The students at Western Washington University believe in the democratic process and equitable unions represent their right to engage in that process free from repercussion or retaliation. Student employees conduct a significant portion of academic labors that makes WWU a prestigious institution with the capabilities to educate the people of Washington and beyond.

Student workers should be representative of their own education and, as employees, are doubly vulnerable to, and dependent on, faculty and staff judgement and input. This is most often observed in foundational lack of access to infrastructural decisions that impact a student’s livelihood as they pursue good academic standing. To this effect, a supermajority of academic student employees have authorized Western Academic Workers United/United Auto Workers (WAWU), a union formed by student workers, for student workers, to collectively bargain with WWU and its administration on our behalf.

The effort to organize can be largely hindered by lack of coordination within the scale of this common cause. As members of the WWU community, we are encouraged to express a democratic voice within the university as an entity; as student employees, we deserve representation in the decision-making process surrounding compensation, benefits, and employment protections. We believe that the student government must act in solidarity with other student groups and organizations to secure equitable conditions for student workers and students at-large.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, do hereby declare our support, outright, for the full unionization of the student employees of Western Washington University.

In support of this goal, your student government has passed a resolution that calls upon the university administration to act in accordance with its strategic plans to improve climate and working conditions, to provide competitive compensation and professional development for student employees, staff, and faculty, and to immediately recognize and begin negotiating, in good faith, with WAWU.