



Associated Students of Western Washington University



Photo by [Carolyn Copstead](#)

2014 Legislative Agenda

The Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU), the recognized student governance organization on campus, represents and protects the interests of 14,950 Western Washington University students. The ASWWU exists to ensure student representation in decisions that impact students; support leadership development; provide resources, activities, and information for students; and provide opportunities for students to organize themselves around their special interests, in order to further achieve the mission of the university and complement classroom education. Our three Legislative Priorities are:

- 1. Dedicating revenue to higher education.*
- 2. Advocating for the DREAM Act.*
- 3. Securing funding for the renovation of Carver Academic Facility.*



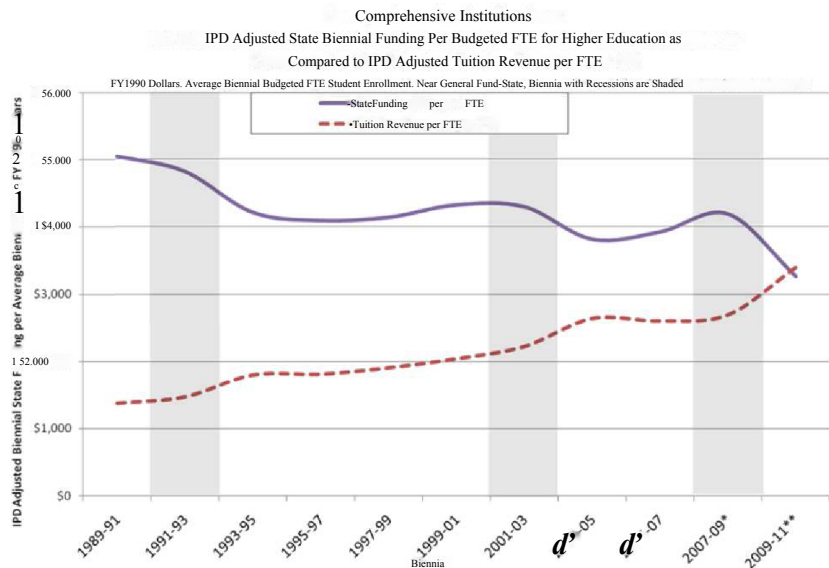
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ASWWU LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

DEDICATED REVENUE

Low tuition, fully funding state financial aid, and fully funding state institutions of higher education are priorities for students. We support dedicating existing sources of revenue to higher education by closing tax loopholes or raising existing taxes. Separating higher education funding from the general fund will help protect higher education from severe cuts.

- Dedicated revenue will contribute to stabilizing tuition, allowing Washington State students and families to plan for their financial future. Just as business benefits from a stable tax system, students benefit from stable tuition costs.
- The State Need Grant has been chronically underfunded, effecting thousands of low and middle income students who need dependable state financial support.
- Some example revenue sources include: closing tax exemptions such as the extracted fuel exemption, revising the estate tax, and allocating revenue from the expiration of the B&O tax incentive for R&D firms.



Source: Washington Student Achievement Council

DREAM ACT

We believe that all students should have equal opportunity to obtain a higher education. There is inherent value in providing access to state financial aid for all students, regardless of their documentation status.

- Students and families residing in Washington State who are undocumented contribute their fair share to state and local taxes and should have access to the benefits funded from those taxes.
- The Washington State economy benefits from engaging the creative potential of an educated work force.
- Students benefit from greater diversity in higher education while preparing to participate in the multicultural society in which we live.

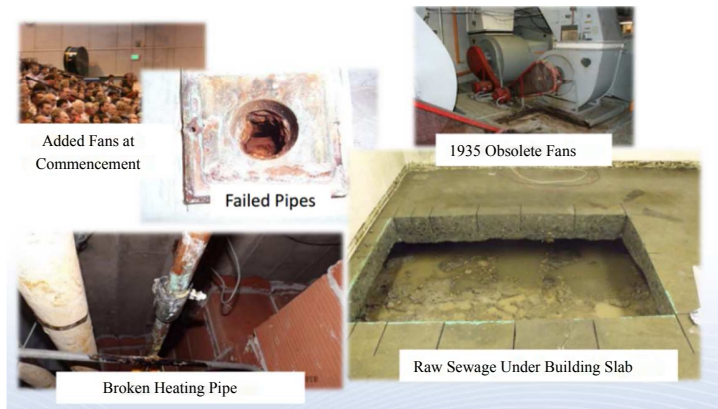


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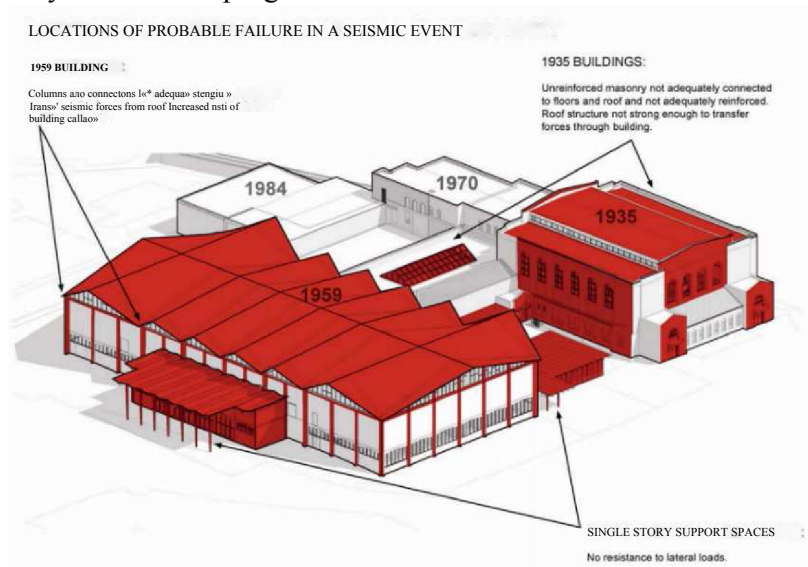
CARVER ACADEMIC FACILITY RENOVATION PROJECT

ASWWU and WWU Administration stand together to recognize that funding the renovation project for Carver Academic Facility is imperative for student safety and provides an opportunity to make WWU's campus more sustainable. Students value Carver as both an academic and an athletic complex that is an integral part of the student experience at WWU. We are asking for \$5 million to start the renovation project.

- Keeping this project on the requested timeline is essential. Action has been delayed for several years. Further inaction on this life and safety issue is unacceptable.
- Models show that in the event of seismic activity, significant portions of the Carver Complex are subject to catastrophic failure, which would result in fatalities.
- Existing health and safety concerns include: inadequate ventilation, broken heating pipes, and raw sewage seepage.



- Carver is currently not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Carver is home to Physical Education, Health, and Recreation (PEHR), which is the largest department at Western. Every year, there are 268 academic classes taught in the Carver Academic Facility that enroll 7,677 students.
- The Carver Gym portion of the facility is the largest enclosed space in Whatcom County and is one of the most visited facilities on campus. It hosts WWU athletic events, graduation ceremonies, and many other WWU functions. In addition, Carver is an important facility to the Whatcom County community, hosting events such as local high school graduation ceremonies and youth athletic programs.





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**FROM THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dear Legislator,

It is with great pride that we present our 2014 Legislative Agenda on behalf of the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU). This document has been crafted with great care to inclusively and accurately represent the opinions and wishes of all 14,950 Western Washington University students.

This year, we have focused on building the future. Our three priorities reflect three different ways of achieving this goal. First, we are requesting revenue to be dedicated to higher education. Investment in higher education is necessary for a sustainable model in which current and future generations have the opportunity to acquire the tools needed to build a strong future for Washington. Second, we advocate for the DREAM Act because it is important to build up the people of Washington State. There is inherent value in providing all people fair access to resources. Third, we request funding to begin renovations in our Carver Academic Facility. If we wish to take our place at the forefront of an ever rapidly developing economy, our state must build up safe and modern facilities in which innovative learning can take occur.

Thank you for taking the time to review our ASWWU Legislative Agenda. We appreciate all that you do, and hope you will join us in building the future of Washington State. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

The ASWWU Board of Directors

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