

Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: ASCWU Legislative Affairs
Program Manager: Amber Hoefler, Director, SLICE with ASCWU Legislative Affairs
Fiscal Year: FY23

1. In what ways does your program support CWU students? Please be specific, yet concise.

ASCWU Board of Directors consists of six elected student officers work to represent all CWU students equally and fairly and to ensure that their voices are heard. The ASCWU Director of Governmental Affairs oversees statewide legislative issues pertaining to higher education and all issues affecting students. The ASCWU Director and their staff are dedicated to serving the public as the liaison between the ASCWU Student Government, the state legislature, and the Ellensburg city council.

The Legislative/Governmental Affairs office works closely with Steve DuPont in advocating for the needs of CWU students. Additionally, this office directly connects with the Washington Student Association which is a group that creates connections for students across the state to work together to meet the needs of students on their campus. Finally, this office serves students through initiatives like Lobby Day (taking students to Olympia to meet directly with state legislature), the Student Engagement Hub (an on-campus voting center in collaboration with the Kittitas County Auditor's Office), and many other initiatives throughout the year. This office is integral in supporting students to create positive change with House Bills, recommendations to leadership, and a full-time student Legislative Liaison who remains in Olympia during the legislative session.

2. What are your specific program goals or learning/operational objectives? How are you assessing the effectiveness of your program in achieving those targets?

The mission of the ASCWU Legislative Affairs office is to share the voice of the students with state legislators and university executives. The office focuses on bringing students to difficult conversations to lobby for funding, policy, and positive outcomes for students.

ASCWU currently leads informal assessments throughout the year and evaluates effectiveness based on engagement with the student body. The Legislative Affairs office can be evaluated through the number of attendees who voted in the state/federal elections (200+ on-campus), attendees for Lobby Day, and supporting new bills passed with the state legislature.

3. What is the overall purpose of your program and what service(s) does your program provide?
 - a. Are there overlaps or intersections with other university programs who have a similar purpose or service?

The ASCWU Board of Directors represent student issues to the university administration, work to create positive and inclusive student environments, and offer insight as elected officials on university policies, programs, and initiatives. There are a number of collaborations necessary to

ensure that the ASCWU Board of Directors are effective but there is not a similar service or experience offered on campus.

4. How does your program align with the purpose of S&A funding? *“Supporting cocurricular and extracurricular activities and programs participated in by students in the furtherance of their education.”*

We strongly believe that our mission and governance is very much engaged and within the Killians outline of supporting Student Government students serving students. Student Government is a category mentioned in the Killian Outline as allowable funding. Student Government seeks to empower students to throughout campus in both individual developmental positions within Student Government but also through services and activities to the student body. When Governmental Affairs discuss contemporary political issues (local, state, national and international) we do this with the goal to challenge ones way of thinking, open students to other forms of thought as well as educate them on issue that affect us individual as students and on a global scale.

5. How does your program support CWU’s mission and goals? (<https://www.cwu.edu/mission/>)

The ASCWU BOD directly works to support the CWU mission and goals as well as offer critical thought to ensure students are represented in the mission/goals. ASCWU prioritizes student development across campus to help ensure each student’s experience prepares them for their individual future. ASCWU serves as stewards of the institution representing the student voice across the state, on university committees, the President’s Strategic Plan Committee, and more.

6. Please provide detailed information regarding who utilizes your program? (*Students, faculty, staff, community? Specific demographic information? Class standing, gender, ethnicity, transfer, campus location, etc.*)

Our demographic predominately consists of students from all categories listed above, 1st-4th years and above, traditional/non-traditional students, men/women/LGBTQ folks, White, Black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian. Our programs mostly focus on students who are here on the Ellensburg campus, so essentially if you are a student on the Ellensburg campus, our programs are made for you!

7. How many unique CWU students utilize your program or services?
- How do you gather these metrics?
 - If you do not, what is preventing you from getting that data and how are you determining usage by CWU students?

A. We determine this by gauging who show up to our events and via presence for events that we need volunteers for or require additional information to participate in.

8. Are there any current vacant positions in your program?

No current vacancies.

9. Given the budget reductions taking place and continuing for the remainder of the funding cycle, please tell us what specific impacts those reductions have had on your program compared to what was originally planned and including in your initial base funding request.

With any reductions, we will consider the student voice in each conversation. For the Legislative Affairs budget, the reductions have required us to reduce some programming expenses to maintain our student staff wages. The combination of the reductions and increase in minimum wage is something we would love to strategize with S&A in the future.

In the meantime, the ASCWU Legislative Affairs Director has been working on strategic opportunities for collaboration including a partnership with the League of Women's Voters to offer an internship within ASCWU and consolidate efforts.

10. Are there any circumstances or challenges that are currently impacting your ability to use your base funding allocation this year?

No current circumstances or challenges.

11. What growth or increases would you like to see in your program in the future?

To have Governmental Affairs focus more on issues that are happening around the country such as issues with racial equity, police brutality and anti-trans legislation and around the globe such as what's happening in Ukraine, Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia, Myanmar, and China in order to bring awareness to these issues as well as we often forget there are other things happening around us than what we see in our communities, in addition to the work we do locally and in the state. Broadening the scope of political issue, we want to make students aware about and find solutions that we can do as students to help!