

Associated Students Western Washington University Federal Legislative Agenda 2008

Legislative Mission:

Our mission, as the representative body for the Associated Students of Western Washington University, is to advocate measures that protect the institutional integrity that fosters a student's personal growth and prepares them to make a positive contribution in our society.

Financial Aid

With regards to Financial Aid, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:

- Support any increase in financial aid, including but not limited to an increase in the maximum Pell Grant, increased funding for the CCAMPIS grant, and an increase in FAFSA funds.
- Support legislation that increases the accessibility of financial aid to middle income families.
- Oppose any effort to include financial aid, including scholarships, as taxable income.
- Support legislation that simplifies the FAFSA.
- Oppose any attempts to withhold financial aid from students for extraneous reasons including, but not limited to, an individual's moral, political and/or religious beliefs, selective service status, use of drugs, or illegal file sharing.
- Oppose any limit on the number of Pell Grant recipients.

Student Loans

With regards to Student Loans, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:

- Support any lowering of interest rates on student loans.
- Support increased access for college graduates to loan forgiveness programs.

Independence

With regards to Independence, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:

- Support a definition of independent student status that would not include age.
- Oppose a waiting period for independence until after a student's parent or guardian stops claiming the student on their Federal tax return.
- Support a definition of independence that does not require the student to maintain a minimum level of income.

Student Control

With regards to Student Control, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:

- Support the right of student governments to determine the level of student fees and how these fees will be spent without interference from college administrations or governing boards.

Student Privacy

With regards to Student Privacy, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:

- Oppose any legislation that weakens the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), including, but not limited to, disclosure of coursework, grades or financial information without consent.

Diversity

With regards to Diversity, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:

- Support ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, sexual identity, disabled status, and racial diversity as essential and necessary aspects of an effective learning environment.
- Support legislation that improves the standard by which the collection, sharing, and interpretation of hate crime data takes place.

Environment

With regards to the Environment, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:

- Support legislation that would mitigate global climate change.
- Support legislation and all measures that increase funding to improve public transportation systems.
- Support legislation that would subsidize and encourage the development of green, renewable energy sources.