**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: Support for Native American Students**

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

**Endorsements: WWU’s NASU and the WSA Depending on the Ask**

In 2016, WWU’s Native American Student Union (NASU) sent a letter to then incoming President Sabah Randhawa’s office advocating for changes to be made to help support Indigenous students at Western Washington University. Among those asks was the construction of a Coastal Salish Longhouse to “honor the historic importance of place which WWU occupies.”[[1]](#footnote-4744) Native American Students at Western have also advocated for a Tribal Sovereignty Curriculum to educate students at WWU about the history of tribal governments. The Washington Student Association is also advocating for tuition waivers for Native students as well as changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People’s Day.

In order to provide solutions for the issues, both present and historic, facing Native American students, the ASWWU recommends:

1. Providing $4.9 million out of the capital budget to be used for the construction of a Coastal Salish Longhouse to be built on or near WWU’s campus
2. Allocate $500,000 to WWU per year to create a Tribal Sovereignty Curriculum at Western that is approved by all federally recognized tribes
3. Waive the tuition and fees for Native American students in Washington State’s Federally Recognized Tribes
4. Enact a law changing “Columbus Day” to “Indigenous People’s Day” in Washington State

\*The last 2 asks were all created by Evergreen State College former lobbyist Charles Adkins who is spearheading WSA’s asks on Native American student issues.

**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**

**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

1. WWU Administration’s One-Pager for the Coast Salish Longhouse [↑](#footnote-ref-4744)