

WILD – Shared Legislative Agenda Items (DOC + SAIRC + ESC)

Legislative Priority: **Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault**

The Associated Students of Western Washington University is increasingly concerned with the frequency of sexual violence on campuses and how often these instances go unreported. While 1 in 5 womxn and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted while they are in college, only 10% of students report assaults due to personal or institutional barriers. Furthermore, transgender students, students with mental disabilities, black and Native American students, and students facing poverty are disproportionately impacted. We believe that more students will be able to access support with increased funding at the state level, which will promote a safer campus and community environment. Increased funding at the state level will alleviate the burden faced by survivors, and permit universities to implement stronger and more effective support programs for survivors, creating campuses where survivors can complete their education with fewer roadblocks.

Therefore, we recommend:

- Support HB 1002 (which modifies the offense of rape in the third degree) and 1016 (which concerns hospital notification of availability of sexual assault evidence kit collection), both of which have direct impact on survivors of sexual assault.
- Allocate resources so that specialized personnel, resources, and training for staff members can be implemented at universities leading to an improved ability to respond to sexual violence and involved parties.
- The development and implementation of a mandatory, state-wide training program for all university faculty, staff, and administration.
- Clarification and transparency surrounding the reporting process as well as readily available information of support services for survivors of sexual and domestic violence at the university and in our communities.

Legislative Priority: **Police Accountability**

The Associated Students of Western Washington University recognizes that the use of excessive and deadly force by law enforcement affects all communities by fostering distrust and resentment. Not only are individuals deprived of their constitutional and human rights when subjected to excessive and often deadly use of force, their communities are likewise negatively impacted, resulting in decreased public safety and an unproductive relationships between communities and law enforcement. Often times, abuses of power are not isolated incidents, but rather a symptom of systemic and institutional shortcomings. People of color, disabled people, and the queer community all experience police violence at a disproportionately high rate.

Therefore, we recommend:

- The adoption of the recommendations put forth by the Joint Legislative Task Force's requiring:
 - Meaningful police accountability structures that ensures **a safe mechanism to submit formal complaints about officers**
 - **an objective investigation of those complaints**, completed in a timely manner, and **ensures that discipline is appropriately completed.**
 - **All instances of deadly force be investigated by external bodies** with oversight and funding provided through the Attorney General's Office.

- Law enforcement agencies to **report the use of deadly force to the Attorney General's Office**, and requiring the Attorney General's Office to collect data regarding the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers.
- Passing HB 1064 and SB 5029 which implements Initiative 940 These bills include reforms that mandate the Criminal Justice Training Commission develop training programs that include deescalation in patrol tactics, alternatives to jail booking, arrest, and citation, and alternatives to the use of physical or deadly force.

Legislative Priority: K-12 Ethnic Studies and Sex Education Reform

The Associated Students of Western Washington University recognizes and strongly believes that the public school curriculum must require sex education and ethnic studies. Current curriculum used in Washington state fails to teach the importance of consent. We believe that this does not prepare students for healthy sexual relationships, both in high school, higher education, and adult life. Research have shown that consent education helps in the prevention of sexual assault. Improving sex education will result in a more informed and ultimately safer college population.

Additionally, we strongly believe that public schools teachers and curricula must represent the historically marginalized communities of the state. Current curricula contains persistent gaps in perspective from communities that have faced discrimination and bias. Ethnic studies will enable students to develop a critical and intersectional understanding of issue and engage at risk youth. A Stanford study found that ethnic studies implemented at the high school level improved student GPA by 1.4 points and at-risk youth attendance by 21%.

A failure to implement such changes is a disservice to communities across Washington state.

Therefore, we recommend:

- Improve and expand the Healthy Youth Act (RCW 28A.300.475) to include education on the necessity of affirmative consent, discussion about LGBTQIA+ identities, sexualities, and safe sex in non-heterosexual relationships, in addition to simply requiring medically accurate information.
- Requiring comprehensive HIV and healthy sex education for all K-12 public schools in Washington State by amending WAC 392-410-140.
- Support and pass SB 5023 to develop a model ethnic studies curriculum for grades K-12, including the establishment of an ethnic studies advisory committee comprised of educators of color, students, and appropriate community stakeholders to advise, assist, and make recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding the development of the model ethnic studies curriculum.
- Support school districts in successfully implementing ethnic studies standards.
- Support school districts in the hiring and retention of a diverse and representative staff