



AS Student Senators for the College of Science & Engineering (CSE)

Associated Students of Western Washington University • Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA
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Introduction to the AS Student Senate & CSE Student Senators

What is the Associated Students (AS)?

“The Associated Students is both an association of all students at Western and the official student governing body. It is responsible for policy setting for all of those areas that are considered Student Activities, provides the framework for a variety of experiential learning opportunities, and serves as a vehicle for student involvement in the governance of the University. Reporting to the Board are councils with the following concerns: Legislative and Community Affairs, Activities, Facilities and Services, and University Services (Student Affairs Division functions). Standing subcommittees of the Board deal with Personnel, Budget, Technology, and several other topical areas.” (From <https://as.wvu.edu/gov>)

What are the branches of the official student governing body?

| AS Board of Directors (Executive Body) | AS Student Senate (Legislative Body) |
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| AS President | AS Student Senators for Students at Large (4) |
| ASVP for Academic Affairs | AS Student Senators for the College of Business & Economics (2) |
| ASVP for Activities | AS Student Senators for the College of Fine & Performing Arts (2) |
| ASVP for Business and Operations | AS Student Senators for the College of Humanities & Social Sciences (2) |
| ASVP for Diversity | AS Student Senators for the College of Science & Engineering (2) |
| ASVP for Governmental Affairs | AS Student Senators for Fairhaven College (2) |
| ASVP for Student Life | AS Student Senators for the Graduate School (2) |
| | AS Student Senators for Huxley College of the Environment (2) |
| | AS Student Senators for Woodring College of Education (2) |

What is the objective of the AS Student Senate?

“The purpose of the Student Senate is to serve as a legislative body in coordination with the AS Board of Directors (ASBOD) on relevant student issues and ensure representation from all students of Western Washington University. The Student Senate will be comprised of student senators representing eight WWU Colleges on campus, and students at large. The Student Senate will not be limited in the scope of issues it covers. Issues discussed by the Senate can originate from the ASBOD, other Associated Student offices (AS), University committee, within the Senate itself, or directly from students. The Student Senate will also approve any changes to the charge and charter of the AS Election Board. Overall, the Student senate will be part of the bicameral system in the AS, acting as a separate body from the ASBOD.” (ASWWU Student Senate By-Laws, Article I, Section B, 2018)

What are the responsibilities of an AS Student Senator?

Highlighted Responsibilities (From ASWWU Student Senator Job Description):

Ensure the effectiveness of the ASWWU Student Senate Operations by:

- Devoting an average of 15-19 hours per month to ASWWU Student Senate Business
- Identifying short and long term strategic goals.
- Actively pursuing lines of communication to/within the University and seeking/facilitating opportunities for student representation in University-wide decisions.

Promote the ASWWU Student Senate by:

- Communicating regularly with their constituents concerning the decisions and actions of the ASWWU Student Senate.
- Serving as a voting member on pre-determined committees.

Serve the Students of Western Washington University by:

- Representing the interests of WWU students on all issues that come before the ASWWU Student Senate.
- Serving as the spokesperson of their constituency to the ASWWU Student Senate.
- Giving a regular report to the ASWWU Student Senate of all committee meeting notes and minutes.
- Establishing and maintaining open communication with constituents, as needed by email or appointment.
- Attending all assigned or delegated committee meetings, as per request of the Senate Pro-Tempore or Vice-Chair.

Promote Collaboration with the WWU College of their constituency by:

- Meeting with aforementioned University Dean twice per Quarter, to conduct research and to develop a report on student concerns.

What roles do the AS CSE Student Senators play in their working capacity?

AS Student Senators Represent Two Different Bodies of Student Voices:

- 1) CSE Student Body
- 2) AS Student Senate at Large

Representatives of the CSE Student Body

Purpose: To bring forward ideas and/or concerns from CSE students to the Student Senate in order to ensure the unique attributes of the CSE student body are acknowledged in decisions made within the operating capacity of the AS.

AS Operating Capacity Includes:

- 1) AS & University Committees
- 2) Projects happening within or between colleges in which an AS representative is involved
 - a) Examples: *(Note, these examples have not necessarily been approved by the AS Student Senate but are examples of items being presented to the Student Senate at Large).*
 - i) DEI Training for Undergraduates & Teaching/Graduate Assistants
 - ii) College Town Halls
 - iii) Concerns and Discussion of AS VP for Business and Operations
- 3) Projects happening within or between AS sponsored clubs, facilities or governing bodies
 - a) Examples: *(Note, these examples have been formally brought to the AS Board of Directors but are of same nature of items that may be brought to the AS Student Senate).*
 - i) AS Outback Farm & Summer Noon Concert Series
 - ii) AS WWU Student Senate Recommendation to Recall ASVP for Business and Operations
 - iii) AS WWU Legislative Agenda

Representatives of the AS Student Senate at Large

Purpose: To bring forward ideas and/or concerns from the Student Senate to the capacities in which the AS CSE Student Senators operate in order to bridge ideas between colleges and acknowledge a wider set of student voices.

AS CSE Student Senate Operating Capacity Includes:

- 1) AS Student Senate at Large
- 2) Assigned Committees:
 - i) Faculty Senate
 - ii) Policy, Planning & Budgeting Council (PPBC)
 - iii) Equity, Inclusion & Diversity Committee (EID)
 - iv) Peter J. Elich Excellence in Teaching Award Committee
- 3) Projects happening within or between colleges in which an AS CSE Student Senator is directly involved
 - b) Examples: (*Note, these examples not yet been brought to the AS Student Senate, but will in the future*)
 - i) Developing a Student Committee for Facility Hiring (Chemistry Department)
 - ii) Formalize the Dean's Student Advisory Group (SAG)

AS CSE Student Senators Goals & Projects for Winter 2019

Creating methods to increase transparency between CSE administration faculty & students by:

- 1) Educating CSE administration, chairs & faculty about the ASWWU Student Senate, their role and responsibilities, ongoing projects, and resource as a student voice.
Brad Johnson, Dean, College of Science & Engineering
Ben Miner, Associate Dean, College of Science & Engineering
Levi Eckman, ASVP for Academic Affairs, AS Senate Pro-Tempore
- 2) Formalizing the Dean's Student Advisory Group (SAG) and establish the role of SAG facilitator as an official job responsibility of the AS CSE Student Senators.
Brad Johnson, Dean, College of Science & Engineering
Ben Miner, Associate Dean, College of Science & Engineering
Natasha Hessami, ASVP for Governmental Affairs
- 3) Scheduling a College Town Hall to communicate with CSE students about ASWWU Student Senate functions and give them an opportunity to communicate any constituent concerns.
AS Office of Communications
AS Student Senate at Large
- 4) Create formal relations with STEM Clubs including:
 - a) Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
 - b) Association for Women in Computing (AWC)
 - c) Western's Association of Mathematics (WAM)
 - d) Women in Geology (WiG)
 - e) Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG)
 - f) Society of Economic Geologists (SEG)
 - g) Women in Physics (WiP)
 - h) Material Science Club
 - i) Chemistry Club (Chem Club)
 - j) Society of Women in Engineering (SWE)*Regina Barber DeGraaff, STEM Inclusion and Outreach Specialist, Physics and Astronomy Senior Instructor*

Addressing current constituent concerns surrounding Equity, Inclusivity and Diversity by:

- 1) Developing a seminar program focused on fostering inclusive work in research lab spaces
Tim Kowalczyk, Professor, Department of Chemistry

Leti Romo, Former Coordinator for Equity and Inclusion Resource Centers, Current AS Student Senate and AS Board of Directors Advisor

Spencer Anthony-Cahill, Chair, Department of Chemistry

Ensuring the fulfilment of ASWWU Student Senate responsibilities by:

- 1) Acquire seats and voting membership on our assigned committees.

Kevin Covey, Chair, EID

Deborah Donovan, Chair, PPBC

McNeel Jantzen, Senate President, Faculty Senate

Unknown, Peter J. Elich Excellence in Teaching Award

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