
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

2005 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

This legislative agenda sets forth our lobbying positions for the 2004-2005 academic year.

TUITION & FEES

The ASUW advocates for a tuition policy that provides for affordable, stable, and predictable tuition. Specifically:

- We support full legislative tuition-setting authority.
- We oppose any tuition proposal that permits tuition levels to rise substantially or unexpectedly.
- We support decreasing the percentage of the total costs of education borne by students.
- We believe that any increase in tuition should be accompanied by an equally proportional increase in state general fund support.
- We oppose extensive differential tuition increases for nonresidential students and for graduate and professional students, and we oppose extensive variations within tuition classifications based on department or field of study.
- We oppose any mandatory fee not currently provided for by law, and we support full disclosure and student input, review, and approval of all mandatory institutional fees.
- We support complete student control over all student fees, including services and activities fee monies.

FINANCIAL AID

The ASUW believes that the best form of financial aid is lower tuition. The ability or lack thereof, to pay should never be a barrier to higher education. Specifically:

- We support new and increased funding of current financial aid practices, with preference given to grants and scholarships over loans.
- We support the funding of old and the creation and funding of new loan forgiveness or repayment programs.

MAINTAINING & EXPANDING DIVERSITY

Learning from those who have diverse experiences, beliefs, and perspectives is an essential component of a quality education, and these lessons can best be taught in a richly diverse intellectual and social environment. The ASUW strongly advocates for expanding the diversity of the student body, faculty, and staff. Specifically:

- We support the creation of state policies concerning higher education that increase accessibility for women, people of color, the disabled, sexual minorities, Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian and Transgender people, veterans and current military personnel, the economically and educationally disadvantaged, and other underrepresented groups.
- We support maintaining current state law which provides in state tuition for children of undocumented immigrants.
- We support the allocation of state funds to sustain and create outreach, recruitment, and retention programs targeted at the underrepresented and/or disadvantaged youth and adults in Washington.

STATE FUNDING

The ASUW believes that increasing the level of state appropriations to higher education and to the University of Washington is critical to ensuring that the University's instructional quality is of the highest caliber. Specifically:

- We support an increase in state appropriations to higher education.

- We support the funding of capital projects to maintain and expand the quality of education at the University of Washington.
- We support the balancing of new funding to ensure equal quality of all programs and courses of study.

ACADEMICS

The ASUW strongly believes in a higher education system that offers students flexibility and choice in every area of their academic life. Specifically:

- We support the creation and expansion of programs that guarantee admission to four-year institutions for students who complete a course of study at a community or technical college.
- We support the creation of programs that aid transfer students in making the transition from two-year or four-year institutions to the University of Washington.
- We support the creation and expansion of academic programs to meet student needs.

HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

The ASUW advocates for policies that increase the general health, safety, and welfare of all students, faculty, and staff at the University of Washington. Specifically:

- We support raising student employee and staff salaries, as well as the restoration of benefits to the highest level previously provided.
- We support raising faculty salaries and benefits to comparable levels of peer institutions.
- We support the right of any academic employee to choose whether or not to unionize.
- 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.
- We support the continued recognition of domestic partnerships.
- We support requiring institutions of higher education to offer comprehensive, reasonably-priced health coverage to all students, their spouses, domestic partners, and/or dependents.
- We support state funding for the construction and operation of student-centered on-site child care facilities and the expansion of child care services on campus.
- We oppose the sale, donation, or distribution of personal student information to third parties without student approval.
- We oppose any effort to limit the civil rights of students or to increase their liability or punishment based on their status as students.

POSITION STATEMENTS

Although the ASUW does not actively seek legislative action on the following positions, they nonetheless remain important statements of our beliefs on a number of issues.

- We support legislation to provide for increased safety on campus property through crime prevention as well as hazard identification and improvement.
- We support programs that provide increased access to technology for students.
- We support exempting textbook and required supply purchases for college courses from Washington State sales tax.
- We support legislation that makes the Student Regent more effective and accountable to students.
- We oppose any legislation which would limit students' financial independence.
- 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.
- We support student involvement in every aspect of the decision-making process that occurs at institutions of higher education.