



“Multicultural Referendum”

Proposed Motion: Approve to include Multicultural referendum on 2016 Associated Student Ballot

Sponsor: Abby Ramos, VP for Diversity

Persons of Contact: Abby Ramos

Guest Speaker: NA

Date: 3/30/16

Proposed Language:

“Shall the students of Western Washington University taking six or more credits on the Bellingham Campus be assessed a fee of up to 30 dollars a quarter to expand the building space for a Multicultural and Ethnic Student Center facility under the following conditions?

- The building is open and accessible to all WWU students
- The expanded space will primarily house an expanded Ethnic Student Center and Multicultural Services
- Finally, with the understanding that student fees will not be the only source of funding the expanded space.

A vote “yes” provides the ability for bond funding a major expansion for the purposes listed in this referendum”

Background & Context

This referendum is coming forth after working with Eileen Coughlin and discussing the different areas where monies could be allocated for the project that would not place a heavy burden on students. Other areas that are being looked into for funding, from the university, is: Enrollment Fee Reserves, State Minor Capital, Institutional Ongoing Funds, etc. While ideally it would be nice if students did not have to pay for the building, the continuation of the work would probably not be at this stage. In the language it is specific to saying expanding the space and not a building because of the limited space on the campus and because of trying to maximize the space rather than be left with a standalone building that is smaller. The details of whether the center will be a standalone building or expanded on from the VU has not be finalized.

Summary of Proposal

If students agree to the fee, then the \$30 will help fund the building and potentially with the fund payments. If the referendum is voted down, I cannot be certain that the project will move forward.

Fiscal Impacts

\$30 per quarter for students taking 6 credits or more on the Bellingham campus