

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: Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault

Presenter(s): Bennett Massey-Helber

Endorsements: Washington Student Association, and various state legislators depending on the ask

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?
- What creative and/or innovative tactics could we employ to engage the media and excite new 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 with any questions

Issue: Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault

Presenter(s): Bennett Massey-Helber and Kayl Gillihan (Proposal Creator)

The ASWWU should be increasingly concerned with the frequency of sexual violence on college campuses and how often these instances go unreported. RAINN reported that 11.2% of all college students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. And only ~10% of students report their assault due to personal or institutional barriers. Furthermore, transgender students, students with mental disabilities, black and Native American students, and students facing poverty are disproportionately impacted by these crimes.

We believe that more students will be able to access support with increased funding at the state level, which will promote a safer campus and community environment. We also believe that, as a whole, we have a responsibility to alleviate the burden faced by survivors of sexual assault as much as possible. We leave the burden entirely on survivors if we don't advocate on behalf and in support of them. Increased funding at the state level will permit universities to implement stronger and more effective support programs for survivors, creating campuses where survivors can complete their education with fewer roadblocks.

The ASWWU should make efforts to:

1. Support a new version of HB 1002 by Orwall, Mosbrucker, and Goodman that would modify the definition of rape in the third degree to remove the requirement for the "lack of consent" to be "clearly expressed by the victim's words or conduct."
2. Allocate resources so that specialized personnel, resources, and training for staff members can be implemented at universities leading to an improved ability to respond to sexual violence and involved parties.
3. The development and implementation of a mandatory, state-wide training program for all university faculty, staff, and administration.
4. Clarification and transparency surrounding the reporting process as well as readily available information of support services for survivors of sexual and domestic violence at the university and in our communities.

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