



Legislative Affairs Committee { Rights' Advocacy

Choosing an Issue

Goals	Organizational Considerations	Constituents, Allies, & Opponents	Targets	Tactics
<p>Long Term</p> <p><i>Rental Licensing Ordinances in Bellingham, More active system of regulation</i></p> <p><i>Student Understanding of WA Tenant Laws, and legal services available</i></p> <p><i>Student Empowerment and greater Political Activism in the community</i></p> <p><i>Motivate students to challenge the perceived inevitable injustices in society</i></p>	<p><i>Strong organizational representation of student body - We the students of WWU....</i></p> <p><i>Ability to mobilize resources as per our funding through the student body to engage in lobbying and events on campus</i></p> <p><i>Faculty and Alumni connections - outreach</i></p> <p><i>Official recognition as Student Representatives - supervised and strategic</i></p>	<p>Constituents</p> <p><i>Almost all students do or will live off campus in rentals during their time at WWU - this is a massive constituency of individuals who are directly influenced by rental policies</i></p> <p><i>Currently half the population of Bellingham rent their housing - many allies</i></p> <p><i>Low income families also experience tenant violations</i></p> <p>Allies</p> <p><i>Bellingham City Council is open to rental reforms and has asked Bellingham mayor to include a rental licensing and inspection system in 2014 budget Source</i></p> <p><i>Organizations - CamDUS Community Coalition and Bellingham Permit Center</i></p> <p><i>Bellingham community members have also voiced support for new rental</i></p>	<p>Primary</p> <p>1) Bellingham City Council - Bellingham City Council</p> <p>2) Bellingham Mayor - Bellingham Mayor</p> <p>3) <i>Student Body</i></p> <p><i>To enact new Rental regulation and Tenant Rights in Bellingham, new city ordinances will have to be passed - councilmembers must understand we are threatened by the status quo</i></p>	<p>Org/Educational</p> <p><i>The most important step is to educate - students must be engaged if they are to contribute to the issue of tenants' rights</i></p> <p><i>Poll and ask students what their experiences are - the AS cannot do it alone</i></p> <p><i>Engage with WWU publications to promote and provide Q&A resources</i></p> <p><i>Pass AS Resolution</i></p>
<p>Intermediate</p> <p><i>New Policy to provide copy of WA Tenant Rights to new renters when signing agreement with landlord</i></p> <p><i>Greater communication and representation in City Council and community at large</i></p> <p><i>Student mobilization on campus - tenant education programs on campus</i></p>	<p><i>Many other groups on campus can be brought in as allies against negligent landlords</i></p> <p><i>Groups in the community support and voice concerns over new rental regulations - conversations and discussions of new policies will be important</i></p> <p><i>The AS is strengthened by having safer, and motivated</i></p>	<p><i>Bellingham City Council is open to rental reforms and has asked Bellingham mayor to include a rental licensing and inspection system in 2014 budget Source</i></p> <p><i>Organizations - CamDUS Community Coalition and Bellingham Permit Center</i></p> <p><i>Bellingham community members have also voiced support for new rental</i></p>	<p>Secondary</p> <p><i>Politicians were elected to represent their constituents, unfortunately they do not always have a full picture of what their constituents want or demand - issues must be discussed with them</i></p>	<p>Power</p> <p><i>A mobilization of students at WWU to challenge the status quo and to enact new tenant rights to protect them and to make sure their rights are protected will be empowering and motivate students to challenge what seems inevitable in society</i></p> <p><i>Actions like mass gatherings, solidarity protests, open mic events, public forums, and</i></p>



Legislative Affairs Council

Choosing an Issue

<p>Short Term</p> <p>Raise the issue to City Council</p> <p>Poll or find statistics of student renter population</p> <p>Ask students: "Have you had an unfair landlord? Have you lived in an unsafe rental?" Collect stories</p> <p>Promote the issue within the AS and encourage discussion of solutions. Also reach out to faculty and staff at WWUJ.</p> <p>Promote the cause on WWU publications - WF, ASReview</p> <p>Create attention grabbing events and marketing strategies to spread the word</p> <p>Create logo, slogan, and identifying message and image for the cause</p> <p>Have discussions with potential allies and opponents in the community to gather ideas and discuss solutions</p>	<p>students who no longer feel that they must be treated by the landlords improperly</p> <p>The AS is recognized as representing student interests in the community</p> <p>The AS is recognized as a powerful resource for student activism</p> <p>However, the AS must act decisively to promote this issue and to address limitations in what it can do - it cannot call for protest, it cannot use fiery language, it is bound by structural constraints that other organizations / associations in the community are not</p> <p>The AS must ensure that it voices student sentiments while organizing them into a coherent policy</p>	<p>regulations - <u>Dick Conobov</u></p> <p><u>Tenants Union</u></p> <p>This issue can rally many different people together, this community is small and our City Council is receptive to public sentiment</p> <p>Opponents</p> <p>Bellingham City Council has in the past voted down rental regulations, and there is no guarantee that they will support it unequivocally</p> <p><u>Whatcom County Association of Realtors</u></p> <p>- likely oppose greater regulation of their industry</p> <p>Some Landlords in the community</p> <p>Large Rental Companies</p>		<p>even joining in public forum with the Bellingham City Council will be important ways that students can enact change</p>
--	---	---	--	--