

ASWWU Executive Board Meeting Documents

1/16/26

Document Number	Agenda Topic Title
1	Draft Minutes – 12/4/25 Exec Board Meeting
2	Confirmation of S&A Membership
3	Budget Letter to the President and Board of Trustees
4	Board Report Schedule

ASWWU Executive Board Meeting Minutes-DRAFT

12/4/25 | 4:00 PM | VU 567

ASWWU Executive Board Members

Present: Cates-Doglio, Davis, Maynard, Stegeman, Skinner, Polo, Carnell

Absent: NA

Advisor: Lorio

Secretary: Lorio

Guest(s) in attendance: none

Motions

Motion #	Title	Result
ASB-25-F-24	To approve the 12/3/25 consent agenda items as presented	Passed
ASB-25-F-25	To approve the ASWWU Legislative Priorities 2026	Passed
ASB-25-F-26	To appoint Ethan Martez to SUAG	Passed

1. Call to order

Cates-Doglio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 16:05

2. Revisions to the agenda

Stegeman- Action Item – Ethan Martez to SUAC- accepted

3. Consent Items – Routine business items that do not require discussion

- Approving ASWWU Exec Board 11/20/25 Meeting Minutes
- Approving ASWWU Special Joint Meeting 12/1/25 Minutes

ASB-25-F-24	Motion: To approve the 12/4/25 consent agenda items as presented.		
Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:		
Vote Count: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	Action Result: Passed		

4. Public forum – Time for WWU & community members to address the ASWWU Executive Board

2 min – Sargun, previous Sen Pres, comments regarding, voiced full support for work of AS Gov regarding WTA current issues, is Gov planning ongoing work/follow up

Reflections on comments from Whatcom County Exec.

- AS Pres: please send feedback, additional questions by email

5. ASWWU Executive Board Reports (1 min each)

a. AS President Report (Cates-Doglio)

- 90% of hours for last 2 weeks on WTA, public response, met with local elected leaders

- ii. WSA Updates: Pullman and UW want full control, with no Exec Committee or ED, only BOD, proceed with only a “lobby coalition” expressed concerns with the updated model concept and internal conflict between student governments
- b. ASVP Diversity (Polo)**
 - i. Goal of increased connections with students in the Centers, planning Centers Service Update for each governing body. DOC/DAC updates, ongoing work with committees for Winter term.
 - ii. Meeting with Joe Hahn re: Centers Org updates
- c. ASVP Sustainability (Skinner)**
 - i. Working on WTA engagement
 - ii. SSC work, SEI wants to adjust sust coalition work
 - iii. SEJF approved 1st 2 grants recently
 - iv. Env Club showcase work
 - v. Sustainability action plan update
- d. ASVP Activities (Stegeman)**
 - i. A lot of outreach work, planning and newsletter
 - ii. DRAC meeting, reorganizing updated budgets for Outback Farm, discussion of S&A Changes- generally negative
 - 1. Pres- DRAC submitting open letter to BOT, presented to Senate
 - iii. SUAG up and running starting winter break with updated student membership and appointment procedures
 - iv. Student Publication staffing updates, several recent new hires.
- e. ASVP University Operations (Davis)**
 - i. Lots of budget work, WSA meetings, proposed amended budget to go to BOD, less deficit, reducing to 3 paid positions
 - ii. Pursuing additional information on general WWU Budget to inform official ASWWU Budget response, following up with Faye on information from UBC over expenditure areas
- f. ASVP Student Services Report (Carnell)**
 - i. Focused on WTA response and work, coordinating, networking with staff, student groups, fact checking and updating information for students to be able to act on
 - ii. Decorations workgroup had 1st meeting.
- g. ASVP Governmental Affairs (Maynard)**
 - i. Lobby Day prep
 - 1. Currently 94 signup
 - 2. Working on participant communications, waitlists,
 - 3. Pre-filed bills are being tracked
 - a. HB2098, related to college affordability
 - i. Tuition reductions
 - b. 2 other interesting bills to track
 - i. Higher Ed access to medicated abortion
 - h. ASWWU Executive Board Advisor Report (Lorio, 2 min)**

- i. Blah, blah

6. Action items – Items that may need a vote

a. ASWWU Legislative Priorities 2026 (Maynard, Doc 3)

- i. Brief review of next steps with priorities if approved, already passed by Senate and LAC

ASB-25-F-25	Motion: To approve 2026 ASWWU Legislative Priorities		
Motion Made By: Maynard	Motion Seconded By: Skinner		
Vote Count: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	Action Result: Passed		

b. Appointment of student Ethan Martez to Student Union Advisory Group

- i. **Notes:** Brief description of SUAG updates, state

ASB-25-F-26	Motion: To appoint Ethan Martez to SUAG		
Motion Made By: Carnell	Motion Seconded By: Davis		
Vote Count: 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Abstain	Action Result: Passed		

7. Discussion Items – Items that do not need a vote

a. AS Budget Response (Davis, Doc 4)

- i. Brief description of letter and planned ongoing budget response to be delivered to WWU Pres and BOT
- ii. AS Pres: question about tone, wants to confirm it matches intent
 - 1. VP Activities, seems a bit long potentially, tone match is good
 - 2. VP Gov Affairs, good start reference, may need to be a bit more robust/long
 - 3. General consensus at end that length is good, plan for signatures of both bodies.
- iii. Discussion around impacts of ongoing budget discussions in Leg Session, demonstrate ability/desire of AS Gov to partner/participate in future University budget reductions decisions.
- iv. Increasing capacity and understanding of Exec Board regarding University budgets
- v. Timeline: 1st meeting Winter Quarter, intend to pass it, then plan delivery to WWU Pres

b. WTA Discussion (Carnell/Cates-Doglio/Skinner)

- i. Updates from Public meeting today, plan strategy for future
 - 1. Seems like a foregone conclusion that fare increases will happen.
 - 2. Where are we now?
 - a. Lots of meetings with WTA Staff to clarify/express concerns of students
 - b. Meeting with Bham Mayor and Council Member Donovan
 - i. Predicted passage of fare increase

- ii. Today's Public Meeting, approx. 100 online, filled main meeting room and 3 additional rooms (132 in person public attendees)
- c. What are the student impacts?
 - i. Predicted:
 - 1. AT Fee may need to be raised to cover any updated contract.
 - 2. If no updated contract, likely 3x-4x increase of out of pocket expenses for students
 - d. Carnell shared ASWWU resolution with additional WTA Board members
 - e. Review of AT Fee fund expenditures and potential required adjustments, ongoing discussions of service levels for students.
 - f. Noted excellent adaptive response and coordination by ASWWU Gov.
- c. **Wrapping up Fall Quarter** (Cates-Doglio)
 - i. No 1:1 Pres/VP next week
 - ii. Reminders for next quarter
 - 1. Regular meeting time updated
 - 2. Will adjust other meeting calendars as soon as possible.
 - 3. Communicate with AS Pres your preference for meetings next quarter.

8. Call to adjourn

Cates-Doglio, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 17:20

Date: 1/13/2026

To: ASWWU Student Government

From: Greg McBride - S&A Fee Committee Staff Facilitator

Subject: Services and Activity Fee Reps

This memo includes the following students to be recommended by Student Government as members of the 2026 Services and Activity Fee Committee. New guidelines approved by the WWU Trustees on 12/12/2025 included a shift in the membership to now include up to four (4) At Large positions in addition to the seven (7) seats nominated by constituent representatives. The intent in adding these At Large positions is to include more student voices in decisions about the S&A Fee. After consultation with AS President, Aspen Cates-Doglio and ASWWU Senate President John Hardgrove, an application was created, and a campus wide search occurred during the first week of Winter Quarter. In that time, we received 26 applications for these At Large positions. Applications were reviewed by a group of staff who were tasked at identifying students that represented the diverse interests of students and presented minimal conflicts of interest based on their involvement in campus activities. Student representatives from constituent areas were chosen by the constituent group and communicated to the Staff Facilitator by advisors or managers from these areas.

2026 Services and Activity Fee Committee:

<u>Representation</u>	<u>Name</u>
AS WWU Government	Aspen Cates-Doglio
Student Engagement	Priscila Nunez Martinez
Athletics	Elizabeth Swift
DRAC	Ella Horner
Campus Recreation	Jessica Bennett
The Centers	Tyler Lassinger
Residence Hall Association	Alyssa Phillips
At Large	John Nuchia
At Large	Andy Nguyen
At Large	Stella Billingsley
At Large	Tony Wallace

Dear President Randhawa and Board of Trustees,

ASWWU is writing to you to express deep concern about the recent reactions to budgetary limitations at Western Washington University (WWU) and their effects on students' academic success, well-being, and sense of belonging. While we understand the financial pressures facing the university, solutions must not come at the expense of the very people Western exists to serve, the students.

WWU's Board of Trustees Strategic Plan commits this institution to access, equity, well-being, and inclusivity, ensuring the best outcomes for all students. These values are particularly important for students from marginalized communities. The ASWWU recognizes that recent budget reductions, especially funding cuts to resources like the Library and The Centers, undermines these commitments and values.

The Strategic Plan promises to "support and strengthen curricula and other programming that engage issues of access, equity, power, and privilege." For students, this commitment is not abstract; it is what makes WWU a place where they can learn, grow, and belong.

Layoffs, program reductions, and service cuts implemented during spring and early summer 2025 contradict these values in practice. Students have lost access to key academic, cultural, and wellness resources that directly affect their success and retention. The message these decisions send is disheartening—that student needs are negotiable when budgets tighten.

The budget reductions as implemented have translated into tangible losses of opportunity and support for students across campus:

- Reduced Library Hours: Many students rely on the library as a study space, technology hub, and academic lifeline. Shortened hours limit access to materials and quiet learning environments, particularly affecting students who work jobs, commute, or lack study space at home.
- Cuts to The Centers for Student Access, Community, and Intercultural Engagement: The Centers provide critical spaces and programs where marginalized students find community, mentorship, and safety. Reduced funding threatens the programs and staff that help students navigate academic and personal challenges, leaving them more isolated and unsupported.
- Overworked and Understaffed Departments: Students feel the strain of staff reductions through longer wait times, delayed feedback, and diminished academic advising. As experienced staff are replaced by temporary hires, students lose mentors who not only knew their field but also knew the students' needs.
- Emotional and Cultural Impact: The erosion of trust, belonging, and community cannot be measured using money, yet it deeply shapes students' experiences and outcomes.

- Inadequate Time to Transition: Abruptly cutting personnel with little to no time for remaining staff to maintain services and programs.

The consequences of these cuts are felt unequally. Low-income students, first-generation students, and students of color are disproportionately affected. These decisions widen opportunity gaps at the very moment when higher education should be closing them.

WWU has long championed the belief that “education is the most powerful social equalizer, a true engine for upward mobility.” Without adequate student support, this promise becomes harder to fulfill. When vital programs are underfunded or eliminated, it is those students who have historically been left behind who are, once again, most affected.

To truly protect and empower students during this financial crisis, we urge the university to:

1. Prioritize Transparency: Inform the community on budget decisions and reasons, so students understand how and why these choices are being made.
2. Include Student Voices: Involve students meaningfully in financial planning and restructuring processes.
3. Center Equity Impacts in All Budget Reduction Processes: Evaluate equity before implementing reductions that could harm historically marginalized communities.
4. Proactive Response: Create a collaborative process to respond to unintended consequences that have arisen from the cuts.

WWU is standing in a pivotal moment. The choices made now will not only determine the institution’s financial future but also its educational legacy. Protecting students is not separate from fiscal responsibility, but rather it goes hand in hand with Western’s long-term success.

Thank you for your time, dedication, and leadership as we navigate this critical time together.

Dates	1/22/2026	1/29/2026	2/5/2026	2/12/2026	2/19/2026	2/26/2026	3/5/2026	3/12/2026
Member 1	VP University Ops	VP Diversity						
Member 2	VP Gov Affairs	VP Activities						
Member 3	VP Student Services	VP Sustainability						