

2007 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ASUW lobbying positions and legislative goals for the 2006-2007 academic year.

STATE FUNDING

The ASUW believes that increasing the level of state appropriations to higher education and to the University of Washington is critical in order to ensure that the University's instructional quality is of the highest caliber in all programs and courses of study. Specifically:

- We support an increase in state appropriations to higher education in order to bring the University of Washington to a competitive funding level when compared to peer institutions
- We support the funding of capital projects and university operations to maintain and expand the quality of education at the University of Washington

TUITION AND FEES

The ASUW advocates for a tuition policy that provides for affordable, stable, and predictable tuition. Specifically:

- We support full legislative tuition-setting authority
- We support complete student control over all student fees, including Services and Activities Fee monies
- We support decreasing the percentage of the total costs of education borne by students
- We support policies that reduce the burden of textbooks and other costs of education
- We oppose any tuition proposal that permits tuition levels to rise substantially or unexpectedly
- We oppose any increase in tuition that is not accompanied by at least a proportional increase in state general fund support
- We oppose extensive differential tuition increases for nonresidential students and for graduate and professional students
- We oppose extensive variations within tuition classifications based on department or field of study
- We oppose any mandatory fee not currently provided for by law, and we support full disclosure and student input, review and approval of all mandatory institutional fees

FINANCIAL AID

The ASUW believes that the best form of financial aid is lower tuition. The inability to pay for higher education should never be a barrier to that end. Specifically:

- We support new and increased funding of current financial aid practices, with preference given to grants and scholarships over loans
- We support the expansion of need and merit based financial aid
- We support the funding and creation of loan forgiveness and repayment programs
- We oppose the denial of financial aid based on any drug conviction

MAINTAINING AND EXPANDING DIVERSITY

Learning from those who have diverse experiences, beliefs, and perspectives is an essential component of a quality education, and these lessons can best be taught in a richly diverse intellectual, ideological, and social environment. The ASUW strongly advocates for expanding the diversity of the student body, faculty, and staff. Specifically:

- We support the creation of state policies promoting higher education accessibility for women, people of color and diverse ethnic backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, sexual minorities, Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, and Transgender people, veterans and current military personnel, the economically and educationally disadvantaged, and other underrepresented groups
- We support measures that allow children of undocumented immigrants to be eligible for the State Need Grant
- We support the continuation of programs that allow children of undocumented immigrants to receive in-state tuition as stipulated by current state law
- We support the allocation of state funds to sustain and create outreach, recruitment, and retention programs targeted at the underrepresented and disadvantaged youth and adults in Washington
- We support the funding of programs and capital projects at the K-12 level in the interest of increasing the quality of education, particularly with regard to underrepresented students, so they may be further equipped in the pursuit of a college education
- We support measures that expand the accessibility of the UW for international students
- We support the use of a holistic admissions policy that evaluates any and all relevant information about an applicant, regardless of whether it concerns race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, disability, or veteran status
- We support the inclusion of race in university admissions as a component of a holistic approach towards applicants

ACADEMICS

The ASUW strongly believes in a world-class, learner-focused, seamless higher education system that offers students flexibility, choice, and the potential for personal development in every area of their academic lives. Specifically:

- We support raising salaries and benefits of faculty to levels that are comparable to that of peer institutions
- We support the creation and expansion of programs that assist admission to four-year institutions for students who complete a course of study at a high school, community college, or technical college

- We support the creation of programs that aid transfer students in making the transition from two-year or four-year institutions to the University of Washington
- We support an increase in resources allocated to improve and expand academic advising services
- We support the creation and expansion of academic programs to meet student needs
- We support programs that provide increased access to technology for students
- We support measures that expand access and funding for studies abroad to University of Washington students
- We support the balancing of new funding to ensure equal quality of all programs and courses of study
- We oppose any policy that would hold students to a set credit limit in which they must complete their education

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE

The ASUW advocates for policies that increase the general health, safety, and welfare of all students, faculty, and staff at the University of Washington. Specifically:

- We support raising student employee and staff salaries and benefits
- We support the continued and expanded recognition of domestic partnerships and measures promoting full marriage equality for all couples
- We support the right of collective bargaining for academic employees
- We support measures to provide comprehensive and affordable healthcare to students, faculty, and staff of the University of Washington
- We support state funding for the construction and operation of an on-site childcare office and the expansion of student-centered childcare services and facilities at the University of Washington
- We support funding for a safer environment at the University of Washington and surrounding communities
- We support the protection of students residing in off-campus housing with regard to landlord-tenant laws
- We oppose the sale, donation, or distribution of personal student information to third parties without student approval
- We oppose any effort to limit the civil rights of students, faculty, or staff
- We oppose increasing student liability or punishment based on their status as students, such as an unmitigated extension of the student conduct code
- We oppose the exclusion of gender affirmative procedures, supplies, services, and surgeries (also known as sex reassignment surgery) for transgender identified, or diagnosed individuals in health insurance plans offered through the University of Washington and Washington State

TRANSPORTATION

The ASUW advocates for policies that increase transit services and expand accessibility options for students. Specifically:

- We support measures encouraging environmentally-friendly transportation
- We support measures that ease the transportation burden of students
- We oppose all transportation measures that negatively impact the UW community
- We oppose transportation measures affecting the University of Washington community that do not include coordination between transportation agencies

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

The ASUW advocates for policies that represent the opinions and interests of students as responsible global citizens. Specifically:

- We support targeted divestment in the Washington State Pension Fund from any business or government entity in violation of laws, standards, or treaties related to human rights, civil or political rights, or environmental standards, including businesses operating in the Sudan
- We support policies that ensure medicines and health technologies developed at federally-funded institutions are available in low and middle income countries at the lowest possible cost
- We support requiring all new university construction projects and major renovations to achieve the equivalent of LEED Silver certification or better
- We support any measure that would decrease pollution and increase the usage, research, and commercialization of renewable energy sources in the state of Washington, especially at institutions of higher education and with government agencies

STUDENT ADVOCACY

The ASUW supports student involvement in decision-making processes that concern higher education. Specifically:

- We support policies that strengthen UW voice and lobbying abilities
- We support greater outreach to promote student voting and measures that increase voting accessibility, including online voter registration and address updating options
- We support measures that highlight the many benefits and achievements of the University of Washington and thus support efforts to promote Husky Pride