

**ASWWU
Legislative Affairs Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 26, 2007
VU 462**

Legislative Affairs Council Members	<i>Present:</i> Adam Day, Gina Tichenor, Alexander Garcia <i>Late:</i> Devin Malone <i>Absent:</i> Joel Graves, Tracy Lamont
AS VP Legislative Affairs	Erik Lowe <i>Present</i>
Legislative Liaison	Sarah Ishmael <i>Present</i>
WSL Chapter Chair	Kristina Mader <i>Present</i>
Advisor	Kevin Majkut <i>Present</i>

Erik Lowe, AS VP Legislative Affairs called the meeting to order at 4:16pm.

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND PIZZA

Lowe discussed how the purpose of the meeting is to get everyone to know each other and to provide a brief training of how the legislature works. The purpose is also to describe everyone's respective jobs and to set up a loose framework for the LAC's goals for the year.

At this point, those present at the meeting introduced themselves to one another.

II. PURPOSE AND HISTORY OF THE LAC—KEVIN MAJKUT

Majkut described how everyone present at the meeting (with the exception of himself) is a member of the Associated Students. He went on to describe the four objectives of the Associated Students: to support leadership development, to represent students (which is where the LAC fits in), to provide programs and services for students, and to provide opportunities for the individual interests of students. Majkut then went on to discuss the history of the Washington Student Lobby and the LAC.

In the mid to late 1970s, there was a lot of movement in Washington to increase the representation of student views to the legislators. In 1979, Western's first Legislative Liaison was hired. A variety of statewide student organizations were established over the years, eventually leading to the formation of the WSL in its current incarnation. In 1983, Western's LAC was formed. Prior to this point in time, the AS Board of Directors was responsible for setting the legislative agenda for the students of WWU. Most of the LAC interests have historically lied in the state agenda, but representatives are sent to Washington D.C. in the spring. In short, the goal of the LAC is to look beyond campus to decide how to tackle issues that students may feel are important.

Lowe then stated that the Charge and Charter for the LAC would be distributed at the next meeting.

III. LEGISLATIVE TRAINING—SARAH ISHMAEL

Ishmael discussed the structure and procedures of the Washington Student Lobby as well as the structures and procedures of the state legislature. On the years in which winter quarter lies in an even year (this being one) the Legislative Liaison resides in Olympia for 60 days in order to support the legislative agenda of the students of WWU as decided on by the LAC. There are several committees in the state legislature (House, Senate, and joint), some of which Ishmael will be working with, including the Committee of Higher Education. During her time at Olympia, Ishmael will work seven days a week meeting with officials, testifying at committees, and meeting with representatives to push Western's legislative agenda. She will drive up to Western once a month to inform the AS Board as to what is going on and will send weekly email updates to the LAC.

Lowé then stated that on Lobby Day, students can go to Olympia without missing school in order to express their opinions to senators and representatives.

IV. GOALS OF THE LAC

At this point, members of the LAC expressed their own goals that they wished the LAC to achieve. These goals will be compiled into one document that will accompany the legislative agenda:

- Financial aid in relation to child care
- Compensation for off-campus internet bills
- Keeping public transportation accessible to students
- In regards to disability resources, aids should seek students out rather than vice-versa

At this point, Devin Malone enters the meeting

- Increasing campus safety (it was mentioned that an idea is currently being processed that would allow the University to text students on campus should a disaster take place)
- Sexual and gender orientation as an inclusion into diversity
- Assisting out-of-state students in coming here (it was stated that this would be a very difficult point to pass, but that efforts can be made to expand the current system, i.e. WUE)
- Help the transfer to college easier for disadvantaged groups
- Reduce the freedom with which athletic scholarships can be distributed
- Strengthen student control in regards to where their fees are spent (it was noted that there are usually some attempts to diminish student control over this)
- In regards to the above point, make sure that the fees students designate to go toward renewable energy certificates actually go there
- Introduce statewide standards by which professors are hired (concerns were expressed in regards to the effects this will have on university costs)
- Introduce minimum sets of guidelines for academic grievances to be processed
- Getting state money to offset the environmental impact that on-campus construction will cause

Kristina Mader leaves

V. SETTING A TIME FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETING

4-6 on Tuesdays, weekly until the legislative agendas are passed

There will also be a November 3rd WSL meeting for anyone interested

VI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28pm