

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ASUW lobbying positions and legislative goals for the 2008-2009 academic year

STATE FUNDING:

The ASUW believes increasing the level of state appropriations for higher education and to the University of Washington is critical to ensure that the University's instructional quality is of the highest caliber in all programs and courses of study, so that funding is competitive when compared to peer institutions. Education is a fundamental investment and should not be underfunded nor disproportionately burdened regardless of budget shortfalls.

THE COST OF EDUCATION:

The ASUW advocates for a tuition policy that provides affordable, reasonable, and equitable tuition, for both Washington state residents and non-residents. We oppose any proposal that permits tuition levels to rise unexpectedly. We support complete student control over all student fees.

FINANCIAL AID:

The ASUW believes the best form of financial aid is affordable tuition. The inability to pay should never be a barrier to access higher education. We support financial aid accessibility to all students in need.

MAINTAINING AND EXPANDING DIVERSITY:

The ASUW strongly advocates for expanding *and retaining* the diversity of the student body, faculty, and staff, including funding outreach programs for underrepresented youth and adults. We support a holistic approach to university admissions, and believe learning from those who have diverse experiences, beliefs, and perspectives is an essential component of a quality education.

ACADEMICS:

The ASUW strongly believes in a world-class, learner-focused, seamless higher education system that offers flexibility, choice, and the potential for personal development in every area of students' academic lives. We support raising faculty salaries and benefits to levels comparable to peer institutions. We support increasing resources that expand academic programs and technology, to meet student needs.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE:

The ASUW advocates policies that increase the general health, safety, and welfare of all students, faculty, and staff at the University of Washington. We oppose any effort to limit the civil rights and liberties of students, faculty, or staff.

TRANSPORTATION:

The ASUW advocates policies that increase coordinated, regional transit services and expand accessibility options for students. We support environmentally-friendly transportation measures that emphasize moving people rather than cars, and support increases in funding for research and development of "green" transportation.

STUDENT ADVOCACY:

The ASUW advocates policies that represent the opinions and interests of students as responsible global citizens. The ASUW supports student involvement in decision-making processes that concern higher education, including support of policies that strengthen the University of Washington's student voice and lobbying abilities and promote student voting accessibility.

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