

2003-2004 ASUW State Legislative Agenda

I. FIRST TIER

A. STATE FUNDING & TUITION

- The ASUW advocates for full legislative tuition setting authority.
- The ASUW advocates for the increase of state appropriations to higher education.
- The ASUW advocates for a tuition policy that provides for affordable, stable, and predictable tuition. We will oppose any tuition proposal that allows tuition to rise substantially. The ASUW advocates for any decrease in the percentage of the total cost of education borne by students.
- The ASUW opposes any tuition increase that raises the percentage of the total cost of education borne by students.
- The ASUW opposes the charging of any mandatory fee except for those currently provided for in the law.
- The ASUW is opposed to extensive differential tuition increases for nonresidential students, for graduate and professional students, or to extensive variances within tuition classifications based on department or field of study.
- The ASUW supports the funding of capital projects to maintain and expand the quality of education at the University of Washington.

B. FINANCIAL AID

- The ASUW supports new and current financial aid practices—with preference given to grants and scholarships over loans.
- The ASUW supports the funding of old and the creation and funding of new loan repayment programs.

C. MAINTAINING AND EXPANDING DIVERSITY

- The ASUW advocates for a diverse student body, faculty, and staff.
- The ASUW supports the creation of state policies concerning higher education that increase accessibility for women, people of color, the disabled, gay, bisexual, lesbian and transgender people, the economically and educationally disadvantaged, veterans and active military personnel, and other underrepresented groups.
- The ASUW supports the allocation of state funds to sustain and create outreach, recruitment, and retention programs targeted at the underrepresented and/or disadvantaged youth and adults in Washington State. The ASUW believes such funding should be available to fund centralized efforts through the Office of Minority Affairs, departmental efforts, and student initiatives. The ASUW supports funding to allow increased efforts to recruit and retain a more diverse student body, faculty and staff.

II. SECOND TIER

A. Faculty Salaries and Benefits: The ASUW supports raising faculty salaries and benefits to comparable levels of peer institutions.

B. Student and Staff Salaries and Benefits: The ASUW supports raising Student Employee and Staff salaries, as well as the restoration of benefits to the highest level previously provided.

C. Transportation: The ASUW supports funding for increased transit services for students, faculty, and staff.

D. Child Care: The ASUW supports state and/or private funding for the construction and operation of student-centered on-site child care facilities and the expansion of affordable child care services on campus.

E. Bargaining Rights: The ASUW supports the right of any academic employee to unionize.

F. Student Fees: The ASUW supports student control of student fees.

G. Domestic Partnership Equality: The ASUW supports the continued recognition of domestic partnerships.

H. Funding for K-12: The ASUW advocates the funding of programs and capital projects in the interests of increasing the quality of education (books, teachers, facilities) in K-12 education pertaining to underrepresented students, as mentioned in Tier I, Section C, Item 2, so that they may be further equipped in their pursuit of a college education.

III. POSITION STATEMENTS

A. Campus Safety: The ASUW supports legislation to provide for increased safety on campus property through crime prevention as well as hazard identification and improvement.

B. Students Rights: The ASUW opposes any effort to limit the civil rights of students especially based on their status as students, international students, or as persons living in University Housing, the Greek Community, or off campus.

C. Health Care: The ASUW favors requirements that regardless of pre-existing conditions, institutions of higher learning make available comprehensive, reasonably priced health coverage to students, and that university-based health care centers and plans allow an option for students to obtain reasonably priced coverage for spouses, domestic partners, and dependents.

D. Textbooks Tax Exemption: The ASUW supports exempting textbook and required supply purchases for college courses from Washington State sales tax.

E. Student Regent: The ASUW supports legislation that makes the Student Regent more effective and accountable to students.

F. Financial Independence: The ASUW opposes any legislation which would limit students' financial independence.