

## **Associated Students Western Washington University State Legislative Agenda 2009**

### **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 differential/regional pricing, complete local control, and partial local control (i.e. discretionary bands.)
- Support an increase in state support for higher education.
- Oppose increases in Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) unless they are fully funded.
- Support funding for the Academic Guidance and Planning System.

### **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 and funding to raise eligibility for the State Need Grant to 100% of the median family income for Washington State.
- Support increased funding for State Work Study.

### **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, including but not limited to health, student building, technology, and recreation fees.
- Support student review and student approval of mandatory course fees.
- Support the appointment of a voting student member on every community and technical college board of trustees or regents.
- Support legislation that includes student input as a part of faculty evaluation for teaching effectiveness.

### **Campus Life**

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

- Support legislation and funding that improves accessibility for students with disabilities by enhancing on-campus resources and services, and by improving the physical accessibility of campus.**
- Support increased funding of campus childcare programs through fully funding the state matching grant system as detailed in RCW 28B.135.010 administered to institutions of higher education.
- Support legislation that improves student and campus safety.
- Support appropriations of capital funding for the design, construction of new and existing campus buildings.
- Support improved funding to increase the availability, affordability and quality of healthcare on campus.

## **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.**
- ❑ Supports legislation that mandates a holistic review of applicants in the admission process, while taking into account race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, 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 become carbon neutral, and affirm a commitment to the development and use of renewable and sustainable energy technologies.**
- ❑ Support legislation that requires minimization of environmental impact due to the construction of new state buildings and raises LEED certification requirements for all new state buildings.
- ❑ Support legislation that requires mandatory recycling programs at all public universities and CTC's.
- ❑ Support local control of universities with regard to green energy programs, with specific attention to student input.
- ❑ Support a state mandate that food service contractors for state institutions of higher education serve food grown sustainably within Washington State or a reasonable distance when available.

## **Public Transportation**

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

- ❑ **Support legislation that increases funding for regional transit connectivity and improves local public transportation systems.**
- ❑ Support legislation that requires and funds existing public transportation to be carbon neutral or use renewable energy sources.
- ❑ Support state funding for the creation and use of hybrid and electric mass transit vehicles.

## **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 provides for full time faculty positions to be tenure track.
- ❑ Support legislation that promotes recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and staff.

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