

To: WWU Faculty Senate
From: Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Rep
Date: February 12, 2024
Re: Faculty Legislative Liaison Report

Bills of interest. While the session started with several dozen bills that had impact on higher education; these are the ones that are still under consideration.

[HB 2214](#) permits beneficiaries of public assistance programs, that is, Washington's Basic Food Program (Basic Food) or the Food Assistance Program (FAP), to automatically qualify as income-eligible for the purpose of receiving the Washington College Grant (WCG). The annual list of individuals participating in the public assistance programs can be shared only to the extent allowable under state and federal law.

[SB 5904](#) extends eligibility for awards under the Washington College Grant, College Bound Scholarship, and Passport to Careers programs from five years or 125 percent of the published length of the student's program, to six years or 150 percent of the published length of the student's program.

[SB6053](#) enables OSPI to send high school student information to WSAC to highlight financial aid and postsecondary opportunities/

[HB 2112](#) requires public and private higher ed institutions to provide opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness to students, make naloxone and fentanyl strips available to students, and provide education and training on administering naloxone to staff working in residence halls.

Other issues:

[Delays and setbacks](#) to the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) roll out is complicating admissions for students and colleges across the country.

The Council on Faculty (CoF) continues to try to find legislative pathways to guarantee funding for income-eligible students seeking a 4-year baccalaureate degree in our state's public higher education institutions.