



Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council

Xx, xx, 2017 5:00 PM VU 460

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), Sarah Gallagher (Student at Large), Katherine VenDeWalker (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 Rosenberg.*

Absent: Leanna Sauerlender (Student at Large)

Advisor:

Secretary: Cora Cole

Guests: Giselle Alcántar Soto (Justice Speaks) and Students for Sustainable Food

Motions:

LAC-17-W-9 Funding \$12,000 to Justice Speaks Angela Davis event. *Passed*
LAC-17-W-10 Moved Board Assistant funding increase to an action item. *Passed*
LAC-17-W-11 Increased Funding for Board Assistant for Lobby Days, NTE \$500.
Passed
LAC-17-W-12 Approved the Local Legislative Agenda. *Passed*

Bryce Hammer called the meeting to order at 5:09 PM

I. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Because there was an unexpected guest to speak on the Angela Davis Funding Request it was moved to a guest item.

II. Guests items

- a. **LAF Beef Day Request:** Dairy/Beef Lobbyists go down to Olympia in April to serve food to the congress and sing the praises of Dairy/Beef subsidies. Students for Sustainable Food would like to send students to protest and ask for meetings with senators. Bryce asked Lisa if the LAF has funded this kind of event before and if so, is there anything we should keep in mind, the LAF hasn't helped fund a speaker before so this is new ground. Galen asked the guests what kind of protest and discussion would be taking place, they said that they will probably talk to people and have signs. There will be 5-14 students attending, depending on the funding and response they get. Lisa asked if the committee will be meeting to vote on this as an action item next week, Bryce said if there isn't a physical meeting she will send out an e-vote. There were no further questions.

- b. **Angela Davis Funding request:** The Angela Davis item is an action item but Giselle was at the meeting as a guest to explain it. Justice Speaks has been on campus for a few years, was initially the Teach In program but since it wasn't actually a teach in (an event where the entire campus attends discussion of issues that they face, like for example, lynching threats would be a valid reason to shut down a campus if the administration was a little less scared) the name was changed to reflect the work they actually could do. Angela Davis specifically works on issues related to the school to prison pipeline and coalition building. The dates of the visit are finalized for may the 4th-5th and a noon event so more students can come, will be in concert hall which seats 600. They are working with the Whatcom Community College campus and village books. The honorarium is the biggest cost, with the other costs as estimates coming to a total of \$17,350. The funding they currently have is around \$4,750 with a couple funding sources to yet be decided. She talked about the reviews that past events have had most of which were glowing, almost all generally positive. Bryce asked about the level of funding the LAC wanted to do, the official request was \$10,000 and we currently have \$21,000 and \$18,000 in reserves. Lisa said that Angela Davis came to campus about 9 years ago and we had about 600 students go. There will be an overflow room. Peter asked how much it cost in comparison to other events, Bryce said that for the number of students, it was lower than most. Macy asked about how other funding requests had gone, only trouble was finding a venue but everyone, once that was secured was on board. Lisa said that the LAF isn't used for events but this is about organizing, which is a student representation issue. Nora added that, having left USSA and its former organizing power for students of color, this was probably something were obligated to do.

MOTION: LAC-17-W-9 By Rice-Pelepko

Motion to give \$12,000 to help fund the Justice Speaks event, brining Angela Davis to Western.

Second: Kendrick Vote: 10-0-0 Action: Passes

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. **Board Assistant for Lobby Days:** The last increase in funding wasn't enough to cover the work that Francesca is doing on lobbying. Bryce added that this was largely due to the newness of the position, and that next year they will have an amount in non-discretionary funds based on calculation of Francesca's final amount of hours. But for the time being to pay her, Bryce needs an additional \$450, not to accede \$500. The vote on next year's funds will come in the spring quarter

MOTION: LAC-17-W-10 By Selander

Motion to transfer the Info Item to an Action Item

Second: Gallagher Vote: 10-0-0 Action: Passes

MOTION: LAC-17-W-11 By Herz

Motion to approve additional funds for the pay of the Board Assistant for Lobby Days, not to accede \$500.

Second: Condyles Vote: 10-0-0 Action: Passes

IV. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Local Lobby Day Agenda:** Bryce had already brought the agenda to the board so they had given feedback on it already. Mary Moeller, VP for Business and Operations had raised a point on prioritizing Western and surrounding area for clearing snow since we don't close when the schools do. She had also raised a request for sustainability in regards to the encampments. There was discussion regarding quality of housing, some trouble in doing that without creating housing insecurity for students. Galen brought up some of the ways that could be instituted without getting people kicked out, including requiring that the Landlord must clear out mold between tenants.

MOTION: LAC-17-W-12 By Rice-Pelepko

Motion to pass the Local Legislative Agenda

Second: Brooks Vote: 10-0-0 Action: Passes

V. REPORTS

A. Nora reported on the progress of our items, following the typed report she had sent out in a state of sleep deprivation the day before. No new policy gets passed at this point from committees into the House or Senate and Thursday is the cutoff for House of Origin, so they have to get off of the floor and to votes. Her current advocacy method is talking to people outside of chambers for about two minutes to encourage votes one way or another on our issues. Its too early to know if the tuition freeze item will go through because it will be a part of the budget, the SNG eligibility requirements bill looks to be dying the undignified death of classist ableism. The bill about undocumented students financial aid has received some nasty commentary and Nora asked what we wanted to do, we said keep pushing to the most of our ability. The house version of the S and A fee bill got pushed through at 4:00 PM today due largely to the work of students who have been calling in. Student Success will be a budget issue and our Support for Survivors bill was passed through the senate unanimously. The registration deadline bill is moving slowly and the voter registration and civic learning passed through house and senate respectively. The Real ID compliance bill, passed senate and might pass the house, the committee agreed to double down on our resistance to the xenophobic legislation.

Bryce explained the Student Trustee Empowerment item and the things it would do to empower students to advocate on behalf of themselves. She added that we will reach out to WSA right before April meeting on the subject to get their support about it next year. Galen asked what we can do about the Real ID Bill, Bryce said that we can't do much because of how many states already have capitulated to the federal demand. Nora suggested that when it gets to the

House, we should call, and write letters. We can also send students to testify. As Nora's report ended Bryce warned us that as session goes on the reports just get sadder.

- B. Bryce** Reported that there was a WSA meeting two weekends ago and all the schools agreed they were glad to see the eligibility for SNG Bill meet its end. Federal Lobbying agenda will come up next quarter as she and Stephanie Chang prepare for that. And AS elections opened, Bryce reminded folks that this is a nonpartisan committee, so you can't collect signatures at the meetings or endorse anyone. If anyone wants to run or apply for a job they can talk to Bryce or the REP and apply online. Bryce asked if we want to meet next Monday, students could mostly come, she will let the committee know in the week.
- C. Galen** reported that at the last city council meeting they talked about storm water and formally passed the Ordinance regarding support for the undocumented community, despite resistance from the undocumented community. There is a coming resolution on Single family zoning which would target student housing but is unlikely to be enforced by the city council. Local Lobby Day registration opened and there are already 40 applicants.

Bryce Hammer adjourned the meeting at 6:35