**FINANCIAL AID & STATE GRANT**

The investment in higher education that the legislature made in 2019 by creating the Washington College Grant is critical to student success and retention in 2020. The current racial, economic, and health crisis is affecting students as tuition will inevitably increase and unemployment rates persist. We ask for the legislature to protect the Washington College Grant by maintaining its current investments and expand to increase access to financial aid programs for all students, particularly undocumented students who have not received any financial support.

**VIRTUAL LEARNING ACCESSIBILITY**

Universities across the state have seen an abrupt transition to online learning that has highlighted accessibility issues among students in marginalized communities. We urge the state legislature to alleviate these accessibility issues by mandating that all online class lectures be recorded and uploaded with captions, increase funding for online teaching programs and tools that will aid teachers in their instruction, and ensure access to safe spaces, technology, and internet access to better engage in virtual learning environments.

**STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS**

Student health and wellbeing has been severely affected by the current public health crisis. Not only do students need healthcare, but we also need comprehensive mental health support. We urge the state legislature to pass an opt-out, all-inclusive student health plan that includes reproductive care and supports long-term health solutions for students for comprehensive treatment. We also ask for comprehensive mental health support, but including increasing funding for universities to hire trained counselors to support every kind of student. Lastly, we urge the legislature to support survivors of sexual assault by maintaining pre-August 2020 Title IX regulations, increasing funding to accessible sexual assault programs for survivors, and sexual assault prevention and awareness.

**CAMPUS SAFETY & EQUITY**

The surge of commitments over the summer by universities to ensure campus safety and equity provides an opportunity for the legislature to urge that campuses prioritize marginalized students. We support policies that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), including hiring and retaining diverse staff and faculty, supporting critical race theory curriculum, mandating DEI and de-escalation training for staff, students, and faculty, and funding intersectional safe spaces for students. We also support restructuring the role of campus police by reallocating resources into programs that promote student wellbeing like mental health support and food and housing security.

**FOOD & HOUSING INSECURITY**

The cost of living in the greater Seattle area and surrounding regions is rising, affecting low-income students who are struggling to maintain access to basic food and housing needs, pay tuition, and successfully complete their higher education. COVID-19 has only exacerbated the lack of access to basic necessities for low-income students. We ask that the legislature introduce policies that provide affordable housing and food options, especially to students who experience homelessness. For students who require housing, we seek to expand financial aid programs to include funding for housing as part of their aid.

**THE ASUWB SUPPORTS INCREASED STATE INVESTMENTS IN:**

- **SUPPORTING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS**
- **SUPPORTING GRADUATES & PROFESSIONALS**
- **SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**
- **SUPPORTING STUDENT CHILDCARE**
- **CAMPUS CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY**

**EMAIL: ASUWBTEAM@UW.EDU**