



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
BEN GOLDEN, DIRECTOR

December 5, 2005

TO: ASUW LSC, Board of Directors
FROM: Ben Golden, OGR Director
Re: House Committee Days Update

Hello Dawg fans. I wanted to quickly brief y'all on the first two days of Committee Days – a meeting of the WA House of Representatives. The Senate is meeting December 5th and 6th (I will be there on the 5th – thus my absence, LSC).

Meetings:

Among others, I have had 1-on-1's with Representatives Ed Murray, Mike Sells, Jim McIntire, Timm Ormsby, Jim Dunn, David Buri, and Skip Priest. Additionally, I attended the House Higher Education committee meeting. They discussed performance contracts, targets that each institution will be shooting for, degree authorization, plans to create admission opportunities in the Everett/North Puget Sound area, and diversity in higher education (as presented by Dr. Jim Sulton of HECB).

Informal:

I have acquainted myself with the Olympia campus, WSL office (though my key does not work), met with many Legislative Aides (there are many recent UW graduates now serving in these very important positions), other lobbyists in higher education, and so on. I also ate at the sandwich store recommended by Inigo – good choice. As Olympia received almost 4 inches of snow on Thursday, I was forced to find a hotel, and had a relaxing evening at the Best Western out of my own wallet.

The Buzz:

CODE OF CONDUCT! Last year, it was killed with the promise of working with the surrounding community to solve their concerns internally. The UW Administration felt that they adequately reached out to the UPCC (University Park Community), but this non-student constituency says that the Code of Conduct is still necessary – and Olympia is listening to them. We NEED to get the student government working on this (community relations? any other ASUW entity that deals with this? IFC-Panhel?).

Tuition is expected to rise another 7%, but be met with substantial state support once again. While not ideal (it continues to shift to tuition burden from the state to tuition – now representing 52% of per-student funding), it is much better than most proposals. Next year, however, there is expected to be major reform in higher education funding, so we need to be a part of that dialogue (the current course of discussion is not favorable for tuition, but good in terms of state contribution). There could be efforts to bring back financial aid programs that were cut last year.

Legislators want to see the results of UW's shift to a holistic admission standard to see how it impacts diversity on campus. Thus, efforts to add race as a component of admissions may be put on hold (diversity is expected to rise on campus because of UW's abandonment of the "grid" – we shall see). An equivalent to last year's HB 1515, as championed by our own Rep. Ed Murray, is expected to come up once again – and to



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be very close and controversial. Our newly passed Legislative Agenda will allow us to lobby in favor of this legislation for the first time.

Another issue receiving a lot of time is expanding accessibility for higher education (in terms of enrollment slots). UW-Seattle is considered to be capped out, as of now (though Olympia will continue to push for quicker graduation rates, through such means as the 210 credit policy), so they are seeking to continue expansion of UW-Bothell and UW-Tacoma, and also allow many community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. So long as this does not pull resources from UW, ASUW would support this CtC growth.

There is a lot of action going on that is out of our control, but we need to keep our voice heard where we can. While we need to continue our "outreach," it is also time to start our "activism." Please bring this (and future) information back to your constituents and encourage them to get involved. For instance, have students contact their state legislators about the Code of Conduct or personal debt hardship stories.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who helped out with the Inaugural ASUW/ATN! pre-session reception. It was a HUGE success – people who I'm meeting for the first time have heard through the grapevine about how amazing it was (the legislators have been gushing about it to everyone) – so congrats! We have been encouraged to do it again next year – but first, at least for LSC, it is time to turn our attention to Lobby Day. Tyler – make us proud. One last thing: UW 99, Zags 95.

Ben Golden
ASUW OGR Director