

# The Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) Government Constitution

*Approved Spring 2026 ASWWU General Election Referendum: ASWWU-SP26-REF1*

## Preamble

Based on the granted authorities and in order to fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in the currently approved ASWWU Government Charter the mission of ASWWU Government is:

To represent student interests and promote student welfare through shared governance of the University, including advocating to university administration, local and state governments, and the WWU community. They do this by focusing on empowering students to thrive socially and academically both on campus and beyond.

## Article I. Membership

### Section A - Voting Membership

Consistent with the ASWWU Student Government Charter, the voting membership of ASWWU shall include all full-time, part-time, graduate, and undergraduate students who are registered for at least one academic credit at any WWU location where students pay Services and Activities Fees.

## Article II. Elections

All ASWWU Elections are subject to all regulations and procedures published in the currently approved ASWWU Elections Code.

### Section A- General Elections

Once a year, during Spring Term, a general election open to all eligible ASWWU voting members must be held to decide the following:

- Election of all ASWWU voting officers as outlined in Article III
- Any/all duly filed and approved ballot measures

### Section B - Special Elections

Special elections may be held for the purpose of:

- Filling vacant ASWWU Government voting officer positions
- Recalling a current ASWWU voting officer
- Deciding urgent Ballot Measures (excluding those proposing new/renewed student fees)

### Section C - Ballot Measures

ASWWU Government must maintain mechanisms to allow ASWWU voting members to decide on important issues within ASWWU Government's authority directly by student vote on an election ballot.

In addition to the information provided here, all ballot measures are regulated by current, approved, ASWWU governing documents (e.g. applicable policies, by-laws and ASWWU Election Code).

The two, currently approved, allowable types of ballot measures that can be proposed for inclusion on an election ballot are:

- Referenda:
  - o Referenda are the mechanism by which either ASWWU Government Body may present 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 in identical form 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.
- 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.
  - An initiative proposed by general ASWWU membership requires a petition containing the verified signatures or electronic ID verification of no less than forty percent (40%) of the number of votes cast in the last general election as defined in the Elections Code to be included on an election ballot.

### Section D - Recall of ASWWU Voting Officer

Recall of any voting officer of the ASWWU government may be initiated by:

- A 2/3 vote of both the Executive Board and the Senate, or
- A petition containing verified signatures or electronically verified ID of no less than forty percent (40%) of the number of eligible votes cast for the position in the last general election as defined in the Elections Code.

The removal of the elected member shall then be decided by the membership of the ASWWU via a special election as directed by current ASWWU Election Code.

### Section E - ASWWU Election Code

ASWWU Government is responsible for maintaining an election code. The provisions set forth in the ASWWU election code shall apply to all general elections, special elections, ballot measures, and recalls regarding process and deadlines. The election code will conform to this Constitution. If any provision of the election code conflicts with this constitution, that provision will be null and void.

ASWWU Government shall charter an Election Advisory Committee (EAC) chaired by the ASWWU Election Coordinator (student staff) that includes 1 representative from each ASWWU Governing Body, and up to 3 additional student positions and shall be advised by ASWWU Governance Advising Program permanent staff.

The EAC shall be responsible for annual review and recommendations for revision of the ASWWU Election Code to be presented to and approved by ASWWU Government prior to each Spring Term General Election.

ASWWU Election Code may not be revised during an active election.

## Article III. Governance Structure

### Section A - ASWWU Government

ASWWU Government shall be the governing board of the ASWWU. It shall consist of an Executive Board and a Senate. The rights and responsibilities for shared governance of the whole ASWWU are vested in these two bodies. (ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: As presented to voters in Ballot Measure: ASWWU-SP26-REF1,

Governance Structure outlined in this update is effective starting with Spring 2027 elections, structure until that time is prescribed by ASWWU Constitution approved Spring 2024).

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following voting officers (7):
  - a. President, Chair of the Executive Board
  - b. Vice President for Activities
  - c. Vice President for Diversity
  - d. Vice President for Governmental Affairs
  - e. Vice President for Student Services
  - f. Vice President for Sustainability
  - g. Vice President for University Operations
2. The Senate will consist of the following voting officers (17):
  - a. Senate President, Chair of the Senate
  - b. Senate Vice Chair
  - c. Three Senators to represent students At-Large
  - d. Two Senators from each of the following colleges:
    - i. College of Business and Economics
    - ii. College of Humanities and Social Sciences
    - iii. College of Science and Engineering
    - iv. Graduate School
  - e. One Senator from each of the following colleges:
    - i. College of the Environment
    - ii. Woodring College of Education
    - iii. Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies
    - iv. College of Fine and Performing Arts

## Section B - Permanent Bodies

1. A Conference Committee shall be chartered by the Executive Board and Senate to resolve differences in respective versions of any action they both take that must be passed in identical form for effective implementation and focus on ensuring joint, collaborative, governance on behalf of ASWWU membership. No single body shall have sole authority over the Conference Committee; both bodies shall be equally reflected in membership of the committee and include the Chair of each body.

## Article IV. Meetings of Governing Bodies

### Section A - Quorum

A simple majority (50%+1) of currently seated voting officers shall constitute a quorum for every governing body of the ASWWU. The governing bodies may only take final action when a quorum is present.

### Section B - Voting

Unless a higher threshold is defined for a specific vote in this Constitution: In order for a motion/final action to pass, it must obtain a simple majority (50%+1) of the legal votes cast. Abstentions do not count as legal votes.

## Section C - Open Public Meetings (RCW 42.30)

All meetings of the Executive Board and Senate shall adhere to the Open Public Meeting Act of Washington State.

## Article V. Powers and Granted Authorities

### Section A - ASWWU

The ASWWU shall hold all rights associated with its recognition as the sole recognized student association of Western Washington University under state law.

### Section B - ASWWU Government

Jointly, the Executive Board and Senate shall:

1. Establish the structures necessary to govern the ASWWU;
2. Delegate their vested powers to ensure the efficient operations of the ASWWU Government;
3. Appropriate all funds allocated to the ASWWU Government and act with fiduciary responsibility with regards to the assets of the ASWWU Government;
4. Formulate the official opinion of the ASWWU Government through a joint resolution;
5. Exercise and delegate the authorities granted to the Student Government in Article 4 of the ASWWU Student Government Charter:
  - a. Ensure that monies allocated to the AS Student Government by the Services and Activities Fee Committee are used to support continuous, safe, and efficient operations, consistent with federal, state, and university policy.
  - b. Provide recommendations regarding any increases and/or renewals of mandatory and voluntary student fees.
  - c. Hold elections to determine changes to or establishment of voluntary student fees.
  - d. Review all information pertaining to the expenditure and usage of student fee dollars.
  - e. Ensure a majority of student voting members on fee committees overseeing mandatory and voluntary student fees, with the exception of operating and building fees.
  - f. Exercise the right to appoint a student chair, with the concurrence of the University President or designee, on all committees overseeing and appropriating mandatory and voluntary student fee dollars, with the exception of operating and building fees.
  - g. Obtain and review information on the affairs of the University,
  - h. At the request of University committee chairs, to appoint student representatives to standing University committees, and to other bodies.
  - i. Allocate funds to support the employment of student and permanent staff as needed to fulfill the goals and maintain the operations of the AS Student Government, consistent with the regulations, policies, and procedures of the university.
  - j. Manage its allocated funds in accordance with regulations, policies, and procedures of the university and with fiduciary responsibility on behalf of students.
  - k. Participate in the management of the AS Bookstore's net operating revenues, where applicable.

Before a final action can be adopted by the entire ASWWU Government, both bodies must pass every measure in an identical form.

## Section C - ASWWU Executive Board

The Executive Board shall be granted the authority to fulfill its duties within the provisions set forth herein and to act in any University related matters while adhering to University policies and procedures. The Executive Board shall have the authority:

1. To serve as the primary body of representation and advocacy for student needs in university governance structures relating to student activities, diversity, governmental affairs, student services, sustainability, university operations, other university governance structures, and external government bodies.
2. To communicate official opinions/positions of the Executive Board through resolutions.
3. To sit on and appoint student representatives to standing and ad hoc committees relating to activities, diversity, governmental affairs, student services, sustainability, university operations and Associated Students committees in coordination with the Student Senate.
4. To obtain information and provide recommendations with regard to university administration pertaining to activities, diversity, governmental affairs, student services, sustainability, and university operations.

## Section D - ASWWU Senate

The Senate shall be granted the authority to fulfill its duties within the provisions set forth herein and to act in any University related matters while adhering to University policies and procedures. The ASWWU Senate shall have the authority:

1. To serve as the primary body of representation and advocacy for student needs in university governance structures relating to academic affairs.
2. To communicate official opinions/positions of the Senate through a resolution.
3. To sit on and appoint student representatives on standing and ad hoc committees relating to academic affairs and Associated Students committees in coordination with the Executive Board.
4. To obtain information and provide recommendations with regard to university administration pertaining to academic affairs.

## Article VI. Amendments and Bylaws

### Section A - ASWWU Government Bylaws

ASWWU Government must maintain current Bylaws in order to support efficient function and common understanding of the role and function of ASWWU Government.

The Senate and Executive Board shall have the authority to adopt and amend individual body and/or joint bylaws as deemed necessary to support ASWWU Government operations, with the consent of the Conference Committee and other body. This shall be done for the purpose of governing their respective branches in a manner consistent with this constitution and the policies and procedures of the University.

### Section B - Constitutional Amendments

All amendments to this constitution must be approved by a simple majority vote (50%+1) legal votes cast by ASWWU voting membership in a general or special election (Article II) and will be presented to the University President for their acknowledgement.

## Section C - Construction

The ASWWU Student Government Charter supersedes this constitution. Where any conflict exists between these documents, the language in the Charter takes precedence. In such cases, this constitution must be amended as soon as practicable.

All other governing structures and documents of the ASWWU must conform with this constitution.

## Article VII. Abolition

### Section A - Abolition of the whole ASWWU

Consistent with the ASWWU Student Government Charter, the ASWWU may only be abolished by a vote of its membership. To abolish the whole ASWWU, a supermajority (2/3) vote of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the eligible voting membership of the ASWWU must be obtained. In such case, the ASWWU Charter, this ASWWU Constitution, and all other ASWWU structures become null and void at the end of the academic year in which the vote is held. This would include both the AS Student Government and the AS Programs and Services operated or funded directly by ASWWU Government.

### Section B - Abolition of the Student Government

Consistent with the ASWWU Student Government Charter, the Student Government may only be abolished by a vote of the voting membership of the ASWWU. To abolish the Student Government, a supermajority (2/3) vote of at least ten percent (10%) of the membership of the ASWWU must be obtained. In such case, all ASWWU structures relating to student government shall become null and void at the end of the academic year in which the vote is held.

### Section C - Restrictions

No single election shall decide on both the abolition of the student government and the abolition of the whole ASWWU. Where both questions are appropriately filed (Article II) only the first filed will be placed on the ballot.