

ASWWU Executive Board Meeting Documents

2/19/26

Document Number	Agenda Topic Title
1	Draft Minutes – 2/12/26 Exec Board Meeting
2 & 3	Approval of AS VP for University Operations Finalized and Questions
4	Referendum Packet Approval
5	Free & Fast Transit Sign on Letter

ASWWU Executive Board Meeting Minutes-DRAFT

2/12/26 | 4:15 PM | VU 567

ASWWU Executive Board Members

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

Absent: None

Advisor: Lorio

Secretary: Stensrud

Guest(s) in attendance: none

Motions

Motion #	Title	Result
ASB-26-W-17	To approve the 2/12/26 consent agenda items as presented	Passed
ASB-26-W-18	To approve Charter as presented.	Passed
ASB-26-W-19	To approve Policy as proposed	Passed
ASB-26-W-20	To approve the Mission Statement as presented	Passed

1. Call to order

Cates-Doglio, Chair, called the meeting to order at 16:15

2. Revisions to the agenda

Adding discussion item (may become action item) about app deadline for Univ Ops position (Cates-Doglio & Davis, 5 min)

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

a. Approving ASWWU Exec Board 2/5/26 Meeting Minutes (Cates-Doglio, Doc 1)

ASB-26-W-17	Motion: To approve the 2/12/26 consent agenda items as presented.
Motion Made By: Skinner	Motion Seconded By: Maynard
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

None

5. ASWWU Exec Board Reports

a. AS President Report (Cates-Doglio)

- i. Working on all-student email for town hall that will go out tomorrow. Town hall to be discussed later in the agenda. Chair has received a letter from the President of the University relating to S&A/athletic fees. Lots of conflicting information, will be meeting with Faye Gallant tomorrow. Two claims: money already being spent on a move from S&A fees, Asst Director to Multicultural Center moved to Asst Director of Tribal Relations office. First claim: this is currently funded by S&A fees, second claim: not currently funded, but they want it to be. Contradiction impacted by RCW's as well. Sign On letter for WTA that will be coming soon.
- b. ASVP Diversity Report (Polo)**
 - i. Met with Simone (Asst Director of Tribal Relations), today and talked with some of what chair addressed. Excited about longhouse opening in May. Tomorrow there will be a tour of the barebones version of the longhouse to the BOT. Working on outreach survey, met with Josh in Student Engagement. Josh presented corrections to outreach workgroup last week. Working on elections related outreach. Working with Sophia on upcoming townhall event. NASU possibly working on special presentation for townhall. Went to Black History Month event, saw new exhibit, Rhythm and Rhymes. Made other connections in an effort to get more student engagement with government.
- c. ASVP Activities Report (Stegeman)**
 - i. Goes over things they have been working on. Meeting with a lot of senators to give space to answer questions about the athletics referendum.
- d. ASVP Sustainability Report (Skinner)**
 - i. Was at Enviro Club Showcase last week. Over 10 clubs there, Dean of CENV came and spoke. Did some outreach at the show for coalition she is working on. Meeting with someone from UW about their coalition. SEJF going well reviewed, 6/8 grant proposals so far.
- e. ASWWU Executive Board Advisor Report (Lorio)**
 - i. Timesheets due EOD tomorrow, due to Monday Holiday. Don't work on holiday.

6. Action items – Items that may need a vote

- a. Student Trustee Appointment Recommendation Charter (Cates-Doglio, Doc 2)**
 - a. Chair presents Charter proposal, view doc in packet for details. Provides some context of what the group does, thinks the charter and process are mediocre, but not worth time to make major overhauls. Some improvements made. If anyone has ideas they would like talked about, this does not need to pass today. There are a couple changes that need to be made, such as spacing and formatting issues; the doc can be passed with the changes made. Adam asks if this will go to Senate, Chair states, no, and Adam reminds of pertinent policies. This will go through Senate next week.

ASB-26-W-18	Motion: To approve Charter as presented.	
	Motion Made By: Skinner	Motion Seconded By: Carnell
	Vote Count: 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Abstain	Action Result: Passed

b. ASWWU Voluntary Fee Referendum Policy (Cates-Doglio, Doc 3)

- a. Chair goes over Policy background, review doc for details. Discussion. Concerns voiced about aspects of the proposed policy. Chair adds that he likes the policy, understands concerns about voter suppression. Believes the ability to see exactly what students are paying in fees is important. Current system is all over the place. Chair feels AS Gov should be getting more in to the fees and fee oversight.

ASB-26-W-19	Motion: To approve Policy as proposed	
	Motion Made By: Stegeman	Motion Seconded By: Carnell
	Vote Count: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	Action Result: Passed

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

a. Referendum Proposal Template (Cates-Doglio, Docs 4-5)

- i. Adam presents the Referendum Proposal Template, no substantive changes other than the final item, which asks for explicit description of fee oversight structure. Was presented to and approved by the Senate yesterday. If this body passes it, it can be sent to athletics for their upcoming referendum. Adam asks for any desired updates/deletions/changes, and gives some historical context. Chair mentions that one of the most important thing about referendum proposals that should be called out is the fee oversight structure. Continued discussion about committees as relates to the topic at hand. Relevant section of current AS charter, Sec 4.1 Letters e and f are points of reference.

b. ASWWU Mission Statement (Cates-Doglio & Davis, Doc 6)

- i. Chair presents Mission Statement proposed by Conference Committee. Refer to doc for details. Had conversation with Faith Pettis (BOT), she had two notes, changing “student interests” to “all student interests”. This is difficult to do, and technically not within the purview of AS Gov. Other note, changing “student welfare” to “work to benefit students”. SGA suggests different term for welfare because of connotation, Chair is concerned that welfare is broader. Discussion about semantic and pragmatic definitions of welfare.

ASB-26-W-20	Motion: To approve the Mission Statement as presented	
	Motion Made By: Maynard	Motion Seconded By: Stegeman
	Vote Count: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	Action Result: Passed

c. ASWWU Student Townhall with Reps from 40th and 42nd LD’s (Maynard & Polo)

- i. Maynard & Polo present about upcoming Town Hall with Reps from 40th and 42nd LD's so Western Students can come and ask questions of the reps that impact WWU students. Will be other community town halls for public, and WWU students can attend both. This town hall will be specifically for WWU students. Town Hall will be moderated by Maynard. Please spread the word as much as possible. Feb 21st, 2-3pm in MH138. Working on outreach related to the townhall event. Adam asks for some context as to how this came about, Maynard explains this came from WWU performance at Lobby Day. Chair states that Sophia killed it on the planning end of Lobby Day, no real major notes for improvement.
- d. Signing the Budget Letter to Deliver to WWU BOT (Davis & Cates-Doglio)**
 - i. Chair mentions Letter that this body passed, he wants the Board members to sign the letter. Will pass it around for signatures.
- b. Discussion relating to app deadline for VP Univ Ops Vacancy.**
 - i. App opened last Friday, all student communication didn't go out until Tuesday. Doesn't leave a lot of time with midterms, has received emails asking for extension. Chair proposes extending the deadline to Monday, 2/16 at 11:59pm. Adam states there are 12 applications currently. Discussion about extending the deadline. Seems fair because of midterms. Original deadline is tomorrow. Body commits to reviewing all apps by next Thursday's meeting. Continued discussion about how to inform all students about extended deadline and about the town hall. No extension of deadline.

8. Call to adjourn

Cates-Doglio, Chair, called the meeting to adjourn at 17:12pm

Name	Preferred Pronouns	What is your declared major or pre-major? If you are undeclared, please specify	When do you plan to graduate? (e.g. Spring 2026)	If appointed, will you be working another student employee job at Western while serving in ASWWU Government	What is your other student employee position?	How many hours a week does it require?	Are you able to attend all ASWWU Executive Board Meetings? Currently scheduled every Thursday, 4:15-5:30pm in VU567	Why are you interested in serving in ASWWU Government in the role of ASWWU VP of University Operations?	What relevant experience would you bring to this role if appointed?	By submitting this application, I confirm that I have read and currently (or will by the time appointed) meet all of the required qualifications for this position.	Eligibility Check
Angel Montalvo Zarate	He/Him/His	Political Science/Social Studies	Spring 2027	No		Yes		<p>When I commenced my studies at western Washington University, I became aware of the ASWWU Government; I heard great things. I became eager to meet the representatives, however without knowing it, I had already met a few. I asked them questions about what they did and how they connected to the students. Or how their voices were heard and how they went upon student request and what their objectives were. Their explanation of their mission and from my research, I am confident in my values aligning with ASWWU Government values and beliefs. My biggest goal at Western is to unite people and be a voice for students who cannot advocate for themselves. I believe there are many students who feel alone, or as if their voice doesn't matter. Which is why during my first quarter of Western I became a part of organizations and clubs to advocate and meet new people. I am a sole believer of, "you never know who you'll meet & what they'll do for you."</p> <p>Through my experiences in leadership positions at both Big Bend Community College and Western Washington University, I've worked constantly towards creating equity-inclusive bubbles. Spaces where students can feel empowered in themselves and heard. As the Freshman Representatives of both M.E.Ch.A and LSU, I have seen the importance of advocacy for students and for people alone. Through the events and projects, I've experienced, it has allowed me to gain skills in communication, listening, and working with diverse perspectives. As the VP of University Operations, I will prioritize underrepresented students, advocate for the policies they believe in and ensure they are heard.</p>	<p>My goals in Western Washington University are to create a family and bring people together. Throughout my life I've always had responsibilities, because of these experiences I believe I am the best candidate for the position. My strengths in leadership, communication, and making people feel comfortable fit perfectly for this role. I have been involved in student organizations and leadership roles since high school. Many of these roles required me to solve problems under pressure in collaboration with groups of diverse people. Even in mistakes, I hold accountability, leading with empathy to support the teams and people I worked with. Additionally, I have experience working with students and faculty from my previous position at Big Bend Community College. My position "Recreational Coordinator," consisted of creating events which were accessible and provided a welcoming atmosphere. I was also assigned tasks consisting of becoming the voice for students and working closely with a board of deans and instructors to either approve tenure or not. Aside from this, I was a board member of 2 clubs which focused on improving community relationships with Latine students and the police department. Since transitioning to university, I have become apart of 2 club boards and the RPB president. Both clubs are a part of the ESC; we've had events such as raising clothes for community members in need and providing a platform for students to express themselves. However, my favorite role in Western University is being able to create events in Alma Clark Glass Hall.</p> <p>I am available to have an interview at your earliest convience. For any questions, feel free to ask. I am eager to hear from you.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Angel Montalvo</p>	I confirm	OK

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Anthony Molnar	They/Them	Political Science/Economics	Spring 2027	No		Yes		<p>As WWU is an institution dedicated to teaching and serving its student body, both current and future, I believe that student input is critical. Allowing student representatives to advocate for their interests throughout the university allows for a more equitable learning environment, enhancing academic engagement and empowering the student body. Because I believe in the value of this kind of participation, I have a keen interest in serving the student body through ASWWU to the above ends.</p> <p>Since transferring to WWU in Fall quarter of 2024, I've increasingly wanted to contribute to the advancement of student perspectives. So far, that's displayed itself in small ways. I joined the OSE picket line last year and eagerly advertise ASWWU Lobby Day to anyone who will listen, to name a couple examples. However, my background in communication, as well as my passion for the institutional and external locus of the Executive Board, makes me feel uniquely suited for the role of VP for University Operations. My hope is that I'm given the chance to excel in this position, and that I can use the experience it affords to advocate for the student body even more effectively in the future.</p>	<p>During the summers of 2022, 2023, and 2024, I served as the office director at a YMCA summer camp. In this position, I acted as a public representative for the camp – fielding phone and email inquiries, drafting communications for executive leadership, and collecting/providing feedback. These duties gave me a robust background in professional communication, representing the priorities and values of an organization, and maintaining constructive dialogue with stakeholder parties, all of which are essential to the role of ASWWU VP of University Operations. I also acted as a supervisor for a small team of staff, which taught me the importance of being available and accountable for those I'm serving, a lesson which would help me effectively gather and advocate for the varying perspectives of the student body.</p> <p>Additionally, I have participated in the past two consecutive ASWWU Lobby Days, giving me a basic familiarity with some members of the Executive Board and the priorities of the ASWWU Student Government. My individual success during these events also points to my capacity for learning quickly and communicating clearly – and convincingly – under pressure or in unfamiliar settings, both of which would help me quickly understand the role and make the most of the single-quarter appointment.</p>	I confirm	OK

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Heather Curfman	They/she/any	Econ/Polisci and Fairhaven LDJ (double major)	spring 27	Yes	AS CBE Senator, CSA Class Facilitator (basic Needs Hub/WSS)	4-6 for CSA position. 8 for AS Senate	Yes	<p>I love this beautiful campus and community tucked in between the mountains and the sea. I am surrounded by peers that care so deeply and it is enthralling to be riding the collective wave of shaping a more hopeful future. I genuinely want to leave this place better than I found it. I am deeply engaged in advocating for student academic interests in my role as AS CBE Senator and I am applying here to explore the possibility of making a pivot into VP of Operations work. I would plan to run for this same role next year in hopes of maintaining continuity if appointed. I love the work I do on AS Senate and I am deeply dedicated to finding the right avenue for me to be able to make change in, and I have questions about the role and for the Exec board body to better understand the bigger picture.</p> <p>I bring a unique perspective as a low-income, first-generation student with a disability. These intersecting identities have taught me so much about diversity, inclusion, and justice and have strongly influenced my recent decision to return to school to pursue law school with an interest in public policy/labor/basic needs. I know first-hand what it can feel like to be left behind due to systemic barriers, and I am passionate about improving equity and inclusion for all. A rising tide lifts all ships, and I am interested in making waves together.</p> <p>I am committed to curiosity, and I am committed to understanding. I am interested in addressing barriers and systems of injustice and working toward equity, inclusion, access, and diversity. I understand that these systems are the water we all swim in, and I want to be an active part of making change for all. I passionately believe that we all deserve fair access to belonging, education, support, and so much more, and I will strive to always improve inclusion.</p>	<p>As an older student, I bring my 15 years of experience as a working career adult and independent entrepreneur. I have worked in retail management, tech, design, and as an independent business owner, including positions in leadership/management. I care deeply about advocating for worker's rights and my recent experience working with the WFSE labor union has stoked my passion for advocating and representing others. I was being trained as an informal union steward and was also being trained to bargain before I was unexpectedly laid off last summer. The WFSE union has also taught me that change is collective, and I will lead with collaboration and respect.</p> <p>My time at WCC on the student AIR team and my campus student job in IT sparked a passion of academically advocating for my peers that felt unsure how to speak up, and I have been able to continue this through my work as an AS Senator for CBE here at WWU. Though my AS Gov work, I have participated in faculty senate committees (ACC, CUE, ATC), academic honesty board, and CBE student leadership where I have been a strong advocate for student voices and concerns. I also bring practical experience working with budgets and navigating financial conversations that are foundational to the operation of the university.</p> <p>My experience has taught me to be open to being wrong, and I deeply value the learning that comes from growth opportunities and mistakes. I bring a high level of dependability, capacity, consistency, dedication, time management, and organization that comes from years of time and practice. I am a dual major, Econ/Polisci and Fairhaven Law, Diversity, Justice. The work of VP of Operations deeply resonates with the work I am already doing, and I would love to add my expertise and experience to our collective goal of a brighter future for WWU.</p>	I confirm	OK

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Madison Pettey	She/her	Economics and environmental studies	Winter 2028	Unsure			Yes	I am interested in serving in ASWWU Government as the VP of University Operations because I genuinely care about making real, tangible improvements to student life at Western Washington University. The VP of University Operations role especially interests me because it focuses on the behind-the-scenes work that keeps the university running smoothly for students, from services to operational policies. I want to be involved in improving those systems so they better reflect student voices and priorities.	Through my involvement in ASWWU Lobby, I gained experience advocating for students, communicating concerns clearly, and working within structured systems to push for change. I also bring strong communication and organizational skills from my work in a university fundraising call center, where I regularly engage with a wide range of people, represent institutional values, and handle responsibility in a professional setting. As a student studying economics, I am used to thinking critically about systems, trade-offs, and how resources are allocated, which is directly relevant to understanding university operations. Overall, I bring a strong work ethic, a commitment to student advocacy, and a willingness to learn and collaborate to make Western a better place for students.	I confirm	OK

- Since the global pandemic most public institutions have been faced with a budget shortfall, including Western. In the 2024/25 school year, Western made a significant effort to right size the budget; however, further action is still necessary. How would you push the University to include stakeholder voices in those conversations? What would you characterize as the most important areas of our university to protect?
- Vice President of University Operations serves as the vice chair of the executive board. (I as President want help, here, here, and here) How would support the AS President as the Vice Chair of the Executive Board?
- The VP for University Operations serves on both the Advisory Committee for Socially Responsible Investing and Ethical Contracts Committee. What role would you play on these committees, and how do you intend to advocate for students on campus? How would you involve groups on campus focusing on divestment and advocating for ethical contracts.
- If you could have theme music play every time you walked into a room, what song would be playing and why?

ASWWU Government Official Referendum Proposal

Referendum Title: Enter Info here

WWU Department or Program responsible for implementation of proposed action: Enter

WWU Department/Program Staff Contact: Enter

WWU Student (or Student Group) Proposing Referendum: Enter

ASWWU Elected Sponsor: Enter

Date(s) Referendum Proposal to be officially presented to ASWWU Governing Bodies:

- ASWWU Executive Board: Enter
- ASWWU Senate: Enter

Proposed General Election Ballot for Referendum (e.g Spring 2026): Enter

Administrative/ASWWU Advisor Notes: Gov Advisor to Edit: e.g. Proposal packet has been reviewed for complete contents and meets the requirements outlined in current ASWWU Election Code for consideration by ASWWU Governing Bodies.

Official Final Draft Referendum Information Packet (what will be available to voters if passed to go on ballot):

Note: all information below is exactly as submitted in final draft by referendum sponsor and support program staff.

1) Official Ballot Question:

Enter Info Provided

2) Official Referendum Statement of Support (250 words or less):

Enter Info Provided

3) Official Supporting Documentation (additional details)

Enter Info Provided

4) Official Fiscal Note (required for any student-voted Fee referendum)

Enter Info Provided

5) If the referendum is proposing a student fee, what will the fee oversight structure be?

Enter information provided

Dear Bellingham City Councilmembers and Mayor Kim Lund,

When more people use public transit, communities are healthier, more affordable, and more environmentally sustainable. Today, Bellingham stands at a crossroads. Fare hikes are imminent — *doubling* for fixed line routes and *tripling* for paratransit. At the same time, the City and WTA are planning enhanced GO Line Service. Both policy developments have significant implications for the goal of building ridership.

According to data used by WTA, doubling fixed-route fares could reduce ridership by about 43%¹, or roughly 1.6 million trips per year. This reduced ridership represents more single-occupancy vehicles on our roads and less access to crucial services for low-income residents without other transit options.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, more and more public transit agencies in the U.S. have stopped charging fares entirely to get more people riding. A 2025 study of 14 agencies found that when fares were eliminated, ridership increased by about 55% on average.² Increased ridership is better for the whole Bellingham community. It supports the city's goal of increasing higher density residential and commercial development to meet our housing crisis. It means fewer single-occupancy vehicles on our roads and less greenhouse gasses in our atmosphere.

We are a broad coalition of community members and organizations who believe that improving service, not raising fares, is the most effective way to strengthen ridership and reach our community's stated goals. We advocate for the approach recommended by the WTA's Rapid Transit Study, which includes improvements to Go Line frequency and reliability. As we shared during public comment in both November and December of 2025, we do not support a fare increase, particularly when higher costs risk reducing access for riders who depend on transit the most.

The City of Bellingham (COB) is a Transportation Benefit District (TBD). A TBD has full legal authority to create an annual vehicle license fee. The fee would start at \$20 per vehicle. This local option would raise about \$1.4 million each year to support high-quality public transit. The undersigned organizations and individuals urge the COB to use its Transportation Benefit District authority to **enact the vehicle license fee and to pilot fare elimination for WTA riders**. Your leadership is vital for providing the safe, fast, and reliable public transportation that your community deserves.

In service of our shared community,

¹ Daling, Jasmine. "Raise or Hold? Estimating the Whatcom Transportation Authority's Fare Elasticity." *CEDAR*, Spring 2025: p. 11.

² Tyndall, Justin. "Fare-Free Transit in the United States: Effects on Ridership, Service, and Finances." Working Paper, University of Hawai'i Moana, 2025: p. 11, https://www.justintyndall.com/Tyndall_farefree.pdf

