

Student Success

The ASWWU recognizes that student services at WWU are overburdened; this lack of access affects all of campus but has a disproportionate effect on the recruitment and retention of marginalized communities. We advocate for increased funding for the WWU Counseling Center, disAbility Resources Services, Academic Advising Center, Tutoring Center, and resources for students experiencing homelessness. These demands stem from the following:

- The WWU Counseling Center cannot meet the current demand; students are often pushed off campus, have to wait long periods of time to see a counselor, or face other barriers to receiving support.
- The amount of students requesting disability resources has grown 77% since 2009. The currently underfunded system causes many to go without accommodations for far too long.
- The demand for academic advising has increased significantly without adequate increases in resources, reducing the overall capacity and quality of the services.
- Demand for tutoring services has increased by nearly 200% in the past six years without adequate increases in resources to accommodate the need.
- No-cost services for students who are currently experiencing homelessness are needed so that a students' primary needs like housing and food are no longer a barrier to accessing higher education.

Enhancing Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity

The ASWWU recognizes that Western's ability to meet the state's need for access to higher education for underrepresented students is dependent on the investment in programs which ensure a culturally welcoming and supportive academic environment. This request addresses three broad areas - multicultural services, diverse educational experiences, and partnerships. We advocate for services such as:

- A tribal liaison to improve outreach and focus on relationships with tribal communities to increase Western's ability to recognize the unique needs of American Indian/Alaskan Native students and to partner future programs.
- LGBT/Queer Support Coordinator to focus on specific student groups whose marginalized identities have made them particularly vulnerable in the college student environment, with particular focus on LGBT/Queer, students of color, undocumented students, and disAbilities communities.
- Services included in the Student Success area such as an Academic Support Coordinator, admissions counselor, and student peer mentors.

Reducing Toxic Pollution in All Communities

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) was approved by voters and was established to create administrative processes and standards to identify, investigate and clean up facilities where hazardous substances are found. MTCA has been a successful environmental justice law that is dedicated to cleaning up toxic waste sites, protect water quality due to pollution, and support local communities as they address toxic pollution threats.

Toxic waste sites and superfund sites are often found close to minority communities, including communities with people of color and low-income families. Hazardous waste sites not only affect our environment, but they disproportionately affect communities who need the most protection. MTCA seeks to keep safe and support these communities.

MTCA relies on funding from a hazardous substance tax, which is currently one of the most unreliable revenue sources in Washington state's budget. We urge legislators to help solve a \$75 million shortfall that could stall work in reducing harmful pollution and toxic waste cleanup. We also encourage legislators to impose a tax surcharge to ensure funding is more stable and predictable in the years coming.