

Legislative Agenda Brainstorming

LAC October 21, 2013

Local Issues

- Water front development
 - Impact on indigenous communities
 - Living wage
- University Ridge
- Rental Safety
 - Fair housing
 - Rental licensing
 - Inspections
 - On and off campus housing (including Resident Halls)
 - Better communication with landlords
- Reaching out to local business
 - Including Lawyers to see if they are willing to do pro bono work for students
- Coal Terminal
 - Highlighting the 2011 Resolution passed by the AS Board of Directors
- Fostering better relationships with the campus and Bellingham Police
 - What role can students play within their current system
 - Being proactive in preventing events like the riot
 - Maximizing student sense of comfort and trust in police
 - Ensuring that police are not abusing their power or mistreating traditionally marginalized communities
 - Fair treatment of all students regardless of identity
- Advocating for a diversity requirement for city institutions
- Campus and Community Health and Safety
 - Sexual assault prevention
 - More lighting
 - Laurel Park
 - South Campus
- Transportation
 - Review ASTAC 2012 Master Plan

State Issues

- State Financial Aid
 - Including for Grad Students
- Fully fund the State Need Grant
- Carbon tax
- Faculty
 - Competitive pay and benefits
- Pay it Forward
- Western Governors University

- o For-profit university accountability
- o Reversing their access to state financial aid
- Tuition Freeze (or reduction)
- Support for students at critical academic transitions
 - o Academic advising, transfer equivalency guides, financial aid assistance, College 101 course to teach basic skills (financial, time management, study habits, etc)
 - o Can help 1st year, running start, transfer, and non-traditional students
 - o Target information and support to adults who have some college credit earned to help them with degree completion
- Veteran Issues
 - o Access to in state tuition
- DREAM Act
- Voter Access
 - o Bills of note: 1267 and 1279
- Student Health Insurance
- New and Dedicated Revenue
- Childcare for students
- Tuition setting authority with State not institution
- Funding for research
 - o Graduate and STEM
- Dedicated funding for STEM
- Increasing and fully funding actual FTEs
 - o Competitive funding per FTE
- Carver Gym Renovation Project
- Increase support for students with disabilities
 - o Expanding services
- Public Health and Safety
- Transportation

To Do:

- Categorize into Guiding Principles, Legislative Priorities, and Policy Stances
- For Legislative Priorities
 - o Consider potential collaborations, partners, and related organizations/groups on and off campus who are/might be interested in the topic
 - o Draft a proposal for each issue including the strategy chart
 - Work with other council members as well as outreaching to students
 - Finding groups to “endorse” the issue
 - Finding testimony for issues
 - talk to students, faculty, staff and administration