

Legislative Steering Committee
HUB 304D
October 31, 2005
4:10 pm

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:11 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present:

Tyler Dockins, Chair

Ben Golden, Director

Lee Dunbar, ASUW President

Karl Smith, ASUW Board Liaison/ ASUW Director of Operations

Nick Peyton, GPSS Liaison/GPSS Vice President

Ashleigh Flowers, Member At-Large

Hannah Lommers-Johnson, Member At-Large

Phyllis Ying, Member At-Large

Angie Wallace, Member At-Large

Joel Murray, Member At-Large

Rene Singleton (non-voting), SAO Advisor

Absent:

Inigo Esteban, ASUW Senate Liaison

Guests:

Hala Dillsi, ASUW Director of Community Relations

III. Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Minutes and Agenda approved.

IV. Chair's Report

Nothing to report

V. Old Business

a. Legislative Reception

Ben reported that invitations are being sent out tomorrow. He also said that there was talk of doing another round of invitations for students.

Tyler said that it might be useful to do an e-vite, but only for students.

Ben said that the planning is going really well, but that we need to remain flexible with the attendance and invitations of top-tier legislators (those with direct impact on higher ed issues) vs. students and other community leaders. We need to make sure that we have adequate representation from various student groups.

b. Legislative Agenda

Tyler directed discussion to the use of race in college admissions, and the possibility of adding our position on the Michigan Supreme Court Case as a bullet point.

Nick offered the language used in Grutter v. Bollinger: “Student body diversity is a compelling state interest that can justify the use of race in university admissions.”

Karl moved to insert a bullet point: “We support the use of race in college admissions as a component of a holistic approach toward applicants.”

Angie moved to amend the amendment to include after the word applicants “modeled after the US Supreme Court Case Grutter v. Bollinger.”

Tyler noted that there were two US Supreme Court Cases, and that one declared the use of quotas unconstitutional, and the other ruled in favor of the use of race in admissions.

There was debate over the inclusion of a reference to the US Supreme Court Case because of the potential interpreted inclusion of a reference to quotas.

Lee said that the use of a specific case is limiting, and that we should stay away from that.

Angie’s motion failed, 6-3.

Joel moved to insert the word Constitutional before the word use.

Phyllis seconded

Angie objected.

Joel withdrew his motion.

Nick moved to amend the amendment to read: We support the Supreme Court Case Ruling that states that student body diversity is compelling state interest that can justify the use of race in college admissions.

Joel seconded.

Karl objected.

Lee said that we have three options in the wording of this bullet: we can do Karl’s idea, being intentionally a little on the vague side, or we can do Nick’s “supreme court lite”, where we don’t use the case name, or we can do Supreme Court hard core, where we specifically site the case. The third option was just voted down, so we should talk about the other two.

Nick withdrew his motion.

Ben moved to vote on Karl’s motion

Angie seconded

Amendment passes, 8-0-1

Discussion shifted to the third bullet point under the Health, Safety, & Welfare section, about right to unionize.

Ben asked Rene if this was still worth having on the Agenda – if it was still an issue.

Rene said that this statement would still be applicable.

Ben said that he would not actively, knowingly lobby on this issue unless it were to come up, and so asked if we should keep it on the Agenda.

Ben moved to move this bullet point to a position statement.

Joel seconded.

Karl objected.

Debate ensued about the importance of position statements, and Ben contributed that he's thinking of drafting legislation concerning the length of the Student Regent's term, even though that's not an active bullet point.

Ben moved to vote

Angie seconded

Amendment passes 6-3-0

Ben moved to move insert a new section for transportation with the following bullets:

- We support funding for increased transit services to expand accessibility options for students.
- We support any measure that would ease the transportation burden of commuter students.

Karl seconded, without objection.

Joel moved to replace the first bullet point with: "We support measures encouraging environmentally-friendly transportation options to expand accessibility for students."

Nick seconded.

Ben moved to amend Joel's amendment to serve as the first bullet point, striking "options to expand accessibility for students", and to then take the stricken bullet point and use it as the over-arching statement for the section.

Taken as a friendly amendment. Italics cite: "The ASUW advocates for policies that increase transit services that expand accessibility options for students."

Lee moved to add the bullet point: "We oppose any transportation measures that negatively impact the UW Community."

Ben seconded, without objection.

Position Statements

Angie moved to change "remain" to "are" in the overarching statements.

Lee seconded, without objection

Lee moved to strike the statement stating: "We oppose any legislation that would limit students' financial independence."

Ben seconded, without objection.

Ben moved to strike the first position statement, "We support legislation to provide for increased safety on campus property through crime prevention as well as hazard identification and improvement."

Nick seconded.

Karl objected, and speaking to his objection, said that he thought that we should not abandon language suggesting that improving student safety on and around campus is important to the students.

Ben offered that the language was probably constructed to support the creation of NightRide, UW Cares, and other such programming, but that because we got rid of UW Cares, maybe we should remove this point.

Karl withdrew his objection

Ben's motion passed.

Lee moved to insert the bullet point "We support funding of a safer environment for the UW Community." into Health, Safety, and Welfare.

Karl seconded, without objection.

Ben introduced the idea of removing the entire position statement section, and moving all of the position statements we choose to keep to other sections and getting rid of the other ones.

Angie moved to create a new section entitled "Student Advocacy"

Lee seconded, without objection.

Ben moved to add the over-arching statement to the new section: "The ASUW supports higher student involvement in every aspect of the decision-making process concerning higher education.

Nick seconded, without objection.

Ben moved to insert the bullet point, under the new section, "We support policies that would strengthen UW voice and lobbying abilities.

Lee seconded, without objection.

Angie moved to insert the words "and disadvantaged" after "in underrepresented"

Phyllis seconded, without objection.

Ben moved to relocate the position statement "We support the funding of programs and capital projects at the K-12 level in the interest of increasing the quality of education, particularly with regard to underrepresented students so they may be further equipped in the pursuit of a college education." to the Maintaining and Expanding Diversity Section.

Nick seconded, without objection. Motion passes.

Ben moved to insert a new bullet point under the Academics Section saying "We support measures expanding accessibility of the UW for international students"

Ben moved to add a new bullet point saying "We support greater outreach to promote student voting"

Nick seconded, without objection. Motion passes.

Lee seconded, without objection. Motion passes.

Lee moved to insert a bullet point saying "We support policies that reduce the burden of textbook costs for students"

Angie moved to amend the amendment to read: "We support policies that reduce the burden of the cost of education, including, but not limited to textbooks and the cost of living."

Karl proposed the following language, which was taken by Angie and Lee as a friendly amendment: "We support policies that reduce the burden of textbook cost and other costs of education.

Ben seconded, without objection. Motion passes.

Ben moved to adjourn.

Hannah seconded, without objection.

VI. New Business

- a. Legislative Reception Invitations
- VII. Reports/Updates**
 - a. Director Report
 - b. Presidential Report
 - c. BOD Report
 - d. GPSS Report
 - e. Advisor's Report
- VIII. Discussion Items**
- IX. Announcements**
- X. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.