

Memo



Morgan Holmgren, AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs
ASVP.gov@wwu.edu

Viking Union 504C
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-650-3736

July 30, 2009

To: AS Board of Directors

Re: Federal Lobbying Trip Funding

The AS Board of Directors has traditionally sent two or three students to Washington, DC during Spring Break so that they may lobby the federal government on behalf of the organization and Western's students. The trip is our best chance at effectively representing the interests of students to Congress. While the trip has become a regular activity for the AS it has not yet become a regular budget item. As a result the trip must come before the AS Board of Directors each year for a funding allocation.

For this year's trip I propose that we bring three students to Washington, DC to lobby Congress: the AS President, the AS VP for Governmental Affairs, and the AS Legislative Liaison. These three people possess the knowledge and lobbying skill to effectively represent student interests.

Last year's DC Trip proposal was for about \$2,300. The previous year's proposal was for \$2,700. This sets a good goal to reach for this year's trip, but I do want to provide some flexibility if costs for the travel has significantly increased. The 2010 trip will be between Sunday March 21st and Thursday March 25th. While we don't have any concrete numbers on the 2010 federal lobbying trip it is necessary to allocate funds for the trip so as to prepare the AS budget for the upcoming year. Below is a draft budget based upon the dates for this year, and the costs in previous years.

| | Total |
|--------------|------------------|
| Airfare | \$1200.00 |
| Hotel | \$800.00 |
| Metro Passes | \$117.00 |
| Per Diem | \$786.00 |
| | |
| Total | \$2903.00 |

Proposed Motion:

Move to move \$3000 from the AS' unallocated funds into the Legislative Affairs budget for the purpose of the federal lobbying trip, with the stipulation that Morgan Holmgren, VP for Governmental Affairs, will provide the board with a detailed plan and budget for the trip before the end of fall quarter.