



**Proposed Motion: to approve \$15,000 over 2 years for the Representation and Advocacy Initiative, \$7500 in FY18 and \$7500 in FY19.**

**Sponsor:** Wayne Rocque, AS Vice President for Student Life

**Persons of Contact:** Sabrina Houck and Eric Alexander

**Guest Speaker:**

**Date:** 4/13/2017

**Attached Document**

*Attached is the proposal for the budget for the Representation and Advocacy Initiative.*

### **Background & Context**

In accordance with the demands expressed by our student workers in University Residences, they wish to establish a formal committee, that is accountable to students and positions outside of University Residences, designed to deal with issues concerning University Residences and allow Resident Advisers and students-at-large to serve on it. They acknowledge that University Residences has made an effort to include Resident advisers in their decision making processes but this input is infrequent, only given when asked for, and superficial at best. We are demanding that the administration form a permanent formal committee to have decision-making power on the affairs of University Residences. The majority of voting members on this committee should be students, both Resident advisers and students-at-large, as appointed by the Associated Students. This committee should be student led, student run, and ultimately accountable to students. Resident advisers should have some control over our positions and the university we attend. This could be an opportunity for Resident advisers to exercise that power in a meaningful and impactful way.

### **Summary of Proposal**

The Representation and Advocacy grant program promotes student and worker development opportunities through the implementation of practices that provide workers and students in University Residences with development opportunities through the implementation and support of practices that prioritize Resident Advisor worker welfare and Resident welfare with an emphasis on diversity and a commitment toward ensuring all student actors within University Residences are respected. University Housing Representation and Advocacy Committee the UHRA Committee provides operational oversight to the grants dispersed through the committee. UHRA provides budgetary direction and approval, and determines avenues for fund allocation. The Representation and Advocacy Initiative upholds the UHRAC mission to support social, diversity and workplace welfare and safety for all residents and resident advisers, as well as to provide student and worker engagement, advocacy and developmental opportunities. Residents and Resident Advisers are reprimanded for being "too political". Moreover, established lines are up to the discretion of those engaging in that disciplinary action. Many basic conversations surrounding diversity, micro aggressions, privilege, power and various other issues. With our political climate, it is unfortunate that these employees and residents are expected to stay neutral when many of their identities are on the line. This committee and initiative provides students with the ability to engage with their community in a more critical manner. Its primary purpose is to facilitate representation and center advocacy. Representation and Advocacy initiative funds grants and underwrites for innovative student-driven and operated projects, events, initiatives and other programming that fit within the mission and priorities of the Representation and Advocacy

Program. The Initiative awards grants in the following areas: Student enhancement, Professional development grant, Event and Workshop grants, Guest Speakers, Collaboration with AS offices, Advocacy related purchasing grants

**Fiscal Impacts**

*If financial impacts occur:*

What do you need to happen?

- Transfer from (budget) to \_\_\_\_\_ (budget).*
- Board's approval to spend \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ and no other steps needed.*
- A 2 year grant of \$15,000 allocated from FXXRES to be distributed annually by RAI*

**Alternative Solutions**

Options (Please provide multiple options for the same proposal if alternatives are available).

| Option | Financial Impact of Option | Services or Outcome of Option |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A      |                            |                               |
| B      |                            |                               |
| C      |                            |                               |

**Rationale**

This proposal should happen as per the AS resolutions and bylaws that highlight  
 (1) promoting the general welfare of students,  
 (2) representing student interests to the University Administration, and  
 (3) fostering students' rights. Furthermore, in accordance with the resolution the AS has put forth, one of the primary recommendations the AS bard makes is the Associated Students of Western Washington University better serve the students on campus by including them in conversations and decisions this university makes. Moreover, committing to creating a support structure, specifically for Resident Advisers and their concerns. For additional rationale, please refer to list of demands, and the movement and petition as a whole.