

ASWWU  
 Legislative Affairs Council Meeting  
 Tuesday, October 30, 2007  
 VU 567

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

**Motions:**

<b>07-F-001</b>	To approve the minutes of 10-26-07. <i>Passed</i>
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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Erik Lowe, AS VP Legislative Affairs called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

**II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

*None*

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 07-F-001** by Lowe  
 Approve the minutes of 10-26-07.  
 Vote: 4-0-3 Action: *Passed*

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

*None*

**V. CHAIR REPORT**

Lowe stated that there was not much to report, and that he would email the LAC's charge and charter to everyone tomorrow and will have a paper copy for everyone at next week's meeting.

**VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. ISSUES**

**Financial Aid:**

- Low tuition

- Child care
- Out of state student assistance
  - As was the case in the last week's meeting, the issue of getting more out-of-state students to attend Western was discussed. An idea was proposed that rather than finding ways to decrease tuition fees for out-of-state students, a form of recruitment program should be established to recruit students from different regions and to further diversify the state universities.
- Restrictions on athletic scholarships
- Textbooks
  - The issue of teachers requiring the newest editions of textbooks was criticized on the grounds that not much is added to the books to justify the requirement of the newest addition. The issue of CDs (which most students never even use) being added to textbooks was brought up as well due to the fact that this CD can significantly increase the price of a textbook. However, Ishmael pointed out that there is already something being done about this problem on the national level.
- Financial assistance for off-campus internet
- Accessibility of financial statements
  - This issue was initially brought up as a proposal by Lamont that specific students should not have to pay fees that do not directly correlate to their own education or experience on campus. However, there are several difficulties with tackling this issue on the legislative front, so instead the idea was offered that breakdown of where students' tuitions are going is provided on every student's bill.
- Increased funding for DRS
- Support scholarships for diversity
- Middle income financial aid

#### *Mader enters*

##### **Environment:**

- Student control over the green energy fund
- Requirement for state buildings to use renewable energy
- Raising the LEED certification requirement from silver

#### *Mader leaves*

##### **Transportation:**

- Reduce the amount of transportation that is required of students
  - Increase state-funding for affordable local housing
  - State-funded low-income housing as financial aid option
  - State-funding for student housing co-op
- Increase state-funding for regional transit
- State support for WTA switch to bio-diesel

- State support for expansion of bus programs

**Child Care:**

- Long-term funding for Child Care programs rather than grants
- Financial aid provisions for single parents
- State-subsidized birth control
  - Price of birth control as well as that of other medications is rising
  - Testing is expensive as well

**Diversity:**

- Promote an out-of-state or international recruitment program
- Inclusion of sexual and gender orientation as a part of diversity
- Expansion of the Disability Resource Services

**B. STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Lowé stated that the State Legislative Agenda would be drafted in the coming week and would then be presented in draft form at the next LAC meeting. He will have received the Legislative Agenda of the Board of Trustees by the next meeting as well. At the next meeting, the LAC will review the Legislative Agenda and make any necessary changes.

**VII. ACTION ITEMS**

*None*

**VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Tuesday, November 06, 2007  
4:00pm VU 567

**IX. ADJOURN**

5:51pm