

Associated Students Western Washington University State 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.

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

Campus Life

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

- ❑ **Support legislation that allows for greater student accessibility to on-campus childcare services, such as increased funding to expand current childcare programs.**
- ❑ 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, including, but not limited to, enhancing on-campus disability resource services.
- ❑ Support improved funding to increase the availability, affordability and quality of healthcare.

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, and staff as well as the appropriations that ensure it.**
- ❑ Support ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, sexual identity, disabled status, and racial diversity as essential and necessary components of an effective learning environment.
- ❑ Supports holistic review of applicants in the admission process, while taking into account race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual identity, disabled status, and socio-economic conditions.

Environment

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

- ❑ **Support a state mandate that all state institutions be run with 100 percent renewable energy.**
- ❑ Support legislation that requires minimization of environmental impact due to construction of new state buildings.
- ❑ Support legislation that requires mandatory recycling programs at all public institutions of higher education.
- ❑ Support local control of universities with regard to green energy programs, with specific attention to student input.
- ❑ Support raising LEED certification requirements for all new state buildings.
- ❑ Support state funding for safe and organic agricultural practices.
- ❑ Support a state mandate requiring that all state institutions be carbon neutral.

Public Transportation

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

- ❑ **Support legislation and other measures that increase funding to improve public transportation systems.**
- ❑ Support legislation that encourages the expansion of commute trip reduction (CTR).
- ❑ Support increased funding for regional transit connectivity.
- ❑ Support legislation that requires all public transportation to be carbon neutral or use renewable energy sources.

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 promotes recruitment and retention of underrepresented faculty and staff.
- ❑ Support legislation that provides for full time faculty positions to be tenure track.
- ❑ Support legislation that provides student review of all faculty for teaching effectiveness.