

## **Thank you for your interest in helping to create the ASWWU Legislative Agenda!**

The following guidelines will provide you with the information that you will need to put together your proposal to the AS Board of Directors and AS Legislative Affairs Council.

Legislative proposals should answer questions listed below under ‘**considerations for presenters**’ in roughly 600 words. Each proposal will be allotted a total of 20 minutes for presentation and questions from the Legislative Affairs Council.

### **Proposals**

#### **Issue: Comprehensive K-12 Sexual Health Education**

**Presenter(s): Bennett Massey-Helber**

**Endorsements: Washington Student Association, last year’s ASWWU and LAC, and these members of the Washington State Legislature:**

**Senators:** Wilson, C., Randall, Keiser, Saldaña, Takko, Mullet, Wellman, Das, Nguyen, Billig, Pedersen, Rolfes, Darneille, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Hunt, Kuderer

**Representatives:** Stonier, Goodman, Orwall, Jinkins, Santos, Davis, Ortiz-Self, Dolan, Wylie, Pettigrew, Riccelli, Senn, Cody, Sells, Frame, Pollet, Hudgins, Stanford, Doglio, Fitzgibbon, Slatter, Bergquist, Robinson, Macri, Kloba, Peterson, Thai, Fey, Appleton, Valdez, Tarleton, Shewmake, Kilduff, Callan, Ormsby, Walen

RAINN, the largest nonprofit anti-sexual assault organization in the United States, reported that 11.2% of all college students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. Furthermore, only approximately 10% of students report their assault due to personal or institutional barriers. Furthermore, transgender and gender-nonconforming students, students with mental disabilities, Black and Native American students, and students facing poverty are disproportionately impacted by these crimes.

“Lack of education around affirmative consent perpetuates rape culture, victim-blaming, and decreases accountability. While colleges and universities try to educate new students about the importance of consent from all parties involved in sexual activity, and healthy relationship practices it is too late to try to embed these important behaviors in young adults. The WSA supports mandated comprehensive sex-education in our K-12 system that informs students on the need to obtain consent, and be a part of

relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection and are free from violence, coercion, and intimidation” (WSA).

While the Associated Students of Western Washington University has advocated for increased trainings to combat sexual assault and intimate partner violence on campus, these trainings have limited effectiveness in the absence of sexual health education in K-12 institutions.

Therefore, the ASWWU recommends:

1. Update the Healthy Youth Act (RCW [28A.300.475](#)) to include language of affirmative consent in the [OSPI’s curriculum on sexual health education](#)
2. Mandate sexual health education in all public schools throughout Washington State
3. Support and pass [SB 5395](#), or its companion bill, [HB1407](#) creating an improved and expanded Healthy Youth Act (RCW [28A.300.475](#)) mandating comprehensive, medically and scientifically accurate, and age appropriate sexual health education that stresses affirmative consent in the public school curriculum in Washington State

### **Considerations for presenters:**

- Describe the issue: What is the problem? What is the solution?
- Does it directly impact and improve students' lives?
- Can you provide background information and the current context of the issue?
- Does it have a clear target? (e.g. a specific legislator, committee, or other agency)
- Will it strengthen and expand efforts within WSA?
- Could students build a diverse campus coalition around this issue?
- Does it have a local/state/federal organizing and lobbying angle?

- Are students at Western engaged and interested in this issue? If not, what tactics could we employ to mobilize students around this issue?

**Please be sure to ask if any questions come up regarding the issue selection process.**

**Contact Associated Students Director of Legislative Affairs: Bennett Massey-Helber at [ASLegislativeLiaison@wwu.edu](mailto:ASLegislativeLiaison@wwu.edu) with any questions**

### **Considerations for the Committee**

This section is comprised of questions the Legislative Affairs Council should keep in mind while considering proposals

- Is it winnable?
- Does it have a clear and realistic time frame?
- Is it likely to be debated and acted upon by the Legislature in the next year?

### **Next Steps and Timeline of Proposal Process**

- Please arrive to the LAC meeting at which you are presenting on time, with your materials ready
- 20 minutes allotted for each presentation including questions

Fall:

- Preliminary discussion of proposals in LAC meetings
- Presentation, review and voting on legislative proposals by the Board of Directors
- Compilation of Legislative Agenda
- Crafting statements for Agenda Handouts
- Finalizing Handouts and approval by the Board of Directors

