



“Proposal for Gender-targeted Programming for Elect Her”

Proposed Motion: *Write the motion language here*

Sponsor: Sarah Kohout, AS VP for Governmental Affairs

Persons of Contact: Patrick Eckroth (AS REP Director)

Guest Speaker: Patrick Eckroth (AS REP Director)

Date: 11/19/2014

Background & Context

The Associated Students Representation and Engagement Programs is proposing to offer a gender-targeted program. This proposal is meant to give you an introduction to the purpose of this program, as well as to give you a background in our understanding of why it is important for this program to be targeted toward female-identified students.

Summary of Proposal

The Elect Her initiative acknowledges the necessity to build the pipeline of women running for office in order to diminish the long-standing political leadership gender gap. This event provides grant recipients with a free training that encourages women to run for student government on their campuses and other elected positions. Last year was the fourth year this event took place on Western’s campus. Western partnered with AAUW (American Association for University Women) which allowed for the majority of the cost to be covered by the grant from AAUW (food for continental breakfast & lunch for all participants, and travel for the facilitator).

Elect Her has proven to be an effective program over the past few years, as noted by an increase of women in student governments across the nation, specifically at WWU where the number of women in student government positions increased from 14% (2011) to 57% (2012) and has followed that trend over the past few years (87% in 2014). Additionally, the pre and post survey results from Elect Her in 2014 showed great increases in the likelihood of participants running for government offices in and outside of the University. Finally, there has also been a strong increase in attendance, with 42 attending in 2014 and 24 in 2013. This shows a growing interest in and demand for trainings of this type.

People who identify with any gender are encouraged to participate with the knowledge that the training is targeted towards female-identified students. The training will take place on Saturday, February 7th, 2015. Please let us know if you have any concerns or questions.

Fiscal Impacts

Most Fiscal Impacts are budgeted for in the FXXREP Budget, another proposal will accompany this one to discuss fiscal impacts for catering after AAUW lost funding and cut out their grant of \$1,200 for catering expenses.

Rationale

This event provides female identified folks and other marginalized identities a learning opportunity and some of the resources necessary to help run for an elected position on and off campus. Something that is necessary not only to reduce the gender gap in politics, but also to help advertise the AS Board of Directors, AS employment opportunities, and AS Elections as a whole