

Below is the compiled information from the Inaugural ASUW Pre-session Reception. The event was a HUGE success, with legislators and students putting a human face to their hopes and worries about higher education. We want to thank everyone for attending, participating, and continuing this necessary dialogue.

Issues Brought up at the Legislative Reception

- Tuition & Burden of Cost
 - Increase of tuition may be negative for the diversity educational experiences
 - Creates a barrier to education for students in Washington State
 - Legislators surprised by the workload college students have when it comes to supporting themselves and was “shocked”
 - “Institutions need to give information about scholarships because they are out there, but people are not aware of them.” – Rep. Kenney
 - Financial aid system complicated and inefficient
 - Cost of tuition now covers more than 52% of cost of education
- Academics
 - Priority 1 – UW ranked 17th best in world, according to The Economist
 - Learning comes in many forms, on and off-campus
 - UW encouraging experiential learning – internships, travel, service...
 - Undergraduates doing more research than ever before
- Code of Conduct
 - Double jeopardy
 - “appeasement to an unrepresentative complainer”
- Communication between Senators & Students
 - Students need to communicate with members better, even those not on Education committees, Approps, or Ways & Means
 - Non-ed committee members do not understand why UW receives so much more money than technical colleges, they do not understand the technological output of a research university
 - Serving the public good is mission of UW
 - Students need to share personal stories more often
 - Pre-session reception a great start – year round dialogue necessary
 - They should not e-mail legislators “form letters” – personalize
- Diversity Discussion/What is it?
 - Exposure to a variety of individuals
 - Not just ethnicities – diversity comes in many forms (self-explanatory)
 - Celebrating differences, increasing tolerance/acceptance
 - A welcoming community, as encouraged by Provost’s “undergrad experience” committee
- Misc.
 - Increase of science students needed (Discussed at Regent Mtg.)
 - No Regents have background in science
 - Higher ed seen as “income potential” vs. benefit to society

- Research is an investment in the future