

Washington Student Lobby

State General Assembly Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2007

Ellensburg, WA

I. Call to Order

The Washington Student Lobby General Assembly met on April 28, 2007 in Black Hall at Central Washington University. President Dan Shafar called the meeting to order at 12:25 pm.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Attendees included: Steve DuPont*, CWU; Micah Ramsey*, CWU; Jadon Berry*, CWU; Katie Underwood*, CWU; Miryia Libbey, CWU; Allison Nieuwenhuis, CWU; Jennifer Pae, USSA; Lisa Harris, USSA; Kasey Webster, WSU; Brandon Scheller, WSU; Shawn Hoey, WSU; Chris Reigelsperger, WSU; Jennifer Bowman, GPSA; Nicholas Cizek*, WWU; Andrea Miele, WWU; Wanjika Thande, WWU; Courtney Sims, WWU; Antasia Parker, WWU; Alicia Kinne*, EWU; Camille Andersen*, EWU; Michael Bethely*, EWU; Legan Morgan*, EWU; Bryce McKibben, UW; Maggie McLaughlin, UW; McKinley Smith, UW; Hannah Lommers-Johnson, UW; Doug McKanaway, UW; Melissa Aar*, GPSS; Cullen White, UW; Tyler Dockins, UW; Marcus Riccelli*, GPSS; Nicole Allen, WashPIRG; Blair Anderson, WashPIRG; Victor Sanders*, TESC; Mike Bogatay, CWU; Jake Stillwell, CWU; Steve Lindstrom, WSL; Sasha Sleiman, WWU; Dan Shafar, WSL.

*voting members

III. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

- Parker motioned to allow the WSU/ GPSA delegation to vote based upon an e-mail proving payment transaction, white seconded.
- Shafar called for discussion.
- Reigelsperger and Bowman explained the payment situation to the Assembly.
- Shafar went over the voting distribution before calling for a vote:
 - > CWU, 3; EWU, 4; UW, 13; WSU, 8; WWU, 5; TESC, 2.
- Shafar called for a vote on Parker's motion: Yea 22/ Nay 3. Motion passed.

IV. Public Testimony and Presentations

I. USSA Welcome/ Presentation

- Pae explained how the USSA is structured and what role it plays in Washington D.C. and federal education policy.

- Harris went over how Statewide Student Associations work with the USSA and what role the WSL would play should it become a dues-paying member. She then went over the three major national USSA campaigns:
 - > 2006 mid-term elections
 - > Federal budget appropriations
 - > Higher Education Reauthorization Act
- Pae explained that direct member schools pay dues of \$.25 per student while SSA's pay dues of 2.5% of their operating budget.

V. Information Items

I. Legislative Update

- Sleiman passed out the liaison's End of Session Report and went over what it contains.
- Bogatay passed out the final WSL Bill Tracking document and pointed out the bills signed by the Governor.
- Lindstrom reminded the Assembly that the 7% tuition increases cap in the budget is not a long-term victory for the WSL tuition policy and members should take that into account when constructing next session's legislative agenda. He said that members should look for accountability measures and need to stay focused on making higher education affordable. He pointed out that during the interim, it will be important to work with:
 - > Higher Education Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee members
 - > Members of the budget committees
 - > Members of the leadership and ranking minorities
 - > The Governor's staff on higher education policy
 - > The HEC Board (1-2 WSL members should be at each meeting)

VI. Action Items

I. Budget

- Sleiman introduced the two budget proposals- one with the USSA dues and an 8-member LegCon delegation cost included and one without.

A. Expenses

- DuPont motioned to allocate 2.5% of the final operating budget to USSA dues, Berry seconded.
- Shafar called for discussion.
- DuPont argued that the benefits of being members of the USSA would give the WSL much more strength on national issues and help with grassroots organizing on a state level.
- Bowman asked for a point of clarification: what is there is a difference between individual school agendas and the USSA agenda?
- Pae answered that members can vote for or against the USSA agenda at Congress.
- Parker asked for a point of clarification: what are some of the benefits of joining the USSA?
- DuPont answered that the WSL would have additional support and awareness raising of priority issues.

- Lindstrom stated that in order to maintain good faith with the USSA, the WSL would have to send at least one member to USSA events.

- Riccelli called to previous question.

- Shafar called for a vote on DuPont's motion: Yea 35/ Nay 0. Motion passed.

- Bowman motioned that the WSL include in the budget the money to send representatives to the USSA Congress, Parker seconded.

- Shafar called for discussion.

- Bowman asked for a point of clarification: are proxies permissible at Congress?

- Pae answered that no, 4 WSL votes would require 4 WSL representatives.

- Cizek requested a friendly amendment be attached that money be allocated to send 4 WSL representatives to LegCon as well as USSA Congress.

- Bowman denied the friendly amendment.

- Riccelli requested a friendly amendment be attached that the WSL VP of Legislative Affairs be required to attend each USSA Congress meeting.

- Bowman denied the friendly amendment.

- Shafar called to previous question.

- Shafar called for a vote on Bowman's motion: Yea 35/ Nay 0. Motioned passed.

- Cizek motioned to increase the Executive Director's salary to \$36,000 and travel and cell phone expenses covered to \$5,000, DuPont seconded.

- Shafar called for discussion.

- Bogatay asked a point of clarification: why the increase in salary from \$28,000?

- Sleiman responded that a recent college graduate will realistically need a higher salary.

- Underwood moved to amend the motion to keep the salary at \$28,000 but include a \$5,000 increase for travel and cell phone costs, Berry seconded.

- Reigelsperger called to previous question on Underwood's amendment.

- Shafar called for a vote on Underwood's amendment: Yea 20/ Nay 13/ Abs 2.

Amendment passed.

- DuPont called to previous question.

- Shafar called for a vote on Cizek's motion, now including Underwood's amendment: Yea 20/ Nay 13/ Abs 2. Motion passed.

B. Income

- Berry motioned to require all schools to pay minimum dues of \$5,000, DuPont seconded.

- Shafar called for discussion.

- Berry explained that this would be the only way the WSL would stay out of debt.

- DuPont added that the expanding operations of the WSL requires more money.

- Berry changes motion to increase the minimum dues to \$7,000, effective for the 2008-09 year. No second. Berry withdraws the motion.

- Berry motioned to table minimum dues discussion, Cizek seconded.

- Shafar called for a vote on Berry's motion: Yea 34/ Nay 1. Motion passed.

- Aar asked a point of information: does the WWU plan to contribute \$12,000 or \$4,500 to the WSL?

- Sleiman answered \$4,500.
- Dockines asked a point of information: will WWU contribute any more so long as the Executive Director's salary remains at \$28,000?
- Cizek answered no.
- Riccelli motioned to increase the salary of the Executive Director to \$36,000, DuPont seconded.
- Shafar called for discussion.
- Riccelli withdrew the motion.

- Riccelli motioned to approve the budget, Berry seconded.
- Shafar called for discussion.
- Berry requests a friendly amendment that requires all school delegations accept the budget as is and create a 2008-09 expected budget at the May 2007 meeting to allow schools to plan for future years.
- Riccelli accepted the friendly amendment.
- McLaughlin motioned to close discussion, McKibben seconded.
- Shafar called for a vote on Riccelli's motion to approve the budget with Berry's stipulation to draft a 2008-09 budget at the next meeting: Yea 27/ Nay 5/ Abs 2. Motion passed.

II. Elections

A. Nominations

President

- Shafar called for nominations for President
- Andersen nominated Sleiman.
- White nominated McKibben

Vice President of Legislative Affairs

- Shafar called for nominations for VP of Leg Affairs
- Parker nominated Andersen.
- Dockins nominated McKibben.

Vice President of Finances

- Shafar called for nominations for VP of Finances
- Andersen nominated Bogatay.

Vice President of Communications

- Shafar called for nominations for VP of Communications
- Sleiman nominated Stillwell.

B. Elections

- Cizek motioned to elect those not challenged together, Reigelsperger seconded. No objections.
- Bogatay and Stillwell are elected unanimously.
- Shafar called for a ten minute recess for school delegations to meet and cast their votes.
- McKibben is elected President.
- Andersen is elected Vice President of Legislative Affairs.

VIII. Executive Reports

I. President

- Shafar announced that as of the election of McKibben, he is no longer the standing President. He thanked the Assembly for an excellent year.

II. VP of Legislative Affairs

- Bogay thanked the Assembly for its support during his time as the VP of Leg Affairs and said that he looks forward to next year as VP of Finance.

III. VP of Finances

- Sleiman thanked the Assembly for an excellent year and congratulated the legislative liaisons on a great session.

IV. VP of Communications

- Stillwell thanked the Assembly for an excellent year and said he looks forward to bettering the communications of the WSL by working in Olympia next session. He reminded the Assembly that he will be e-mailing out the CTC questions and answered and requested feedback before the next weekend.

X. Announcements

I. Future Meetings

- November 2007 at CWU for next GA.
- May 19th at noon at WWU for next BOD.

XI. Adjournment

- Shafar adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.