

## Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: ASCWU Legislative Affairs  
Program Manager: Michelle Carrillo, ASCWU Director Governmental Affairs, Verónica Gómez Vilchis, ASCWU Advisor  
Fiscal Year: FY2024

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

ASCWU Governmental Affairs works closely with professional staff in the CWU Office of Government Relations in advocating for the needs of CWU students with local and state legislators. 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 League of Women Voters), 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 ASCWU Governmental Affairs is to amplify the voice of students by advocating to state legislators and university executives on their behalf. The office focuses on engaging students in critical conversations to lobby for funding, policies, and initiatives that lead to positive outcomes for the student body.

Throughout the year, ASCWU conducts informal assessments to evaluate its effectiveness, using student engagement as a key measure. Success is demonstrated by initiatives such as increasing voter turnout on campus, with over 150 students participating in state and federal elections, and contributing to Kittitas County's advancement to #16 in voter participation statewide, despite being #24 in population.

ASCWU Governmental Affairs also plays a pivotal role in advocacy events like Lobby Day and has supported impactful legislative achievements, including expanding MFI eligibility for Washington College Grant recipients and enabling undocumented students to obtain professional licenses and certifications upon completing their undergraduate degrees. These efforts reflect ASCWU's dedication to empowering students and driving meaningful change at both the local and state levels.

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 purpose of ASCWU Governmental Affairs is to share the voice of CWU students with local and state legislators, as well as university leaders. Governmental Affairs helps to increase student governmental awareness, participation, and activism. While there is collaboration and partnership with CWU Government Relations, ASCWU Governmental Affairs is primarily and solely focused on student initiatives and voices, and is not similar to other programs or services offered throughout the institution.

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.”*

ASCWU Governmental Affairs is directly aligned with S&A’s purpose of supporting student activities and programs as they seek to empower students throughout the institution to not only become more engaged and active within the institution, but also further out to local and regional participation in government and initiatives. Student Government is specifically a category mentioned in state regulations and the Killian Outline as historically supported and permissible use of S&A funding.

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

The mission and activities of ASCWU Governmental Affairs align closely with CWU’s mission and strategic plan, particularly the core values of Student Success and Belonging.

ASCWU Governmental Affairs actively supports Student Success by advocating for policies and funding that address essential student needs and create pathways for academic and personal growth. For example, members participate in initiatives like the Culture of Respect Leadership Council and volunteer with the Wildcat Pantry and APOYO, promoting access to basic resources for students on campus and in the surrounding community. These efforts reflect a commitment to equity and fostering supportive environments that enable students to thrive.

Aligned with the core value of Belonging, ASCWU is a critical partner in CWU’s efforts to become a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). Through its advocacy and participation in leadership councils, ASCWU ensures that student voices are represented in conversations about fostering “servingness” and equitable outcomes for all students. By engaging with underrepresented communities and championing inclusive policies, ASCWU Governmental Affairs helps create a campus environment where all students feel valued and supported.

These efforts extend to the office’s broader mission of amplifying student voices through advocacy at the state and federal levels. By leading events like Lobby Day, promoting voter participation, and supporting impactful legislation—such as expanding eligibility for the Washington College Grant and enabling undocumented students to obtain professional licenses—ASCWU Governmental Affairs directly contributes to CWU’s strategic goals of engagement, equity, and student empowerment.

Through these initiatives, ASCWU Governmental Affairs not only fulfills its mission but also reinforces CWU's dedication to fostering success and belonging, driving meaningful change for the entire student body.

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.*)

All CWU students have the opportunity to benefit from and engage with the work of ASCWU Governmental Affairs. Participation in engagement initiatives, such as Lobby Day and other advocacy events, reflects the diverse demographics of the CWU student body, including first-year through graduate students, traditional and non-traditional students, and individuals from various backgrounds, including men, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and students who identify as White, Black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, and more.

While the primary ASCWU Office is based on the Ellensburg campus, where many programs and events are held, efforts are made to ensure opportunities like Lobby Day, held in Olympia, are accessible to students across all CWU locations. This approach highlights ASCWU's commitment to inclusivity and its dedication to serving the needs of all students, regardless of their campus or background.

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?

Most services and programs coming out of ASCWU Governmental Affairs are not able to track or determine unique numbers of students who utilize or benefit, as they are broad initiatives and benefits for the entire student body. For direct, in-person programs like Election Hubs and Lobby Day, involvement is tracked and gauged via Presence software and sign-in when possible. Governmental Affairs will explore how Suitable can be utilized to gather metrics and data.

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

N/A

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.

ASCWU Governmental Affairs has been intentional in monitoring and managing student staff hours to ensure the efficient use of resources while maintaining the ability to recruit and hire student employees within ASCWU Governmental Affairs. This careful stewardship of funds reflects ASCWU's commitment to maximizing the impact of every dollar in support of student engagement and advocacy efforts.

In addition, there have been strategic adjustments to scale back some programming initiatives where necessary, without compromising the quality or accessibility of services. To offset budget limitations, Governmental Affairs has prioritized financial partnerships with ASCWU BOD and other stakeholders to share programming costs whenever possible. This collaborative approach not only helps stretch available funds but also fosters a greater sense of teamwork and shared purpose across ASCWU offices and university departments.

By being thoughtful and intentional with resources, ASCWU Governmental Affairs continues to deliver meaningful opportunities for student engagement, advocacy, and leadership while remaining accountable to the student body and aligned with CWU's core values of Student Success and Belonging. This approach ensures Governmental Affairs can sustain impactful initiatives while navigating financial constraints responsibly.

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

N/A

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

Fostering a culture of civic engagement among students and empowering them to actively participate in legislative initiatives and programs is a cornerstone of ASCWU's mission. By instilling the value of advocacy, students are equipped to drive meaningful change that enhances both their academic and campus life experiences. Engaged student voices are essential in shaping policies and initiatives that reflect their needs and priorities, ensuring a lasting, positive impact on the university community and beyond.