The DRAC committee consists of thirteen voting members including faculty and student representative from Theatre Arts and Dance, Music, Student Publications, Communications and International Affairs Association. There is also an administrator who is appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs and two at-large student representatives. DRAC projected SA Revenue for FY2019 is $1,168,347.

Criteria: A represented area shall have “Department Related Activities”, such as an artistic or academic production or event, that is intended for a public audience and the broader university community or that represents the University in interscholastic competition of an academic nature. Students collaborate with faculty advisors from the department to determine content. Participation in such activities shall be open to all students enrolled in the university but may be subject to criteria established by the faculty supervisor of the activity. Students may be required to audition and be selected for participation, for instance.

Current Represented Areas: Current departmentally related represented areas include the: (1) Department of Music; (2) Department of Theatre and Dance; (3) Department of Communication, representing Forensics and Western Window; (4) Department of Journalism, representing the Student Publications Council (Western Front, Klipsun, Planet, Occams Razor and Jeopardy) and (5) Department of Political Science representing International Affairs Association.

Department Summaries

Forensics

Western Debate is an intercollegiate competitive activity that also has a corresponding class for credit component. We enter into tournaments with schools from all across the United States including NCAA Division I schools as well as the “Ivies”.

Western Debate has been a top twenty national program for the past 17 years. What is unique about the program is that we are competitive while still maintaining an open policy for joining the team. While other programs only recruit experienced competitors from high school, Western has consistently fielded successful teams made up of students from our classrooms. Our graduates go on to law school, other graduate school programs, jobs in service to the community, and are successful in private enterprise due to their training. We are open to any major from campus and do not require past experience in high school, just a desire to compete for the team.

The Debate program is funded exclusively through its DRAC budget. The Department of Communication, the college of Humanities and Social Sciences, or any other administrative budget does not provide money to debate. We are also the only state school in Washington to have a full-time faculty member direct the program and have official institutional recognition and support.
Western Window

Western Window is a thirty-minute magazine-style television show that airs on commercial television from Vancouver, B.C, to Vancouver, WA. While Western Window had been funded through its DRAC budget, Academic Year 2017-2018 was the last year of association with DRAC.

Music

DRAC funding is integral to music in a variety of applications, including support for: Music ensembles both large and small, chamber music, accompaniment for juries and recitals that serve as a laboratory for applied instruction, support for student travel to conferences, performances and other events related to the educational mission. It is important to note that all of our ensembles are open to students on campus who have previous ensemble experience—regardless of major. These ensembles range from choirs and quartets to larger bands and orchestras, with opportunities suited to students with interests in any instrument or area.

The DRAC funds additionally support guest musicians, conductors and composers, offering students the opportunity to work with, learn from and observe top professionals in the field. It supports our Viking Band, engaging students in performance and supporting student athletics. DRAC funds are used to support student use of the Music Library including the purchase of sheet music, recordings and books that are not currently available. The DRAC fund is used to finance musical instruments and equipment that would otherwise be unavailable to students. Finally, these funds support student employment in positions providing professional experience in musical pursuits including recording and stage management, as well as opportunities for leadership development.

Student Publications

The Student Publications Program at Western Washington University serves to showcase and archive the diverse talent and effort of student produced journalism, arts, literature, and research. As an activity, Student Publications provides more than 50 student jobs each quarter and a platform to present the independent and academic work of hundreds of students each year. Paid positions provide experience in Management, Editing, Photography, Graphic Design, Advertising Sales, Community Networking, Distribution, and Administration. As a service, our award winning publications deliver independent news as well as scientific, artistic and academic content to Western’s campus and the community beyond.

All Western students are eligible to participate in publications staff work. Student editors-in-chief are appointed by the Publications Council and receive a salary. The editorial management teams they hire are compensated in hourly income. Students may enroll in staff courses for credit; the courses are supervised by faculty of the Department of Journalism or, in the case of The Planet, Huxley College. Jeopardy is supervised by the English Department. Student
publications are an essential component of a creative writing and a journalism education. Western students are given the opportunity to practice what they learn in hands-on student publication laboratories, culminating in professional quality publications, including The Western Front, Klipsun, Jeopardy, Occam’s Razor and The Planet.

Theatre and Dance Department

The Theatre and Dance production season serves as the laboratory for the core curriculum and allows students the opportunity to utilize their education and skills to collaborate with faculty and peers to create professional quality productions. This main stage production season is primarily supported by DRAC and traditionally includes 4 to 6 shows each academic year and 1-3 shows during the summer. DRAC funding provides our students with opportunities to perform, stage manage, choreograph, design costumes, design and build scenery, design lighting, design sound, and to serve as “run crew” backstage during a production. Each year the department supports travel to professional Theatre conferences such as: USITT (United States Technical Theatre Conference), The South-Eastern Theatre Conference (SETC) and the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF). These conferences allow students to attend workshops, auditions, portfolio reviews, interviews for internships and to participate in competitions for scholarships. DRAC dollars help offset the cost of festival registration and travel for student participants. Dance majors have the opportunity to travel to New York City where they attend classes and workshops with prestigious dance companies. This travel serves as an important educational experience; they learn first-hand what it takes to survive as a professional dancer in New York City. This exposure allows the students to become familiar with the audition process and various dance companies in New York City. DRAC dollars help offset the cost of accommodations in NYC for this trip. DRAC funding has helped to bring in a number of guest artists over the past few years, including Seattle Children’s Theatre, Seattle Repertory, Chris Walker, Bill Bowers, Hand To Mouth Company and The Liz Gerring Dance Company. DRAC has also helped support bringing in other professionals to work on our season productions, allowing our students to work alongside the best in the field. This year theatre students had the ability to participate in a Shakespeare residency with a professional director and dance students worked with the Liz Gerring Dance Company who were in residence at WWU for 2 weeks. As part of every guest contract, the professional offers a workshop or series of workshops for students, which are open to everyone on campus. DRAC funds help to employ our students. Student employees are essential to our main stage productions and work in the Theatre and Dance scene shop, costume shop or costume storage side by side with our professional employees learning valuable career skills.

International Affairs Association

Western Washington University’s International Affairs Association (IAA) is a student run association within the Political Science Department. The IAA provides ambitious students the opportunity to explore contemporary global issues outside of the classroom, develop personal and professional skills, and to prepare for post-graduate opportunities. Functionally, the IAA serves and manages two university programs; the Model United Nations team and the Services
Events & Programs division. The first of these programs, Model United Nations, allows members to simulate the affairs and procedures of the United Nations by serving as representatives of various states. To simulate the proceedings, team members travel to a variety of conferences in the United States and Canada, with the team on average sending between thirty to forty attendees to seven conferences throughout the year. The final element of the IAA, the Services Events & Programs division, serves to bring international issues to campus, through the facilitation of speakers, running high school and collegiate level Model United Nations conferences. Taken together, the IAA is more than the sum of its constituent parts. It is an institution that creates student leaders by empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in a global society.