

ASWWU Legislative Priorities

Dedicated Revenue

ASWWU recognizes that low tuition, fully funded state financial aid, and providing funding to state institutions of higher education is a priority to students. We set out to recommend politically feasible sources of revenue generated from closing existing tax loopholes or increasing existing taxes and dedicating that revenue to funding higher education.

- Close the extracted fuel exemption in the state tax code that would generate between \$41 million and \$63 million per biennium.
- Double the estate tax, which would only affect approximately 300 people a year and could generate an estimated \$160.3 million for the 2013-2015 biennium.
- Allocate revenue from the elimination of the B&O tax incentive for R&D firms, which is estimated to generate \$114 million in the 2013-15 biennium.
- Additional tax exemptions we recommend closing include agricultural procedures, international banking facilities, investment income of nonfinancial firms, B&O tax for insurance agents, and fertilizer and chemical spray.

DREAM Act

ASWWU recognizes the inherent value of providing access to state financial aid for all students regardless of their documentation status. We believe that all students should have equal opportunity to attend higher education.

- Washingtonians who are undocumented contribute to state and local taxes and should have access to the benefits funded from those taxes.
- The Washington State economy benefits from having a more educated work force???
- Higher education as whole will benefit from a more diverse campus that truly represents students from all different backgrounds and identities
- HB 1817 passed with more bipartisan support in the House than any other bill of its type, which means this issue is a unique opportunity for legislators to reach across the aisle and work together to strengthen higher education and the state economy
- ASWWU stands together with the Washington Student Association, OneAmerica, LEAP, and WDAC in identifying this issue as a priority.

Carver Academic Facility Renovation Project

ASWWU and WWLJ Administration stand together to recognize that funding the renovation project for Carver Academic Facility is imperative. Students value Carver as both an academic and an athletic complex that enhances many students' experience at Western Washington University.

- There are multiple identified locations that are likely to experience failure in the event of seismic activity.

- There are many life safety concerns including failing systems such as broken heating pipes and obsolete fans and hazardous materials such as raw sewage under the building slab.
- Building is currently not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.
- Carver is home to Physical Education, Health, and Recreation (PEHR), which is the largest department in Western's College of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Every year, there are 268 academic classes taught in the Carver Academic Facility that enroll 7,677 students.
- The Carver Gym portion of the facility hosts athletic games for many different sports and other large events such as graduation.
- Furthermore, in accordance to student commitment to sustainability, we encourage exploring additional funding towards securing a Platinum LEED Certified renovation that will eventually offset additional costs and create long term savings in electrical, water and gas usage.