

Associated Students Western Washington University Legislative Agenda 2006

Peter Graves, AS Vice President for Legislative Affairs
Nick Cizek, AS Legislative Affairs Liaison

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.

Funding

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

- ❑ Support a tuition policy that is stable and predictable, and follow any increase in tuition with an equally proportional increase in state general fund support.
- ❑ Oppose institutional tuition setting authority in any form; including, but not limited to differential/regional pricing, complete local control, and partial local control (i.e. discretionary bands.)
- ❑ Support an increase in higher education spending.
- ❑ Oppose increases in Full Time Equivalent's (FTE's) unless they are fully funded.

Financial Aid

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

- ❑ Affirms that the best form of financial aid is low tuition.
- ❑ Support increases in financial aid access and funding that include matching funds and grants.
- ❑ Support a sales tax exemption of required textbooks and course manual materials.
- ❑ Support the continuation and promotion of the Guaranteed Education Tuition Program (GET).
- ❑ Support legislation that increases eligibility for the State Need Grant to 100 percent of the median family income for Washington State.

Student Control

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

- ❑ Support legislation that grants complete Services and Activity (S&A) fee autonomy to students, as well as for fees that include, but not limited to, health fees, student building fees, and technology fees.
- ❑ Support efforts that retain and improve student involvement in all planning for the future of higher education.
- ❑ Support student review and approval of mandatory course fees, including, but not limited, to textbooks and required materials.

Campus Environment

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

- ❑ Support legislation that improves student and campus safety.
- ❑ Support appropriations of capital funding for the design, construction and maintenance of new and existing campus buildings.
- ❑ Support legislation that improves accessibility for students with disabilities.

Diversity

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

- ❑ Support measures encouraging recruitment and retention of a highly qualified and diverse student body, faculty, staff and the appropriations that ensure it.

- ❑ Support ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, and racial diversity as essential and necessary components of an effective learning environment.
- ❑ Support allowing race, ethnicity, national origin, and socio-economic conditions to be used as a part of the holistic review of applicants in the admission process.

Sustainability

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

- ❑ Support a state mandate that all state buildings be run with 100% renewable energy.
- ❑ Support legislation and other measures that increase funding to improve public transportation systems.

Faculty

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

- ❑ Support increases in faculty salary in the form of a full funding commitment by the State, and not as an increase in student costs.
- ❑ Support legislation that provides for full time faculty to be tenure track.