



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), Galen Herz (AS Local Issues Coordinator), Leanna Sauerlender (Student at Large), Sarah Gallagher (Student at Large), Perry (Student at Large), Koyle Kendrick (Student at Large), Peter Condyles (Student at Large), and Lisa Rosenburg.*

Absent: Ana Ramirez (Student at Large)

Advisor:

Secretary: Cora Cole

Guests:

Motions:

LAC-16-W-1 Approved funding for ESC and Environmental Lobby Days. *Passed*

Bryce Hammer called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

I. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The meeting will adjourn early to support Blue Group petition at City Council. We went around the room to do introductions.

II. DISCUSSION ITEM

- a. **Academic Bill of rights:** introduced by a moderate republican who works as a professor at Central. Last year it was slightly less helpful and got tom apart in committee, this year it has more student based items, like protections for student employee whistleblowers. It prohibits schools from firing professors for not using trigger warnings and provides lawyers for student conduct hearings that could result in expulsion. This bill is largely reactionary to the conversation around the country about trigger warnings and academic responsibility.

Bryce explained that the council determines how Nora testifies on bills, for, against, or other. Leanna asked if there was any upcoming legislation on trigger warnings and Bryce and Nora said that there was unlikely to be any. Sofia added that she thought that the trigger warning policy might do more harm than the status quo. Nora explained section four, the Actionable Discriminatory Harassment and Protecting Free Speech, she said she was worried about the language and the ability to prove that harassment was “targeted repeated unwelcome conduct”. The committee then discussed the fifth section, dealing with whistleblowers, most companies have protections for

workers that report cooperate misconduct, which are mandated by the government. Student employees currently do not have such protections. The question was raised whether it would extend to just students employed by the school, students employed by contractors employed by the school, or by a student employed anywhere. Nora said she will get answers to that by next week. There isn't much rush on the issue because the bill hasn't been scheduled for hearing but it will be within the next couple weeks.

III. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **ESC Lobby Day and Environmental Lobby Day:** The committee ran through the proposal again briefly; transportation is \$1,800, Lodging would be \$3,00, Food would be around \$2,500, and Printing and Publicity would be about \$500. The full cost is not to exceed \$8,000. Bryce mentioned that she wasn't worried because, due to WSA, we have about \$40,000 left in the LAF.

MOTION: LAC-16-W-1 By Rice-Pelepko

Motion to approve funding for ESC and Environmental Lobby Days not to exceed \$8,000.

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

IV. REPORTS

- A. **Nora** reported that last week the decoupling S and A fee dropped and is getting scheduled for a hearing. She is also getting the System Advocate Clarification Legislation some supporters so that can drop soon. She met with Amanda Pay the Title IX coordinator for UW to explore what is going on with the Taskforce Report and she will have an email update in the next couple days and will talk with us about it again on Monday. Testifying on the Tenure Track Bill soon with the Western Faculty Representative as well as the 16 and 17-year old pre-registration. The Tenure Track will not go anywhere but the pre-registration might.
- B. **Bryce** Reported that the Board pulled us out of USSA formally and she will be writing an email to them tomorrow and will cc the committee members. Western Lobby Day went well and none of the legislators complained. She will be working on writing thank you notes this week. Bryce is also working with DVSAAS to organize a lobby day for the Support for Survivors item. WSA is this coming Friday and the February meeting is the same weekend as ESC and Environmental Lobby Day so she will probably take people down for the whole weekend. The Board passed a resolution on Friday creating an AS stance of sanctuary for undocumented students and urging the school admin to make a similar stance. Also, she's working with some grants to bring Angela Davis to campus this quarter or next quarter. Next week the committee will begin to work on the Federal Agenda, which is largely academic issues that we want them to vote less then writing bills. As well as creating a Funding Request Form for LAF so that it can be more accessible to students.

- C. **Rosa** reported that she's been working on the state need grant lobby day and has been working with Cora to organize a phone bank for calling representatives.
- D. **Galen** reported that there is a big City Council meeting tonight rallied by Blue Group. MNAC had a bunch of journalist students at the meeting this week which was great. And he's working on setting up Local Lobby Day.

Bryce Hammer adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM.