

Report of the Faculty Legislative Representative
Bidisha Biswas, Professor of Political Science
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A. Pertinent news items on higher education in our state

[Yakima School District, Central Washington University and Yakima Valley College collaboration around dual credit:](#)

[Budgetary tightening expected in WA](#)

[Seattle times oped: The ethics of the marketplace are detrimental to our Universities](#)

B. On October 5, the Council of Faculty convened in Ellensburg, WA to discuss legislative priorities for the coming year. Following are some of the highlights

1. The **state's budget climate is expected to tighten this year**, as a result of overall state trends (see news item above) and ballot initiatives (see point 6). This may impact higher education allocations.
2. The CoF will work with other stakeholders to ask the legislature to **provide greater funding support to all public higher education institutions (also known as the "funds split")**, so that we are not reliant on student tuition dollars to cover necessary expenses.
3. We heard from the **Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)** on their priorities. They noted that Washington's college completion rate is about 68%, which is on par with national average. However, a significant portion of Washington residents- 47% - do not have any post-secondary credentials, and WSAC would like to engage in efforts that enable more WA residents to get such credentials.
 - a. To this end, WSAC is focused on supporting **students they describe as mobile**. They would like to see increasing rates of **credit mobility**, that is, students would get college credits for completing courses in high school and in the workplace.
4. We also heard that the **Council of Presidents' (CoP) top priority is seeking an increase in the funds split**.
5. We discussed Western's specific budgetary challenges and that other institutions also face significant budgetary constraints. We agreed that **fiscal transparency** is essential and that reliance on tuition dollars to cover expenses can and does have negative, downstream effects.
6. Our next CoF meeting will be after the November elections. There are some **ballot initiatives** in our state which, if approved by the electorate, will shrink state revenue. We will have more clarity on the budgetary situation after the elections.