



Associated Students of Western Washington University
Board of Directors

A Resolution Regarding Shared Governance Accountability
Date

WHEREAS, students at large are unaware of the shared governance structure of Western Washington University; and,

WHEREAS, the Associated Students Board of Directors have an overload of position responsibilities that gives them limited time to be able to talk to students about concerns; and,

WHEREAS, many committees, governance structures, policy, and decision making information are available online, but is difficult for student to access; and,

WHEREAS, university committees are often dominated by faculty, staff, and administration, which creates a power dynamic with decision making processes; and,

WHEREAS, 34% of all student positions in Associated Students and University committees are unfilled; and,

WHEREAS, there is no centralized way for current student committee members to share information with one another after they are appointed by the AS Board of Directors; and,

WHEREAS, there is no collaboration or accountability for a centralized way for programs, offices, courses, or any outreach that empower students to be involved in university decision making body and shared governance structures that ensure students are be able to communicate and advocate for their needs; and,

WHEREAS, once student representatives are appointed to university committees, there is no accountability in making sure that their voices are actually being heard, they are actively participating and in attendance, and the space is made to be safe for students; and,

WHEREAS, there is a disconnect between academic committees and the Associated Students, academic and departmental clubs, and students at large; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students provides a centralized posting physical space with information about shared governance and ways for students to get involved in committee representation and advocacy.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students urge University Committee chairs to be mindful of student workload, and provide a guiding document with adequate training and outreach to students that are going to be sitting in their committees.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students urge the university president and its cabinet, including the Dean of Students unit to have public and accessible office hours available for students at large to meet.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students and the AS Structure Review Committee examine staffing needs of the AS and look into funding a full-time staff advisor for student government including the Board of Directors, Student Senate, and a liaison for AS and University Committees in order to have a cohesive and centralized governance structure for the AS.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students urge university committee chairs to increase the number of student voting representatives, and make sure that students have the autonomy and agency for their voices to be heard.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students work with Faculty Senate to increase the student voting membership in all Faculty Senate standing committees, college curricular committees, college governance councils, and restructure the duties of the AS Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the upcoming Student Senate.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students Board of Directors summer orientation include an in-depth overview of committee responsibilities and their role in representing student needs.

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