

ASWWU Proposed Ethics Board

By Nicole Ballard

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My involvement with the process

- I have seen the grievance process through multiple perspectives
 - Twice on the implementation side as I worked in the OCE.
 - Once last Spring Quarter.
- I am not running in the 2021-2022 Election Cycle.
 - I am graduating (thank goodness, amiright?)
- I have no stake in the future elections.
 - I have not spoken to or know of any possible candidates, etc
 - My only connection to the process now is ensure that it is as equitable and harm-free of a process for all parties involves.

Current Model

*Appointments made by the AS Executive Board cannot be rescinded or changed after the official election process has begun, unless approved by a majority vote of the AS Executive Board.

Advisor- Eric Alexander



Elections Board Chair- hired in winter quarter and sometimes is the REP Director



Twelve (12) students-at-large, no more than two (2) from any one Western affiliated organization or club, to be appointed by the AS Executive Board.*



If individuals appeal the results of the Election Board, the appeal is heard reheard by the Executive Board and a final decision is reached.

Issues with current model

- The current grievance process is under developed and has lead to harming students from all different parties associated with the grievance process.
- We do not focus on the grievance process until it's too late which leads to huge errors being made.
- It is not consistent in who chairs the board, who is on the board, or how the process is run from year to year which leads to inequitable outcomes.
- Recruitment for the grievance board is challenging since it's voluntary and sometimes the board doesn't have grievances to look at in a given election.
- The chair role has historically been given to a student which can put them in a difficult situation that can also impact their environment on campus.
- With the current grievance process, the timeline often means we are handling grievances during the end of the school year and when a large amount are filed, they can carry us until finals week.
- Election results are announced on Friday even though grievances can be filed until the following Monday which leads to sometimes false results which can confuse the student body.
- There is no board that can hold elected officials accountable for going against the election code or intentionally not following processes.
- Elected officials (ASVP for Gov) appoint for this committee.

Proposed Model

Phase 1

Chair- Resident Director

Ethics Board Panel 1:

Chair/Student Coord (notes)

At-large student 1

At-large student 2

At-large student 3

Ethics Board Panel 2:

Chair/Student Coord (notes)

At-large student 1

At-large student 2

At-large student 3

Student Coordinator- hired

Ethics Board Panel 3:

Chair/Student Coord (notes)

At-large student 1

At-large student 2

At-large student 3

Phase 2

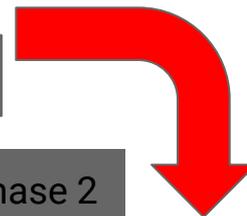
Ethics Board Panel 4:

Chair/Student Coord (notes)

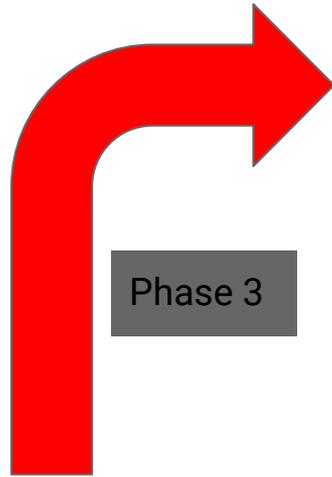
At-large student 1

At-large student 2

At-large student 3



Appeals Process



Appeals Board Panel 1:

Chair/Student Coord (notes)

At-large student 1

At-large student 2

At-large student 3

At-large student 3

At-large student 3

*None are from the original hearing

Chair/Student Coordinator Pre-screen

Guiding questions:

1. Is the complaint legitimate?
 - a. Was the complaint filed according to the time requirements?
 - b. Is the complainant authorized in the Code to file a complaint?
 - c. Does the complaint address a specific area in the Code?
 - d. Is the form complete?

Hearing Agenda

- I. Call to order (*Chairperson*)
- II. Introduction/**Conflict of Interest Declaration**/Process Decisions
- III. Presentation of Complaint (5 minutes)
- IV. Response (5 minutes)
- V. Questions from the Board
- VI. **Elections Coordinators Interpretation** (written statement)
- VI. Final comments by Complainant (5 minutes)
- VII. Final comments by the person filed against (5 minutes)
- VIII. Adjournment of public hearing (*Chairperson*)
- IX. Executive Session for Discussion/Decision (Set a time for notification)
- X. Public Meeting re-convened for formal vote on actions.

Details/Benefits

- These students would be paid
 - \$15.35 for Student Coordinator
 - \$150 stipend for committee members
 - 6 hours of hearings
 - 4 hours of trainings
- This model removed elected officials from the process entirely
- In the future, these students will be hired on at the beginning of the year and can be trained throughout the year
- What will training look like? How can we ensure its most equitable?

Benefits

- This also removes advisors from being too involved in the process and can focus on building effective working relationships with board members and those that are pursuing running.
- There are people who can more consistently see this process through from year to year.
- This board can hold elected officials accountable for their involvement in elections.
- Removes the pressure put on an individual student chair while remaining an all student decision.
- There is a checkpoint at each step to allow for power to be dispersed.
- Moving to a multi-panel model will allow for grievances to be done more quickly.
- Takes powers away for the board and allows for a third branch of government to hold all students accountable for their actions in a fair way.
- We are changing the system- how can we make it more transparent?