



AS WWU Student Senate By-Laws

Proposed Motion: Re-Instatement of the AS WWU Student Senate, with Amended By-Laws & Amendment One, Section One.

Sponsor: VP for Academic Affairs, Levi Eckman. VP of Governmental Affairs, Natasha Hessami. AS President, Millka Solomon.

Persons of Contact: VP for Academic Affairs, Levi Eckman.

Guest Speaker: N/A

Date: 28 September 2018

Attached Document

Attached is the AS WWU Student Senate By-Laws.

Background & Context

The AS WWU Student Senate previously functioned as an ineffective sub-committee of the AS Board of Directors (ASBOD) that, while intended to serve a diverse constituency, operated with no real authority, no real wages, and no real purpose other than to advise the ASBOD. This advisement, however, was not enforced and not always traditionally accepted by the ASBOD, thus making the AS WWU Student Senate prior to these documents, ineffective.

Summary of Proposal

Western Washington University has reached the level of third largest public institution in Washington State. With this, comes an increase in the student population and an increase in a diverse set of student interests. As it is currently operated, the ASBOD functions as a Non-Profit organization, with seven executives who maintain all power at their discretion. These amended documents would allow for greater accessibility for the growing population of WWU to be involved in the Associated Students, while still maintaining the status of an elected official who represents the concerns of students at both the AS level, and the University level. In these By-Laws, reviewed by a Task Force consisting of the AS VP For Academic Affairs, the AS President, the AS VP for Governmental Affairs, the AS Assessment Coordinator, the AS Business Director, and the AS Personnel Director, it will be detailed how several structural changes will engage the Associated Students as an entirety with student government. The diffusion of responsibility from the ASBOD to Academic Shared Governance was a part of a three-year structural proposal, and it is essential that the incoming ASBOD continue this step towards a legislative body of the AS.

Fiscal Impacts

The ASWWU Student Senate will need a first-year operating cost in order to pay Student Senators for their important work, as well as operating costs for the publicity of an election. However, following this one-time cost, the current AS VP For Academic Affairs will work closely with the ASBOD to find a sustainable source of income that will not negatively affect the ASWWU S&A Fee in years to come.

If financial impacts occur:

What do you need to happen?

- ☐ Transfer \$45,000 from FXXRES (budget) to FXXSSN (budget).

Alternative Solutions

N/A

Rationale

Once more, the AS WWU Student Senate will serve as a legislative body to the ASBOD. The ASWWU Student Senate will encompass students from many different areas and interests and will assist the current ASBOD in their day-to-day operations, in order to ensure a representative system of student leadership on a campus the size of Western Washington University. In order to achieve Academic Shared Governance, it is important the Associated Students model the very type of leadership that we ask of the University and the Western Washington University Board of Trustees. It is time to take the leap and reimagine student leadership on our campus. The AS WWU Student Senate will be an innovative and essential next step as we perform this growing task.