



**Constitution of the
Associated Students of
Western Washington University**



February 2019

Preamble

We, the students of Western Washington University, have the right and responsibility to serve as a resource and advocate for current students. For this purpose, the Associated Students of Western Washington University shall, (1) represent student interests and opinions to the University Administration, the Board of Trustees, academic governance structures, and appropriate external governmental agencies, (2) support student success in their academic endeavors, (3) provide co-curricular activities, resources, leadership opportunities, and student services, (4) foster student's rights and responsibilities, (5) promote the general welfare of all students.

Article I

Name

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

Article II

Membership

- A. Qualification: The membership of the ASWWU shall consist of those persons who are currently enrolled students at Western Washington University.
- B. Assignment of Rights of Membership: No rights or privileges of membership in the ASWWU, including that of the right to vote, shall be assignable by any member. Each member shall have one (1) vote at a meeting of the whole members.

Article III

Structure

A. *Executive Board*

The ASWWU Executive Board shall serve as the Executive Branch of the ASWWU and shall make every effort to meet the needs and concerns of the students, with emphasis on representing student interests to the University Administration, the Board of Trustees, and appropriate external governmental agencies. The Executive Board shall oversee general management of funds, affairs, and property of the ASWWU and shall consist of the following membership;

1. AS President, *Chair of the Executive Board*
2. AS Vice President for Activities
3. AS Vice President for Diversity
4. AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs
5. AS Vice President for Student Services
6. AS Vice President for Sustainability
7. AS Senate Pro-Tempore

B. *Student Senate*

The ASWWU Student Senate will serve as the Legislative Branch of the ASWWU and shall make every effort to meet the needs and concerns of the students, with emphasis on representing student interests to the University Administration, the Board of Trustees, the academic colleges, and through committee service. The Student Senate oversees the general management of the funds, affairs and property of the ASWWU, and the Student Senate will consist of the following membership;

1. AS Senate Pro-Tempore, *Chair of the AS WWU Student Senate (non-voting except in the case of a tie)*
2. 2 Student Senators to represent each of the following colleges:
 - a. College of Business and Economics
 - b. College of Fine and Performing Arts
 - c. College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - d. College of Science and Engineering
 - e. Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies
 - f. Graduate School
 - g. Huxley College of the Environment
 - h. Woodring College of Education
3. 4 Student Senators to represent students yet to be declared in any specific WWU College.

Article IV Meetings

- A. *Frequency:* All governing bodies shall meet at a frequency that is adequate and supportive of the regularity of work these organizations need to perform. Executive Board shall hold weekly meetings and the Senate shall hold bi-weekly meetings, both must be open to the public with a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours' notice.
- B. *Quorum:* A majority of currently seated members shall constitute quorum.
- C. *Voting:* In order for a motion to pass, it must obtain a majority of the legal votes cast.
- D. *Open Public Meeting Act:* All meetings shall adhere to the Open Public Meeting Act of Washington State, codified in RCW 42.30

Article V Elections

- A. *General Elections*
 1. Executive Board: Shall be held in the spring, and the Executive Board terms shall then commence on the Saturday of spring commencement until the Friday of spring finals week the following academic year. Election results shall be verified as fair and appropriate by the AS Elections Coordinator and acknowledged by the current Student Senate.
 2. Student Senate: Shall be held in the fall, and the Student Senator terms shall then commence immediately following the election until the Friday of spring finals week the same academic year. Election results shall be verified as fair and appropriate by the AS Elections Coordinator and acknowledged by the current Executive Board.
- B. *Special Elections:* Special elections may be held at any time for the purpose of deciding recalls, filling vacant Executive Board positions, or deciding issues of concern to students.
- C. *Referendum:* A referendum to the membership of the ASWWU may be initiated by a majority vote of the Executive Board and included in the general or special election.
- D. *Initiatives:* An initiative measure shall be referred to the membership of the ASWWU upon receipt of a petition containing the verified signatures of no less than ten percent (10%) of the membership of the ASWWU. The provisions set forth in the ASWWU election code shall apply with reference to process and deadlines.
- E. *Recall:* Recall of any elected member of the ASWWU student government may be initiated by: (1) a majority vote of Executive Board, (2) a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by the Student Senate, or (3) by a petition containing the verified signatures of no less than 40% of the number of votes cast in the last respective election. The removal of any elected member shall then be decided by the membership of the ASWWU via a recall election.

Article VI Powers and Granted Authorities

A. *ASWWU Executive Board*

The ASWWU Executive Board shall be granted the authority to fulfill its charge and within the provisions set forth herein to act in any University-related matter while adhering to University regulations, policies, and procedures. The ASWWU Executive shall have the authority:

1. To administer and appropriate monies allocated to the ASWWU Executive by the Services and Activities Fee Committee to ensure continuous, safe, and efficient operations.
2. To be provided by the University Administration all information pertaining to the usage of student fee dollars.
3. To employ student staff in a manner consistent with the articles, regulations, policies and procedures of the University and which allow for the efficient and effective operations of the ASWWU Executive.
4. To obtain and review information made available on the affairs of the University.
5. To be included in the development of recommendations for the allocation of University funds.
6. To appoint student representatives to standing committees, and other bodies upon request, except those within the purview of the ASWWU Student Senate.
7. To be consulted with and be given reasonable opportunity to provide recommendations regarding any increases and renewals of all mandatory and voluntary student fees.
8. To have a majority of student voting membership on fee committees overseeing mandatory and voluntary student fees with exception to the operating and building fees.
9. To reserve the right to have a student chair, in consultation with the University President or designee, on all committees overseeing and appropriating mandatory and voluntary student fee dollars with exception to the operating and building fees.

B. *ASWWU Student Senate*

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

1. To administer and appropriate monies allocated by the Services and Activities Fee Committee to ensure continuous, safe, and efficient operations.
2. To be provided by the University Administration all information pertaining to the usage of student fee dollars.
3. To be included in the development of recommendations for the allocation of University funds.
4. To be consulted with and be given reasonable opportunity to provide recommendations regarding any increases and renewals of all mandatory and voluntary student fees related to academic affairs.
5. To sit on standing and ad hoc University committees, and other bodies upon request.
6. To appoint student representatives to standing University, academic, Associated Student committees, and other bodies upon request.
7. To have a majority of student voting membership on fee committees overseeing mandatory and voluntary student fees with exception to the operating and building fees.
8. To make recommendations in coordination with the ASWWU Executive Board on academic advocacy efforts

Article VII
Bylaws and Constitutional Amendments

A. *Bylaws*

1. The ASWWU Executive Board, the ASWWU Student Senate, and the ASWWU Student Union Board shall each have the authority to adopt and amend bylaws by a majority vote of approval from all active branches. This shall be done for the purpose of governing their respective branches and structure, in a manner consistent with this constitution and the policies, regulations, and procedures of the University.

B. *Constitutional Amendments*

1. All amendments to this constitution must be approved by a majority vote of the ASWWU membership in a campus-wide election and will be presented to the WWU Board of Trustees for ratification.

C. *Abolishment*

1. The ASWWU may only be abolished by a two-thirds vote of the votes cast by the membership of ASWWU. In such case, the powers given herein become null and void.