

To: WWU Faculty Senate
From: Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Rep
Date: January 16, 2024
Re: Faculty Legislative Liaison Report

Bills of interest. This an update of the bills that were being tracked by the Council of Faculty

- [SB 5904](#), Extends state financial aid programs to be in line with federal aid guidelines.
- [SB6053](#), Enables OSPI to send high school student information to WSAC to highlight financial aid and postsecondary opportunities
- [SB 5999](#) Increases eligibility for the maximum Washington College Grant (WCG) award up to 70 percent of median family income. Modifies WCG awards for students between 71 and 100 percent of median family income. It also entitles WCG students who are receiving the maximum WCG award, but who are not College Bound Scholarship recipients, to a bridge grant, which is an additional annual stipend for expenses beyond tuition and fees. The Council of Faculty has jointly agreed to support this bill through signing in “pro” at the testimony.

Other issues

- **For the administration, the main priorities are as follows:**
 - Students attending community and technical colleges (CTCs) receive a two-year funding promise. The Council of Presidents (COP) would like this extended to four-year colleges
 - For the next budget biennium, the COP would like to advocate for a 100% compensation split, that is, full funding from the legislature. The COP is continuing to build support for this in the current session.