

## Associated Students Legislative Agenda 2007

### Legislative Mission:

*Our mission, as the representative body for the Associated Students of Western Washington University, is to advocate measures that protect the institutional integrity that fosters a student's personal growth and prepares them to make a positive contribution in our society.*

### Session Priority

- Affirms that the best form of financial aid is low tuition.
- Support the conversion of Western's Human Services degree program from self sustaining to state supported status.
- Encourage state support for child care development programs that allows for increased accessibility for students and staff.

### Funding

*With regards to Funding, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support a tuition policy that is stable and predictable, and follow any increase in tuition with an equally proportional increase in state general fund support.
- Oppose institutional tuition setting authority in any form; including, but not limited to differential/regional pricing, complete local control, and partial local control (i.e. discretionary bands.)
- Oppose increases in Full Time Equivalent's (FTE's) unless they are fully funded.
- Support increase funding for enrollments in the Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages (TESOL) program.

### Financial Aid

*With regards to Financial Aid, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support increases in financial aid access and funding that include matching funds and grants.
- Support a sales tax exemption of required textbooks and course manual materials.
- Support the continuation and promotion of the Guaranteed Education Tuition Program (GET).
- Support legislation that increases eligibility for the State Need Grant to two percent of the median family income for Washington State.

### Student Control

*With regards to Student Control, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support legislation that grants complete Services and Activity (S&A) fee autonomy to students, as well as for fees that include, but not limited to, health fees, student building fees, and technology fees.
- Support efforts that retain and improve student involvement in all future planning of the higher education.
- Support student review and approval of mandatory course fees, including, but not limited, to textbooks and required materials.

### **Campus Environment**

*With regards to the Campus Environment, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support legislation that improves student and campus safety.
- Support appropriations of capital funding for the design, construction and maintenance of new and existing campus buildings.
- Support legislation that improves accessibility for students with disabilities.

### **Diversity**

*With regards to Diversity, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support measures encouraging recruitment and retention of a highly qualified and diverse student body, faculty, staff and the appropriations that ensure it.
- Support ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, and racial diversity as essential and necessary components of an effective learning environment.
- Support holistic review of applicants in the admission process while taking into account race, ethnicity, national origin, and socio-economic conditions.

### **Sustainability**

*With regards to Sustainability, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support a state mandate that all state buildings be run with 100% renewable energy.
- Support legislation and other measures that increase funding to improve public transportation systems.

### **Faculty**

*With regards to Faculty, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support increases in faculty salary in the form of a full funding commitment by the State, and not as an increase in student costs.
- Support legislation that provides for full time faculty to be tenure track.