

2006 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

This Legislative Agenda sets forth our lobbying positions for the 2005-2006 academic year.

TUITION AND 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 complete student control over all student fees, including Services and Activities Fee monies.
- We support decreasing the percentage of the total costs of education borne by students.
- We support policies that reduce the burden of textbooks and other costs of education.
- We oppose any increase in tuition that is not accompanied by at least 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.

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 in all programs and courses of study. 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.

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 and creation of loan forgiveness and repayment programs.

MAINTAINING AND 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, ideological, 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 accessibility for women, people of color and diverse ethnic backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, 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 use of race in university admissions as a component of a holistic approach toward applicants.
- We support the allocation of state funds to sustain and create outreach, recruitment, and retention programs targeted at the underrepresented and disadvantaged youth and adults in Washington.
- 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 expanding the jurisdiction of the state's civil rights laws to include sexual orientation and thus offer protection in the areas of housing, employment, insurance, and public accommodations.
- We support measures expanding accessibility of the UW for international students.

ACADEMICS

The ASUW strongly believes in a world-class higher education system that offers students flexibility, choice, and the potential for personal development in every area of their academic lives. Specifically:

- We support the creation and expansion of programs that assist 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.
- We support programs that provide increased access to technology for students.
- We support measures that expand access and funding for studies abroad to University of Washington students.
- We oppose any policy that would hold students to a set credit limit in which they must complete their education.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND 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 continued and expanded recognition of domestic partnerships and measures promoting marital equality.
- We support the right of collective bargaining for academic employees.
- We support requiring institutions of higher education to offer comprehensive and affordable health care coverage to all students, their spouses, domestic partners, and dependents.
- We support state funding for the construction and operation of student-centered on-site childcare facilities and the expansion of childcare services on campus.
- We support funding of a safer environment for the UW Community.
- We support any measure that would decrease pollution and increase the usage of renewable resources 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.

TRANSPORTATION

The ASUW advocates for policies that increase transit services that expand accessibility options for students. Specifically:

- We support measures encouraging environmentally-friendly transportation.
- We support measures that would ease the transportation burden of students.
- We oppose all transportation measures that negatively impact the UW Community.

STUDENT ADVOCACY

The ASUW supports student involvement in the decision-making process concerning higher education. Specifically:

- We support policies that would strengthen UW voice and lobbying abilities.
- We support legislation that makes the student regent more effective and accountable.
- We support greater outreach to promote student voting.
- We support measures that highlight the many benefits and achievements of the University of Washington and thus support efforts to promote Husky Pride.

Passed by the Student Senate November 29, 2005

Approved by the Board of Directors December 1, 2005