

Washington Student Lobby
State Board Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2006, Pullman, WA

The Washington Student Lobby State Board met on October 15, 2006 in the Smith Center for Undergraduate Education at Washington State University. President Dan Shafar called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

Attendees* included: Dan Shafar, WSU; Steve Lindstrom, WSL Olympia; Asenka Miller, Evergreen; Bryce McKibben, UW; Cullen White*, UW; Marcus Riccelli*, GPSS; Alicia Kinne, EWU; Camille Anderson*, EWU; Nick Klein, EWU; Erika Miller*, GPSA; Jeff Rosenberry, CWU; Max St. Brown, CWU; Steve DuPont*, CWU; Chris Reigelsperger*, WSU; Mike Bogatay, CWU; Zach Wurtz, WSU; Antasia Parker*, WWU; Mark Iozzi, WWU; Sasha Sleiman, WWU; Janeen Heath, WSU; Rachel Norris, WSU; Kristina Mader, WWU; Hannah Lommers-Johnson, UW; Jake Stillwell, CWU; Hala Dillsi, UW; John Hardy, CWU. (* Asterisk indicates voting member)

Shafar calls for a motion to approve the agenda. DuPont motions and Kinne seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Shafar calls for a vote to approve the minutes from the September meeting. Amendments include Kinne changing “has switched” to “is discussing switching” for the EWU school report, it being recorded that Erika Miller had a vote and that McKibben had introduced the UW administration’s 6-year tuition plan, not White. Shafar calls for a vote to approve the amended minutes. Riccelli motions and Wurtz seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Shafar begins the Action Items by introducing the new administrator/ organizer job description and application and passing out copies. He gives 4 minutes for members to look it over. To begin the changes, Asenka Miller suggests moving WSL main office to the top of the “Nature of Work” so there is little confusion. McKibben has “sexual orientation” added to the Equal Opportunity Employer section. Riccelli says that health insurance should be considered in the benefits and suggests some kind of contract. He continues that the administrator/ organizer should be responsible for giving a report to the board. Kinne proposes breaking down the session and non-session job descriptions and expresses concerns in regards to the feasibility of financing a year long employee. DuPont echoes that it important to note that the session is a full-time-plus job and non-session is less hectic. Reigelsperger agrees with DuPont and says “requirements” should be changed to “desired qualities” or something to that affect to allow for more hiring flexibility. Antasia agrees and Iozzi says that the document is too vague and should be more specific, adding that benefits should be included. Lindstrom says that the budget will be tight for an administrator and the board should be cautious when giving out benefits. During the off session, the administrator could find other work in higher education, so long as it is not a conflict of interest. There is an issue with the flow of the language in the document that needs to be fixed. He points out that there are 3 distinct

parts to running the Olympia office: office maintenance, being a liaison with the member campuses and the legislative component. Continuing, he says that the fine print of the document seems repetitive and recommends that the employee receive independent benefits instead of having the WSL provide them. He agrees that the form should include a letter and suggests putting together a hiring committee and to send out notices to several interested parties within the higher education arena.

Shafar calls for additional questions about the functions of the new position and wants to make sure that the document provides good foreshadow for the type of administrator s/he will be. Wurtz asks if there is a true need for this position. Shafar responds that it is a growing need and that the WSL is trying to rebuild to the organization it was when there was more funding. It will make life easier, especially when session is out because s/he will be a constant presence in Olympia. DuPont points out that time is spread very thin during session for everyone and this position would be very effective and helpful. He says that the board should continue working on the benefit language. Kinne adds that campus visits would be important. Riccelli says that health insurance should be required for the position because it sends the right message to applicants. He feels that any legislative report should be given to Bogatay because he is the Vice President of Legislative Affairs. Asenka Miller says she would like to see essays submitted in the application process to see more comprehensive writing examples, adding that it is important to see his/her skills with excel and word. DuPont mentions the administrator would help prepare the legislative liaisons for different meetings during a hectic session schedule. Shafar adds that it will also help the liaisons with getting much needed information. Kinne says that hiring a paid employee may be too much and suggests hiring an intern instead. Sasha says that last year was very hectic and it would be very beneficial to have a paid administrator in Olympia during session. White suggests a 12 credit internship for a student, but admits that that process would be tricky and time constraints would be burdensome. Riccelli mentions that for the WSL to get an intern, the board would have to change the recruiting language. Kinne brings up the point that the salary might not recruit a qualified person and says it might be easier to recruit someone just out of college with a legislative internship, which would allow the WSL to be more flexible.

Shafar calls for a 20 minute break for lunch at 1:10 p.m.

Board reconvenes at 1:40 p.m.

Shafar calls for further discussion on the administrator job description/ marketing strategy.

White asked about a timeline and wonders when these decisions would go into effect. Shafar responds that he would like to have the information posted online as soon as a final decision is reached. White suggests changing the title “administrator” to “coordinator.” Lindstrom answers that the title “administrator” brings with it certain credibility outside the WSL and “coordinator” sounds like more of a subordinate role. Reigelsperger suggests the applicant must be a graduate from a school that is not a WSL

member school to make sure s/he is unbiased. Lindstrom gives examples of past WSL executive directors who have all graduated from member schools and have all lobbied unbiased. Erika Miller adds that if s/he is official and good enough at the position, it shouldn't matter where the applicant graduated from.

Wurtz announces that he has to leave, but thanks the board members for attending.

DuPont concurs with Lindstrom and suggests that if school biasness is still an issue, it could always be brought up in the interview. Shafar infers that the conclusion is that the document should be re-edited and sent out to members via e-mail. White says that the General Assembly should have input in the language as well. Shafar reminds the board that that is what occurred last year and putting it off another year would actually be taking a step backwards. Riccelli says that the 6-month plan is a good middle-ground idea for the session and that the board should evaluate how that goes to see if this is a worth-while investment. DuPont suggests having Shafar edit the document and re-send it out so that the meeting can continue on. Riccelli asks if WWU is completely opposed to the 6-month plan. Iozzi responds that a 6-month performance review would be fine, but not a 6-month position period. DuPont suggests budgeting for a year-long position, but the administrator could be fired pending on the 6-month review. Shafar adds that the board would directly supervise the administrator. Sleiman points out that any contract could not exceed one year and the board could always vote to not renew it. Asenka Miller agrees that the performance review is a good idea.

Shafar calls for an agreement on re-drafting the administrator job description for the November meeting, bypassing the General Assembly because it is not their responsibility. No objections. Lindstrom adds that the board should consider a mechanism to have this process up and running soon.

Shafar begins discussion on the General Assembly and reviews the different times for the November meeting. Asks that for time's sake that the Board of Directors meeting be kept to a minimum, non-voting members-wise. Reminds the board that the GA will meet at 1:30. Goes over the voting members and details the non-voting institutions. Riccelli asks if GPSS is considered mixed in with the UW allocated votes. Shafar says that the votes are given to each institution, which then delegate the votes as they see fit. Riccelli comments that it would be nice to see the official separation of votes. Shafar says that state budgets don't differentiate between undergraduate and graduate schools of the same institution and that the WSL voting allocations are set up in a similar fashion. Riccelli asks what happens if there is a conflict between the undergraduate and graduate school, concerned that the graduate students will be left out of the voting process. Lindstrom suggests dealing with that issue if and when it arises.

To begin the issues roundtable, Asenka Miller says that the Evergreen student government is in its organizational phase and is looking to ratify its mission statement. She adds that the student government is working well as a team and is set up with a rotational facilitator. It is structured so that there are equal representatives with an elected facilitator and no president or vice presidents, always working towards a

consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached, there must be a 2/3 majority vote for all decisions. There are 19 elected representatives at the Olympia campus, one at the Tribal and one at the Tacoma campuses. They are all elected at large by the campus in which they attend school at for a period of one year. They have begun negotiations with the Evergreen Board of Trustees. For students, healthcare coverage is a major issue.

McKibben begins UW's roundtable by introducing the proposal for a statewide tuition policy. This is done through a letter from Governor Gregoire to the Washington Learns Steering Committee. The highlighted statement is that the Governor makes the point that in order to ensure predictability for students and their families, the state legislature will set a "cap" on annual tuition increases of no more than 7%. White continues that the "Husky Promise" would cover all tuition for Pell/ State Need Grant and other low-income students- in all, 5,200 students would be covered. Fundraising is going to end up being around \$2 billion and the new focus would require \$28 million over a 6-year period. Lommers-Johnson introduces a letter from WashPIRG that has been drafted to go to Education Secretary Spellings, urging her to address the issue of fair student loan repayment. WashPIRG is asking the WSL to officially endorse the letter. Shafar asks about a timeline for a decision and Lommers-Johnson replies the organization will need one by November 9. Lindstrom adds that he has spoken with the national PIRG and reports that it wants individual students to comment who have and/or are affected by debt. It is asking for student governments to adopt policy along these lines and write letters to both PIRG and elected officials. He suggests contacting Governor Gregoire's office to ask for a comment and for her to weigh-in, pointing out that she chairs the Education Committee for the Council of Governors. Shafar suggests the board draft a letter of its own that is more specific to Washington. DuPont agrees, adding that it would make the WSL stand out and is worried about WashPIRG's pushy language. Riccelli suggests setting up a conference call for putting together a drafted letter. Lindstrom suggests an electronic vote, supporting the idea of drafting a revision. Shafar adds that it would be effective if each school sends individual revision suggestions. Lindstrom says he will send out a heads-up e-mail to the Governor's higher education staff, reinforcing the idea that more notice time will lead to a better response.

Shafar calls for movement to the GPSS to continue the issues roundtable.

Riccelli says that GPSS has been aggressive with childcare policy which has been well-received by the Board of Regents. DuPont mentions that he recently met with legislators about childcare, recognizing this issue to be a common problem among the schools and hints at making it one of the WSL's top priorities during the session. Riccelli continues that GPSS has hired a policy analyst this year to focus on childcare.

For EWU, Kinne reports that their Strategic Planning retreat is finished and that they are very concerned about health insurance. 182 students signed up for health insurance while at least 3 times that many need it that have not. The HEC Board has refined EWU from a "regional" to "statewide comprehensive" institute. ASEWU is currently working on the legislative agenda. Klein adds that EWU is working towards being more "green."

Erika Miller reports that GPSA has a record number of students on its Senate.

DuPont says that childcare is a huge priority at CWU and tuition waivers is still at the top of the agenda, pointing out that Central's authority to waive a certain amount of tuition will either expire or get renewed this year. CWU still needs the funding to back up its tuition-waiving authority.

Reigelsperger reports that WSU is still working on its legislative agenda. Norris says that there is a student outreach campaign currently happening on campus. Their plan is to write checks for the amount of student debt and send them to legislators to make a statement about the high cost of college. She supports the idea of writing a PIRG letter and sending it Olympia. Riccelli asks if there a template for those checks that GPSS can use. Reigelsperger goes on to suggest that schools could hold "tax free" day if a "holiday" doesn't work for textbooks.

Antasia reports that WWU will have a legislative agenda soon and says that they have a task force in place for the textbook legislation. Iozzi says that library and transportation student fees are going to be voted on. Childcare is a priority for WWU as well as many other universities.

Shafar begins the Presidential executive report by stating that the website is almost completely up and running and suggests members go to wastudents.org/phome.html and send him feedback.

Next, VP of Legislative Affairs Bogatay says that CWU legislative agenda will be ready soon and comments that knowing the number of students schools are sending to the GA would be nice to know before hand. McKibben asks is the BOD will be able to sit in and watch the GA meeting. Shafar responds that members of the BOD can sit in, and even be school representatives in the GA. DuPont asks if there is a minimum number of representatives or if votes can be proxied to people. Shafar answers that there can only be one person for each vote; however, he encourages schools to bring many more students for more input.

VP of Finance Sleiman goes over her financial report. Ending balance in savings is \$30,135.32. Ending balance in checking is \$10,606.49.

VP of Communication Stillwell reports CTCs he's been in contact with, inviting them to the BOD and GA meetings: Everett CC said they would get back to him, Green River CC Outreach Coordinator Kelsey LaRoch said she would be in contact with him, he left messages with Yakima Valley CC and Bellevue CC, contacted the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and will continue to communicate with them, and finally contacted Senator Maria Cantwell's office about coordinating efforts to work towards lower tuition. DuPont suggests getting in contact with Nick Reykdal because he has a relative who works for the WSB for CTCs.

Lindstrom concludes the executive reports by saying that any job description ideas or drafts should go to Evergreen while they are setting up their student government. He expresses concern with the proposed statewide tuition policy capping annual tuition increase at 7% because it is very possible that 7% will become the minimum as well. He advises board members to keep in mind that financial gaps are growing larger in higher education and members have substantial ground to speak with elected and appointed officials. He suggests using simple guiding principles in the school legislative agendas, creating visible top priorities along with separate issues of concern. He amends issues with June's BOD minutes- Shafar's motion for 2 votes per member school and 1 vote per every 2500 students after that was not reflected in the minutes. The issue is that the board does not intend to leave out schools with less than 2500. DuPont motions to amend the June minutes to reflect these changes. White seconds. Passes unanimously.

Shafar reminds the board of future meeting times. The November meeting will be at Central Washington University on the 19th- the BOD will meet at noon, the GA at 1:30 and the BOD will reconvene after the GA is finished. The December meeting will be at the University of Washington on the 10th. Shafar petitions to change the December meeting date. White suggests a video conference. Iozzi agrees. Shafar suggests each school investigate the possibility of video conferencing. Kinne expresses doubt about the ability of EWU to partake in a video conference.

Lindstrom reminds the board that liaison training will begin January 2nd and going until mid-day on the 5th. If others want to join, it will cost \$150 and there is not a lot of extra room. January 8th the legislative session begins along with celebrations of Elvis's and Nixon's birthdays.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35