

## BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Associated Students of University of Washington Tacoma

Create Date: 10/20/2023

Due Date: 11/10/2023

Submitter Name: Alicia Whitten

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Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Conor leary

Requested Amount: **\$35,264**

## Departmental Information

### SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - CRITERIA

Considering recent developments, there is a pressing need for an adjustment in our budget allocation. The City of Tacoma's minimum wage will increase on January 1, 2024 to \$16.28, a \$0.54 differential from the previous rate. This minimum wage increase was not known earlier in 2023 when the annual allocation process was open. In addition to the wage adjustment, we are also requesting an increase in allocated hours for the Directors on our board. The current constraint on their hours has led to overworking without fair compensation, which is detrimental to the well-being and effectiveness of our leadership team. To go more in depth into our situation, we currently work fewer hours than the people who sat in our similar positions last year, primarily due to a 30% budget cut that affects our ability to provide the same level of service. This budget cut has left us with a heavier workload and fewer resources, which is unsustainable and impacts on the quality of service we can offer to the student community. So, with the requested adjustments, we are requesting **\$20,750.10** in additional wage funds and the allocation of additional hours for our directors.

We kindly request an additional \$4,000 to increase our supplies budget. This amount of funds empowers our Director of Outreach to host events more efficiently, ensuring that our operations remain unhindered by budget constraints. Which will then also benefit ASUWT, with these additional resources will allow us to enhance our engagement efforts and provide valuable opportunities for student involvement.

We also kindly request ask additional \$6,115 in funding to bolster our budget for lobbying efforts in Olympia, ensuring that our university's interests are effectively represented at the state level. Additionally, these funds are essential to support our upcoming Spring General Student Assembly (GSA), which is projected to be in Spokane and the money we already have in our budget is not enough to get us there. Funding this is also crucial in fostering student engagement and addressing pertinent campus issues.

### STUDENT UTILIZATION

These funds will have a direct positive impact on students. Addressing The City of Tacoma's minimum wage demonstrates a commitment to fair compensation, not just supporting the financial aspect but also the student morale and inclusivity.

Moreover, the additional \$4000 allocated for supplies, we can create opportunities that enrich student experiences. These funds can be directed towards initiatives that focus on student health and wellness, promoting resources and activities that can help enhance people's physical and mental wellbeing. A portion of this budget can be used to enhance safety and security measures, ensuring that our campus remains a safe and secure environment for all students. Additionally promoting food equity and diversity which creates an inclusive and rich campus environment.

To continue, additional resources for travel to Olympia and the Spring GSA will significantly benefit our student body. So, we also kindly request additional funds for travel expenses. Funding our travel for both our lobbying in Olympia and for Spring GSA will ensure our university's voice is heard at the state level on any impacts on our education and that any issues or concerns that we have on campus can be addressed as well.

All in all, these funds go beyond finances; they symbolize our dedication to the well-being, safety, and inclusivity of our students. So, with your support in funding our initiatives and concerns, we can ensure a positive impact on our part and on the student community.

**SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES**

Due to the increase in the minimum wage to \$16.28, which wasn't anticipated during the annual budget allocation process, it could strain our financial resources. Without the additional \$20750.10 in wage funds, it may be challenging to maintain our current staffing levels while also abiding by the new minimum wage law. Which can lead to reduced workload, decrease in services, and can have a huge impact on our ability to serve the students. To add on, our Directors and the President has been recently facing overworked without fair compensation due to the constraints to the allotted hours. So, the \$20,750.10 allocated for additional wage funds and increased director hours is aimed at fairly compensating our staff, alleviating overwork, and sustaining the quality of services we provide.

The request for an additional \$4000 for the supplies budget is necessary because without this additional fund we won't be able to efficiently hold events. The additional \$4,000 designated for supplies will empower our Director of Outreach to host events more efficiently, making the most of these funds while ensuring smooth operations without being held back by budget constraints.

To add on, without the requested \$6,115 in funding for lobby efforts and Spring General Student Assembly, we won't be able to represent our university's interests at the state level and foster student engagement. We are dedicated to utilizing these funds to advocate for our community effectively and address relevant campus issues.

**SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS**

Fulfilling the minimum wage requirement, allocating more hours to directors, increasing the supplies budget for outreach, and boosting the travel budget for advocacy can have a meaningful and significant impact on the benefits experienced by students within our university. These actions are to be seen to be more supportive and impactful for the environment of both the staff of ASUWT and for the students.

First and foremost, fulfilling the minimum wage requirement is not just a legal obligation but a moral necessity. Paying a fair wage to all employees not only fosters a more inclusive and supportive work environment but also directly improves the well-being of those who serve students. This, in turn, boosts employee morale, commitment, and productivity. To add on to the request for fulfilling the minimum wage increase we also ask for more hours to be allotted to our directors and our president. This is a logical step to prevent overwork and burnout, ensuring that these key leaders can perform their roles more efficiently. By providing directors with the necessary time to manage their responsibilities, they can operate at their full potential, resulting in more strategic, creative, and impactful leadership.

To continue, Increasing the supplies budget for outreach is essential for enhancing the quality and impact of events and initiatives. This enables the Director of Outreach to provide engaging and memorable experiences for students. This expanded budget enables her to host more events, including initiatives like 'Rock the Vote,' and fosters collaboration with various Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) like the Echo Dance Team, UWT Film Club, Volleyball Club, Black Student Union, Latinx Student Union, and other important departments on campus, such as The UWT Giving Garden, UWT CSL, and UWT Computer Science. More resources mean more opportunities for creativity and innovation, leading to increased student engagement and participation.

To continue, Boosting the travel budget for lobbying and advocacy in Olympia is a strategic investment in representing and protecting student interests. Advocating for improved policies and resources at the state level can bring so many benefits for the students. Effective advocacy efforts from our student government can look like this: an increase in funding, more scholarships, and improved academic and extracurricular opportunities for students.

This leads to my reasoning on why this request is so important, these actions collectively contribute to a more supportive and student-centered environment, ultimately enhancing the educational experience and prospects of the students we serve.

**Staff Budget Requests**

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<b>For additional hours for directors stipends.</b>	E001
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$15,076</b>
	Fringe @ 21.2%:	<b>\$3,196</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<b>Wages request includes the adjustments for the new 2024 Washington state's minimum wage increase.</b>	E002
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$5,674</b>
	Fringe @ 21.2%:	<b>\$1,203</b>
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		<b>\$25,149</b>

## Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Travel	We are requesting \$6,115 to support our dedicated team of advocates as they head to Olympia and the Spring GSA. This funding will primarily help cover for travel and lodging expenses, ensuring that our team can focus on their advocacy efforts without financial concerns. S001	<b>\$6,115</b>
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	We are requesting \$4,000 to bolster our resources for ASUWT, enabling us to better serve and promote the well-being of our student community. This funding will be dedicated to essential supplies for promotions and resources that will directly benefit our students. S002	<b>\$4,000</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		<b>\$10,115</b>

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	<b>\$25,149</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	<b>\$10,115</b>
<b>COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$35,264</b>

## Supplemental Documents



### **DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

Director of Legislative Affairs statement



### **DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY AND AFFAIRS**

Director of University and Affairs statement



### **DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND AFFAIRS**

Director of Internal Communications and Affairs Statement



### **DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH**

Director of Outreach Statement



### **DIRECTOR OF STUDENT TECHNOLOGY**

Director of Student Technology's statement



### **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

Director of Finance statement



### **SPECIAL ALLOCATION SPREAD SHEET**

Wage increase is one slot, additional hours is one slot, travel is one slot, and supplies is one slot as well on the spread sheet.