

# THE WASHINGTON STUDENT ASSOCIATION



and the OCE's role in  
legislative advocacy!!



# PURPOSE

The Washington Student Association is a nonprofit, nonpartisan\* student-run organization that represents students attending Washington State's higher education institutions.

The WSA works with students, state reps, and other stakeholders to advocate for a more affordable, accessible, and equitable system of higher education.

\*nonpartisan - no association with a political party, however as a non-partisan organization we can identify a party that is receptive to our agenda-items

# HISTORY

## OF THE WSA!!

The WSA was founded in 1982 under the name “Washington Student Lobby” by students at the UW, WSU and WWU. Their goal: to organize around a collective agenda to make Washington’s higher education system more affordable, accessible, and inclusive.

In the last 40 years, the WSL has transformed into the WSA, representing 15 public institutions of higher education and has over 150,000 members. Only student-run, student-led statewide organization in Washington.

# ADVOCACY


The WSA advocates for the rights and needs of students in Washington State. The organization coordinates lobbying efforts with member institutions and other stakeholders to promote legislation that supports students.

The WSA aims to create a more affordable, accessible, equitable, and inclusive higher-education system in the state.





# ISSUE AREAS



## Racial Equity

All students should feel welcomed and safe on their campus. The higher education system is rooted in racism and inequity. The WSA is committed to making our higher education system equitable and anti-racist.

## Financial Aid

Education empowers students to create healthy, just, and prosperous futures for themselves. No matter our income, race, age, or citizenship, all students should have the right to quality education without taking on a lifetime of debt.

## Basic Needs

Food, housing, mental health services, childcare, and supplies are all essential for an equitable higher education system. All students should be empowered to succeed.

## Voting Rights

Students are one of the most disenfranchised groups of voters in the nation. By protecting and expanding students rights to vote, we will create a Washington that is truly representative.

## Accessibility

Accessibility exists when there are no systemic barriers preventing people from attending college, participating in political processes, and graduating with the knowledge and development need to succeed.



## Executive Committee

The Exec Committee consists of 8 students who manage the day to day operations of the WSA.

## Board of Directors

The BoD is made up of the 15 Student Body Presidents at each of our member campuses. They oversee the budget, staff, legislative agenda, and direction.

# WSA STRUCTURE

The diagram features the text 'WSA STRUCTURE' in large, bold, white letters. Three light blue arrows point from the text towards the three descriptive blocks: one points up and left towards the Executive Committee, one points up and right towards the Board of Directors, and one points down towards the General Assembly. To the right of the 'STRUCTURE' text, there are several horizontal white lines of varying lengths, resembling a list or a set of notes.

## General Assembly

As the student representative body of the WSA, the GA is the most powerful board and each campus is prorated a specific number of votes based on their campus enrollment numbers.

# GA COMMITTEES



## Legislative Proposal

Researches, discusses, and reviews legislative proposals. Offers recommendation to GA regarding the proposals.

## Operations

Makes recommendations, vets, and proposes changes to the organizational structure of the association.

## Diversity

Focuses on racial and social equity, proposes legislative proposals and organizational changes, other tasks related to improving the org.

## Grad and Prof. Students

A space for graduate and professional students to discuss and strategize around issues affecting their population.

# ASWWU

WWU works with and benefits from the WSA. Within ASWWU, the VP of Governmental Affairs and the Director of Legislative Affairs focus on lobbying with the help of the WSA.

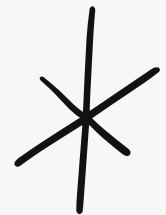
ASWWU students also submit legislative proposals to be adopted by the WSA. These proposals often seek to improve the higher education system state-wide; however, some proposals are more WWU-specific.





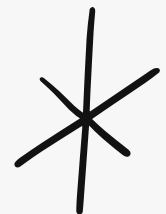
# WWU STUDENTS

## OUR INVOLVEMENT!!



### WE PAY THE WSA

WWU pays membership dues of \$1.05 per student, capped at \$15,000, to the WSA



### HOW WE BENEFIT

Membership with the WSA means that WWU student needs can be prioritized in WSA lobbying efforts. WWU students can participate in the WSA as Exec Committee members, GA attendees, and lobbyists. This provides WWU students with additional political capital that can influence legislators.



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED



- Students can join ASWWU's Legislative Affairs Council to help create ASWWU's agenda for the 2021-22 year
- Students can attend WSA's General Assembly in the fall to vote on legislative priorities
- WWU students can participate in Western Lobby Day and Western Intersectional Lobby Day, and students can testify on bills throughout the legislative session, as well



# THE OFFICE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



## DOLA POSITION

- Legislative liaison during session
- Works with WSA to identify policy needs, creates policy proposals
- Lobbies in partnership with WSA and other liaisons
- Works with students, stakeholders, and legislators
- Advocates for WSA's Legislative Agenda and ASWWU's Legislative Agenda

## OCE'S ROLE

- OCE staff can attend GA as voting members for ASWWU
- The OCE can help track WSA-related bills and issue areas
- We can also work to organize testimony and student advocacy for WSA bills
- Can help draft Legislative Proposals to share at GA

## ASWWU ADVOCACY

- ASWWU Legislative Action Committee work
- Western Lobby Day and Western Intersectional Lobby Day
- Educational programming that aligns with WSA legislative agenda
- Using our social media to promote advocacy and offer students a pathway to testify/lobby

# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COUNCIL (LAC)

## Who?


6-8 Students-at-large  
AS Legislative Liaison  
AS Local Liaison  
AS REP Organizing and Outreach  
Coordinator (non-voting)  
1 Grad Student or  
GSAC Representative  
1 ESC Representative  
1 ESP Representative  
1 SAIRC Representative

## What?

LAC works to:

- Encourage student civic engagement in the political process
- Create, review, and propose Local, State, Federal, and other Legislative and Administrative Agendas to the ASWWU Board of Directors
- Submit recommendations to the WSA regarding the statewide Legislative Agenda
- Establish contact with elected officials to ensure that student perspectives are considered
- Formulate policy positions for matters concerning students in higher ed. for approval by the AS BoD
- Review funding request proposals, making financial decisions, and monitor expenditures of student funds paid to the Legislative Action Fund
- Approve a budget for the LAF in areas designed to represent Western Students





# **ASWWU LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2020-2021**

[as.wvu.edu/gov/lobby-day/](https://as.wvu.edu/gov/lobby-day/)



# SUCCESSSES!!



**HB 1028**

Eliminated expensive, racially biased edTPA for teaching students

**HB 1368**

Provided \$5 million in COVID relief grants for undocumented students

**SB 5227**

Requires students and staff to participate in annual DEI training

**HB 1472**

Adds a graduate student to the Washington Student Achievement Council

**HB 1009**

Expanded student health plan coverage to include abortion coverage

**SB 5228**

Requires UW and WSA medical students to take courses on cultural competency

**HB 1044**

Creates postsecondary pathways for incarcerated individuals

**SB 5321**

Removes barriers to College Bound Scholarship, enrolls more students

**SB 5431**

Secures funding for the Legislative Internship Program

**HB 1166**

Continues funding for basic needs study we passed in 2018

**SB 5237**

Expands Working Child Connection Care program

**SB 5070**

Mandates that K-12 and colleges provide sanitary products in bathrooms



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



September  
October

Create legislative proposals for General Assembly

Attend GA, prepare for Legislative Session

Work on GOTV efforts, educating on voting rights

November  
December

Gather input and work on ASWWU's Legislative Agenda

Prepare for Western Lobby Day and Western Intersectional Lobby Day

Track Bills as they are pre-filed

January  
February

Carry out WLD and WILD

Track bills and create educational materials to share with students

Help students testify for Bills they care about

March  
April

Last testimony opportunities on Bills

Review session and create educational materials

Share "next steps" for Bills, how to hold admin and others accountable

May  
June

Prepare Spring GA proposals

Wrapping up the year, make sure next year's staff has a good starting place for legislative advocacy efforts



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

Email me at:

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General Assembly

October 2nd and 3rd at WWU