to cancel. Vicky said that they have been working together closely and Anna's experience has been making that run smoothly. Bryce said that they need to pay for charter busses, food, and hotels which ought to be about \$7,000. The committee said they would be comfortable with fully funding that and we will see it as a formal item in winter quarter. Sofia asked about the multi-cultural package. Vicky explained that they are asking for the state to help fund the Multicultural Center so that it doesn't completely depend on the S and A fee, they think the lobbying will be effective with the state for the same reason it was eventually successful with the school. Admin is also asking for funds for this, including for an LGBT support advisor and a tribal liaison as well as fleshing out some more diverse curriculum. Vicky asked Bryce what professional development opportunity she could market to the clubs. Sofia said that you have the opportunity to get an understanding for the legislative environment and get the encouragement to get involved face to face. Bryce added that she had come away with the understanding that legislators don't know very much about the things that matter to students, so you get to articulate your point of view and persuade them to stick their career on it. Nora added that she has been here long enough to see things come about because of the student lobbying and that has given her confidence in making an impact. Sofia added that your first time lobbying is intimidating because of how fast-paced it is and that students shouldn't be intimidated because they are there to represent you.

VI. REPORTS

- A. **Nora** reported that she formatted the legislative agenda with Bryce. There is a text book summit in Tacoma on December 16th. It is the WSA meeting with college presidents and legislators to discuss textbook costs.

- B. Bryce** Reported the legislative agenda passed the Board last night. She showed the committee the Legislative Agenda Packet as it will be presented to legislators. WSA's December meeting will be via phone because of the unsafe conditions on the pass. She talked about some of the agenda items that got passed by the WSA at the General Assembly; college affordability, student bill of rights, child care on college campuses, support for survivors of sexual violence, VOTE, new and dedicated revenue, reducing recidivism, disability workshop group, and a Race and Equity framework item. Koyle asked what WSA is and Bryce explained that it is a legislative lobbying group made up of representatives from schools all around the state. Bryce also got the invoice for the USSA dues. Additionally, she has been scheduling meetings with legislators.
- C. Rosa** reported that she is planning events next quarter including an organizing event and possibly some prep for lobby days.

Bryce Hammer adjourned the meeting at 6:56 PM