

## BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Associated Students of University of Washington Tacoma

Create Date: 12/10/2024

Due Date: 02/07/2025

Submitter Name: Alicia Whitten

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Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$434,644**

## Departmental Information

### STUDENT UTILIZATION

The Associated Students of UW Tacoma (ASUWT) amplifies student voices, advocates for their needs, and enhances the overall student experience. We ensure that student perspectives shape key decisions at the campus, tri-campus, and state levels. ASUWT members actively engage with students, address academic concerns, and collaborate with university leadership to drive meaningful change. We host events that foster community, gather student input, and work with administration to implement services that directly benefit students. Our Task Forces collect student feedback and works to improve the student experience, often partnering with university leadership, while our Legislative Team advocates for city and state policies that support students.

To ensure long-term sustainability and growth of the organization while also being responsible stewards of student fee dollars, we have evaluated our budget and organizational structure. With this, we are making changes to the ASUWT Constitution to restructure the organization to help maximize impact, which will be up for student approval in the upcoming election. If passed, the Senate will have reduced responsibility but expanded representation, and monies saved from this restructure that would have otherwise been spent on the senate will be used to fund three new director positions (Director of Undergraduate Affairs, Director of Graduate Affairs, and Director of Equity & Accessibility). Another change includes the creation of a new Campus Organizer position to keep pace with the growth to our legislative program. **\*\*\*To read more regarding this change: 2025-2026 Planned ASUWT Changes.\*\*\***

### CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

ASUWT directly supports UW Tacoma's Strategic Plan by advancing two key goals: Enhancing Student Well-Being and Cultivating an Accessible, Equitable, and Respectful Campus.

To enhance student well-being, we prioritize addressing basic needs, particularly food insecurity. ASUWT's advocacy efforts led to the creation of the Basic Needs Navigator position and the relocation of the Food Pantry under Student Affairs, where it has access to greater resources. These efforts have contributed to a decrease in student-reported food insecurity, from 44% in the previous academic year to 36% this fall. However, there is still significant work to be done, and our Task Forces remain committed to tackling barriers that impact student success.

We cultivate accessibility, equity, and respect by amplifying underrepresented student voices and ensuring their concerns are heard at both the university and legislative levels. In response to student feedback in 2023-2024, we established the Inclusive Access Task Force to address gaps in campus inclusivity. Using insights from the Inclusive Access Survey, the Task Force is now working on implementing student-driven changes that promote a more inclusive and supportive environment.

ASUWT's initiatives align with UW Tacoma's commitment to student-centered decision-making and measurable success indicators, such as increased access to resources and improved student experiences. With continued funding, we can expand these efforts to drive long-term, meaningful change.

## SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Our two most impactful departments in the organization are our Legislative Program and our Task Forces. Our Legislative Program is led by the Director of Legislative Affairs, who oversees the Legislative Liaison (our student lobbyist in Olympia) and the City Liaison. This year, we introduced our volunteer Student Legislative Action Council (SLAC), where at-large students actively contribute to developing our legislative agenda, involving more students in the process. We also have been able to provide opportunities for UW Tacoma students to interact with politicians, including meeting Jay Inslee, former governor of Washington in Fall 2024. Since re-establishing our legislative program in 2023, we have been able to see significant student engagement. During last year's tri-campus lobby day, Huskies on the Hill, we only had 40 UW Tacoma participants. This year, we already have 150 students registered, rivaling UW Seattle's participation numbers where only 160 participants have signed up. It's clear UW Tacoma students wish to be involved with our legislative process. Knowing this, we would like to expand our legislative team to inclusive a Campus Organizer who would be responsible for dedicated outreach to further engage our students in legislative opportunities.

Our Task Forces over the last two years have addressed many pressing student issues (Food Equity & Basic Needs, Student Health & Wellness, Student Safety, Campus Development, and Inclusive Access). All of these student issues have been rooted in student data and need either from UW Tacoma Student Health Data from the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) or ASUWT's own surveys where we have received 500+ student responses per survey. Collaboration is at the center of everything our Task Forces are able to achieve, including Student Affairs, Student Health, Office of Advocacy and Support, Center for Student Involvement, Campus Safety, Office of Equity and Inclusion, UW Tacoma library, and more.

## STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

ASUWT has experienced significant growth in student engagement over the past two years, particularly in our legislative advocacy efforts and student-led initiatives. Our flagship legislative event, Huskies on the Hill, has seen a dramatic increase in participation, growing from 20 students in 2023-2024 to 130 students this year. This surge in engagement highlights a growing recognition among UW Tacoma students of their collective voice in shaping policies that impact their education and well-being. Additionally, the Student Legislative Action Council (SLAC) has provided students with a direct role in shaping our legislative agenda, further fostering civic engagement. Beyond legislative advocacy, ASUWT continues to expand its reach through employment, volunteerism, and student services. We currently employ 27 students and provide additional opportunities through committees such as the Student Technology Fee Committee, Council for Campus Engagement, RSO Committee, and Legislative Committee. With plans to add six new staff positions for established Task Forces, ASUWT aims to enhance student representation and create lasting change.

Student participation in ASUWT-led initiatives continues to grow, with our advocacy efforts yielding tangible results. Last year, over 1,100 students signed a petition for free menstrual products on campus, leading to swift implementation across campus restrooms. Our four student surveys in January 2024 gathered 2,366 responses, reflecting an unprecedented level of engagement. In addition, food insecurity rates have dropped from 44% to 36% due to legislative victories such as securing funding for Basic Needs Navigators and centralizing student support resources within Student Affairs.

ASUWT remains committed to student involvement through event collaboration and campus partnerships, with 72% of our events involving partnerships with student organizations. As ASUWT continues to grow, we remain dedicated to advocating for policies, services, and opportunities that enhance the student experience and support the diverse needs of the UW Tacoma community.

## COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

ASUWT is a data-driven organization. If students don't tell us they support it, we won't advocate for it. Over the past two years, we have conducted two survey campaigns, engaging more than 1,600 unique students to learn their needs and guide our advocacy efforts.

Our public meetings provide an accessible platform for students to provide direct student feedback, with every meeting providing the students an open period to share their input directly to the Executive Board or Senate. In response to student feedback regarding the accessibility of our meetings, we have worked to make these meetings inclusive and accessible by livestreaming them and uploading recordings to our YouTube channel.

We also host quarterly forums where we report on ASUWT's progress and gather real-time feedback from the student body. One example of these quarterly forums that has been used to improve our efforts is through the creation of this year's Inclusive Access Task Force. After students voiced concerns during a forum about the need for a more inclusive and accessible campus, we responded by creating this task force to address those challenges directly. Now that the task force has learned what students need through the Inclusive Access survey conducted in Fall, the task force will be spending the remaining of the academic year advocating for those improvements.

## SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

ASUWT's programs and services have profoundly impacted UW Tacoma students by addressing key legislative, safety, and basic needs concerns while advocating for policies that enhance student success. Over the past two years, we have achieved significant legislative victories that provide direct benefits to students. These include the expansion of the Washington College Grant to cover an additional year of education, allowing students who need more time to complete their degree to receive financial aid for a sixth year instead of five. Additionally, our advocacy helped secure funding for Basic Needs Navigators on all college campuses, ensuring students facing food and housing insecurities have dedicated support. Legislative wins also include fentanyl overdose prevention education on campus, early class registration for veterans and their dependents, and professional licensing eligibility for undocumented students.

On campus, ASUWT has led initiatives to improve student safety, health, and access to essential resources. We successfully advocated for free period products in all campus bathrooms and free NARCAN and overdose prevention training, ensuring students have access to life-saving resources. To enhance campus safety, we worked to increase lighting along Court D Street and other key areas, making the campus safer at night. Additionally, in response to student needs, we moved the Food Pantry from the Office of Equity and Inclusion to Student Affairs, allowing it to receive dedicated funding and support to better serve students experiencing food insecurity.

We measure the impact of our programs through student engagement, feedback, and participation in our initiatives. For example, our advocacy for free period products was driven by over 1,100 student petition signatures, demonstrating the urgent need for this resource. Similarly, Wellness Week, a program implemented in direct response to student requests, saw over 100 attendees throughout the week, highlighting student demand for wellness-related initiatives.

Through these efforts, ASUWT continues to enhance student well-being, safety, and success by ensuring their voices drive meaningful changes on campus and beyond. We remain committed to expanding access to resources, improving policies, and fostering a supportive environment for all students at UW Tacoma.

## Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	This amount concludes all hourly positions.	E001
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$103,125</b>
	Fringe @ 23%:	<b>\$23,719</b>
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		<b>\$126,844</b>

## Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	This amount concludes for all stipend positions; directors, senators and liaisons.	S001 <b>\$266,800</b>
	To support programming , elections, workday fee, and WSA dues.	S002 <b>\$13,200</b>
Travel	To support motor pool and mileage reimbursement for WSA retreats and lobbying sessions. As well as for students attend husky on the hill with ASUWT	S003 <b>\$12,000</b>
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	To support essential expense for the office supplies, nameplates, business cards, name tags, and promotional items. All to enhance our visibility, professionalism and effectiveness.	S004 <b>\$10,800</b>
Food	To support any expenses food related for various student government activities such as training, events, and student forums.	S005 <b>\$5,000</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		<b>\$307,800</b>

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$126,844
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$307,800
<b>COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$434,644</b>

**Supplemental Documents**



**2025-2026 EXCEL SHEET**



**2025-2026 PLANNED ASUWT CHANGES**