

Madame Chair and esteemed members of the committee. My name is Ben Golden, representing the Associated Students of the University of Washington. I appreciate the opportunity to again address the committee.

Writer Thomas Carlyle said, "the true university of these days is a collection of books." That was nearly 150 years ago. If Mr. Carlyle were an undergraduate at UW today, he would know that this is no longer the case.

For UW to maintain and improve upon its status as the 17th best school in the world, according to The Economist, it must provide a 21st century world-class education.

That is at the core of many of the UW's research requests, as it seeks to promote economic development in Washington as well as aid the greater public good. For instance, UW is asking for partial support of a new bioengineering / genome science building. This project promises to yield federal and private support of more than \$60 million, with a long-term "spin-off" of 1500 jobs and \$74 million for the state by 2012.

Other arenas that the University seeks help in promoting are in creating a department of global health and a new E-science institute, both of which are aimed at keeping our citizens healthy, as well as those in developing nations. UW also wants to remain at the forefront of nanotechnology research, a field that the National Science Foundation predicts will have a \$1 trillion market at the end of the decade.

Finally, all public universities seek to address graduation rates and retention for undergraduates. The UW is especially interested in funding for advising, as discussed by Provost Wise, with new funds going toward improving access to high-demand bottleneck courses, aiding prospective and transfer students navigate the U, and facilitate academic advising once accepted.

This is not to say that books are a thing of the past. They're not – just check out the amount we spend on textbooks. But UW also has the best public university library system in the country, and we want to maintain that excellence.

This is now the higher education and workforce education committee. While schools are a place to explore intellectual curiosity and they bring a region a culturally uplifting effect, we must not take for granted the economic benefits that great ones bring. Bill Gates sums it up best: "There's an almost perfect correlation between the number of jobs in a region and the strength of the universities."

| Thank you so much for your time.