

**Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Senate Resolution for  
Western Washington University's COVID-19 Pandemic Response**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has classified the COVID-19 outbreak as a worldwide pandemic; [1] and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University has suspended all in-person courses for all of Spring Quarter 2020; [2] and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University, and other relevant agencies, have taken actions to assist students during this pandemic; [2] and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the university are helpful and appreciated, but more needs to be done; and

WHEREAS, there are at least two student-led petitions calling for Western Washington University to reduce the overall cost of tuition and fees which have amassed over 5,825 signatures at the submission of this resolution; [3][4] and

WHEREAS, students and their families may not be financially stable during the current socio-economic climate; [5][6] and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University has said that it will not be lowering tuition charges for spring quarter 2020; [7] and

WHEREAS, a week of instruction for Spring 2020 was cancelled; [7] and

WHEREAS, instructors only had 24 days of notice to move all of their curriculum online and the UFWW has stated that this shift will lead to “a compromised educational experience”; [7] [8] and

WHEREAS, many students rely on pandemic-impacted jobs as a source of income to pay for tuition, fees, and school supplies; and

WHEREAS, many student employees, resident advisors, and apartment advisers were laid off and they have expressed concerns about finding housing, food, and safety. [10]

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE:

THAT, the Western Washington University's Board of Trustees (WWU BoT) shall refund overall tuition statements for Spring Quarter 2020 by the greatest amount possible while still maintaining the current level of employment and educational programs; and

THAT, if no tuition refund can be offered, the WWU Incident Command Systems Team shall release data and inform students of where their tuition money goes to further increase transparency; and

THAT, student representatives, one representative from the Associated Students of Western Washington University Executive Board and one representative from the Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Senate, be added to the WWU Incident Command Systems Team to ensure student voices are being heard; [11] and

THAT, WWU and the University Residences shall engage with students on an individual case-by-case basis to create a payment plan for those who cannot pay tuition, housing, and/or meal plans by the payment deadline; [12] and

THAT, WWU shall extend the original tuition payment deadline for Spring Quarter 2020 to the fifth Friday of the quarter (May 8); and

THAT, WWU shall exempt late tuition payment fees and interest assessment for Spring Quarter 2020; and

THAT, the University Residences shall extend the original payment deadline for Spring Quarter 2020 to the fifth Friday of the quarter (May 8); and

THAT, the University Residences shall continue their efforts to exempt late payment fees and interest for Spring Quarter 2020; and

THAT, the University Residences shall halt the following actions due to late payments for Spring Quarter 2020:

Suspension of Student Dining Accounts;

The Termination of Housing Agreements; [13] and

THAT, the University Residences and Campus Dining shall offer reduced-cost housing and meal plans to students and community members facing housing and food insecurity due to this pandemic for Spring Quarter 2020, and continue their efforts to support student employees who were laid off by University Residences and Campus Dining; and

THAT, all students with on-campus hourly jobs shall receive compensation, for the duration of Spring Quarter 2020, for work as if they had continued to work the same hours during Spring Quarter 2020; and

THAT, WWU shall grant all work-study students their full work-study allotment in the form of financial aid to those unable to work from home [14][15]; and

THAT, WWU, the University Residences, the WWU Department Chairs, the WWU Incident Command Systems Team, and other relevant agencies, shall increase their transparency, currently and in the future, regarding immediate and impactful decisions resulting from Natural Disasters; [16] and

THAT, this resolution be forwarded to President Sabah Randhawa, Vice President Melynda Huskey, Provost and Vice President Brent Carbajal, Vice President Stephanie Bowers, Vice President Richard Van Den Hul, Vice President Donna Gibbs, Vice Provost Steven Vanderstaay, Assistant Dean Michael Sledge, WWU Board of Trustees, Director of University Residences Leonard Jones, Resident District Manager of Campus Dining Stephen Wadsworth, and all WWU Deans.

#### CITATIONS

[1] -

<https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>

[2] -

<https://vimeo.com/398988343/18d10d00f4>

[3] -

[https://www.change.org/p/western-washington-un-partial-wwu-refund?use\\_react=false](https://www.change.org/p/western-washington-un-partial-wwu-refund?use_react=false)

[4] -

[https://www.change.org/p/sabah-randhawa-wwu-spring-2020-tuition-adjustment/sign?original\\_footer\\_petition\\_id=19197327&algorithm=promoted&source\\_location=petition\\_footer&grid\\_position=13&pt=AVBlDG10aW9uAMWcQgEAAAAAXn6tse67n2IyYTc5ZmNiOO%3D%3D](https://www.change.org/p/sabah-randhawa-wwu-spring-2020-tuition-adjustment/sign?original_footer_petition_id=19197327&algorithm=promoted&source_location=petition_footer&grid_position=13&pt=AVBlDG10aW9uAMWcQgEAAAAAXn6tse67n2IyYTc5ZmNiOO%3D%3D)

[5] - <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2020/03/17/the-places-a-covid-19-recession-will-likely-hit-hardest/>

[6] - <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/imf-economic-lessons-from-china-fight-against-coronavirus>

[7] - <https://www.wvu.edu/coronavirus>

[8] - <https://www.ufww.org/bufww/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Coronavirus-Faculty-Concerns-1.pdf>

[9] - <https://bfp.wvu.edu/files/IntroductionFeesRates19.pdf>

[10] - <https://www.westernfrontonline.com/2020/04/01/western-fires-all-ras-and-apartment-advisers/>

[11] - <https://policy.wvu.edu/POL-U1000.12-Reporting-Communicable-Diseases.pdf>

[12] - <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/cashier/tuition-payment-plan>

[13] - <https://housing.wvu.edu/apply/getting-started/2019-20-housing-agreement>

[14] - [http://www.finaid.wvu.edu/client\\_services/pages/aidtypes/workstudy.php](http://www.finaid.wvu.edu/client_services/pages/aidtypes/workstudy.php)

[15] - [http://www.finaid.wvu.edu/studentjobs/students/resources/ws\\_faq.php#WhatIs](http://www.finaid.wvu.edu/studentjobs/students/resources/ws_faq.php#WhatIs)

[16] - <https://westerntoday.wvu.edu/news/coronavirus-update-for-march-10-student-health-center-may-now-test-for-covid-19>