

## Legislative Action Fund Restructure



**Proposed Motion:** Recommend to the Board of Trustees approval of a mandatory fee of \$1 per quarter to the Legislative Action Fund to begin collection Fall 2014.

**Sponsor:** Kaylee Galloway, AS VP for Governmental Affairs

**Persons of Contact:** Kaylee Galloway or Sarah Kohout, 2014-15 AS VP for Governmental Affairs

**Date:** June 5, 2014

### Background & Context

In Spring of 2014, students passed the following referendum 75%- 25%:

*“Shall the students of Western Washington University, using the power granted to them by state law, change the Legislative Action Fund to a \$1 per quarter opt-out fee structure in order to increase student representation and advocacy efforts at the campus, local, state, and federal level?”*

Due to administrative concerns about the feasibility of an opt-out fee structure, we are not able to go forward with the fee structure presented in the referendum. This new proposal will accomplish lowering the fee to \$1 per quarter, but will institute the fee as a mandatory fee that will be automatically charged to student accounts with no opt-out (refund or waiver) option.

Eileen Coughlin, WWU VP of Enrollment and Student Services, has discussed this fee with President Bruce Shepard. In light of 2011 RCW 28B.15.610, President Shepard would be comfortable administering a mandatory fee upon approval of the Board of Trustees.

Having the LAF as a mandatory fee will increase and stabilize revenues, which will help the AS further increase and enhance student (and Western) representation at the campus, local, state, and federal level. Other benefits include:

- Stabilized revenue will allow for sustainable and responsible budgeting
- Ensure Western students remain leaders in statewide and national student advocacy efforts
- Affordable investment that could save students money and enhance their academic experience
- Ideas Moving Forward
  - USSA (federal representation)
  - Student Personnel
  - Relieve S&A fees

### Summary of Proposal

This fee will replace the current \$2 voluntary fee system that occurs at course registration.

### Fiscal Impacts

14,950 students x \$1 x 3 quarters = \$44,850 plus summer collection (unknown)

## **Rationale**

All students benefit from the advocacy efforts funded by the LAF, therefore all students should pay into these efforts.

A one dollar fee per quarter does not place an undue burden on students, while providing an excellent return on investment via legislative victories increasing access and affordability of their education.

## **Additional Information**

There is precedent at Central Washington University for a mandatory student lobby fee.

This fee would be compliant with Washington State Law:

### **RCW 28B.15.610**

#### **Voluntary fees of students.**

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to or affect any student fee or charge which the students voluntarily maintain upon themselves for student purposes only. Students are authorized to create or increase voluntary student fees for each academic year when passed by a majority vote of the student government or its equivalent, or referendum presented to the student body or such other process that has been adopted under this section. Notwithstanding RCW [42.17A.635](#) (2) and (3), voluntary student fees imposed under this section and services and activities fees may be used for lobbying by a student government association or its equivalent and may also be used to support a statewide or national student organization or its equivalent that may engage in lobbying.

[2011 c 60 § 11; 2009 c 179 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 223 §[28B.15.610](#) . Prior: 1915 c 66 § 8; RRS § 4552. Formerly RCW [28.77.065](#).]

#### **Notes:**

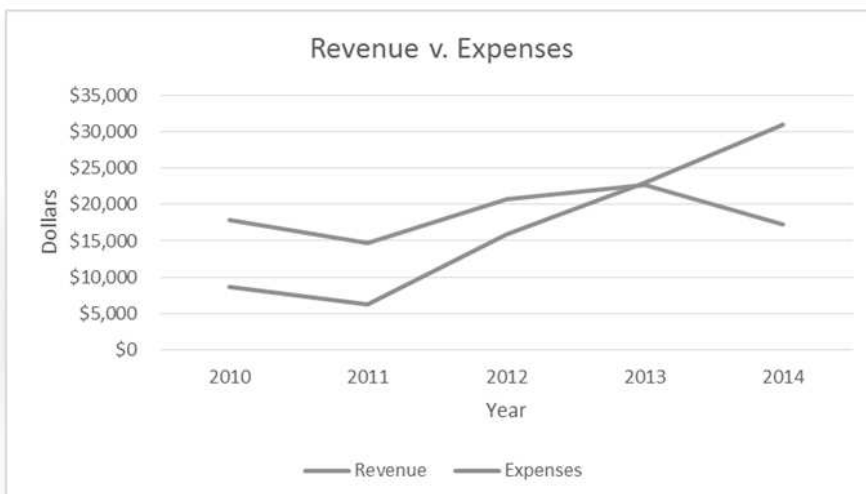
**Effective date -- 2011 c 60:** See RCW [42.17A.919](#).

## Use of fee dollars this year



- WSA Membership
- WSA Board Retreat
- WSA Lobby Day
- USSA Congress
- USSA Legislative Conference
- AS Environmental Lobby Day

## Demonstrated Need for Restructure



<u>Year</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
2010	\$17,864	\$8,677
2011	\$14,678	\$6,203
2012	\$20,702	\$15,922
2013	\$22,698	\$22,986
2014*	\$17,682	\$30,883

\* As of June 4, 2014