

Western Washington University
Associated Students of WWU

Charter
(revised 2023)

The students of Western Washington University have the right and responsibility to participate in the shared governance of the university. For this purpose, the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) has been established. The ASWWU is charged by the President and by the students it represents with promoting the general welfare of students by:

- Representing student interests and opinions to the university administration, Board of Trustees, and appropriate governmental agencies,
- Fostering participation and inclusion of the student body in university governance and operations as appropriate,
- Communicating with the student body about institutional matters which affect them.

Article I: Voting Membership

The voting membership of ASWWU shall include all full-time, part-time, graduate, and undergraduate students who are registered for at least one academic credit at any WWU campus.

Article II: Recognition

Section 1. The ASWWU Executive Board and Student Senate shall constitute the official student government of Western Washington University, with the privileges and responsibilities assigned to it by this charter. The ASWWU's authority to participate in shared governance of the university is confirmed by the President of Western Washington University and acknowledged by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. The ASWWU may only be abolished by a vote of the voting membership of ASWWU. In such case, the powers established in this charter become null and void at the end of the quarter in which the vote is held.

Section 3. All amendments to this charter must be approved by the ASWWU Executive Board and the University President.

Article III: Duties

Section I. The ASWWU shall make every effort to represent the needs and concerns of students through its participation in shared governance.

Section 2. The ASWWU shall hold annual elections open to all registered students for the purpose of selecting representatives and deciding referenda on matters of importance to the student body.

Section 3. The ASWWU shall consult with and report to university bodies on matters of concern to students.

Section 4. The ASWWU shall encourage student involvement in the development of university policies which impact students.

Section 5. The ASWWU shall inform the university community of actions taken by the ASWWU.

Section 6. The ASWWU shall adopt bylaws and establish structures as necessary to govern its organization and carry out its responsibilities in a manner consistent with this charter and the regulations, policies, and procedures of the University. It shall review those bylaws and structures at least every 5 years.

Article IV: Granted Authorities

The ASWWU is granted the authority to fulfill its duties within the provisions set forth in this charter, and to act in any university-related matter not herein specified, within the constraints of University regulation, policy, and procedure. In addition, the ASWWU shall have the following special authorities:

Section 1. Fees

With regard to student fees, the ASWWU has the authority to

- a. Ensure that monies allocated to the ASWWU by the Services and Activities Fee Committee are used to support continuous, safe, and efficient operations of the ASWWU,
- b. Provide recommendations regarding any increases and/or renewals of mandatory and voluntary student fees,
- c. Review all information pertaining to the expenditure and usage of student fee dollars,
- d. Ensure a majority of student voting members on fee committees overseeing mandatory and voluntary student fees, with the exception of operating and building fees,
- e. Exercise the right to appoint a student chair, with the concurrence of the University President or designee, on all committees overseeing and appropriating mandatory and voluntary student fee dollars, with the exception of operating and building fees.

Section 2. Administration

To fulfill its administrative responsibilities, the ASWWU has the authority to

- a. Obtain and review information on the affairs of the University,
- b. Appoint student representatives to standing University committees, and to other bodies as requested,
- c. Allocate funds to support the employment of student and permanent staff as needed to fulfill the goals and maintain the operations of the ASWWU, consistent with the regulations, policies, and procedures of the university,
- d. Manage its allocated funds in accordance with regulations, policies, and procedures of the university and with fiduciary responsibility on behalf of students,

- e. Participate in the management of the AS Bookstore's net operating revenues, where applicable.

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