



## Community Welfare Proposal

**Proposed Motion:** Approve Community Welfare as a priority in the AS Local Legislative Agenda.

**Sponsor:** Kaylee Galloway, AS VP for Governmental Affairs

**Persons of Contact:** Joseph Levy, AS Local Liaison, Legislative Affairs Council

**Date:** February 19, 2014

### Background & Context

AS Local Legislative Agenda will be separated into two sections:

1. Priorities
  - AS Local Liaison will predominately focus on these issues throughout the year
2. Interests
  - Evolving section of the agenda that can be added to
  - Allows for developing issues including those that may not directly affect students but that the AS Local Liaison needs to be educated on and ready to talk to community members and elected officials about

Proposals serve multiple purposes including being a resource for the liaison, building content for a campaign if students want to run one, and having information relevant to draft a fact sheet for students when they lobby or if they are interested in the topic. When we are passing a legislative issue, we are passing the idea and the concepts expressed in the proposals, not necessarily every word of every proposal. Since this is the case, I think it is appropriate to allow for the proposals to evolve, grow, and develop over time and as we learn more about the topics. The goal is to build a strong foundation so that action taken towards these issues are well developed and strategic. So far, the only officially passed proposal for the AS Local Agenda is Rental Safety, which was approved December 11, 2013. LAC passed the Community Welfare proposal on February 10, 2014.

### Community Welfare Proposal

The AS believes that community welfare is of the highest priority for students living in Bellingham. In order to promote community safety, we advocate for more lighting (our top focus) in addition to increased panic buttons and expansion of sidewalks.

Laurel Park, South Campus, and High Street (Sehome and Happy Valley neighborhoods) are all poorly lit locations that Western Students spend time at. During the post twilight hours these areas are vulnerable to crime, malfeasance, and general deviance. Along with crime, poor lighting is also a safety hazard. In order to promote the security of our students, Western Washington University's AS advocates for the increased lighting of these areas: Laurel Park, Birnam Wood to Buchanan Towers, Donovan Avenue, Douglas Avenue, 21st to 25<sup>th</sup>, and High Street

Let it be noted that LED lighting is the preferred choice, as the LED lighting system has been shown to be much more cost-effective, efficient, environmentally friendly, and to help aid the reduction of light pollution.

Along with additional lighting, we also hope to expand panic buttons in order for the ability to see a button from any point on campus. Furthermore, we advocate for the expansion of panic buttons to key points off campus, such as Laurel Park or the intersection on 24th and Taylor.