

# ASWWU Executive Board Meeting Documents

## 2/26/26

<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Agenda Topic Title</b>
1	Draft Minutes – 2/19/26 Exec Board Meeting
2	ASWWU Elections Code – Revised 2026
3	ASWWU Spring 2026 General Election Timeline
4	S&A Fee Committee Alternates
5	ASVP University Operations Appointment Finalist Responses
6	S&A Committee Letter from President Randhawa

# ASWWU Executive Board Meeting Minutes-DRAFT

2/19/26 | 4:15 PM | VU 567

## ASWWU Executive Board Members

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

Absent: Carnell-excused per AS President

Advisor: Lorio

Secretary: Lorio

Guest(s) in attendance: none

## Motions

Motion #	Title	Result
ASB-26-W-21	To approve the 2/19/26 consent agenda items as presented	Passed
ASB-26-W-22	To approve revised Student Trustee Appointment Recommendation Committee Charter as presented	Passed
ASB-26-W-23	To approve finalists for VP Univ Ops	Passed
ASB-26-W-24	To approve questions for finalists as revised	Passed
ASB-26-W-25	To approve ASWWU Government Official Referendum Proposal Template	Passed
ASB-26-W-26	To sign on to the Fast and Free Transit letter as the AS Executive Board	Passed

### 1. Call to order

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

### 2. Revisions to the agenda

Aspen has a doc for one of the action items, will distribute it when we get to that part of the meeting. Add VP of Diversity 1 minute update

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

#### a. Approving ASWWU Exec Board 2/12/26 Meeting Minutes

i. Adam makes administrative point about clarifying motions for the record

ASB-26-W-21	<b>Motion:</b> To approve the 2/19/26 consent agenda items as presented.
<b>Motion Made By:</b> Maynard	<b>Motion Seconded By:</b> Davis
<b>Vote Count:</b> 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	<b>Action Result:</b> 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. Quick update, preparing testimony next Wednesday for HB2070, will be out of office. Also working on HB1570. Lobbying happening today. Scheduled for hearing on Monday with no public hearing. Reviewing applicants for VP Ops, along with questions. Chair says one of the questions “needs workshopping”.
- b. ASVP University Operations Report** (Davis)
  - i. Davis presents quick update, went to Budget Committee for 2<sup>nd</sup> half. On par with normal meetings, covered some athletics info. Discussed some financial revenue sources and expenses for 2025. Compiling info about WWU’s budget, working with Aspen on a legacy document that can be shared with all AS Ops next year.
- c. ASVP Student Services Report** (Carnell)
  - i. Chair gives quick WTA update on Carnell’s behalf. There is a need to improve relationships with university middle management.
- d. ASVP Governmental Affairs Report** (Maynard)
  - i. Maynard updates about the upcoming TownHall this Saturday. Bring friends. Updates on Bills 2070 and 1570.
- e. ASVP of Diversity Report** (Polo)
  - i. Ethnic Student Center formally opened in May 1991, this year will be the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Center. Polo is now on the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee. Currently working to restructure position to be more helpful to students and less administrative work.
- f. ASWWU Executive Board Advisor Report** (Lorio)
  - i. Nothing to report

**6. Action items – Items that may need a vote**

- a. ASWWU Student Trustee Selection Committee Charter** (Cates-Doglio)
  - i. Chair presents some small updates to the proposed charter. Main change to number 7 and number 8. Change to who can change the charter.

ASB-26-W-22	<b>Motion:</b> To approve revised Student Trustee Appointment Recommendation Committee Charter as presented
<b>Motion Made By:</b> Polo	<b>Motion Seconded By:</b> Skinner
<b>Vote Count:</b> 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

- b. Approval of AS VP for University Operations Finalists and Questions** (Davis, Docs 2 & 3)
  - i. Discussion on finalists for VP Ops. Some applicants are graduating at end of this year, and were ruled out for that reason. Chair mentions that all 4 proposed finalists were at Lobby Day. Much ongoing discussion/workshopping about one of the questions. Changing the word role in the third question to perspective. Another question revision: Most public institutions of higher

education are facing a budget shortfall, including Western. (instead of mentioning Covid)

ASB-26-W-23	<b>Motion:</b> To approve finalists for VP Univ Ops	
	<b>Motion Made By:</b> Davis	<b>Motion Seconded By:</b> Maynard
	<b>Vote Count:</b> 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

ASB-26-W-24	<b>Motion:</b> To approve questions for finalists as revised	
	<b>Motion Made By:</b> Maynard	<b>Motion Seconded By:</b> Stegeman
	<b>Vote Count:</b> 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

**c. Referendum Packet Approval (Cates-Doglio, Doc 4)**

- i. Discussed previously as discussion item, needs to be approved by E Board.

ASB-26-W-25	<b>Motion:</b> To approve ASWWU Government Official Referendum Proposal Template	
	<b>Motion Made By:</b> Skinner	<b>Motion Seconded By:</b> Stegeman
	<b>Vote Count:</b> 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

**d. Free & Fast Transit Sign on Letter (Cates-Doglio, Doc 5)**

- i. Chair presents letter regarding free transit in Whatcom County, that the AS Gov is being asked to sign on to. Proposing a new licensing tax to fund free transit. Adam asks how this would impact contract negotiations. This would lower the Active Transportation Fee if passed.

ASB-26-W-26	<b>Motion:</b> To sign on to the Fast and Free Transit letter as the AS Executive Board	
	<b>Motion Made By:</b> Skinner	<b>Motion Seconded By:</b> Maynard
	<b>Vote Count:</b> 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

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

**a. Decorations Workgroup Update (Carnell and Stegeman)**

- i. Tabled

**b. Potential Resolution for the WWU Divest Apartheid Memorandum of Understanding (Cates-Doglio and El Nagar)**

- i. Senator El Nagar presents on Divest Apartheid MOU. Most demands from the MOU 2 years ago have not been met. Last demand expires in May. Hoping to draft a resolution in support of students who are working towards getting the demands met. Chair asks about which demands have not been met. El Nagar reads list of demands that have not been met.

**8. Call to adjourn**

Cates-Doglio, Chair, called the meeting to adjourn at 17:21

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## Introduction

This Election Code intends to address all necessary regulations for general or special elections required for the operations of the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) Government. All guidance provided in this Code must align with the authorities and responsibilities granted to ASWWU Government by the current ASWWU Government Charter and Constitution. In the case of conflicting/contradictory language, both the ASWWU Charter and Constitution supersede this Code.

The Code is required to be reviewed annually prior to the start of ASWWU General Election activities by the AS Elections Advisory Committee (EAC), chaired by the Elections Coordinator and within the authority granted by the EAC Charge and Charter.

Failure to abide by the Election Code can result in the filing of a grievance and/or disqualification from the ballot, elected position, or election process. All deadlines set in this code are final and must be adhered to.

Questions or concerns with the Election Code should be addressed to the Elections Coordinator or ASWWU Governance Advisor.

## Article I: Running for ASWWU Elected Office

### Candidate Eligibility

**Before the end of the candidate filing period and for the duration of the campaign period, all candidates must:**

- i. Be enrolled on the Bellingham campus with a minimum credit load of:
  - a. 6 credits for undergraduate students
  - b. 4 credits for graduate students
  - c. *Credit load requirements are suspended during summer quarter for candidates enrolled at WWU in the following fall term with the required minimum credits.*
  - d. *Newly admitted students who have confirmed their enrollment with the Admissions Office but have not yet registered for courses before the candidate filing deadline are eligible for candidacy as long as they register for and maintain the minimum credit load during the quarters of the election and the duration of the term of office.*
- ii. Be listed in “good academic standing” by the Registrar’s Office and maintain a cumulative and current GPA of 2.0 or above.

- a. This requirement does not apply to newly admitted students who have not yet received grades from WWU.
- iii. For college-specific ASWWU Senator seats:
  - a. Have a declared major or pre-major in the college they are running to represent on record in the current University official record system (e.g. Banner) at the time of filing and for duration of term (if elected).
  - b. *If a candidate drops or switches their major into a different college **before the end of the candidate filing period**, the candidate can run for Senator in the college they are now declared in or run for an At-Large Senator position.*
  - c. *If a candidate drops or switches their major into a different college **after the end of the candidate filing period**, the candidate is no longer eligible to run in the election.*
- iv. For At-Large Senator seats:
  - a. Have any major status or lack thereof.
- v. For AS President or Senate President seats:
  - a. Have completed 50 or more credits at WWU **or** have been enrolled on the Bellingham campus for 5 quarters **or** have served as a voting member of ASWWU Government for at least 1 academic quarter before the candidate filing period closes.
- vi. Not currently serve as a volunteer or paid employee working in roles related to the operation of AS elections.

### Eligibility Verification

- i. Candidate eligibility must be verified by the ASWWU Governance Advisor before the start of the campaign period.
- ii. Candidates found to be ineligible will be administratively removed from the ballot.

### Candidate Conduct

- i. Candidates, ballot measure sponsors, and any person involved in a campaign must adhere to the candidate conduct agreement in the candidate filing form.
- ii. Candidates, ballot measure sponsors, and any person involved in a campaign must adhere to the WWU Student Conduct Code.
- iii. Under no circumstances are drugs or alcohol to be present at campaign-related events, regardless of location or participant age.
- iv. Bribes, incentives, or compensation in exchange for votes or ballot measure signatures are prohibited.

### Candidate Filing Requirements

**The candidate filing form will be available in an online format by the first day of the candidate filing period. To run for elected positions and begin campaigning, eligible candidates must:**

- i. Be eligible to run at the time of filing for candidacy.

- ii. File all required forms by 11:59 pm on the last day of the candidate filing period.
- iii. Only file to run for 1 elected position per election.
- iv. Attend 1 Mandatory Candidate Meeting (MCM).
  - a. MCMs will take place within 5 business days after the end of the candidate filing period
  - b. Candidates who do not attend an MCM will not be eligible to run for office. Exceptions to this rule will only be made if a candidate has:
    - i. Required attendance for an official WWU class (in-person or online) that conflicts with all MCM times
    - ii. A verifiable and documented illness or emergency preventing reasonable attendance of an MCM
    - iii. Extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances (e.g., military reservist activation)
    - iv. Required participation in official university events and travel (e.g., Departmentally Related Activities Committee sponsored events, varsity athletics, sport clubs) with dates set prior to the announcement of the candidate filing period.
    - v. Unavoidable and verifiable employment requirements (WWU or off-campus)
    - vi. Record of any granted exceptions must be kept on file by the Elections Coordinator. Exceptions not listed above can be granted by the Elections Coordinator in consultation with the ASWWU Governance Advisor. All candidates granted an exception must schedule a make-up MCM before they can begin campaigning.

## Campaigning

*Guidance for campaigning applies to all activities related to and individuals associated with campaigns for elected positions and for/against approved ballot measures.*

### Permitted & Prohibited Campaign Activities

- i. Campaign activities permitted at any time:
  - a. Announcement of intended candidacy.
  - b. Sponsorship of a ballot measure.
  - c. Meetings to organize the campaign or recruit volunteers (as long as physical campaign material is not distributed, posted, or displayed). Volunteer sign-up sheets do not constitute physical campaign materials.
- ii. Campaign activities permitted only during the campaign period:
  - a. Distribution, posting, or display of any physical campaign materials
    - i. All posting must comply with all WWU policies (Appendix Attachment A and B) in addition to the following:
      - 1. Each candidate/sponsor is limited to 1 poster per free board.
      - 2. Maximum physical campaign material size at any posting location is 8.5 inches by 11 inches, unless limited by WWU policies.
      - 3. Yard signs and other freestanding campaign materials are prohibited.

- ii. WWU employees can not wear any physical campaign materials (e.g., buttons) during working hours.
  - iii. Physical campaign materials and adhesive must be completely removed and cleaned up by the candidates/ sponsors who posted/distributed them by 4:00pm on the third calendar day after the last day of the campaign period.
- b. Online campaigning and the establishment of websites, web pages, social media, etc.
  - i. All online campaign platforms (websites, social media, etc.) must be reported via form with the Elections Coordinator.
  - ii. All online campaign platforms must be deleted or remain inactive by 1 calendar day after the reporting of election results to the student body.
    - 1. If the account remains inactive rather than deleted, the page must have a permanently visible disclaimer provided by the Elections Coordinator no later than 1 calendar day after the reporting of election results to the student body.
  - iii. Any previously established campaign-related platform can be reactivated after the start of the campaign period for any future election in which the individual is running for office or sponsoring/opposing a ballot measure.
- c. General informational events
  - i. All campaigns for the position(s)/ballot measure(s) of focus at the event must be invited at least 3 business days prior to the event.
  - ii. All invites must be sent at the same time.
  - iii. All invites must be sent using the sender and recipients' WWU email addresses. The Elections Coordinator must be included in the email.
  - iv. The event can continue without the presence of invitees who decline, do not show, or do not reply to the invite.
  - v. All attending candidates must be given equal speaking time
- iii. Prohibited campaign activities
  - a. Posting campaign material or writing campaign-related messages inside WWU classrooms
  - b. Posting campaign material or writing campaign-related messages on any WWU computer screensaver or background
  - c. Distribution, posting, or display of any physical campaign materials on the Bellingham campus outside of the times and places permitted by this Code and WWU policies.
  - d. Disruptive in-person campaigning in the public spaces of WWU, as outlined in WWU's Guide to Expressive Activities (Appendix Attachment C)
  - e. In-person campaigning in any non-public space of WWU (e.g., program offices, classrooms, residence hall rooms)
  - f. Verbal campaigning in academic classes (except for the announcement of candidacy or of a general informational event). Individual/personal conversations regarding candidacy or election events are permitted in academic classes.
  - g. Campaigning within 30 feet of any Bellingham campus computer station or official voting station.

- h. Use of the logos of ASWWU offices and programs, WWU offices and programs, and ASWWU councils and committees.
  - i. Use of the general ASWWU logo is permitted
  - ii. Online campaign sites can share items related the groups listed above
- i. Intentional tampering with any other campaign’s materials, including, but not limited to, defacing, removal, crossing out, marking on, or covering up.
  - i. Unintentional damage must be immediately reported to the Elections Coordinator and to the party affected, and must be remedied by the damage-causing party in a time frame set by the Elections Coordinator.
- j. Use of AS funds or resources for or in opposition of a campaign, candidate, or measure, unless the resource is available to all WWU students.

### Official Endorsement of Candidates and/or Ballot Measures

- i. The Elections Coordinator must be notified of all endorsements by the endorsed candidate/sponsor within 3 calendar days after the endorsement is made.
- ii. Use of WWU/ASWWU Resources
  - a. WWU/ASWWU resources **cannot** be used to endorse or speak out against a candidate or ballot measure, including but not limited to:
    - i. WWU employment paid/official work time
    - ii. WWU employee work email
    - iii. WWU/ASWWU social media accounts
    - iv. WWU employee work computers
    - v. WWU employee office space and supplies
  - b. WWU/ASWWU resources **can** be used to plan/host a general informational event regarding the election if each candidate and/or ballot measure campaign is invited to participate.
- iii. ASWWU/WWU Programs/Offices/Departments/Councils/Committees
  - a. **Cannot** endorse or speak out against a candidate or ballot measure.
  - b. **Cannot** plan/host events in support of or against a candidate or ballot measure.
- iv. Student Engagement Clubs
  - a. **Can** endorse or speak out against a candidate or ballot measure.
  - b. Clubs **can** plan/host events in support of or against a candidate or ballot measure, but money spent on the events count towards and cannot exceed the spending maximum allocated toward each candidate/campaign.
    - i. The endorsed candidate cannot sit on the executive board (e.g. president, treasurer) of the club, but can be a member of the club.
- v. Residential Programming Boards (RPBs)
  - a. **Can** endorse or speak out against a candidate or ballot measure.
  - b. RPBs **cannot** plan/host events in support of or against a candidate or ballot measure, but **can** host general election-related events.

- vi. Candidates, Ballot Measure Sponsors, and current AS Elected Officials
  - a. **Can** endorse or speak out against a candidate or ballot measure.
  - b. **Can** request endorsement from any individual or group permitted to give endorsements.
  - c. Designated campaign funds are the **only** source of funds that can be used to create materials related to endorsement/opposition of any candidate or ballot measure.
- vii. WWU Student Employees (including AS Elected Officials)
  - a. **Can** support any referendum on the ballot.
  - b. **Can** support candidates and/or ballot measures outside of work hours, without using WWU/ASWWU resources, and without identifying themselves as a WWU/ASWWU employee.

## Campaign Financing/Spending

*To support equitable access to student government, each candidate/sponsor is eligible for Public Campaign Financing from designated funds. Public Campaign Financing management and distribution is the responsibility of the Elections Coordinator and is supervised by program advising staff.*

### Campaign Expenditures

- I. Each campaign is limited to spending a maximum of \$50 in campaign expenditures per election.
- II. All campaigns must file a Financial Disclosure Statement and submit it to the Elections Coordinator by the approved deadline, even if no funds are spent or requested.
- III. Financial Disclosure Statements must include an itemized list of all campaign expenditures with receipts (or screenshots of proof of payment) for all campaign expenditures.
- IV. Expenditures that **must** be reported include:
  - a. Funds spent directly by a candidate/sponsor in support of a campaign and related activities.
  - b. Funds spent on behalf of a candidate/sponsor by a third party.
  - c. The value of any donated contributions to a campaign regardless of donation source, which includes items used on other campaigns supporting a candidate/measure. Final valuation of donations is subject to the discretion of the Elections Coordinator.
  - d. Any funds spent in support of public or private campaign-related events.
  - e. Any campaign expenses reimbursed through public financing.
  - f. Any funds spent on online advertising or social media campaigning.
- V. Expenditures that **do not need** to be reported include:
  - a. The value of volunteer labor.
  - b. The value of donated campaign-related digital photography or designs.
  - c. Tools used for a campaign that were not acquired specifically for the campaign (e.g. If a personal printer is used for printing posters, the cost of the printer does not need to be reported as an expenditure)
- VI. Physical campaign materials that are intentionally tampered with can be reported as a \$0 expense after receiving approval from the Elections Coordinator.

## Public Financing Reimbursement

- I. If a campaign makes a permitted expenditure, reports it in the Financial Disclosure Statement, and provides proof of payment, they can get money back through public financing reimbursement.
- II. Every campaign is eligible for public financing support of up to \$50 for permitted campaign expenditures.
  - a. The total amount of public financing available annually for elections (general and special combined) will be capped at \$3,000. If more candidates and campaigns file than the \$3,000 will cover, the total amount will be divided equally among all campaigns.
- III. To receive public financing reimbursement, campaigns must submit an Expenditure Request (ER) form with the ASWWU Governance Advisor by 4:00pm on the last day of the campaign finance disclosure filing period.
- IV. Expenditures eligible for reimbursement:
  - a. The costs of purchasing, shipping, and/or printing physical campaign materials, and
  - b. Stationery, paper, and office supplies purchased during the campaign period and used to create and display physical campaign materials.
- V. Expenditures **not** eligible for reimbursement:
  - a. Food and beverages,
  - b. Payment or compensation for any labor associated with a campaign, and
  - c. Any expenditure for which proof of payment is not provided.
- VI. Any expenditures not listed above can be approved for public financing by the Elections Coordinator with approval of the ASWWU Governance Advisor.

## Article II: Ballot Measures

Ballot measures are specific issues/questions placed on a ballot that can be voted on directly by eligible ASWWU voters.

All proposed ballot measures and any associated actions, impacts or outcomes must be within the authority of ASWWU Government as defined by the currently approved/adopted ASWWU Government Charter to be eligible for inclusion on any ballot. Every ballot measure is subject to administrative review for compliance with applicable state laws and WWU and ASWWU Government policies. Ballot measures can be minimally adjusted or modified for clarity/administrative detail if deemed necessary by administrative review. If major adjustments or modifications are deemed necessary, the ballot measure may not be approved for the intended ballot and will be returned to the individual/group responsible for initiating the measure proposal for revision/clarification. The measure may be proposed for inclusion on future ballots after needed clarification is addressed.

Approved ballot measures will be included on the next available annual general election ballot. Any proposed ballot measures that do not address student fee creation/modification/renewal can be deemed appropriate for a special election by a simple majority vote of the ASWWU Executive Board and Senate. If approved for a special election, the ballot measure must comply with all special election guidance and described timelines.

## Ballot Measure Authority

- I. To pass, a ballot measure must...
  - a. Receive a simple majority of the total votes cast for the ballot measure in support of the measure, and
  - b. Have the total votes cast for the ballot measure equal at least 2/3rds of the total votes cast in the election.
    - i. "Total Votes Cast in the election" is defined as the highest number of total votes (for and against combined) received for any single race/ballot measure on the same ballot as the measure in question.
- II. An approved ballot measure has the authority to...
  - a. Instruct the ASWWU Government to create, change, or terminate current ASWWU Government policies
  - b. Advise ASWWU Government to pursue/not pursue an action
  - c. Instruct ASWWU Government to make a declarative statement on behalf of voters
  - d. (Referenda only) Create, change, renew, or terminate a voluntary student fee and any requirements of its use
- III. Approved ballot measures are subject to the restrictions of any/all WA state laws and WWU policies
- IV. Any change or termination of ASWWU policies, procedures, or actions is subject to administrative review and approval prior to implementation to ensure alignment with state law and WWU policies

## Ballot Measure & Opposition Campaign Filing Requirements

- I. All ballot measure sponsors must attend a Mandatory Candidate Meeting
- II. There can only be one opposition campaign per measure. Opposition campaigns will be approved in the order that they are filed.
  - a. The filing deadline for opposition campaigns is 7 calendar days after the ballot measure filing deadline.
  - b. Opposition campaign sponsors must attend a Mandatory Candidate Meeting.
  - c. The name of the individual/organization(s) in opposition will appear on the ballot alongside their opposition statement.
- III. Any ballot measure approved to appear on an election ballot that is expected to have a financial impact on students or ASWWU Government operations must have a complete fiscal note developed in partnership with relevant university budget authorities. Fiscal notes will be saved and made available to the public upon request, in addition to appearing on the ballot alongside the associated ballot measure. The fiscal note must describe any projected change in revenue, cost, expenditures, or indebtedness that ASWWU or WWU will experience if the ballot measure is approved. For ballot measures proposing the creation, renewal or modification of fees, the fiscal note must include a Fund Balance Statement and 5-year Fund Balance Trend (if available).

- IV. All ballot measures that meet these requirements will be placed on the ballot with the exact language that it was filed with.

### Referenda

Referenda are the mechanism by which ASWWU Government presents a question on a single issue of concern directly to ASWWU voters for a vote.

Referenda that propose the establishment, modification, or abolishment of voluntary student fees must be passed by both the ASWWU Executive Board and Senate before being placed on the ballot and are subject to any/all prescribed timelines (renewal votes, etc) in ASWWU Government policy and/or governing documents.

- I. A referendum proposing a new student fee can be placed on the next available ASWWU General Election ballot
- II. Subsequent renewal timelines will be adjusted such that all fees due for renewal appear together on the same General Election ballot. This will occur at least once every 4 years with the intent of increasing fee renewal transparency and clarify for ASWWU members and WWU students as a whole.

ASWWU Governing Bodies may independently sponsor referenda at their discretion without an individual ASWWU Member request.

Individual ASWWU members (students) may present/propose referendum topics for inclusion on an election ballot using the following procedures:

### Referenda Filing Process

- I. Eligible ASWWU voter submits suggestion for a referendum to the ASWWU Executive Board or Senate
- II. Eligible ASWWU voter requests that an ASWWU elected official be a sponsor of the referendum
- III. Sponsor creates an official referendum packet, which must include:
  - a. A question able to be answered with “approve” or “reject”.
  - b. A ballot statement describing the impacts of the referendum if approved, limited to 250 words or less.
  - c. Supporting documentation/evidence of these impacts.
  - d. Fiscal Impact Statement required for referenda proposing the establishment, modification, renewal or abolishment of voluntary student fees.
    - i. Required content for Fiscal Impact statements are available upon request from ASWWU Governance Advisor or designated staff.
- IV. Sponsor provides the official referendum packet to the ASWWU Executive Board and Senate for approval
- V. Once approved to be included on a ballot, sponsor presents the official final referendum packet to the ASWWU Governance Advisor by the candidate filing deadline. No more changes can be made to the referendum after this action.

## Initiatives

Initiatives are the mechanism by which any eligible ASWWU voter can present a single issue of concern directly to ASWWU voters for a vote.

Individuals may file an initiative to appear on the next applicable ASWWU Election ballot using the following procedure:

### Initiative Filing Requirements

- I. Any single, eligible, ASWWU voter, either as individuals or as part of a club/group, can file for no more than 1 initiative per election.
- II. The filing individual is considered the official sponsor and is responsible for compliance with filing and campaign requirements.

### Initiative Filing Process

- I. Create the official initiative packet, which must include:
  - a. A question addressing a single issue able to be answered with “approve” or “reject”.
  - b. A ballot statement describing the impacts of the initiative if approved, limited to 250 words or less.
  - c. Supporting documentation/evidence of these impacts.
  - d. A declaration of the ballot measure authority category the initiative is being submitted under.
- II. Schedule an appointment with the ASWWU Governance Advisor to review the official initiative packet.
  - a. Administrative questions brought up in the appointment must be addressed in the official initiative packet.
  - b. The initiative can continue through the approval process while under administrative review.
- III. Present the official initiative packet to the ASWWU Executive Board and Senate at a regular meeting.
  - a. Contact the AS President and AS Senate President to get added as an agenda item prior to the meeting.
  - b. At the meeting, request approval to proceed with signature gathering.
  - c. The Executive Board and Senate must decide on approval within 14 calendar days of the request (not including intersession or summer term). If action is not taken within this timeframe, the initiative will be automatically approved for signature gathering.
  - d. If amendments are proposed by either ASWWU governing body, they must not change the substance of the initiative.
  - e. Rejection is allowed only if the initiative language is misleading or if there are concerns about alignment with law or WWU policies.
- IV. Gather signatures
  - a. Signature gathering activities must comply with Article I of this Code.
  - b. Only the signatures of eligible ASWWU voters are valid.

- c. Signatures must be collected using an official petition form provided by the Elections Coordinator. This form will be provided within 2 school days after approval for signature gathering.
  - d. Signatures can be collected only during the academic quarter (excluding summer) prior to the election in which the initiative will appear on the ballot.
  - e. Signatures collected must total a minimum of 40% of the votes cast in the most recent general election.
  - f. Petition forms must include:
    - i. Name of the initiative sponsor
    - ii. Academic year in which signatures are being collected
    - iii. Exact wording of initiative
      - 1. Any change to wording made after signature gathering begins invalidates all signatures gathered prior to the change.
    - iv. Signature collection fields, which must include:
      - 1. Printed first and last name
      - 2. W#
      - 3. Signature
      - 4. Date signed
  - g. Ineligible, duplicate, or incomplete signature collection fields will not be counted
- V. File the official initiative packet and petition form with the Elections Coordinator by 4:00pm on the last day of the candidate filing period.

### Challenging Signatures

The validity of signatures can be challenged.

- I. Request a petition signature challenge form from the ASWWU Governance Advisor. This form will be provided within 2 school days after approval for signature gathering.
- II. Submit the petition signature challenge form to the ASWWU Governance Advisor.
  - a. Third parties must submit the form by the candidate filing deadline.
  - b. Opposition campaigns must submit the form by 7 days after the candidate filing deadline.
- III. The ASWWU Governance Advisor will resolve signature challenges. If the initiative no longer has the required number of valid signatures, it will be disqualified from the ballot.
- IV. The initiative and sponsor can continue through the regular initiative process while undergoing signature review.

## Article III: Grievances

If a candidate, any person associated with a campaign, or an AS employee violates the Election Code before, during, or after the election, any student can file a grievance against that person.

## Grievance Filing Requirements

- I. Grievances cannot be filed anonymously.
- II. The official grievance form must be used and submitted to the ASWWU Governance Advisor between 8:00am and 5:00pm within 2 school days of the time of discovery of the alleged violation.
- III. Grievances can be submitted up to two school days after the last day of voting. The Elections Coordinator can file grievances outside this time constraint.

## Grievance Review

- I. Date and time that the grievance is received will be recorded.
- II. Grievance forms are reviewed by the Elections Coordinator and ASWWU Governance Advisor
- III. The Elections Coordinator and ASWWU Governance Advisor settle grievances according to the rules established in the Election Code. All decisions made are final and cannot be appealed.
- IV. Penalties for violation of the Election Code can include forfeiture of up to \$25 of public financing reimbursement, administrative charges of up to \$25, or disqualification from the election.
  - a. Administrative charges will be deposited in the ASWWU Government Elections budget.
- V. If a grievance is filed against the Elections Coordinator, all procedures still apply, except that the grievance will be reviewed solely by the ASWWU Governance Advisor. Disqualification would entail them being removed from their position as Elections Coordinator.

## Article IV: Elections Operations

### General Election

#### General Election Timeline

A timeline for the general election will be published as early as possible during winter quarter and determined through collaboration between the Elections Coordinator, ASWWU Governance Advisor, and ASWWU Government.

- I. Candidate Filing Period
  - a. Lasts for a minimum of 21 calendar days before the last offered Mandatory Candidate Meeting
  - b. A minimum of 1 Mandatory Candidate meeting will be offered after the end of the candidate filing period and before the start of the campaign period.
- II. Ballot Measure Filing Period
  - a. Ballot measures can be filed at any time, but to be placed on the general election ballot, they must be submitted for approval by the Executive Board and Senate meetings taking place on the last full week of candidate filing.

- b. Ballot measures approved to be included on the general election ballot will be posted on Tuesday of the following week.
- c. A minimum of 1 Mandatory Candidate Meeting will be offered for ballot measure sponsors and opposition campaign leaders during the first week of the campaign period.

### III. Opposition Campaign Filing Period

- a. Lasts for 1 week, beginning the day ballot measures approved to be included on the general election ballot are posted.
- b. A minimum of 1 Mandatory Candidate Meeting will be offered for ballot measure sponsors and opposition campaign leaders during the first week of the campaign period.

### IV. Campaign Period

- a. Lasts for a minimum of 14 calendar days (including that of the voting period) starting after the close of the candidate filing period

### V. Voting Period

- a. Lasts 7 calendar days, starting at least 7 calendar days after the start of the campaign period
- b. Voting will open at 12:00am on the first day and close at 8:00pm on the last day of the voting period
- c. The voting period can be extended by agreement between the Elections Coordinator and ASWWU Governance Advisor in the event of technical issues with the online voting system

VI. The Financial Disclosure Statement submission deadline is 5pm the last day of the voting period.

VII. The campaign material takedown deadline is 4:00pm 3 calendar days after voting closes

## Reporting of Results

Certified election results that do not have a pending grievance will be reported in the following manner:

- I. By official WWU email to all candidates within one school day of the election certification
- II. During the next regular meeting time of the ASWWU Executive Board and Senate
- III. By official WWU email to the student body within three school days of the election certification
- IV. On a publicly available website by the beginning of the following fall quarter

Elected individuals take office at the start of their official term as described in current ASWWU Governing Documents (e.g. By-laws of relevant body).

## Voting

### Voter Eligibility

- I. All undergraduate and graduate students who are registered for one or more credits at any WWU location where students pay the Services and Activities Fee are eligible to vote for all ASWWU Executive Board positions, Senate President, At-Large Senator positions, and ballot measures.
- II. Students declared as a major/pre-major in official WWU systems of record can vote for ASWWU Senate candidates in their declared college.

- a. Students with multiple declared majors can vote in each of their declared colleges.
- III. All eligible ASWWU voters can only vote once in any given election.
- IV. Voter eligibility lists for ballot development are created from official University systems of record by relevant professional University staff, coordinated by ASWWU Governance Advising permanent staff as needed for each election. All student information handling for voting eligibility purposes is subject to all relevant laws, regulations, policies applicable to Western Washington University (e.g. FERPA, etc) and is only to be used for official voter eligibility verification purposes.

### Voting Locations

- I. All voting is done using the currently adopted, secure, online voting platform (e.g. WIN) and is accessed by voters using their individual WWU credentials (voter identity verification) using individual or University computers/devices available to all students (e.g. computer labs). In the event of major extenuating circumstances (technical issues, etc.) impacting the availability of the current online voting platform (or an appropriate, secure, online alternative), election voting periods may be adjusted or paper balloting implemented as a last resort.
- II. Candidates, ballot measure sponsors (pro or opposition), or any person affiliated with a campaign may not establish or operate a voting station.
- III. The Elections Coordinator will coordinate official voting information stations in public areas on the Bellingham campus during the voting period.
  - a. In the event paper ballots are required, the Elections Coordinator will coordinate official voting stations during the voting period.

### Ballots

- I. Ballots are created in the official, secure, online ballot system (e.g. WIN) for each election by the ASWWU Governance Advisor and Elections Coordinator with support from ATUS Technical Support as needed.
  - a. Administrative access to the official ballot system is limited to ASWWU Governance Advising Program permanent staff and the Elections Coordinator as needed to administer online voting ballots.
- II. Ballots for ASWWU government positions must accommodate ranked-choice/instant run-off voting as appropriate to the individual race.
- III. Names of candidates will appear vertically under the title of the position for which they are running alphabetically by first name.
- IV. Names on the ballot will be stated exactly as they appear on the candidate filing form. If this is not possible or the provided name can reasonably lead to a misrepresentation of the candidate's identity, the candidate will be notified, and changes will be made by the Elections Coordinator before the ballot is published.
- V. Ballots will include all duly approved ballot measures.

## Election Results

### Ballot Counting

- I. Ballots will not be counted until voting has ended on the last day of the voting period. ASWWU Governance Advising permanent staff is primarily responsible for ballot counting and official results tabulation with review by the Elections Coordinator.
- II. The Elections Coordinator and AS Governance Advisor are prohibited from revealing candidate standings or vote count numbers to anyone during the voting period or prior to official reporting of results.
- III. In the event of any public request to review individual ballot results and with guidance from the University Office of the Attorney General, ASWWU permanent advising staff is responsible for responding to and sharing information requested.
  - a. No identifying information of ASWWU voters will be shared as part of any public request to protect voter identity and privacy.
  - b. Online voting platform is specifically designed to protect voter identity and privacy, requiring secure login of voters (ID/eligibility) verification and use of a unique ballot ID numbers in place of any voter identity information in reporting of results.

### Determining Results

- I. Winners of races for elected positions will be determined by ranked choice/instant run-off best practices and procedures relevant to each seat (i.e. number of candidates, number of open seats, etc.).
- II. Results of ballot measures will be determined by simple majority of the approve or reject votes cast for that measure as long as the total votes cast equal at least 2/3rds of total voters participating in the election.
  - a. "Total votes cast in the election" is defined as the highest number of total votes (for and against combined) received for any single race/ballot measure on the same ballot as the measure in question.
- III. If a winner is disqualified after the calculation of election results, the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes for the given position will be declared the winner. If all candidates are disqualified, the position will go unfilled.
- IV. Positions not filled during the general election can be filled starting the following fall quarter by special election or by appointment as allowed by ASWWU Government by-laws.

### Ranked-Choice/Instant Run-Off Voting

- I. All races for ASWWU elected positions with more than one candidate per available seat will be determined by ranked-choice/instant run-off voting. The official online voting system is programmed to record individual voter ranked choices for each eligible race. Official results from the voting system are calculated following ranked-choice voting best practices, including extra vote allocations.

- II. The ballot will allow each voter to rank in order of preference (1 = highest) as many of the candidates for that position as desired.
- III. If no candidate meets the threshold to win after the first round of ballot counting, additional rounds of ballot counting will proceed until a winner is determined.

**Ranked-Choice Calculations for Single-Seat Races**

For single-seat races with 2 candidates, a simple majority will determine the winner.

For positions with 3 or more candidates:

- I. First vote counting round
  - a. All 1<sup>st</sup> choice votes are counted for each candidate
  - b. Any candidate receiving a simple majority of total 1<sup>st</sup> choice votes for the position after the first round is declared the winner
  - c. If no candidate receives a simple majority of total votes, the candidate with the lowest number of 1<sup>st</sup> choice votes is eliminated and additional rounds of ballot counting proceed.
- II. Each additional vote counting round
  - a. Ballots for the eliminated candidate are recast for the voters' next preferred candidate, adding to their next preference's cumulative total.
  - b. If no candidate has a simple majority of total votes, the candidate with the lowest number of cumulative votes is eliminated and vote counting round(s) repeat until a winner is identified (simple majority achieved or all other candidates eliminated).

**Ranked-Choice Calculations for Two-Seat Races** (e.g. college Senators)

- I. 3 or more candidates are needed for ranked-choice voting to apply
- II. Rounds of vote counting proceed until 2 candidates receive 33% +1 of the total votes cast or all but the top 2 candidates have been eliminated. The candidate with the fewest calculated votes for each round is eliminated and their vote preferences redistributed.

**Ranked-Choice Calculations for Four-Seat Races** (e.g. at-large Senators)

- I. 5 or more candidates are needed for ranked-choice voting to apply
- II. Rounds of vote counting proceed until 4 candidates receive 20% +1 of the total votes cast or all but the top 4 candidates have been eliminated. The candidate with the fewest calculated votes for each round is eliminated and their vote preferences redistributed.

**Tie Breaking**

- I. Tied last place candidates are eliminated each round and the voters' next preference distributed, as long as there are enough remaining candidates to fill all open seats.

- II. Any 2 remaining tied first place candidates will advance to special election after all other candidates have been eliminated.

### Special Elections

All rules outlined in Article I and Article IV apply during special elections. These can be modified to better fit the time, resources, and purpose of any special election at the discretion of the Elections Coordinator and ASWWU Governance Advisor.

- I. Special elections cannot be called during summer term, during a period when another ASWWU election is scheduled and/or operating, or if the Elections Coordinator position is unfilled.
  - a. Only in the case of recalling an ASWWU elected official can a special election be called while the Election Coordinator position is unfilled.
- II. Money for public financing for special elections taking place in fall or winter quarters will come from the following general election's budget. Special elections taking place during spring quarter will use money from the general election that occurs/occurred during that quarter.

### Filling Executive Board and Senate Vacancies

- I. The Executive Board and Senate may call special elections to fill vacancies as prescribed in their respective, currently approved governing documents (e.g. by-laws).
- II. The Elections Coordinator will schedule a special election to begin between 14 and 21 days after the calling of the special election. If this falls during intersession or summer quarter, the special election will be scheduled for the second and/or third week of the following quarter.
- III. The candidate filing period lasts from the calling of the special election to the day before the Mandatory Candidate Meeting.
- IV. The campaign period lasts from 9:00am on the day after the Mandatory Candidate Meeting until 4:00pm on the last day of the special election.
- V. The winner(s) of the special election will begin their position immediately after result certification.

### Recalling an ASWWU Elected Official

- I. Any ASWWU elected official can be recalled by a majority vote of eligible ASWWU voters in a special election.
- II. Recall can be initiated by a majority vote of any one of the following:
  - a. A majority vote by the Executive Board
  - b. A majority vote by the Senate
  - c. A petition with verified signatures of eligible ASWWU voters totaling at least 40% of the number of votes cast in the last general election (or election of position being recalled if different/applicable)
- III. A recall petition may be filed by any eligible ASWWU voter, who must:

- a. Request a recall petition form from the ASWWU Governance Advisor, who will provide the form within 3 school days of the request,
  - b. Ensure the petition form includes:
    - i. The date it was distributed
    - ii. The name and position of the ASWWU elected official attempting to be recalled
    - iii. The reason(s) for the proposed recall
    - iv. The name of the sponsor(s) of the proposed recall
  - c. Gather verified signatures of eligible ASWWU voters totaling at least 40% of the number of votes cast in the last general election
    - i. Alongside signatures, W# and printed name must be included.
    - ii. Ineligible, duplicate, or incomplete signature collection fields will not be counted.
  - d. Submit the petition form to the ASWWU Governance Advisor within 21 days of when the petition form was obtained.
- VI. The Elections Coordinator will schedule a special election to begin between 14 and 21 days after the initiation of the recall. If this falls during intersession or summer quarter, the special election will be scheduled for the second and/or third week of the following quarter.
- VII. The campaign period lasts from the date and time recall was voted on/the recall petition form was filed until 4:00pm on the last day of the special election.
- a. The individual being recalled may run an opposition campaign in support of themselves remaining in the position.
- VIII. The voting period will be determined and publicized by the Elections Coordinator after the filing of all required materials.
- IX. The recall ballot will state: Should [name of ASWWU elected official], who currently holds the position of [elected position], be recalled and removed from office effective immediately upon conclusion of this special election?
- X. An ASWWU elected official will be recalled and removed from office by a simple majority vote.

### Deciding Urgent Ballot Measures

- I. If a ballot measure (excluding those proposing new or renewing student fees) is filed and approved but cannot be addressed during the spring election, a special election can be called during a fall or winter Term.
- II. Special elections for ballot measures filed during the last 4 weeks of the quarter (including finals week) will be scheduled for the following academic term (excluding summer quarter). Special elections for ballot measures filed before the last 4 weeks of an academic term will be scheduled for the current term.
- III. The opposition campaign filing period will open at 9:00am the day after the filing of the ballot measure until 4:00pm 7 days after the Mandatory Candidate Meeting.
- IV. The Elections Coordinator will schedule a Mandatory Candidate Meeting between 14 and 21 days before the voting period begins.

- V. The campaign period lasts from 9:00am on the day after the Mandatory Candidate Meeting until the close of the special election.

### Breaking Ties

- I. If two or more candidates are tied after the ranked-choice voting process is completed, a special election will be called if neither candidate concedes voluntarily.
- II. Only the tied candidates can participate in the special election.
- III. The Elections Coordinator will schedule a special election to begin between 14 and 21 days after the reporting of the tie. If this falls during intersession or summer quarter, the special election will be scheduled for the second and/or third week of the following quarter.
- IV. The campaign period lasts from 9:00am the day after the tie is reported until the close of the special election. If the special election is scheduled for the following quarter, the campaign period will begin at 9:00am on the first day of the quarter.
- V. The results will be determined using ranked-choice voting.
- VI. The results will be reported at the Executive Board and Senate meetings following the election certification.
- VII. The winner will be installed immediately after the reporting of the results.
- VIII. If the special election results in a tie, all candidates will be given the option to consent to the use of random lots. If any candidate does not consent, a special election will be called.
  - a. Random lots will take place in a public space on WWU's Bellingham campus with all candidates present.

## Article V: Interpretation of the Election Code

*The interpretation of this Code is the responsibility and authority of the Elections Coordinator, and all questions or matters of uncertainty should be directed at them. Conflicts in Code interpretation can be resolved by the ASWWU Governance Advisor in consultation with WWU's Assistant Attorneys General.*

## Article VI: Election Code Revision

- I. The Elections Advisory Committee (EAC), led by the Elections Coordinator, can propose revisions to this Code during the academic year in accordance with the EAC's charge and charter.
- II. The Elections Coordinator can propose revisions without convening the EAC if the revisions are:
  - a. Corrections of minor grammatical, spelling, format, or syntax errors, or
  - b. Changes to year-specific dates, times, and figures.
- III. All proposed revisions by the EAC must be **acknowledged** by the AS Executive Board and AS Senate.
- IV. All proposed revisions by the Elections Coordinator must be **approved** by the AS Executive Board and AS Senate.

- V. The Election Code cannot be revised between the opening of the candidate filing period and the close of the election.

## Appendix

### Attachment A: Approved Campus Posting Locations

[Posting on Main Campus: Policy Overview](#)

[List of Permitted Posting Areas](#)

### Attachment B: University Residences Solicitation Policy

[Solicitation & Commercial Activities for On-Campus Housing](#)

### Attachment C: Expressive Activities on Campus

[Guide to Expressive Activities on WWU's Bellingham Campus](#)

Reviewed & Acknowledged by the ASWWU Executive Board and Senate on [DATE]

# ASWWU Spring 2026 General Election Timeline

Admin Note: Not all these dates need to be published, just trying to keep a comprehensive basic list. Admin notes included are for internal use only.

3/30-4/20 -- Candidate filing (21 calendar days)

3/31 -- Deadline to file official "Intent to file referendum proposal" notice to ASWWU Gov.

- Admin Note: Create form

4/6-4/10 -- Last week/opportunity to present ballot measure proposals as official information items to ASWWU Gov.

- Note official ASWWU Gov sponsor must be secured (if required for measure) prior to this presentation to ASWWU Gov.

4/15 -- Final referenda packets must be complete

Week of 4/13 -- Final opportunity for ballot measure approval by Gov deadline (at regular meetings). Final materials due to AS Board/Senate based on deadlines in week's regular meeting documents coordinated with AS Pres/AS Senate Pres

**4/20 -- List of approved ballot measures posted**, opposition campaign filing period opens (closes 4/27)

- Admin Note: Need to offer MCM for opposition campaigns, may need to consider adjusting timelines for ballot measures.

**4/21, 4/22, 4/23 -- Mandatory Candidate Meetings**

4/27-5/10 -- Campaign period (14 calendar days)

**4/27 -- Ballot draft deadline**

**5/1 -- Ballot finalization deadline**

5/4-5/10 -- Voting (7 calendar days)

**5/13 -- Vote certification**

**5/14 -- Report results**

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Date: 2/23/2026

To: ASWWU Student Government

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

Subject: Services and Activity Committee Alternates

This memo includes the following students to be recommended by Student Government as alternates for the 2026 S&A Fee committee. An Alternate member who is recommended by Student Government may be recognized by the S&A Fee Committee Chair as a proxy for that constituent in the case where the voting member from their constituency would be absent from the meeting. Alternates would also be given access to S&A Fee committee materials.

DRAC has submitted Einer Ogle and Student government has submitted John Hardgrove as their recommended alternates. Currently other constituency areas have not submitted an alternate for consideration. Below is a complete list of S&A fee committee members including Alternates.

**2026 Services and Activity Fee Committee:**

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Voting Member</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
AS WWU Government	Aspen Cates-Doglio	John Hardgrove
Student Engagement	Priscila Nunez Martinez	
Athletics	Elizabeth Swift	
DRAC	Ella Horner	Einer Ogle
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	

**Questions:**

1. Most public institutions of higher education are facing 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?
2. Can you share an example of a time when you were responsible for either voicing or supporting a dissenting opinion in a group decision making process? How does that experience speak to your skills in navigating differing opinions?
3. The VP for University Operations serves on both the Advisory Committee for Socially Responsible Investing and Ethical Contracts Committee. What perspective would you bring to 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?
4. If you could have theme music play every time you walked into a room, what song would be playing and why?

Application #1 Angel Montalvo Zarate:

1. Recently I was given the opportunity to go lobbying with AS WWU. I had never done this but fortunately was walked through the process and goals for lobbying with WWU. Once I understood this, I realized it was true. Western Washington got very low funding per student compared to other public Universities for the past three decades. Meaning this issue has been going on even though we have the second highest graduation rate and this impacts students in many ways such as less course options, delayed maintenance, reduced student support, and fewer staff positions. Alongside with my group we made this bill (HB270) a priority to speak about with all the republican representatives and senators we were scheduled to meet with. Even though historically, republican representors don't usually side with spending more money, they still agreed with us and gave their support. From my experience, what opened them to support our institution was to hear our testimony. The fact students are suffering and put in positions where they must decide to go eat a meal or go to the gym due to them closing earlier than they used to or worrying about the tutoring center closing. Opened their perspective on giving their support. Many students feel this way but don't know how to express their perspectives or be in a position to give their testimony. I believe if stakeholders pushed for more students to have opportunities to lobby more often and be a part of it themselves, it would transpire to something phenomenal. I understand stakeholders such as the board of trustees and the president's cabinet are busy people. However, this affects students deeply and we truly need the resources we aren't being given. Aside from this, transparency should be enforced with students and staff, being early to publicize decisions which affect students and staff. Giving clear feedback to students before and after, then explaining what the goal and the objective was and what they achieved. Keeping students in the loop may help students feel a part of the cause and even engage them into advocating for their institution. Therefore, protecting student services, staff who affect and help students, and the education of students should be a priority. The resources at risk are the resources which keep students from harming themselves, from starving and keeping them on track to gain their education.
2. There have been many instances where I've voiced my opinion or was entrusted to voice others' opinions. Narrowing them down is very difficult, because each instance taught me something different. However, one instance that truly impacted me was when I was given the opportunity to give a speech during a protest held this quarter. While in the crowd, I could feel everyone's emotions and energy as they

chanted and walked together. As my time came, I was extremely nervous, however I had done my research and met with student leaders to understand how some students were feeling. The information I gathered from meetings with clubs, members, students, friends, and faculty was what I incorporated into my speech. As I spoke, students cheered and afterwards I got a lot of joyful feedback. However, there was also negative feedback, with students who didn't support my values and perspectives. They told me I was wrong and uneducated. Of course, I'm human and I got upset, but I set aside my emotions and asked for a conversation. At first, they were reluctant but then agreed, I asked them to share their perspective and a little bit of themselves. As we spoke, I saw they believed in their perspective wholeheartedly. So, I thought to myself, what's the difference in our perspective? We can equally argue on both sides, and we believe in it. My opinion isn't better than theirs, who am I to tell them, "no your wrong for feeling and believing in this." All I could do was share my perspective and experiences, asking them to reconsider the harmful words which were directed to groups of people in our communities and people I loved. This experience really taught me that everyone's opinions are valid. I am nobody to tell anyone how or why they should feel some way. Everyone has different opinions and experiences and that's okay, I think that's what makes the discussion real. Being open-minded and hearing someone understand them, rather than being trying to be understood, allows me to grow, in lots of aspects especially in trying to communicate and advocate for students.

3. The position and opportunity to be on either committee would grant me a platform to advocate and share the views of many students. However, serving on both committees requires me to have integrity and balance my student beliefs and advocacy. Both committees reflect the institutions' mission, values, and commitments to sustain an equitable and ethical institution. First, I would approach these committees with a commitment towards stating student and Western's values. Strengthening transparency with students and ensuring their voices are heard in important decisions made. The perspectives I'd give would be impacted by students and their feedback. By conversating with students and student leaders I could grasp how they feel and their perspectives on issues which impact them. Establishing recurring communicating opportunities between advocating groups and organizations on campus would allow not just me but others to align their thoughts within the committees. Involving campus groups which focus on divestment and ethical contracts would be the same way if they are more persistent in the topics and issues being discussed, taking time out of their day and informing themselves. As the Vice President I guarantee I'd work closely with them to ensure they are heard.

4. It would be “Billete grande.” It's a Latin American song by a Mexican group named Fuerza Regida. It talks about working hard and pursuing growth to achieve your dreams and goals. Their lyrics act as a portal into stories of their life, reminiscing about their own experiences. The reason I'd choose this song is because I reminisce about my life a lot, I did not grow up with much and have been through hardships, so I often think about every experience I have or am apart of constitutently. When I hear that specific song, it takes me back into memories not hidden but stored far away. Times where I felt less than a human, they make me very grateful for any opportunity that arises, so I try to make the best of them. I really do like music, especially happy music!

**Application #2: Heather Curfman:**

1. I would like to open by defining my current understanding of stakeholders. To me, I see it as students, faculty, administrators, alumni, and donors, and am open

to adjusting that understanding as I learn more. In conversations about the budget shortfall, I would push the University to include all stakeholder voices by coming to the table backed with diverse student testimonies and the experience of a non-traditional student.

Student voices face a social power imbalance and I will uplift student voices to ensure they are included when major budget decisions are made. I have worked hard to connect with diverse communities on campus, and have made connecting to vulnerable and marginalized constituents a focal part of my work as an AS Senator. I would connect with and deeply listen to RC voices to uplift them, especially as ICE continues to attack our community.

I know I must be connected to diverse student voices to be able to include them at the table, and that is why I am so deeply committed to my outreach and engagement work. I have the economic academic background to have functional conversations regarding budget and operational finances and am a fierce advocate for the unheard. I believe the most important area for our university to protect are our most vulnerable. We must advocate to protect these vulnerable and marginalized groups while we navigate the coming budget cut waves. I will continue to uplift and protect these voices regardless of my role in AS gov.

2. I advocate for student interests and represent a student perspective on faculty senate committees ACC, ATC, and CUE. The committees are majority faculty and the student perspective can sometimes be dissenting just by its nature. So far my AS Senate work this year has felt very successful, and I am excited to already be building so many strong relationships and connections all across campus. Student lives are deeply impacted by university budget cuts. I am frequently in conversations that have a spectrum of diverse opinions, and I have experience navigating the complexity of the student power imbalance.

I believe conflict is a bid for connection, and I am committed to move with curiosity and openness, knowing I am missing information. I consider changing my mind and adjusting when presented with new information, and I take responsibility for the impact of my actions/words without centering my intent. I know we are on the same team, and we have so many of the same values and goals. Navigating a difference in opinion is core to our shared humanity and I am committed to upholding respect and justice. It is enthralling to be on a team that is so passionate and capable.

I come to the table knowing everyone has a valid experience and understanding, and I truly seek to connect and understand instead of to be “right”. I bring the courage to face dissent directly and respectfully and am not interested in perpetuating miscommunication and letting resentment quietly fester. I know the work of VP Ops is connected to the work of

both the AS Exec and AS Senate and I genuinely value our working relationships as we all work toward the same goals. A rising tide lifts all ships.

It can be uncomfortable to face the issues holding us back, but I want to inspire courage to directly address it so we can fix it to build a better future. My goal is to collaborate and advocate for student interests, not “be right”. I have recently been directly addressing concerns of accessibility and inclusion in AS Gov, which is certainly not a comfortable topic to work through, but I am feeling excited about the future of AS student government and hope to see it grow and thrive.

I know this is a long shot, and have been told that I am probably not going to get this role. I do not like the idea of leaving my current role vacant with too little time to fill the gap, leaving my co-senator with an unexpectedly heavy workload in her final quarter before graduation. I also cannot deny that the nature of this role suits my strengths, values, workstyle, and deeply resonates with the kind of work I am trying to do after law school. Much to consider.

3. I bring a unique perspective being an older student. I have over a decade of career experience under my belt and it has driven my expertise and strengths now that I am back in school. I bring union workplace experience and a strong sense of collective solidarity. I am a first-generation, low-income student with a cardiac defect/disability. I am connected with diverse and marginalized communities on campus and can represent vulnerable voices. I work in the basic needs hub and understand the issues students face with homelessness and food insecurity. I speak up for students that feel unheard or that slip through the cracks. I am white in a colonial system and I know that this identity limits my perspective. Because of this, I will continuously strive to seek out and center diverse voices throughout my time here at WWU.

I will advocate with strength, courage, and respect, knowing we are facing an uphill power dynamic as students. I would connect with and involve groups on campus currently focusing on divestment and advocating for ethical contracts and make sure they feel heard and supported, and that I understand their perspective. I do not need to reinvent the wheel, and I am committed to adding my strengths and position to the effort that is already rolling. I would uplift and support the work that is already in place and am committed to uplifting student perspectives in the committees. The work of these committees is something I am passionate about, and I believe a university should uphold the promises it makes.

4. Dolly Parton’s 9 to 5

### **Application #3: Anthony Molnar**

1: I understand the position that WWU and its students are in – huge cuts and adjustments to the funding split from our state legislature, combined with increasing rents and cost of living, has created an environment where necessary cuts devastate more and more people each year. I agree with the university that preserving teaching faculty positions is critically important, as cutting class sections can delay students' graduation (at massive financial and personal expense). In addition to that, protecting our remaining career services for students should be prioritized. Post-graduation job unemployment continues to rise, and connecting current students with resources to combat this issue is nearly as important as the work done by professors in the classroom.

To encourage the involvement of student voices, I would personally seek the perspectives of student representatives and their constituents (through polling, conversations, etc.) in an effort to improve my representation. Student education on university finances (to the extent possible) can also serve this end, as I believe many students are unaware of the specific issues Western faces and how they can get involved. Finally, I would ensure that the individual costs of cuts to any stakeholders are explicitly named and considered in the relevant committees – whether it be faculty or students, budget cuts place strain on community members, and they have a very material impact.

2: For the past four summers, I've worked at a YMCA camp on Orcas Island. In my first year on their payroll, I played a large role in reorganizing certain administrative systems, including the mail system for campers and employees. During that process, I worked with an upper management team that was largely disconnected from their seasonal employees, and so I acted as a representative for staff members.

The actual matter of dissent in this case was small: upper management wanted to make employee supervisors responsible for the mail of their direct reports, while the majority of the staff wanted direct responsibility over their own mail. To advocate for these staff, I talked to them first so that I could understand their individual stories and reasons for wanting to manage their own mail. After having collected dozens of stories and

concerns (mostly about lost packages), I brought them back to my workgroup and was able to convince upper management of our perspective.

This experience taught me the importance of understanding your own position when dealing with differences of opinion. Through the course of my polling, I came to know the position I should have advocated for, the stakes of that decision, and the most important arguments in its favor. The process of reorganizing procedures with my boss's bosses was also excellent practice in maintaining respect during deliberation. Of course, being belligerent would have risked my job, but more relevantly, I knew that mutual respect was key to preventing communication breakdowns and spite-based decision-making. These lessons are both hugely important for the ASWWU VP of University Operations position, as I would have to go to even greater lengths to learn the perspective of the student body, and I would play an important role in the relationship between the student body and WWU administration.

3: University students have a long history of activism, and one of the most effective means at our disposal is divestment. This has only become truer as universities become increasingly financialized. Our student body has a strong culture of environmentalism and humanitarianism, and investments that work against these values run counter to the world we all hope to build. As a student representative on the listed committees, I would want to advance student demands for ethical investments by engaging in attentive dialogue with campus activists and acting as their voice in an institutional setting. I do not believe that ethical investment and financial security are mutually exclusive, and I would ensure that every possible effort is made to preserve both of these ends.

4: My theme song would have to be "Everything She Wants" by Wham(!). I've been known to get very heated about how great I think this song is, and I'm infamous amongst my friends for playing it every time they're in my car. There aren't very many things that would unite 50-year-old British people and attendees of queer clubs, but Wham is generally one of them – and that kind of community is sorely needed in this day and age. Beyond that, I can deeply relate to George Michael's devotion to serving those he loves, as expressed in the song. If I were to be appointed as the VP of University Operations, I would bring that exact same level of commitment to each and every single member of the student body, each and every day.

#### **Application #4: Madison Pettey**

##### **1. Budget Shortfall & Stakeholder Voices:**

Public universities across the country are navigating financial strain, and Western is no exception. In moments like this, transparency and shared governance become even more important. I would push the University to meaningfully include stakeholder voices by advocating for open budget forums, more student representation in budget advisory discussions, and clear, accessible summaries of financial decisions so students understand not just what is happening but also why. It's important that feedback is visibly incorporated into final decisions. The most important areas to protect are those that directly shape student access and success like academic programs, financial aid, mental health resources, and student support services. As a public institution, Western's core mission is accessibility and educational quality. Cuts that disproportionately affect first-generation, low-income, or marginalized students would undermine that mission. Protecting instructional quality, keeping class sizes manageable, and preserving student-facing services should remain top priorities.

##### **2. Supporting a Dissenting Opinion:**

During ASWWU Lobby Day, when I traveled to Olympia with my colleagues to advocate for student priorities, I experienced firsthand what it means to navigate differing opinions in higher stakes conversations. While meeting with legislators, there were moments when perspectives in the room didn't fully align with student priorities, (particularly around higher education funding and affordability). Instead of backing down or becoming confrontational, me team and I focused on respectfully reinforcing why these issues matter directly to students at Western.

In one conversation, I helped articulate how budget decisions at the state level translate into real consequences for students, larger class sizes, reduced services, and increased financial pressure. Rather than framing our position as opposition, I framed it as an

investment in Washington's future workforce and communities. That experience taught me how to advocate firmly while remaining professional and solutions oriented. It strengthened my ability to represent student interests clearly, even when facing disagreement, and reinforced that effective leadership means listening carefully, responding thoughtfully, and standing grounded in your values.

### 3. Advisory Committee for Socially Responsible Investing & Ethical Contracts:

Serving on the Advisory Committee for Socially Responsible Investing and the Ethical Contracts Committee requires balancing financial responsibility with institutional values. I would bring a student-centered and ethics-driven perspective, recognizing that where and how Western invests reflects our campus values especially when faced with tighter budgets like we are now. I believe students should not just be informed about investment and contracting decisions, but actively engaged in shaping them. I would advocate for structured communication between these committees and campus organizations focused on divestment and ethical sourcing. That could include listening sessions, transparent reporting updates, and clear pathways for student proposals to be formally reviewed. Western has a strong culture of activism and civic engagement. My goal would be to ensure that student advocacy is treated as a meaningful stakeholder voice, not an afterthought. Ethical investing and contracting are not only financial decisions, they are statements about what our institution and its students stand for.

### 4. Theme Music:

If I could have theme music play every time I walked into a room, it would be "Dog Days Are Over" by Florence + The Machine. The song is upbeat and energetic it's the kind of music that instantly lifts the mood of a space. Every time I walked in, I'd hope people could feel a little of that excitement and good energy along with me.



Office of the President

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February 11, 2026

Dear Members of the WWU S&A Fee Committee,

In accordance with Washington State RCW 28B.15.045, I am writing to provide justification for an adjustment the University intends to make within the approved 2025–26 S&A fee allocation. Although the committee has not yet held its first business meeting of the year, I am providing this information now so there is sufficient time for discussion and action during this academic year.

For context, in July 2025, the Assistant Director of the Multicultural Student Services (MSS) position was phased out as part of a broader effort to address a structural budget deficit and realign organizational resources. At the same time, and with the opening and continued development of the House of Healing Longhouse (Lhaq'temish-ew'xw ets'e Xwlemi'), we created a position within the Office of Tribal Relations to ensure sustained student support and programming for the success and well-being of Native American and Indigenous students—a key institutional priority. This new position is expected to carry several of the key responsibilities of the previous MSS position related to support of Native American students within the framework of elevating tribal relations and the House of Healing.

Subject to committee and Board of Trustees approval, a portion of the S&A fee funding originally allocated for the salary and benefits of the Assistant Director of MSS will be used to support up to 60 percent of the salary and benefits for the newly created Assistant Director of the House of Healing Longhouse position. This position incorporates key responsibilities previously carried out within MSS while aligning with the University's current structure for supporting Native American and Indigenous students and ensuring the long-term success of the House of Healing Longhouse as a central cultural, educational, and community space on campus.

This adjustment remains consistent with the intent and allowable use of S&A fee funding. Both the former MSS role and the new Longhouse position share core responsibilities that directly support student engagement, leadership development, culturally responsive programming, and the management of student-centered spaces serving historically underrepresented students. The Assistant Director of the House of Healing Longhouse will oversee daily operations, programming, and student advising; collaborate closely with Multicultural Student Services; and support student organizations and engagement efforts in ways that align with the purposes outlined in the original allocation.

For 2025–26, this reallocation will support no more than 60 percent of the salary and benefits for the new position (\$66,251) and will remain within the total S&A fee amount previously approved. The remaining 40 percent will be supported within the originally approved departmental allocation. Looking ahead, full S&A fee support for this position for the 2026–27

academic year is anticipated to be requested by the Office of Tribal Relations through the standard S&A fee allocation process.

This restructuring reflects the University's continued commitment to Native American and Indigenous student success and to ensuring that the House of Healing Longhouse thrives as a vital space for community, culture, and learning.

Thank you for your continued partnership and careful stewardship of S&A fee resources in support of Western Washington University students. Please do not hesitate to reach out if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabah Randhawa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Sabah Randhawa  
President  
Western Washington University