

ASWWU Policy – Approved

New Voluntary Student Fee Referendum Proposals

Policy Effective Date: 2/13/26

Topic:

Adoption of new voluntary student fees at Western Washington University requires Referendum Vote of ASWWU Members.

Purpose/Impact:

- Requires any proposed new voluntary student fee (as defined by Washington State Law), if approved for the ballot by ASWWU Government, to be decided by a Referendum vote of ASWWU Membership during the next available Spring Term ASWWU General Election.
- Requires a unified/consolidated fee referendum renewal schedule to increase transparency/understanding of ASWWU Referendum fees for ASWWU Members.

Full Policy Statement:

Pursuant to the authority granted ASWWU Government by Washington State RCW 28B.15.610 and currently approved ASWWU Student Government Charter (2023):

Effective immediately upon approval of this policy by ASWWU Government:

- 1) For any new proposal of a fee charged to Western Students that falls within the Washington State RCW description of Voluntary Student Fees: “any student fee or charge which the students voluntarily maintain upon themselves for student purposes only. Students are authorized to create or increase voluntary student fees for each academic year when passed by a majority vote of the student government or its equivalent, or referendum presented to the student body or such other process that has been adopted under this section.”
 - a. ASWWU Government shall not independently approve any new voluntary student fee without presenting it to ASWWU voters by referendum.
 - b. After following currently approved ballot measure filing procedures outlined in ASWWU Election Code, all New Student Fee proposals approved by ASWWU Government to be sent by referendum to ASWWU voters shall appear on the next applicable/available ASWWU Spring General Election Ballot.
- 2) Prior to being considered for approval by ASWWU Government to appear on a ballot, every new fee proposal must complete all Ballot Measure and Referendum proposal procedural requirements as outlined in the current ASWWU Elections Code.

- a. Any/all official procedures for proposal of fee referendum ballot measures are contained in the current ASWWU Elections Code which is reviewed and updated annually.
- 3) If approved by ASWWU voters and after all required administrative procedures (WWU BOT review/approval, etc) are completed, the new fee shall be implemented/charged as prescribed by the referendum language.
- 4) After initial approval, renewal referendum votes for approved fees will have their renewal schedules adjusted such that:
 - a. All currently approved ASWWU Ballot Referendum fees due for a renewal vote appear together at the same time on an ASWWU Spring General Election ballot.
 - b. Ballot Referendum for all fee renewals shall be scheduled every 4 years giving ASWWU voters the opportunity to review all eligible renewals of Referendum fee at the same time, giving most ASWWU members the opportunity to review and vote on comprehensive fee renewals at least once during their time at Western.
 - c. Tracking and scheduling of renewal fee referenda at least once every 4 years is the responsibility of ASWWU Governance Advising staff.
 - i. Updated renewal schedules may be modified to address any updated WWU BOT Fee Approval timelines and requirements with the intent of not having accidental lapses in approved fee revenue.

Upon approval, this policy immediately cancels any previous policies and related procedures regarding the proposal and adoption of new voluntary student fees.

The scope of this policy is limited and in no way impacts any other granted authorities or responsibilities of ASWWU Government regarding fees at Western Washington University.