

Gabbi Nazari – Support for Survivors

The ASWWU is concerned about the frequency of sexual violence on college campuses and how often these instances go unreported. While 1 in 5 womxn are sexually assaulted while they are in college, only 10% of students report assaults due to personal or institutional barriers. 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 permit universities to implement stronger and more effective support programs for survivors, creating a campus where survivors can complete their education with fewer roadblocks.

- Specialized personnel, resources, and trained staff members to improve the university's ability to respond to sexual violence and involved parties.
- The development and implementation of a mandatory training program for all university faculty, staff, and administration.
- Clarification of 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 community.
- Legislative interest toward the Washington Student Achievement Council in regards to assessing the effectiveness of current codes of conduct at Washington State universities that deal with sexual harassment and sexual assault in accordance with RCW 28B.110.030.
- Endorse the Council of Presidents and the Washington Student Association's recommendations on exempting higher education institutions from the Administrative Procedures Act and form an educational model for conduct proceedings.

Nora Harren – Prepaid postage

All counties in the state of Washington conduct elections by mail. In order for the ballot to be counted, voters must return the ballot to the auditor no later than 8:00pm on the last day of voting or they must mail the ballot to the county auditor with a postage stamp no later than election day (this election cycle exempt). Requiring voters to use their own postage reduces voter turnout in elections and creates a barrier to necessary civic involvement. Additionally, requiring voters to pay their own postage creates a de facto poll tax. We are asking for the Washington State legislature to fund prepaid postage on all return envelopes for ballots. There are two bills currently in the legislature (SB 5018 and HB 2378) which align with this ask.

Maddie Rackers and James Pai - Civilian Oversight Boards

Excess force by law enforcement affects all communities by fostering distrust and resentment. Not only are citizens deprived of their constitutional and human rights when subjected to excessive and often deadly force, their communities are likewise negatively impacted, resulting in decreased public safety and a virulent relationships between communities and law enforcement. Often times, abuses of power are not isolated incidents, but rather a symptom of systemic and institutional shortcomings.

Communities of color, disabled individuals, and LGBTQIA+ individuals, in particular are more likely to be abused by law enforcement officers. According to a 2015 DOJ report, "blacks (14%) were more likely than Hispanics (5.9%), and slightly more than whites (6.9%) to experience nonfatal force during street stops." (DOJ). Certainly, students who themselves are part of these communities are also subject to disproportionate rates of use of force by police, which will negatively impacts their academic, social, and

mental wellness. Even those who have not directly experienced abuses of power may still be deleteriously affected, as they continue to witness members of their communities and loved ones suffer.

We have confirmed that police accountability extends beyond our current measures in place (the Bellingham Citizens Advisory Board), as well as the expectations in place regarding police corroboration with ICE. It has also established that the Bellingham Police Department's professionalism standards (including expectations consistent with community care-taking), and ethics and values, should be made explicit and ultimately steer its policies and practices. With this, we recommend:

- Adopt recommendations put forth by the Joint Legislative Task Force's requiring the **establishment of meaningful police accountability structures** that, among other things, ensures that there is a safe mechanism to submit formal complaints about officers; an objective investigation of those complaints is completed in a timely manner; makes findings; where there is a finding of misconduct, recommends appropriate discipline and/or training; and ensures that discipline is appropriately completed.
- Adopt recommendations put forth by the Joint Legislative Task Force's requiring that **all instances of deadly force be investigated by external bodies** (outside the department employing the officer(s) involved) with investigative competency and sufficient resources; and providing oversight and funding through the Attorney General's Office.
- Adopt recommendations put forth by the Joint Legislative Task Force **requiring 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, on a standardized statewide basis, regarding the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers.

Without immediate and progressive change, the lack of police accountability will continue to break down relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Regardless, the human and civil rights violations perpetrated by law enforcement officers are unacceptable in any context. With these policy initiatives, we hope that the relationship between communities and law enforcement can be mended and that all individuals can exist with dignity and a sense of safety.

Grace LaMonte – Sex Ed in K-12

Washington state sex education is currently not required for K-12 schools, and the curriculum used in schools that do choose to provide sex education does not teach about the importance of consent. Washington law on sexual health education states that “the decision as to whether or not a program about sexual health education is to be introduced into the common schools is a matter for determination at the district level by the local school board.”

Currently, Washington state sex education lacks information about consent, specifically affirmative consent. Lack of education around consent creates misunderstanding over sexual assault and leads to rape culture, victim blaming, and a lack of accountability. The solution to this is expanding the Healthy Youth Act to include curriculum teaching students about affirmative consent. Affirmative consent is defined as explicit, informed, and voluntary agreement to participate in a sexual act. Rather than “no means no” language around sexual assault, the definition of consent is expanded to mean “yes means yes”. Teaching students about the necessity of consent from an early age is vital to healthy relationships and culture later in life.

We are encouraging the strengthening and expansion of the Healthy Youth Act (RCW 28A.300.475) to include information about affirmative consent and requiring HIV and healthy sex education in all public schools in Washington State.

Including information about affirmative consent directly improves students lives by helping create a more informed discussion around sexual assault and ending the rape culture that is prevalent both in our college campuses and our nation at large. Schools will introduce the idea of consent from a young age in their sex education curriculum, which is necessary to the wellbeing of not only students, but all people.

- Washington state teen pregnancy rates have decreased to 16 per 1,000 women aged 15-19. However, we can continue to reduce this number
- Washington State does not require sex education for public schools. But, for schools that do, the Healthy Youth Act encourages that “the education must be comprehensive (i.e., discuss both abstinence and contraception) and ‘medically and scientifically accurate’ (i.e., supported by research, published in peer-review journals, and objective)”
- 55% of schools checked their curriculum for medical and scientific accuracy and 53% schools had curriculum consistent with 2005 DOH-OSPI Guidelines (2016 CDC survey)
- About 20% of schools teach no sexual health education or provide less than 1 hour of instruction (2016 CDC survey)

Currently, Washington State Law states that “the decision as to whether or not a program about sexual health education is to be introduced into the common schools is a matter for determination at the district level by the local school board” (WAC 392-410-140). We believe this does not prepare students for healthy sexual relationships both in high school and in their adult life after. HIV and Sexual Health education must be standardized so that all students receive the same background necessary to prepare them for and teach them about healthy sexual relationships.

Our ask is to improve and expand the Healthy Youth Act (RCW 28A.300.475) by including education on necessity of affirmative consent. Furthermore, requiring comprehensive HIV and healthy sex education for all K-12 public schools in Washington State.

Student stories and testimonies about their experience with sex education could be used as a reinforcement of our ask. Although Washington State is better than many other states in terms of sex education, there are still many improvements that could be made to our system. Comprehensive, standardized sex education that teaches about the importance of consent is a necessary issue students on Western’s campus can agree with.

We would like to expand the Healthy Youth Act to expand more on the idea of consent and why affirmative consent is necessary for any sexual encounter to take place. Simply requiring medically accurate information does not do enough to teach about the importance of consent for healthy relationships. The purpose of sex education is to teach about sex in a healthy, age-appropriate way that encourages students to be safe about their sexual health. By not including consent in curriculum, sex education is not meeting its intended goal.

- Working with clubs and other AS offices to do tabling and other events focused on testimony on student’s K-12 sex education
- Movies/documentaries focusing on consent screenings on campus

Brandon Lane – Housing and Homelessness

- Create more affordable homes by investing \$200 million dollars into the Housing Trust Fund
- Increasing the Funding for the Housing and Essential Needs Program which subsidizes rental costs for low income people with disabilities
- Repeal the State Ban on Rent Control

Brandon Lane - Tenant protections

- Require landlords to establish and publish reasonable screening requirements for tenants
- First in Time Law?
- Require Tenancy Termination notices be done for legitimate (documentable) business reasons
- Allow Local communities to retain a percentage of state sales tax revenue to invest directly into low income housing