

ASWWU
Legislative Affairs Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 12, 2008
VU 567

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

MOTION 08-W-005	To approve the minutes of January 29 th , 2008.
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I. CALL TO ORDER

Erik Lowe, AS VP Legislative Affairs called the meeting to order at 4:07pm.

II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lamont enters

MOTION 08-W-005 by Lowe

To approve the minutes of January 29th, 2008.

Vote: 4-0-1 Action: *Passed*

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

None

V. CHAIR REPORT

Lowe reported that Ishmael is working hard in Olympia. She sent out “thank yous” to those legislators with whom students met on Lobby Day. She also provided them with information on Western’s Leadership Advantage Program. Our work with the League of Women Voters on having Western host a gubernatorial debate has been stalled in that we have yet to hear back from them.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ishmael has been meeting with a lot of people about the issue with child care. The proportional matching bill (that of which ASWWU is in support) looks like it will be heard on the floor soon. Ishmael has met with various people with whom students were not able to meet on lobby day in order to discuss ASWWU's legislative agenda. She is about to start working on a letter-writing campaign with the Student Senate.

B. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA UPDATE

The Federal Legislative Agenda (as was most recently amended and passed by the LAC) has been approved by the AS Board of Directors. Lowe stated that he believes that this is one of the most comprehensive Federal Legislative Agendas that has ever been written by ASWWU. In the coming months, the LAC will likely be doing a fair amount of letter writing (depending on how the agenda goes on the federal level). Also, President Bush has threatened to veto the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act so there will likely be a large need to write letters concerning this issue to legislators.

C. DRS REPORT

Lamont reported that he and Tichenor had multiple discussions with various people about the DRS. They were also given a handout with various statistics concerning the DRS. The DRS is in need of more space and two more advisors. An advisor named Kim is currently sharing an office with 13-16 people. The DRS currently has ten desks and six computers to accommodate about 470 students. They proctor about 4000 tests per year, and during midterms and finals they often have to send students to other locations around campus which can increase test anxiety. The jobs of those who work at the DRS have turned from just facilitating to counseling as well. They would like to get a psychologist or a psychiatrist to help with this issue. The administration had planned on issuing the DRS some additional funds, but the DRS declined because the funds needed to be much larger to make any truly effective changes.

Lowe reported that an increase in the amount of students (by over 100) that use the DRS has not come with any increase in space or funding for the DRS whatsoever. The needs of the students have expanded as well. The current staff has often worked overtime on weekends on things like converting books into Braille for the blind. Western currently has the largest ask for campus safety (\$408,000) of any of the state schools. This ask is for various counselors and psychiatrists specifically for mental health issues. The AS is currently trying to find some immediate things that can be done to alleviate some of the difficulties being faced by the DRS.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

None

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

4:00pm Tuesday, February 19, 2008
VU 567

IX. ADJOURN

4:30pm