

2011-2012

Public institutions of higher education provide jobs, innovation, and economic stability essential for the future competitiveness of Washington. State funding for higher education has an exponential return on investment and is an integral part of the long-term solution to our current economic crisis. The future of Washington state depends on the strength of higher education; divestment in **public** higher education is divestment in the people of Washington state. On behalf of over 40,000 students, the Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW) holds the following legislative priorities:

STATE FUNDING:

ASUW believes increasing the level of state appropriations for higher education is critical to ensure that the University of Washington's instructional quality is of the highest caliber in all programs and courses of study. State funding should be competitive compared to peer public institutions. The University of Washington is a fundamental investment in our state's economy and must be protected from additional disproportionate cuts, regardless of budget shortfalls. All revenue generated by the University of Washington should remain under University control.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION:

The ASUW believes in a world-class, learner-focused, seamless higher education system that offers the opportunity for the personal development of all students. The ASUW supports recruiting and retaining diverse world-class faculty and globally competitive students. **The ASUW supports recruiting, retaining, and developing a diverse, globally competitive students and faculty who are prepared to contribute to the growth of Washington State.**

COST OF EDUCATION:

The ASUW advocates a tuition policy that provides affordable, reasonable, and equitable tuition for Washington state residents, non-residents and international students. We favor a legislative cap that encourages predictability in any increase of student expenses. ASUW supports complete student control over all student fees and student involvement in decision-making processes that concern higher education.

FINANCIAL AID:

The ASUW believes the best form of financial aid is affordable tuition. Increases in tuition should be matched by proportional increases in financial aid. Inability to pay should never be a barrier to higher education. State financial aid programs are pivotal to fulfilling the University of Washington's commitment to the accessibility of higher education.

DIVERSITY:

The ASUW supports a holistic approach to university admissions and believes that learning from those who have diverse experiences, beliefs, and perspectives is an essential component of a quality education. We support funding outreach programs for underrepresented youths and adults. We advocate retaining and expanding the diversity of the student body, faculty, and staff.

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORTATION:

The ASUW believes in the University of Washington's core value of teaching, researching, and practicing environmental sustainability. We support affordable regional transit service and accessibility for students.

WELFARE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

The ASUW advocates policies that increase the general health, safety, and welfare of the University community and their families. We oppose any impediment to the civil rights and liberties of students, faculty, and staff. We support policies that strengthen the University of Washington's student voice, lobbying abilities, and voting accessibility.