

Request for 2025 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Associated Students of University of Washington Tacoma


Create Date: 03/22/2025

Due Date: 04/18/2025

Submitter Name: Alicia Whitten

UW Email Address: asuwtfin@uw.edu

Phone Number: 2535335274

Department Head Approval: 

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$10,840**

Departmental Information

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - CRITERIA

This request is motivated to pursue funding to replace the funding that was originally approved to fund fringe costs for ASUWT Directors, Senators, and those students who were paid as stipends. ASUWT was informed after the allocations from last year from SAFC that stipended individuals did not need have fringe benefit costs applied to their stipends. ASUWT had previously included fringe in their estimates and was awarded this funding for the 2024-2025 academic year. Because they were stipends, fringe funding that would not be applied to these positions was technically freed up to be applied to other ASUWT areas and needs. The students considered the best locations for this funding and shifted available fringe funds to best support student needs.

When reviewing ASUWT budgets, the ASUWT Advisor, Conor Leary, found that fringe costs were applied to stipended positions for the entire year. This caused immediate budget concerns as the fringe funding was not incorporated into the ASUWT budget because these positions allegedly as stipends did not have fringe costs. Further investigation revealed that ASUWT Directors and Senators are not actually paid as stipends. This term has been misused for many years preceding the current Advisor and ASUWT Administration. The Advisor connected with HR and learned that ASUWT Directors and Senators are paid through a Period Activity Payment, a set amount of funds distributed equally across pay periods, with fringe applied. This kind of payment process only affects ASUWT student employees, but still is subject to fringe costs.

This special allocation request is an emergency in our minds because funding allocated initially towards fringe was guided along what was known, but was later determined to be influenced by inaccurate information. The funding that is being asked for will allow ASUWT to support Legislative Affairs, Elections, and promotional needs for the rest of the quarter, after the Director of Finance and the Advisor determined that \$27,000 dollars of unspent wages and unused fringe costs for other positions could support the deficit caused by using initial fringe costs for other financial needs.

STUDENT UTILIZATION

The funding we currently have will only cover remaining mileage reimbursements and offers limited support for outreach materials, leaving the Spring GA significantly underfunded. This special allocation will allow UW Tacoma to send three additional students, specifically members of the incoming ASUWT administration, to the Washington Students Association (WSA) Spring General Assembly. While we currently have the minimum funds required to bring three incumbent students and retain our full voting power for legislative proposals, this special allocation would enable us to invest in continuity and leadership development by including our successors in this space.

At the WSA Spring General Assembly, students learn about state-level policies, effective lobbying strategies, and how to advocate for issues impacting students on and off campus. More importantly, this event allows students from each student government to vote on the legislative agenda for the upcoming year, directly influencing the priorities of the statewide student lobbying group.

By bringing incoming leaders, UW Tacoma gains strategic advantage. Most other schools already bring incoming administrations to build early relationships, align on shared priorities, and position future leaders for higher level roles in WSA. This kind of early exposure strengthens their ability to represent UW Tacoma at the state level and ensures we have a solid voice in the larger student movement, not being overshadowed by the other UW campuses. It also supports a smoother transfer of institutional knowledge of WSA, something ASUWT has historically struggled with.

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

This funding will be used immediately. The WSA Spring General Assembly is already scheduled, and our current incumbent delegation is confirmed to attend. These additional funds would be used to cover travel costs for the three members of the incoming ASUWT administration. Because we are building upon an existing trip and infrastructure already in motion, there is no delay in implementation. The only barrier to bringing more students is strictly financial.

As for impact: Incoming leaders will gain early exposure to statewide policy work and networking opportunities with their peers across Washington. They'll engage in real-time advocacy, learn the ropes of student lobbying, and understand the structure and function of WSA. This positions them to take on higher leadership roles within WSA earlier on, bringing more visibility and influence to UW Tacoma within the organization.

Most importantly, attending this assembly helps address a long-standing issue within ASUWT: the lack of leadership continuity. By creating a pipeline of trained, informed, and connected student leaders, this funding helps preserve institutional memory and strengthens our student government's ability to advocate for campus needs over the next year.

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.

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
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$0

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Travel	This will help to replenish what was estimated for fringe in the past. S001	\$2,840
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	This will help to replenish what was estimated for fringe in the past. S002	\$4,000
Food	This will help to replenish what was estimated for fringe in the past. Will also help with overages for elections. S003	\$4,000
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$10,840

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$0
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$10,840
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$10,840

Supplemental Documents
