



## **Direct Membership with United States Student Association**

**Proposed Motion:** Approve the resolution regarding direct membership with the United States Student Association.

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

**Persons of Contact:** Kaylee Galloway, members of the Legislative Affairs Council

**Date:** May 22, 2014

### **Attached Documents**

[USSA Summary](#)

[USSA Membership Benefits](#)

[USSA LegCon 2014 Notes and Reflection](#)

[USSA LegCon 2014 Conference Book](#)

\*\*\*There are many hyperlinks within the USSA Summary document that I encourage you to explore\*\*\*

### **Background and Context**

United States Student Association (USSA) Direct Membership was first considered spring 2013 (April 26<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>) by the [Legislative Affairs Council](#), but the committee decided to not approve funds. This year, there has been a lot of work to increase ASWWU involvement with USSA as a way to increase student representation at the federal level. After having large Western delegations attend both USSA National Student Congress and USSA LegCon and National Student Lobby Day, having USSA Staff on campus, and participating in numerous USSA sponsored actions (USSA Teach-in, Days of Action, etc.), it became clear that Western students greatly benefit from having stronger involvement and a closer relationship with USSA. Although direct membership has been on the radar all year, WWU direct membership became even more necessary when the Washington Student Association (WSA) decided to withdraw State Student Association (SSA) membership at the May 3, 2014 General Assembly. The WSA SSA membership will expire after USSA 2014 National Student Congress in August, at which point if Western does not have direct membership, we will lose all USSA contact, resources, and support. If we were to approve direct membership, our membership would start after WSA SSA membership ends and our first installment of membership dues would be due in October. On May 12, 2014, the Legislative Affairs Council approved the USSA direct membership resolution 8-2-0. LAC has been well educated in USSA and has had numerous robust and comprehensive conversations. Minutes from all of the meetings have not been approved and/or completed at this time, but can be available upon request in the coming couple weeks.

**Summary of Proposal:** See resolution for additional details.

**Fiscal Implications:** Approving the resolution would authorize WWU direct membership with USSA for \$6,000 per year until new membership dues were agreed upon (such as if USSA restructures their membership dues). This would be an annually recurring expense made from the Legislative Action Fund (FXLACF).

**Rationale:** Direct membership with USSA would help to increase student representation at the federal level. USSA is the oldest and largest, student run student led organization in the nation dedicated to representing students. Student representation is a core value of the AS.



**Associated Students of Western Washington University**  
Board of Directors

**A Resolution Regarding Direct Membership with United States Students Association**  
May 2014

**WHEREAS**, Student representation at the campus, local, state, and federal level is a core value and responsibility of the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU); and,

**WHEREAS**, Students benefit from increased representation at the federal level because the federal government has authority over many student related issues including federal financial aid; and,

**WHEREAS**, United States Student Association (USSA) exists as the oldest, largest, most inclusive student run, student led organization in the nation, which represents, serves, and protects the interests and needs of students across the nation ; and,

**WHEREAS**, The recent Legislative Action Fund restructure, once implemented, will increase and stabilize the total annual funds dedicated to increasing student representation; and,

**WHEREAS**, The restructured Legislative Action Fund will have funds sufficient to cover the expenses of USSA direct membership and active participation; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Direct membership in USSA is a worthwhile investment for the students of WWU.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, The ASWWU Board of Directors authorizes direct membership with the USSA for \$6,000 per year using funds from the Legislative Action Fund (FXLACF) pending Board of Trustee approval and administrative implementation of the Legislative Action Fund restructure.

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