



Lobby Day 2006



ATN!

College is the New “High School”

- *“The new economy is characterized by rapid technological change, increased global competition, and accelerating knowledge dispersion. Higher education serves a paramount role in fulfilling these needs.”* – Dr. Theo Eicher, UW Dept. of Economics
- Employers demand well educated and skilled workers
- State population growing at 1% a year. State will need to fund **26,000** additional students by **2010** to compensate for this (HEC Board, 2005)
- Enhancing UW’s offerings through creation of Global Health Department and investment in bioengineering, nanotechnology and expansion of South Lake Union facilities
- In 2004 Washington did not fund **15,000** students (HEC Board, 2004)

The Cost of College

- *“It is the intent of the Legislature that needy students not be deprived of access to higher education due to increases in educational costs or consequent increases in tuition and fees”* -RCW 28B.15.065 (1977)
- Decreasing state support for higher education leads to higher tuition for students and lower education quality
- Quality academic advising for undergrads would lower their graduation times
- Over past decade, resident undergraduate tuition rose **78% percent**, per capita income rose **51% percent** and the CPI rose **20% percent** (HEC Board, 2005)
- Price of college textbooks has **tripled** since 1986 (U.S. GAO 2005)
- **26% percent (\$898)** of public university students college costs go to textbooks
- The average 2004-2005 graduating undergraduate had **over \$15,000 in debt**
- **The best financial aid is lower tuition**

Demographic Disparity

- Every minority (except Asian Americans) is underrepresented at UW in comparison to Washington demographics
- Only **118** African American students in UW freshman class of 5000 students (*Seattle Times*, 1/16/2006)
- **1.7%** percent of UW faculty are African American
- A diverse academic environment adds to one’s college education
- New “holistic” admissions process examining all students who apply to UW could help alleviate disparities

Voter Outreach

- *“The future of this nation rests with today's youth. Engaging young people in the voting process is critical. It ensures our democracy will thrive and truly represent the will of the people”* Sam Reed, Secretary of State,
- Only **48.75%** percent of 18-24 year olds are registered to vote, while **66%** percent of Americans are registered to vote
- College students switch living locations very frequently, making it inconvenient to keep voter registration up to date
- Online voter registration would ease the burden of voter registration

Feel free to talk about issues beyond these. There is the conduct code, equal rights legislation, student activism, and (most importantly) your personal story.