



Vice President of External Affairs January Report

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ASA Lobbypalooza

- **Lobby Con**
 - February 3-5, ASA will be hosting a lobby training event at ASU Downtown. If you can come for just one day to receive information on the issues and how to lobby, that would be great. Cost is \$20 and GPSA will cover this if you guarantee attendance. Dinner Friday – Lunch Sunday will be provided.
- **Lobby Day**
 - ASA's annual Lobby Day at the State Capitol will be held on February 6 from 9-3 (though if necessary you can leave early). We would love to have as many attendees as possible and we also need people to volunteer as group leaders. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

ASU Day at the Capitol

- On February 9, the ASU Alumni Association is hosting a Day at the Capitol. This event will be from 11-1:30. GPSA will have a table at the event. Lunch will be provided.

State Legislation

- **Budget**
 - Thank you to everyone who contacted the Governor's Office supporting ASU's FY 2013 budget request to fix the funding in disparity. Her budget will be announced on January 13 and we will know, hopefully by the time of the Assembly meeting, if our request is included.
- **Guns on campus**
 - Sen. Gould (R-3) plans to reintroduce a revised version of last year's bill that passed but was vetoed by Gov. Brewer. The bill would allow concealed carry permit holders to carry on campus. Universities would be able to restrict guns in buildings if they provide gun lockers. This will be a high cost to the Universities though.
- **Textbook legislation**
 - Rep. Forese (R-21) may be introducing a bill regarding transparency and reporting from faculty members regarding payment for peer review and "gifts" from publishers.
- **Vouchers**
 - While ABOR has been working on an outcome based funding formula, there is still movement in the State Legislature to change our University funding to a voucher system where each student would be given a specific amount of money to take to whatever University they choose.
 - One voucher bill has already been introduced by Rep. Barton (R-5)

and Rep. Crandell (R-5). It strikes all current funding formulas for the universities and inserts a voucher. Currently the amount of the voucher is left blank. Graduate students would not receive any funds and ABOR can reduce the amount of voucher based on a student changing their major and the Arizona Commerce Authority can recommend prorating a voucher based on "jobs needed in the state." Also the voucher can be used for a public or private institution.

- http://www.azleg.gov//FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2181p.htm&Session_ID=107
 - **Everyone pays something**
 - This bill would require that all students pay something. It is unclear exactly what this would look like and whether it would include graduate students (thus taking away full tuition waivers). Our stance is that most students do pay something, because tuition is only a part of the total cost of attendance. Additionally, we are concerned about how this will limit access and recruiting.

Advocacy 101

- Director of Advocacy, German Cadenas, is working to launch an Advocacy 101 service to help students with individual issues within the University.

Voter Registration Drives

- We are looking to launch more (and innovative) voter registration drives and are always looking for volunteers and ideas!

Respectfully,

Rhian Stotts
Vice President of External Affairs (former Director of Graduate Student Advocacy)
Graduate and Professional Student Association
Arizona State University