

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE
ARIZONA STATE BOOK CHALLENGE IN THE TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**
**Submitted by thoughtful and committed students and the AS VP for Governmental Affairs, Iris Maute-
Gibson**

WHEREAS, Western Washington University (WWU) “serves the people of the State of Washington, the nation, and the world by bringing together individuals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives in an inclusive, student-centered university that develops the potential of learners and the well-being of communities,” as is outlined in the University’s mission statement; and

WHEREAS we find that WWU’s vision parallels the pursuits of Tucson Unified School District’s (TUSD) Mexican American Studies Program (MAS) in that the MAS Program’s model includes the following components:

- “A counter-hegemonic curriculum.”
- “Student-teacher interactions centered on *authentic caring*”

And offers students “Social and academic scaffolds to increase student success”

WHEREAS, the vision of WWU is to “build a stronger Washington by being an international leader in active learning, critical thinking, and societal problem solving;” and

WHEREAS the pursuits of TUSD’s Social Justice Education Project (SJEP) provides its students with:

- “Academic rigor”
- “The opportunity to develop a critical consciousness”

And engages in the pursuit of promoting and advocating for “Social and educational transformation.”

“WHEREAS, The Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), in compliance with The State of Arizona Revised Statutes Sections 15-111 and 15-112, had to eliminate its Mexican American Studies (MAS) Program, resulting in the subsequent removal of textbooks and books on the MAS Program Reading List;” and

WHEREAS, culturally relevant curriculum that embody this country’s rich diverse history can no longer be taught or prepared by teachers in the suspended MAS Program; and

WHEREAS, “SJEP students’ graduation rates (about 95%) exceeded those of Anglo students (about 84%) in the site(s) where the program was offered¹” and students in the TUSD MAS Program are “entering college at a rate of 80%²,” and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Standards for Teacher Certification, by which Woodring students abide, dictates that teacher candidates “show the knowledge and skills for effective teaching by:

- Designing and/or adapting challenging curriculum that is based on the diverse needs of each student...
- Demonstrating cultural sensitivity in teaching and in relationships with students, families, and community members...
- Informing, involving, and collaborating with families and community members as partners in each student’s educational process...

...A successful candidate for the professional certificate shall demonstrate professional contributions to the improvement of the school, community, and the profession by:

- Advocating for curriculum, instruction, and learning environments that meet the diverse needs of each student; and
- Participating collaboratively in school improvement activities and contributing to collegial decision making.”

WHEREAS, the Associated Students Board of Directors (ASBOD) seeks to

- “Foster students’ rights and responsibilities”
- “Promote the general welfare of students”
- “Establish channels of communication within the University”
- “Represent student interests and opinions to the University Administration, Board of Trustees, and appropriate governmental agencies”; and therefore

WHEREAS, these missions are all in alignment with those of the MAS Program and the SJEP in Arizona State:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Associated Students of Western Washington University stand in support of the students of the TUSD who oppose this violation of their right to education

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the AS of WWU oppose the additions to the Arizona House Bill 2281

IN ADDITION, BE IT RESOLVED that the AS of WWU support the Mexican American Studies program based on increased graduation rates and increased college attendance numbers, and due to the fact that our university’s values are in alignment with those of the SJEP and the MAS Program

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the AS of WWU urge Washington Attorney General, Rob McKenna, to take a strong stance by writing a letter to Arizona Attorney General, Tom Thorne, expressing Washington State’s opposition to the removal of Ethnic Studies programs and encouraging the immediate reimplementations of the MAS Curriculum and challenged literature.