



Associated Students of Western Washington University

Board of Directors

Federal Agenda 2011: Work Study and Peil Grant

Federal Work Study and Peil Grant

The Associated Students of Western Washington University Board of Directors and Legislative Affairs Council find:

- Work Study supports student access to college by filling many of the unmet financial needs of students and provides services to the campus and the community.
- Western Washington University appropriations from the Federal Work Study program have not increased since 2005.
- Federal Work Study appropriations to Western Washington University have declined in actual dollar amounts from \$522,293 in FY2000 to \$487,351 in FY2011.
- The percentage of students served nation-wide by Federal Work Study has decreased or remained constant on a yearly basis since 1991.
- Federal Work Study allocation has seen a steady decrease in its ability to fund student jobs from the equivalent of 238 jobs in 200 to the equivalent of 167 jobs in 2011 at Western Washington University.
- Washington State Work Study currently supports approximately 400 jobs on Western Washington University's campus. However with the recent state budget deficit, Western Washington University could see 200 jobs lose funding.
- Pell Grant funding still does not meet the demand for aid. The total unmet need at Western Washington University was \$19,566,012 in 2009-2010.

The Associated Students of Western Washington University Board of Directors and Legislative Affairs Council resolve:

- a. The students of Western Washington University would benefit from an increase in appropriations to the Federal Work Study program.
- b. The students of Western Washington University would benefit from an increase in appropriations to the Federal Pell Grant program.



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For-Profit College Accountability

The Associated Students of Western Washington University Board of Directors and Legislative Affairs Council find:

- For-profit colleges play a key role in America's higher education system by providing flexible alternatives to traditional post-secondary education.
- For-profit colleges report hundreds of millions of dollars in profit every year. The majority of this profit comes from federal financial aid dollars.
- In 2009, \$24 billion in Department of Education financial aid was allocated to students attending for-profit colleges.
- The 90/10 rule caps the percentage of revenue received by for-profit colleges from the Department of Education at 90%.
- In August 2010, a U.S. Government Accountability Office investigation into for-profit colleges raised concerns about possible fraudulent and unethical behavior.
- The "gainful employment" rule will require for-profit institutions to be transparent about their degrees' ability to provide employment opportunities to graduates relative to the cost of the degree. The Department of Education is set to enact this rule in June 2011.

The Associated Students of Western Washington University Board of Directors and Legislative Affairs Council resolve:

- Increased regulations and oversight of the for-profit college industry are critical to ensuring the accountability of federal financial aid dollars.
- Congress should support efforts of the Department of Education to increase regulations of the for-profit college industry including the enactment of the "gainful employment" rule and the continuation of the 90/10 rule.



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Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minor Act (DREAM Act)

The Associated Students of Western Washington University Board of Directors and Legislative Affairs Council Find:

- The DREAM Act is a federal bill which would amend the Illegal Immigration and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 permitting states to determine state residency for higher education purposes and adjusting the status of qualifying students without proper documentation of citizenship.
- Students without proper documentation of citizenship qualify for the DREAM Act if they have:
 - o Entered the US before the age of 16.
 - o Earned a high school diploma or GED, or have been admitted to a 2 or 4 year institution of higher education,
 - o Lived in the US 5 years before the date the legislation is enacted,
 - o Displayed good moral character, generally meaning that the student has no criminal record.
- The DREAM Act will repeal measures that penalize states for providing students without proper documentation of citizenship with in-state tuition.
- The DREAM Act will make qualifying students eligible for federal loans and work study.
- The DREAM Act will provide a pathway to citizenship for students without proper documentation of citizenship in institutions of higher education or the military.
- HB 1079 passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2003 allowed anyone, including undocumented immigrants, who attended and graduated from high school in the state to pay the in-state tuition rate. Ten other states have adopted similar pieces of legislation.
- Academic and personal merit should be the key factors in determining a person's ability to earn a degree from Western Washington University.
- The DREAM Act will increase the accessibility and affordability of higher education across the nation.
- The DREAM Act uses the language of undocumented students rather than students without proper documentation of citizenship

The Associated Students of Western Washington University Board of Directors and Legislative Affairs Council Resolve:

- To actively promote the passage of the DREAM Act.
- To encourage both houses of Congress and the President enact the DREAM Act.
- That undocumented students should be referred to as students without proper documentation of citizenship.