

Legislative Affairs Council Budget Policy

In order to be responsible stewards of student funds apportioned to the Legislative Affairs Fund through ~~voluntary student donations~~ mandatory student fee, the following policy has been adopted. The policy is meant to ensure that funds are used appropriately and can be accessed and distributed in an efficient manner to setye the students of Western Washington University in the best way possible.

The puipose of the Legislative Affairs Fund is to ensure that students are represented in the legislative process, and are able to effectively advocate for affordable, accessible, and quality higher education and as well as other issues effecting students rights-r. This budget pays primarily for the Associated Students advocacy lobbying efforts which are coordinated by the VP for Governmental Affairs.

Non-Discretionary

Items falling into the non-discretionaiy budget will automatically be approved for expenditure without a vote of the Legislative Affairs Council. These expenditures will be authorized autonomously by the Vice President for Governmental Affairs. Items labeled as non-discretionaiy will get priority funding over discretionary items. In order to be considered a non-discretionaiy expenditure, a line item expense must be approved by the Legislative Affairs Council as a recurring expense (i.e. membership dues to intercollegiate organizations like WS A and USSA, personnel costs) that will stay on the list each year. Due to the variable nature of many costs the Legislative Affairs Council incurs, an NTE level may be set for each non-discretionaiy item at the time it is adopted by the Legislative Affairs Council. Non-discretionaiy items are automatically reauthorized not subieet to a sunset clause and may be removed from the non-discretionaiy budget only by a 2/3 vote of the Legislative Affairs Council. All non-discretionary allocations are subject to approval of the Board of Directors. All changes made to the non-discretionary allocation must be approved by the ASWWU Board of Directors.

Discretionary

Div funds remaining following the allocation of funds to cover non-discretionaiy expenditures will be available for expenditures as approved by the Legislative Affairs Council. These expenditures are to be allocated only following the presentation of a funding request to the Legislative Affairs Council under the established info-action schedule when possible, allowing for reflection and evaluation before final approval is granted. Any discretionary funding request involving limited attendance must follow the LAC Guidelines for Funding Conference Attendance. During the summer, and when not in academic session, this council's responsibilities fall to the AS VP for Governmental Affairs with approval from the AS President and Director of Student Activities.

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Reserves

As with any variable income funding structure, a reserve fund is necessary to provide stability and ensure continuity for the Legislative Action Fund. Should revenues ever be insufficient to cover non-discretionaiy allocations, the Vice President for Governmental Affairs may use funds held in reserves to make up the difference. If reserve funds are needed to cover non-discretionaiy allocations, the Vice President for Governmental Affairs is to notify the Legislative Affairs Council at their next regularly scheduled meeting. 5% of any funds donated to the Legislative Action Fund are to be held in reserves until the reserve level reaches 125% of the previous year's non-discretionary expenditure. Should reserves fall below this level, 5% of any future funds donated to the Legislative Affairs Council are to

be automatically moved to reserves until the balance reaches 125% of the previous year's non-discretionary expenditures. These reserve requirements may be changed only by a 2/3 vote of the LAC and approval of the Board of Directors.

~~*This policy is to take effect the quarter following the successful implementation of opt-out fee structure for the Legislative Affairs Fund*~~