ASWWU Senate Meeting Documents
9/30/26

Document Number	Agenda Topic Title
1	9/30/26 Consent Agenda: - 6/3/26 ASWWU Senate Meeting Minutes - Draft
2	ASWWU Referendum Student Fees Summary and Renewal Schedule
3	Faculty Senate Vacancies
4	Senate Vice Chair Discussion

ASWWU Senate Meeting Minutes-DRAFT

06/03/26 | 5:30 PM | VU 567

ASWWU Senate Members

Members Present: 18

John Hardgrove (Chair)	
	Rishi Madrid (Woodring)
Corbie Brantner (CFPA)	Doran Danielson (CFPA)
Melissa Ramirez (CBE)	
Moose Abou-Harb (CSE)	Halle Bauer (CSE)
Devin Seaman (Fairhaven)	Sabina Gupta (Fairhaven)
Caleb Barville (CENV)	Emma Fredlund (CENV)
Laura Free (At-Large)	Amirah El Nagar (At-Large)
	Kenyon Satterwhite (At-Large)
Aniyah Sterling (CHSS)	Arden Shier (CHSS)
Kaya Wimmer (GRAD)-online	Mia Bartoli (Grad)-online

Members Absent: (3) Heather Curfman (CBE), Zelda Rood (Woodring), Emma Brown (At-Large)

Advisor: Adam Lorio
Secretary: Bren Anderson
Guest(s) in attendance: Aspen Cates-Doglio, Greg McBride, Christopher Rosenquist

Motions

Motion #	Title	Result
SEN-26-S-12	To approve the 6/3/26 consent agenda items as presented (Docs 1, 2, 3)	Passed
SEN-26-S-13	To approve advisory vote supporting MCC Fee increase as presented	Passed
SEN-26-S-14	To approve ASWWU By Laws Revisions as presented (Doc 4)	Passed
SEN-26-S-15	To approve $5,000 for pilot funding from Senate's unexpended funds to be managed by Centers for immigration impacted student legal support.	Passed
SEN-26-S-16	To approve AS Senate sign on in support of a student art gallery in the Western Student Welcome Center	Passed
SEN-26-S-17	To approve AS mural project funding request for $250 of FY26 funds	Passed

1. **Call to order**
   Hardgrove, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32.

2. **Revisions to the agenda**
   Add Discussion Items:
   - MCC Building Fee Increase – Greg McBride
   - Decorations Workgroup Funding Request – Mural - Carnell

3. **Consent Items – Routine business items that do not require discussion**
    a. Approving ASWWU Senate Meeting Minutes 05/06/26 (Doc 1)
    b. Approving ASWWU Joint Meeting Minutes 05/13/26 (Doc 2)
    c. Approving ASWWU Joint Meeting Minutes 05/27/26 (Doc 3)

SEN-26-S-12	**Motion:** To approve the 6/3/26 consent agenda items as presented (Docs 1, 2, 3)
Motion Made By: Fredlund	**Motion Seconded By:** Bauer
Vote Count: 14 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	**Action Result:** Passed

4. **Public forum – Time for WWU & community members to address the ASWWU Senate**
    a. None

5. **Discussion Item – Items for discussion, may proceed to action if desired/required**
    a. **MCC Building Fee Increase** (McBride)
        i. Current: $30/quarter since creation, funds MCC and Lakewood facility, pays for construction and ongoing maintenance
        ii. Student Union Advisory Group
            1. Student committee that oversees fee increases
        iii. Projected amount of fee-paying students has been below since projection since 2020
        iv. Proposed: increase of $1 in FY28 and FY29 each (ending at $32 total)
            1. Gap in fee repayment around 2020, new increase would allow bond repayment to “catch up”
        v. Approval from student governing bodies not required, advisory vote appreciated

SEN-26-S-13	**Motion:** To approve advisory vote supporting MCC Fee increase as presented
Motion Made By: Satterwhite	**Motion Seconded By:** Free
Vote Count: 15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	**Action Result:** Passed

6. **ASWWU Senate reports**

    a. **ASWWU Senate President Report** (Hardgrove)
        i. Online course evals will be piloted this summer
            1. Concerns: low response levels nationwide
            2. Pros: increased access, accessibility
        ii. Faculty senate committees are wrapping up and having their final meetings

    b. **ASWWU Senate Advisor Report** (Lorio)
        i. Appreciation for all the work done by Senate on behalf of WWU students
        ii. Last budgeted regular work week

1. Please contact Lorio for any required work that needs to happen next week
2. Submit timesheet by EOD Friday, June 5th

iii. Please clean workspaces! Especially whiteboard and dry erase surfaces

c. Senator Reports – Q&A- (All)

i. End of year reports required
ii. Confirmation of which version is the final version—Hardgrove will reach out tomorrow

7. Action items – Items that may need a vote

a. ASWWU Government Bylaws (Hardgrove/Cates-Doglio)

i. Not entirely polished, but all major ideas and information is finalized
1. Minor grammatical and proofreading errors would be completed by Lorio, no content changes

ii. Presented to governing bodies next year
1. Thank you conference committee and others who have worked on the bylaws

iii. Ideally will be a living document updated regularly, if not every year
iv. Goals
1. Combining senate and exec board bylaws; providing clarity for regular processes such as member removal; clarification and modification of chair and vice chair positions; alignment of academic fees and corresponding committees; expansion to interbody communication, workgroup sections

v. Senate comments
1. Support, commitment to interbody communication and governance, clearer and more useful document
2. Comment from Exec Board president Coates-Doglio: alignment with general practices across universities, more work on interbody relationships needed but this is an excellent first step

SEN-26-S-14	**Motion:** To approve ASWWU By Laws Revisions as presented (Doc 4)	
Motion Made By: Fredlund		**Motion Seconded By:** Abou-Harb
Vote Count: 16 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain		**Action Result:** Passed

b. Immigration Support Fund from ASWWU government (El Nagar)

i. Exec Board committed unspent budgetary funds last year(FY25), long process of getting funds to a useable position
1. Specifically for legal council and support for landlord/tenant relationships, pilot program potentially expanding to immigration impacted legal support

ii. Initially approved for only landlord/tenant issues, verbal agreement for $10,000 split operationally between Basic Needs Hub ($5,000 landlord/tenant

issues and Centers ($5,000 immigration enforcement impacted issues), funds being held in BNH dedicated account until Centers finalize contracts and operationalize procedures for student access to legal support.

iii. Limitations:
    1. Finding law firms to contract for legal support – pilot contract for landlord/tenant issues is nearing completion, ready to operationalize. Centers is prepared to secure parallel contract for pilot immigration enforcement impacted legal consultation.
    2. Potential administrative challenges regarding S&A Fee reallocation processes
        a. Advisor provided detailed description of S&A Fee reallocation requirements in RCW, pertains directly to Administrative reallocation, at time of original funding approval(FY25), admin and AS Gov leadership agreed that use of unexpended AS Gov budget was appropriate to use for this purpose and within authority of Gov re: management of their allocated annual budget from S&A Fees.
    3. Funding source not currently sustainable to support permanent legal support program (relies on excess funds from governing bodies/other sources)
        a. $5,000 currently available from FY26 unexpended budget for Senate to allocate if they choose.
        b. Advisor recommendation: strong ongoing communication that this is pilot funding and not an ongoing Senate or ASWWU Government-funded project

SEN-26-S-15	**Motion:** To approve $5,000 for pilot funding from AS Senate's unexpended funds (FY26) to be transferred to and managed by Centers for immigration impacted student legal support pilot program.	
Motion Made By: Sterling		**Motion Seconded By:** Satterwhite
Vote Count: 16 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain		**Action Result:** Passed

c. Letter of support for a student run gallery (Brantner)
    i. Ask: signing a letter of support
    ii. Replacing VU Gallery
        1. Major loss of opportunities and jobs for Fine Arts students with closing of VU Gallery
            a. Current efforts to fill similar roles ongoing
            b. Very limited ability
            c. Negative impact on ability for students to find jobs post-graduation without gallery participation
    iii. Difficulty finding space or support

iv. Asking for clarification on vaguely worded exhibition or art spaces planned in Western Welcome Center (SDSC), new building in construction.
v. Statement from current Art Coordinator
    1. Difficulty finding ways to display art, especially for long-term booking, negative impact on student learning, loss of context or critical engagement possibilities, peer universities usually have student art gallery space,
vi. Questions and comments
    1. Difference between Western Gallery and proposed gallery?
        a. Not campus/student managed, predominantly displays non-student art
    2. How does art department feel about having to wait for Welcome Center to be completed?
        a. Unideal but best likely situation
    3. Is there any location that would be more ideal?
        a. Welcome Center is a very good place due to location, relationship with new students, etc.
        b. Spaces in Old Main will be opening, less ideal but another potential
    4. Limits in types of art presentable?
        a. VU Gallery had very little censorship, other on-campus galleries have some level of censorship
        b. Student run, students would manage overly vulgar or offensive submissions, past team had extensive procedures to manage art
    5. Would building a new building be possible if no existing space can be found and secured?
        a. Short answer, no
    6. Huge impact on future work opportunities

SEN-26-S-16	**Motion:** To approve AS Senate sign on in support of a student art gallery in the Western Student Welcome Center
Motion Made By: Danielson	**Motion Seconded By:** Seaman
Vote Count: 16 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain	**Action Result:** Passed

8. Discussion Items – Items for discussion, may proceed to action if desired/required

a. Decorations Workgroup Funding Request (Carnell)

vi. Request from workgroup to fund ASWWU Gov Mural project
    1. Behind SGA desk
    2. Over summer, done by time fall term starts
    3. Total budget $250
    4. Will be painted on high-quality plywood to meet regulations about building modifications

a. Similar method for mounting to mural in La Plaza

5. Comments
    a. Artist is Hannah Munson, support her online
    b. No specific theme set for mural
        i. Artistic freedom/trust because artist is donating time and expertise, only available during the summer to do the actual design/painting
        ii. Senate would like mural to be cohesive with currently existing art/window clings on AS entryway
            1. Any ideas, requests or consideration by artist can be shared before end of Academic Year with AS Gov admin support staff to coordinate with artist.

SEN-26-S-17	**Motion:** To approve AS mural project funding request for $250 of FY26 funds
Motion Made By: Bauer	**Motion Seconded By:** Brantner
Vote Count: 14 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Abstain	**Action Result:** Passed

b. End of Year Reflections

i. AS Senate President expressed appreciation of work senate members have put in, noted major accomplishments/efforts:
    1. Student bus pass preservation
    2. Updating governing documents
    3. Intentionality in conversations and governing ethos
    4. Athletics fee discussions
    5. Appreciation of co-senators

ii. Announcements
    1. Today is last day WAWU is able to bargain, students are gathered outside of Old Main
        a. WAWU is one of two undergrad unions in the nation!
    2. Lavender Graduation event on June 4th
    3. Black student graduation event on June 9th
    4. Latine student graduation event on June 12th

9. Call to adjourn

Hardgrove, Chair, called the meeting to order at 18:38

Fall 2026 ASWWU Referendum Student Fees Status and Renewal Schedule Summary

Summary:

This summary and schedule is presented to ASWWU Executive Board and ASWWU Senate for a confirmation vote to ensure alignment of all listed fees with the intent and necessary practices required by the ASWWU Government Policy on New Voluntary Student Fee Referendum Proposals passed during their Winter 2026 session. If approved, the renewal schedule will be shared with all necessary fee administrators and the Western Board of Trustees to be included with their scheduled fee reviews and approvals.

Proposed Motion Language: {Senator Last Name} moves to confirm the ASWWU Referendum Fees Status and Renewal Schedule as presented.

Individual Fee Status and Renewal Schedules

Fee Name:	Sustainability, Equity and Justice Fund (SEJF)	**26-27 Academic Year Fee Amount:** per quarter/student enrolled in 6 or more credits on Bellingham Campus	$9
Last ASWWU Referendum Approval Vote:	Spring 2025	**27-28 Academic Year Fee Amount:**	$9
Fee Starts/Renews:	Fall 2026	**Last Board of Trustees Approval:**	Fall 2025 for 26-27 Academic year
Fee Expires (if no student vote to renew):	End of Spring 2030	**Next Board of Trustees Approval:**	December 2026 for 27-28 Academic Year
Next ASWWU Referendum Renewal Ballot:	Spring 2029		
Notes: none			

Fee Name:	Active Transportation Fee	**26-27 Academic Year Fee Amount:** per quarter/student enrolled in 6 or more credits on Bellingham Campus	$ 34.70
Last ASWWU Referendum Approval Vote:	Spring 2022	**27-28 Academic Year Fee Amount:**	$ TBD

Fee Starts/Renews:	Fall 2027	**Last Board of Trustees Approval:**	Fall 2025 for 26-27 Academic year
Fee Expires (if no student vote to renew):	End of Summer 2027	**Next Board of Trustees Approval:**	June 2027 for 27-28 Academic Year
Next ASWWU Referendum Renewal Ballot:	Spring 2027		
Notes: Transportation Services staff representatives informed ASWWU Government prior to the Spring ASWWU General Election when the fee was due for a regular referendum renewal vote that they have approval from WWU Board of Trustees to delay the referendum renewal vote until Spring 2027 to have a fee increase recommendation based on current WTA contract negotiations. They communicated that WWU BOT has agreed to approve the fee at the June 2027 Board meeting (if the referendum passes) so that the updated fee amount can start being collected Fall 2027 with no gap in revenue collection.			

Fee Name:	Student Technology Fee	**26-27 Academic Year Fee Amount:** per quarter/student	$35 (6 or more credits) $17.50 (1-5 credits)
Last ASWWU Referendum Approval Vote:	Spring 2026	**27-28 Academic Year Fee Amount:**	$35 (6 or more credits) $17.50 (1-5 credits)
Fee Starts/Renews:	Fall 2027	**Last Board of Trustees Approval:**	Fall 2025 for 26-27 Academic year
Fee Expires (if no student vote to renew):	End of Summer 2030	**Next Board of Trustees Approval:**	December 2026 for 27-28 Academic Year
Next ASWWU Referendum Renewal Ballot:	Spring 2029		
Notes: none			

Fee Name:	Legislative Action Fee	**26-27 Academic Year Fee Amount:** per quarter/student enrolled in 2 or more credits	$1
Last ASWWU Referendum Approval Vote:	Spring 2026	**27-28 Academic Year Fee Amount:**	$1.25
Fee Starts/Renews:	Fall 2027	**Last Board of Trustees Approval:**	Fall 2025 for 26-27 Academic year

Fee Expires (if no student vote to renew):	End of Summer 2030	**Next Board of Trustees Approval:**	December 2026 for 27-28 Academic Year
Next ASWWU Referendum Renewal Ballot:	Spring 2029		
Notes: none			

Fee Name:	Food Security Fee	**26-27 Academic Year Fee Amount:** per quarter/full time-student on Bellingham Campus	$4.50
Last ASWWU Referendum Approval Vote:	Spring 2026	**27-28 Academic Year Fee Amount:**	$6.50
Fee Starts/Renews:	Fall 2027	**Last Board of Trustees Approval:**	Fall 2025 for 26-27 Academic year
Fee Expires (if no student vote to renew):	End of Summer 2030	**Next Board of Trustees Approval:**	December 2026 for 27-28 Academic Year
Next ASWWU Referendum Renewal Ballot:	Spring 2029		
Notes: none			

Fee Name:	Intercollegiate Athletics Fee *New Fee	**26-27 Academic Year Fee Amount:**	$ NA
Last ASWWU Referendum Approval Vote:	Spring 2026	**27-28 Academic Year Fee Amount:** each Fall/Winter/Spring/student enrolled in 6 or more credits on Bellingham Campus	$80.36
Fee Starts/Renews:	Fall 2027	**Last Board of Trustees Approval:**	Spring 2026 – new fee approval
Fee Expires (if no student vote to renew):	End of Summer 2030	**Next Board of Trustees Approval:**	December 2026 for 27-28 Academic Year

Next ASWWU Referendum Renewal Ballot:	Spring 2029		
Notes: Intercollegiate Athletics staff are responsible for setting up administrative processes/accounts required for collection and administration of the new fee and coordinating with ASWWU Government to develop and implement required fee oversight committee during the 2026-2027 academic year. Beginning with 2027-2028 S&A Fee request and allocation process, Intercollegiate Athletics will no longer participate/request S&A Fee funds. Fee referendum language as approved by ASWWU voters prescribes S&A Fee reduction of $53.57/quarter/student starting Fall 2027.			

Simple Fee Referendum Renewal Schedule based on ASWWU Government Policy:

Fee Name	Next Required Referendum Vote(s)	Notes
Active Transportation Fee	Spring 2027, Spring 2029	
SEJF	Spring 2029	
Legislative Action Fee	Spring 2029	
Food Security Fee	Spring 2029	
Student Technology Fee	Spring 2029	
Intercollegiate Athletics	Spring 2029	

9 total seats to delegate (voting and Non-voting)

Committee	Voting/NonVoting	Meetings	Appointment Requires	Appointee
Academic Coordinating Commission	Voting	Bi-Weekly Tuesdays (4:00 - 5:30)	ASWWU Senate President or Designee	Heather Curfman
Academic Coordinating Commission	Non-Voting	Bi-Weekly Tuesdays (4:00 - 5:30)	ASWWU Senate Appointment	
Academic Coordinating Commission	Non-Voting	Bi-Weekly Tuesdays (4:00 - 5:30)	ASWWU Senate Appointment	
Academic Technology Committee	Voting	Monthly Weds – Zoom(maybe week 1)	ASWWU Senate Appointment	
Academic Technology Committee	Non-Voting	Monthly Weds - Zoom	ASWWU Senate Appointment	
Committee on Undergraduate Education	Voting	Bi-Weekly Thursdays (4:00 - 5:30)	ASWWU Senate Appointment	
Committee on Undergraduate Education	Non-Voting	Bi-Weekly Thursdays (4:00 - 5:30)	ASWWU Senate Appointment	
Faculty Senate	Non-Voting	Bi-Weekly Mondays (4:00 - 5:30)	ASWWU Senate President	Heather Curfman
Senate Library Committee	Voting	MonthyTuesdays (4:00 - 5:30) - Zoom	ASWWU Senate Appointment	
Senate Outreach and Continuing Education Cmte	Voting	Monthly Thursdays (4:00 - 5:30)	ASWWU Senate Appointment	
AAUP Demands Task Force	Voting	Bi-Weekly Tuesdays (10:00 - 11:00) - In Person/Zoom Options	ASWWU Senate Appointment	
AI Tools Workgroup	Non-Voting	TBD - At least quarterly	ASWWU Senate President	Heather Curfman

**(New AI group is for AI tools, NOT AI POLICY)

Vice Chair Selection Fall 2026 Discussion

- Lead by example
- Increased tangible workload
- Partner in facilitation and strategic planning, trusted working partnership
- Ready to face hard conversations including conflict with courage and grace. View of conflict as a bid for connection.
- Curiosity
- Reliable and consistent
- Direct communicator
- Socratic spirit
- Productive, organized, self-motivated
- High capacity to hold space for multiple differing perspectives/experiences

VC responsibilities

- Conference committee
- Co-Chair STF
- Faculty senate committee attendance support for Senate
- Ready to step in for me if needed, all Pres duties.

My(Senate Pres) preferences/bias:

- Past trusted colleague relationships
- Returning senator has valuable experience
- Shared values and goals
- My heart defect can act up occasionally, be ready to step in when needed

New Senator Pros:

- New ideas
- New perspective
- All the new senators are amazing, love them

New Senator Cons

- Has to learn base job and VC simultaneously
- Likely less familiar with WWU structure
- Power dynamic

Returning Senator Pros

- ++++ experience!!
- Less learning curve for increased workload
- Peer relationship established last year

Returning Senator Cons

- Busy senior year

Duties from By-laws:

Section E – Senate Vice Chair The duties of the Vice-Chair will be to:

1. Perform the duties of the Senate President in the absence of the Senate President.

2. Co-Chair, facilitate, and create agendas for the Student Technology Fee Committee.

3. Work to ensure the stewardship of student fee dollars related to Academic Affairs.

4. Assist the Senate President with committee appointments, and committee scheduling as assigned.

5. Attend any meetings Student Senators are otherwise not able to attend if Student Senators have expressed in written notice to the Vice-Chair 24-48 hours prior to absence.
6. Serve as the interim Senate President following the removal or resignation of the Senate President.

Vice Chair appointment process: (This process will be null and void following Summer 2027 as per the updated ASWWU Government Constitution, passed in the Spring 2026 General Election.) The Vice-Chair will be nominated by any sitting Student Senator and will be seconded by any additional Student Senator. Any Student Senator may retain the choice to nominate themselves as Vice-Chair, should no other sitting Student Senator. The Vice-Chair will then be elected by a majority vote of the Student Senate. In the case of more than two candidates, the Vice-Chair will be elected by an instant runoff vote. 1. Elections will be a two-meeting process. Nomination

1. Elections will be a two-meeting process. Nominations will be held at the first meeting and remain open until the next meeting. Student Senators will have the opportunity at the second meeting to speak to their abilities as the potential Vice-Chair. Voting will be held at the second meeting.

2. Each Senator has the ability to make one nomination.

3. Elections will be held any time there is a vacancy in the position of Vice-Chair. The two-meeting process will begin at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Student Senate.

4. Student Senators may decline the nomination for the Vice-Chair at their discretion.