



Choosing an Issue

ASWWU Statewide Legislative Agenda

LAC Proposal Form

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: Western on the Peninsulas Funding

Presenter(s): Bennett Massey-Helber

Endorsements: WWU Administration

In Washington State, there are two types of tuition at public universities: student supported tuition and state supported tuition. Student supported tuition is when the university is funded entirely through student fees and tuition and receives no state funding. State supported tuition is when student tuition pays some of the cost of the university, but most of the funding comes from the state. Not surprisingly, the tuitions at colleges with student supported tuition are much higher than those at universities with state supported tuition.

Western on the Peninsulas, a program that brings Western Washington University to six campuses throughout the peninsula, does not receive state supported tuition for seven of its nine offered degree programs. This means that students enrolled to these programs at these campuses are paying double the tuition paid at Western's campus in Bellingham, making these programs unaffordable and inaccessible.

WWU's Administration is going to be asking the legislature for \$1.9 million per year to make all programs at Western on the state supported. This would decrease the cost of attendance by an average of \$12,000 a year.

Therefore, the ASWWU recommends that the Washington State Legislature:

1. Offers state supported tuition to the six Western Washington University campuses participating in Western on the Peninsulas

Considerations for Presenters



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- 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 with any questions



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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



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