

The Associated Students of Western Washington University and The United States Student Association Membership Due Price Proposal

The United States Student Association is the oldest, largest, and most inclusive national student-led organization and the 2013-14 ASWWU Board of Directors passed the "Resolution Regarding Direct Membership with the United States Student Association" on May 22nd, 2014. The last clause of the resolution read:

"BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, The ASWWU Board of Directors authorizes direct membership with the USSA for \$6,000 per year using funds from the Legislative Action Fund (FXLACF) pending Board of Trustee approval and administrative implementation of the Legislative Action Fund restructure."

In its first year of direct membership, the agreed upon rate was .40 cents a year per student totaling \$5,780 but rounded up to \$6,000 in case Western had an increase in enrollment.

The Legislative Action Fund has been secured but in 2014-15 it is still in its first year of implementation and therefore is unpredictable. For the first couple years of implementation it is important to be conscious of how much money is spent out of this account.

The membership due rate for the United States Student Association is .50 cents a year per student. This would make the WWU membership dues at \$7,475. The Legislative Action Fund budget for USSA Membership dues was \$6,000 based upon the membership dues price in the "A Resolution Regarding Direct Membership with United States Student Association" passed in 2014.

Understanding that the USSA is an organization that runs off of State Student Association and Direct Member Schools Membership dues, but being aware that the Legislative Action Fund is still unpredictable an agreement of .40 cents for the 2014-15 year puts dues at \$6,000, .45 cents in the 2015-16 year putting dues at \$6,727.5, and having dues be at .50 cents in the 2016-17 year putting dues at \$7,475. At this steady and increased rate, Western would be able to make dues to the USSA and enjoy being direct members.

Western students in the 2014 AS Elections, AS Legislative Affairs Council, and ASWWU Board of Directors voted for increased representation at the federal level and USSA is an organization that will best represent students in D.C., provide resources to assist Western in our organizing and mobilizing activities, and the ability to participate in the USSA campaigns. The desire to join USSA is apparent, but the lack of a predictable fund makes the rate of .40 cents per student a more feasible rate for Western to pay in its first year as a Direct Member.