

The ASWWU Constitution

The Associated Students of Western Washington University

Approved: Spring 2024 General Election

Preamble

The Associated Students of Western Washington University has the right and responsibility to serve as a resource and advocate for all students. For this purpose, the Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Government shall govern on behalf of the ASWWU in order to: (1) represent student interests and opinions to the University Administration, the Board of Trustees, faculty governance structures, and appropriate external government agencies, (2) support student success in their academic endeavors, (3) foster students' rights and responsibilities, (4) inform students on the proceedings of the Associated Students and of the University, and (5) promote the general welfare of all students.

Article I. Name & Membership

Section A – Name

This association shall be known as the Associated Students of Western Washington University, hereinafter called the ASWWU.

Section B – 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

Section A – General Elections

Annually, during spring quarter, the voting membership of the ASWWU shall decide proposed referenda, initiatives and elect its officers to the ASWWU Government (Article III). Terms begin on the Saturday of spring commencement and end the Friday of spring finals week after one academic year. Election results shall be certified by the Office of Civic Engagement.

Section B – Special Elections

Special elections may be held at any time for the purpose of deciding recalls, filling vacant elected positions, or deciding initiatives and referenda.

Section C – Referendum

A referendum to the membership of the ASWWU may be initiated by a majority vote of the Executive Board or Senate and included in any election.

Section D – Initiatives

An initiative proposed by general ASWWU membership requires a petition containing the verified signatures 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 E – Recall

Recall of any elected member of the ASWWU government may be initiated by: a majority vote of the Executive Board, a majority vote of the Senate, or by a petition containing no less than forty percent (40%) of the number of votes cast 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.

Section F – Election Code

The Office of Civic Engagement, via committee, shall maintain an election code. The provisions set forth in the ASWWU election code shall apply to all general elections, special elections, referendum, initiatives, 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. The election code shall not be changed during an active election. Election results shall be verified as fair and appropriate by the Office of Civic Engagement.

Article III. Governing Structure

Section A – ASWWU Government

The 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.

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following elected officers:
 - 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 elected officers:
 - a. Senate President, Chair of the Senate
 - b. Two Senators from each of the following colleges:
 - i. College of Business and Economics
 - ii. College of Fine and Performing Arts
 - iii. College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - iv. College of Science and Engineering
 - v. Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies
 - vi. Graduate School
 - vii. College of the Environment
 - viii. Woodring College of Education
 - c. Four Senators to represent students At-Large

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 and ensure joint governance. 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.

2. An Elections Committee shall be chartered by the Office of Civic Engagement. This committee will maintain the elections code (Article II, Section F). The ASWWU Government shall have no authority over the Elections Committee but may be represented on the committee.
3. An Ethics Board shall be maintained by the Office of Civic Engagement. This board will ensure that the elections of the ASWWU are ethically handled. The ASWWU Government shall have no authority over the Ethics Board.

Article IV. Meetings of Governing Bodies

Section A – Quorum

A majority of currently seated officers shall constitute a quorum for all governing bodies of the ASWWU. The governing bodies may only take final action when a quorum is present.

Section B – Voting

In order for a motion to pass, it must obtain a majority of the legal votes cast.

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 with notice to the public at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.

Article V. Powers and Granted Authorities

Section A – ASWWU

The ASWWU shall hold all rights associated with its recognition as a recognized student association 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;
3. Appropriate the funds allocated to the ASWWU and act with fiduciary responsibility with regards to the assets of the ASWWU;
4. Formulate the official opinion of the ASWWU 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 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. 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. Formulate the official opinion of the Executive Board through a resolution.
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 and other university governance structures.
2. Formulate the official opinion 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 – Bylaws

The Senate and Executive Board shall have the authority to adopt and amend their own bylaws, 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 majority vote of the ASWWU 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 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.

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.