**LAC Proposal Form**

Thank you for your interest in helping to create the ASWWU Legislative Agenda!

The following guidelines will provide you with the information that you will need to put together your proposal to the AS Board of Directors and AS Legislative Affairs Council.

Legislative proposals should answer questions listed below under **‘considerations for presenters’** in roughly 600 words. Each proposal will be allotted a total of 20 minutes for presentation and questions from the Legislative Affairs Council.

**Proposals**

**Issue: Student Support Package**

**Presenter(s): Bennett Massey-Helber**

**Endorsements: WWU’s Prevention and Wellness Services, Various VU Administrators**

**Considerations for Presenters**

* Describe the issue: What is the problem? What is the solution?
* Does it directly impact and improve students’ lives?
* Can you provide background information and the current context of the issue?
* Does it have a clear target? (e.g. a specific legislator, committee, or other agency)
* Will it strengthen and expand efforts within WSA?
* Could students build a diverse campus coalition around this issue?
* Does it have a local/state/federal organizing and lobbying angle?
* Are students at Western engaged and interested in this issue? If not, what tactics could we employ to mobilize students around this issue?

**Please be sure to ask if any questions come up regarding the issue selection process.**

**Contact Associated Students Director of Legislative Affairs: Bennett Massey-Helber at** [**ASLegislativeLiaison@wwu.edu**](mailto:ASLegislativeLiaison@wwu.edu) **with any questions**

While the ASWWU is grateful for the investment into higher education with the passage of HB 2158, we recognize that students still face major challenges around satisfying basic needs. To encourage academic success and increase completion rates, campuses need resources to provide individualized student support, address mental health needs, and ensure nonacademic supports for students.

Therefore, the ASWWU recommends:

1. Appropriate $600,000 to be administered to Western Washington University to
   1. Provide $200,000 per biennium to hire an additional full-time, state-certified employee for WWU’s Veterans Service Center in order to ensure that student veterans can access VA benefits, Washington state tuition waivers, and other specialized services.
   2. Provide $200,000 per biennium funding for additional mental-health staff for WWU’s Prevention and Wellness Center in order to expand counseling services at WWU.
   3. Provide $200,000 to hire an additional full-time employee for WWU’s Consultation and Sexual Assault Support office in order to better serve and support victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault on Western’s campus.

**Considerations for the Committee**

This section is comprised of questions the Legislative Affairs Council should keep in mind while considering proposals

* Is it winnable?
* Does it have a clear and realistic time frame?
* Is it likely to be debated and acted upon by the Legislature in the next year?

**Next Steps and Timeline of Proposal Proces**s

* Please arrive to the LAC meeting at which you are presenting on time, with your materials ready
* 20 minutes allotted for each presentation including questions

Fall:

* Preliminary discussion of proposals in LAC meetings
* Presentation, review and voting on legislative proposals by the Board of Directors
* Compilation of Legislative Agenda
* Crafting statements for Agenda Handouts
* Finalizing Handouts and approval by the Board of Directors