Find the full Agenda and bills here!
ASUWB’s legislative priorities have been selected with the following objectives:

...to accurately reflect the wills and opinions of those studying at the University of Washington at Bothell...
...to provide a stronger learning environment for students from all backgrounds and statuses...
...to create sustainable and realistic benefits for students in their lives outside of academics...

**INCREASE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

One of the largest issues on the minds of UWB students is a lack of mental health support, with over 68% of surveyed students placing mental health at a high priority to address. Students at the campus have been plagued by a severe lack of school-sponsored mental health professionals, unsatisfactory accommodations provided by faculty, and several other problems that only fuel the growing mental health crisis among university students across the world.

ASUWB strongly supports establishing permanent therapists in universities with a sole focus on students and faculty as their only clients. ASUWB also supports governmental financial aid in order to keep mental health workers satisfied with a competitive pay, since many former school counselors and psychologists have moved to private practice in favor of a higher pay grade.

**DECREASING THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION**

UW Bothell is known as a commuter school with a lower count of students residing on or near campus in relation to other campuses. This challenges students to find reliable, affordable means of transportation. Over 99% of surveyed students believe that addressing transportation is a high priority of ASUWB. Students shouldn't be forced to pay exorbitant amounts for parking or transport in order to attend class when members of other campuses are provided far more opportunities for public transit and nearby residency.

ASUWB strongly supports the expansion of public transit routes leading into and out of the UWB campus in order to compensate for recent schedule reductions. ASUWB also supports lower costs on ORCA/UPASS options and financial support for nearby housing expansion.

**FOOD AVAILABILITY**

Students at UWB are greatly limited by the availability of food. Over 62% of surveyed students think that food availability is a priority to be addressed by ASUWB. Such challenges are not due to a lack of space or infrastructure for establishment of consistent services, but rather due to a lack of options for universities seeking to feed large numbers of students. UWB will likely be unable to find and sustain a cooking workforce designated for the school and third party organizations are unwilling to sign contracts due to low profit margins when working with universities. As a result, the only organization willing to work with UWB has been Aramark, known among students to employ prisoners in subpar conditions.

ASUWB highly supports governmental incentives for food distributors operating in universities. Should distribution organizations be able to turn a profit when working with students, students wouldn’t experience a significant price increase and the number of options for companies to work with would drastically increase.

ASUWB also highly supports grants for establishing permanent on-campus dining opportunities. As stated, a limiting factor in options is the inability to maintain a workforce to serve UWB specifically. With a low student count compared to other university campuses, mass cooking would prove more realistic, and if positions could be paid for that established permanent cooking posts, students would be able to find much greater access to food, leading to better studies, higher campus involvement, and lower daily emissions due to fewer cars driving off campus for food.

**INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY, WAYS OF EDUCATION, AND AFFORDABILITY**

50% of surveyed students think that food availability is a priority to be addressed by ASUWB. While certain steps have been taken to make movement around campus more accessible, a large problem lies in the ways that content is taught. Students with vision or hearing impairments are unable to interact with material nearly to the degree as others given the amount of content solely available by digital means.

ASUWB strongly supports increased funding for the use of alternative learning tools related to physical and mental disability. Ensuring that all students are given an equivalent opportunity to learn gives UWB a strong step in providing a truly nondiscriminatory education.

**INCREASE SUPPORT FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS**

UWB is home to a great variety of students from all sorts of economic backgrounds. While the campus may accommodate low income students better in some regards, previously mentioned issues like lack of transportation and food availability create even more challenges for low income students to overcome outside of the classroom.

While registration into university is somewhat helped due to loans and grants, aiding such students currently studying has been largely ignored. Over 36% of surveyed students believe that students experiencing homelessness are a priority to be addressed by ASUWB.

ASUWB strongly supports the development and advancement of Section 8 housing near universities for students unable to afford nearby accommodations. ASUWB also supports governmental provision of more costly school supplies like laptops, backpacks, and clothes. Not only for the additional costs of being a student but to make higher education more affordable for students as a whole. In support of more affordable higher education, over 44% of students expressed how impactful expansions of programs such as the Washington College grant award is.

This challenge also reflects in students with dependents. Such students are often unable to balance providing food and shelter for their child, caring for their child, traveling between school and home, and studying. This limits them and will lower the quality of study and the quality of the life they lead.

Students with dependents are another reason why ASUWB supports housing developments near universities to be posted at a reduced cost.

**ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES**

- Healthcare access
- Racial Equity
- LGBTQIA+ Equity
- Motor vehicle safety / WSP

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