



Western Washington University Associated Students
Legislative Affairs Council

Wednesday, April 5th, 2017 5:00 PM YU567

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), Sofia Perry (Student at Large), Koyle Kendrick (Student at Large), and Peter Condyles (Student at Large).
Absent: Leanna Sauerlender (Student at Large), Katherine VanDeWalker (Student at Large) and Ana Ramirez (Student at Large)*

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg

Secretary: Cora Cole

Guests:

Motions:

LAC-17-S-4 Approval of minutes form March 29th. *Passed*

Bryce Hammer called the meeting to order at 4:11pm

I. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The guest, Henry Paulet (he/him/his), came to see the federal agenda and just hang out.

II. Minutes Approval

MOTION: *LAC-17-S-4 by Selander*

Approval of the minutes from March 29th

Second: Gallagher Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- a. **Federal Agenda:** Bryce handed out the draft of the federal agenda to the committee. Normally it's longer, with portions by the admin, AS, and faculty. Admin gets agenda from AASCU, has specific policy recommendations. The new federal administration has left all of the parties involved feeling a little bit lost in terms of what are achievable goals, this means that there are 2 pages of agenda this year, where last year there were 16. Bryce sat down with Steve Swan to address the 5 Top Policy Priorities. Bryce asked if anyone in the committee had specific things they wanted to see. Sarah asked what the Xs on the agenda were, Bryce explained that those indicated parts of the agenda that were so unlikely that we shouldn't spend time on them, or that are part of AASCU agenda for state lobbying. Henry, who serves as WSA's Vice President of Federal Affairs, said that it is in line with WSA, except that WSA is also

advocating EBT on college campuses at a federal level (EBT refers to Electronic Benefits Transfer, or food stamps). The committee added that to the Access portion of the Agenda. Sarah asked if there were any specific items under Ease of Access and Diversity we were advocating for, Bryce said there aren't any that have come up so this is just a general request. Rosa said we should have free college on the agenda and the committee had a good laugh about that. Lisa brought up the bill that Sanders and Warren recently proposed regarding higher education, Bryce said it isn't likely to go anywhere. Nora said it would be worth it to have it on there as a value statement, Bryce said they can't be too partisan. Sarah asked if we can oppose dissolving the Department of Education, the committee agreed. Bryce asked if AASCU does stuff related to non-higher education, post high school opportunities, Nora said that they do not. They typically meet with state congress people and Bryce and Stephanie will meet with some people from California, they are unlikely to meet with other congress people just because there are bigger fires to put out. The USSA is not pushing for Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act because it will be ripped to shreds on the floor even worse than it is now. Bryce offered to reach out to folks they have met with in the federal government to see what they need.

- b. **Local Lobby Day Updates:** no further updates. Galen said that Stephanie and other AS members should testify at city council on the 24th and model that process for students who want to get involved
- c. **LAC Budget:** Nobody read the policy, and so the committee decided to discuss it further next week. Rosa said she would like to have a discussion about allocating the USSA money. Bryce said we can do that, with a specific portion for advocacy. We will be getting in contact with ESC ESJ and SEED. If we could hire a position to work with student advocacy on campus, like the USSA organizing Director, a full time staff member. Bryce mentioned a concern about not having enough money for that.

IV. REPORTS

- A. **Nora** reported that the Voter rights act, the Voter Registration Extension, and S and A fees are dead. We don't know what will happen to S and A fees because we don't know what will happen to tuition. Budget negotiations are continuing, she will send out analysis on that later in the week. Student Loan Bill of Rights is still kicking and the Study on Textbooks and the Support for Survivors bill. A bill requiring Ballot Drop Boxes just passed senate and house and is headed to governor's desk.
- B. **Bryce** Reported that WSA is the next weekend in Tri-Cities, the WSA Council positions are all up for application and if you go to a meeting you can run. The General Assembly in May is where those elections are happening as well as where we will be selecting the proposals for next year. Our Executive Director for WSA is leaving, so the current organizing director will step up, the committee suggested Nora step up and apply for the job. We will be seeing more WSA proposals soon, because fees need to go up. Henry said the WSA federal agenda is up too so that's cool. Rosa is down to work on a student healthcare proposal and she would like help with it before the GA. We will

work more on that next week. Bryce reported that the Federal Lobby Trip planning is underway, only her and Stephanie are going. Election Filing Closed. Macey asked where to find the profiles of candidates, there will be one in the AS Review soon as well as on the AS website under the elections tab. Rosa and Hannah have been working on setting up timelines for tabling during the weeks for voting. Rosa said that there will be a training day by BUS on June 10th for Voter Registration stuff.

C. Rosa offered to do outreach to students about the LAF, as it is a relatively new issue. Rosa met with people from Washington BUS this week they talked about training new position holders.

D. Galen reported that the Low Barrier Shelter discussion at the Port this week went well. Nora expanded that the shelter would have 200 beds, and they had gone to advocate for the one nearer the water because it wouldn't disrupt plans. There is also a third option that is larger and closer to downtown, the one closer to the water front would close another shelter because of resources needs. They are formally supporting the Third option.

Bryce Hammer adjourned the meeting at 4:59 pm