

To: WWU Faculty Senate
From: Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Rep
Date: January 10, 2025
Re: Faculty Legislative Liaison Report

Bills of interest

[HB 1036](#) would designate one seat on the boards of Western, Eastern, and Central for “labor”. It will be up for a hearing on January 15.

A possible bill to require Washington state’s public higher education institutions to select their top leadership in a manner that is consultative with faculty, staff, and students, including opportunities for public input, and in accordance with the open public meetings act.

A possible amendment to the Public Records Act, which would provide faculty with some exemptions, including for manuscript reviews, grant proposal reviews, and tenure letters.

Other issues

Governor-Elect Bob Ferguson has issued a [proposal](#) outlining his budget priorities for 2025-2027. He [opposes](#) a wealth tax floated by outgoing Governor Jay Inslee and wants to boost K-12 school funding while calling for 6% cuts to most state agencies. **The Governor-Elect supports a 3% cut to four-year higher education institutions.** The proposal does not call for reductions to basic education, technical and community colleges or public safety agencies.