



# Legislative Affairs Council

## Choosing an Issue

**Issue:** Carver Academic Facility Renovation \_\_\_\_\_

**Author(s)/Sponsor(s):** Neil Christenson \_\_\_\_\_

**Endorsements:** WWU Administration \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Action Agenda Item Title:** Carver Academic Facility Renovation \_\_\_\_\_

### 1) Describe the Issue (what is the problem & what is the solution).

Carver Academic Facility has been woefully inadequate for its current uses for some time now. Not only does the building suffer from structural deficiencies that would result in catastrophic failure in a seismic event, there is raw sewage under the building, ancient piping, and fans from the Great Depression. Renovation of the facility has been a priority for ASWWU and the WWU Administration for several years now; it needs to happen before the roof literally comes crashing down about us.

### 2) Please fill out a Strategy Chart.

See attached.

### 3) Please explain briefly how/if this issue meets the following qualifications:

1. Is it winnable?

Yes. Carver has been on the State's radar for several years now, is a clear and present danger to public safety, and has already undergone all preliminary steps before actual construction can begin.

2. Does it directly impact and improve students' lives?

Yes. A new facility would allow for more and better equipped classes, better arrangements for sporting and community events, and would potentially save lives in the event of an earthquake.

3. Does it have a clear target?

Yes. We must try to get it on the Governor's agenda if at all possible, and following that, see that it is reported favorably out of committee. Therefore, the immediate target is Gov. Inslee, and after him come the Capital Budget committee chairs (whomever they may be after the election).

4. Does it build a measurable amount of power?

Not really, but it does keep students alive.

5. Does it have a clear and realistic time frame?

Yes. Initial construction can begin as early as Summer 2015.

6. Does it have a local/state/federal organizing and lobbying angle?

Yes. WWU Administration and ASWWU are working in tangent on this issue and are emphasizing the facility's academic mission as well as the threat to life it poses.

7. Could students build a diverse campus coalition around this issue?

Yes. Not only is the facility home to PEHR, it is used by many of our sporting events; both of these groups draw



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large and diverse crowds of supporters.

8. Is it likely to be debated and acted upon by the Legislature in the next year?

Yes. The Carver project now has high priority on the State's list, and nearly received supplemental funding during the last legislative session.

9. Will it strengthen and expand efforts within WSA?

Not so much, but again, it does keep students safe.

10. Can you provide background information and the current context of the issue?

Partial funding for the project was almost secured during the last session, but the constraints of a supplemental budget did not allow it. Currently, progress on Carver is stalled until funds can be secured.

11. What creative and/or innovative tactics could we employ to engage the media and excite new students around this issue?

Simply showing the public images of Carver should be sufficient to demonstrate the dire straights the facility is in. Additionally, if students felt like getting very creative and really grabbing some spotlight, a satirical video (think a parody of "Cribs") demonstrating these structural flaws could be effective.