

Here are the pros and cons of the MBNA-UWAA deal as written by the sponsors of R-9-35 and R-9-38. There is one correction under number 3 of the pros: the agreement allows for three mailings per year, not two.—Kat

Pro MBNA Deal Statement:

4 Important reasons to vote to approve the credit card resolution

- 1) The state of Washington currently has a budget deficit over 2 billion dollars. This will most likely result in cuts for higher education, and will require new sources of revenue for funding student programs.
- 2) The credit card agreement would result in \$300,000 annually for the next 7 years, all of which will be directly benefiting students. The Alumni Association will use \$50,000 for scholarships, and \$125,000 for student programs. The Office of the Vice President for Student affairs will get the remaining money, distributing it to various student groups including ASUW, RHSA, IFC, Panhellenic, and even some money going into the general education fund for undergrad education. With the state budget problems this provides students an excellent opportunity to fund the programs they are interested in.
- 3) The Alumni Association has made it a priority to account for student concerns. The agreement allows for only two mailings per year, and only to non-freshman undergraduates. Included are workshops and education materials to teach students how to use credit wisely. Additionally, the directory information will never be handed over to MBNA, the Alumni Association will always be in control of it.
- 4) This will be the University's only credit card agreement for the next 7 years. Signing it does not give free reign to the University to sell student info whenever it pleases. The resolution itself includes the clause "ASUW support for this specific agreement shall not be interpreted to encourage or support any other agreements that allow marketing to students without student input and approval from the ASUW."

Con MBNA Deal Statement:

Reasons NOT to Sell Student Information

- 1) The Student Government would be giving away student contact info for money.
- 2) The integrity of the student directory is question. For what purpose was it established? Its not a marketing tool, it's a resource for students to communicate with one another.
- 3) It's a slippery slope and sets a DANGEROUS precedence.

- 4) Giving away student info for commercial purposes in exchange for money equals selling
- 5) Payoff not substantial or even guaranteed source of funding
- 6) Should student programs be funded at the expense of student privacy?

My Thoughts:

-On the one hand, MBNA won't be giving us THAT much money especially if it's in exchange for our info.

-On the other hand, any money is better than no money.

-On the one hand, students can opt out of the mailings by opting out of the directory.

-On the other hand, if so many students opt out of the directory, we're going to have a hell of a time tracking down new members to make sure they have legitimate emails and that they weren't lying when they claimed to have no middle name.

-Etc, etc, etc. The back and forth listing can go on for a while. I can pretty much go either way, so it's all dependent on what you guys say and what will be said at second readings next week...or I can just abstain because I really don't know what to say about this.