

## 2008 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ASUW lobbying positions and legislative goals for the 2007-2008 academic year

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### 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, through the capital projects and operating budgets, in order to bring the University of Washington to a competitive funding level when compared to peer institutions and to maintain and expand the quality of education for students

### THE COST OF EDUCATION

*The ASUW advocates for a tuition policy that provides for affordable, stable, and predictable tuition that is controlled by the Legislature. Specifically:*

- We support full legislative tuition-setting authority
- We support complete student control over all student fees
- We support decreasing the percentage of the total costs of education borne by students
- We oppose any tuition proposal that permits tuition levels to rise unexpectedly or above the rate of increases in median family income in Washington State
- We oppose extensive differential tuition increases for nonresidential, graduate, and professional students or 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 the full funding of the State Need Grant for all eligible students
- We support the expansion of need and merit based financial aid and the funding of loan forgiveness and repayment programs
- We support the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act and measures that allow children of undocumented immigrants to be eligible for financial aid
- 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 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 the 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 University of Washington 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
- We support the creation of the House of Knowledge Longhouse as delineated in state supplemental budget request

### 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 of programs that aid transfer students 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 state and local funding and policies which promote a safer environment at the University of Washington and surrounding communities, such as for enhanced lighting, police presence, and neighborhood development
- We support outlawing firearms at the University of Washington, excluding law enforcement officials and students and faculty associated with the ROTC
- We support raising student employee and staff salaries and benefits
- We support expanded rights for couples enrolled in the state domestic partnership program 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 additional state funding to expand childcare services and facilities for students, faculty, and staff, and to expand the state childcare grant program
- We support the protection of students residing in off-campus housing with regard to landlord-tenant laws and the creation of a rental housing inspection program
- We support state funding for education about and the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse and sexual assault and abuse at the University of Washington
- 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 violations included in 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

## **TRANSPORTATION**

*“The ASUW advocates for policies that increase coordinated, regional transit services and expand accessibility options for students. Specifically:*

- We support an environmentally-friendly transportation measure that emphasizes moving people over cars, including but not limited to light rail, car sharing and improved bicycle infrastructure
- We support increases in funding for research and development of “green” transportation technologies at the University of Washington
- We oppose transportation measures that may harm or disrupt the research, culture, or educational opportunities at the University of Washington

## **CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY**

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

- 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 at the University of Washington
- We support policies that ensure medicines and health technologies developed at the University of Washington are available in low and middle income countries at the lowest possible cost

## **STUDENT ADVOCACY**

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

- We support policies that strengthen the University of Washington’s student voice and lobbying abilities and promote student voting accessibility
- We support measures that highlight the many benefits and achievements of the University of Washington and thus support efforts to promote Husky Pride