

Summary of '22-'23 AS Senate Charter Chatter

May 11, 2023

Gabe Wong

Timeline

April 26 – Rahma brings up that WWU admin wants to get the AS Charter re-written and signed by the end of this school year. Senate discusses approach, starts looking at wordings.

May 3 – In an unofficial meeting, the Senate continues to review wording.

May 10 – The senate finishes reviewing the charter, comes to a tentative consensus.

Tentative Consensus

Substantive Changes (aka what we should fight for)

1. Restrict when the decisions of the AS student government can be “reviewed.”
2. Add an article about a constitution. The constitution would define the structure of the AS governance system (i.e., exec board, senate). The constitution would be approved only by the student body and AS government.
3. Only mention “governing body” not senate and exec. (this allows the AS to be flexible, lets us define our own student government)
4. Ensure that the AS has a recurring invite, and speaking time at Board of Trustee’s meetings.
5. Mention that the AS gets some power/rights from the state legislature.

Clarity Changes

1. Ensure that “ASWWU” means the student body and is not confused between the student government, ASWWU organization, etc.
2. Say VU instead of Viking Union
3. Clarify AS relation to S&A fee committee
4. Clarify that there should be student input in policy, procedure, and rule-making (WAC)
5. Clarify language generally, keeping meaning.

2009-10 AS Board Action Prior to AS Charter Adoption

May 6, 2023

Gabe Wong

Timeline

2007-2009 – AS Charter subcommittee works on charter.

November 4, 2009 – AS Charter Shows up as agenda item.

March 3, 2010 – AS Charter Shows up as agenda item.

March 2010 – AS Charter brought to President’s Cabinet

April 7, 2010 – AS Charter is adopted by ASB-10-S-08 (7-0-0).

May 5, 2010 – AS Charter is signed by WWU President and all AS Board members.

Notable Facts

1. Implied in the April 7, 2010 minutes ([Item A](#)), with further context from the Western Front Article ([Item D](#)) the director of student activities (the equivalent of Eric Alexander) was the person who probably made sure that work on the AS charter was continued.
2. Work on the charter happened in a Board of Directors subcommittee ([Item C, D](#))
3. The AS Charter in 2010 was the first AS Charter
 - a. There was previously an agreement between the BoT and AS (adopted 1972?)
4. The 09-10 AS board also had to consider who is in the ASWWU ([Item B](#)).
5. In Gabe’s interpretation, between the November Charter ([Item E](#)) and the March Charter ([Item F](#)) the biggest changes were in the “Powers”/ “Granted Authorities” sections.
 - a. Gabe believes that there was a dialing back of some powers between these, but also some more “operationalizable” clauses.
 - b. Restrictions to AS Power from November to March
[November](#), Article IV, Paragraph K: “[The ASWWU shall have the power] to create and oversee a program of student activities and services”
[March](#), Article IV, Paragraph J: “[The ASWWU shall have the power] to allow the ASWWU Board of Directors to make decisions in creating and overseeing a program of student activities and services. These decisions may be reviewed by the University President or their designee”
6. In this era, the AS Board of Directors would be hiring/firing people and doing a lot more AS managerial day-to-day work.

Appendices

Item A – AS Board April 7, 2010 Minutes (excerpt)

[full minutes](#)

VIII. Action Items – Board

A. AS Charter

The final document will say 2010. Jarrell [AS President] took this to President's Cabinet [the internal body consisting of WWU President and VPs]. There, Majkut [Director of Student Activities] gave a timeline and rationale about creating the document. [WWU] President Shepard would like this document to be printed on parchment and have the university seal on it. There will be a signing ceremony on May 5, 2010. All Board Members will be able to sign it. Jarrell [AS President] said the motion today is approving the content of the document.

MOTION ASB-10-S-08 by Ikegwuoha [ASVP Diversity]

Approve the AS Charter as stated in Doc. 1 with the stipulation that April 2010 be changed to just 2010.

Second: Cintron [ASVP Bus. & Ops.]

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Item B – AS Board March 5, 2010 Minutes (excerpt)

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS – Board

A. AS Charge & Charter

Dr. Coughlin is concerned about including the Graduate Students because there might be a Graduate Student Association. Holmgren said that they should leave in this section because a new council has not been created and while he has heard support from the Graduate School, he has not heard a lot of support from Graduate Students. Watrin and Rinonos-Diaz dittoed. Cintron said that in 4.1 A they took out some language that had to do with reserves and some language about the Board of Trustees since this will be approved by the AS and the President. Letter H was brought up as an idea, but is not something that is currently practiced. Any changes would involve consultation with the University President. Dr. Coughlin had questions about letter J because she believes that it sounds like an administrator's role. Cintron wanted to leave the wording as presented to be broad in case there are changes. Jarrell has sent this to President Shepard but has not heard back yet. Cintron said he would like to leave the Viking Union as the primary facility that they use, this could be amended if the situation changes. Holmgren suggested sharing this with Jim Schuster from the Viking Union.

Item C – AS Board November 4, 2009 Minutes (excerpt)

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS – Board

A. AS Charter

Cintron Doc. 2

Cintron passed out the document with track changes for the people who were involved in the Charter meetings. He is bringing it to the Board because he would like to have Jarrell present this at President's Cabinet, to start seeing what the administration needs. Cintron is not going to ask for people to approve it, they will bring the formal document back as an Information Item again. Jarrell doesn't understand article 3c be aware of university actions concerning the students, he wonders if this includes informing students. Cintron said that he felt this would be by

sitting on university committees to be aware. Holmgren thinks it is more of us monitoring the actions of the administration. Article 4 powers letter h. reserve the right to have a chair on all fee committees Cintron explained that this gives them the right if they want to but it is not required. Jarrell gives kudos to subcommittee for creating this. Ikegwuoha asked about the one credit minimum in article one under membership. Cintron thought that this was just to say that they are a student. Rinonos-Diaz explained that graduate students have a certain number of years to complete their work but they might not be enrolled in classes. They would not be allowed in the membership in its proposed form. Majkut thinks that this is an important section and suggests having a meeting with the Registrar to see how students are classified. Majkut suggested the "Rights" section instead of "Powers". Under the Fee section Majkut is trying to think about the implications about ¾ of the Board of Directors for the Fee because this gives more authority to the no votes. Cintron said that there will be another subcommittee meeting before the President's Cabinet presentation, he will invite Ted Pratt to this meeting.

Item D – Western Front Article May 5, 2010

"Charter cements legitimacy of AS"

The first charter in the Associated Students' 100-year history was approved Wednesday by President Bruce Shepard and the AS Board of Directors.

"It clarifies the role between the AS and Western administration," said AS President-elect Colin Watrin, who is currently vice president for activities.

The charter distinguishes the AS as a formal organization, eliminates ambiguity, outlines rights and responsibilities and provides a platform for the AS within the university, said AS President Matt Jarrell.

The push for an official charter came from the-AS wanting to improve the relationship between the AS and university administration.

"Having a charter is more constructive and it establishes a relationship between the AS and administration," said Morgan Holmgren, AS vice president for governmental affairs.

The initial process of drafting the AS charter began three years ago with the 2007-08 Board, but previous boards never finished the charter due to time limitations.

At the beginning of winter quarter this year, AS Vice President for Business and Operations Virgilio Cintron took charge and formed a subcommittee with other board members to finish the AS charter.

The' committee looked at documents from previous boards to draft the charter. Holmgren worked with Cintron in the beginning on the language used in the draft.

"This has been work of many previous boards as well as the current one," Holmgren said.

After finishing the draft, Jarrell worked with administration to approve the charter.

The primary responsibility of the AS, as outlined in the charter, is to represent and keep in mind the students' interest. "It's hard to say what the real impact of the charter will be," Holmgren said. "[But] it is not vague or muddled,"

The Board has the authority to allocate money to other AS offices from the Services and Activities Fee, and to appoint students to university and student fee committees.

The Board establishes bylaws, which are voted on by students as changes are necessary.

The Board also has the responsibility to maintain and modify its structure in response to changing student needs, Jarrell said.

This year, the AS created a process for each programming office to evaluate its effectiveness in meeting student needs.

"[The charter] will be a great way to wrap up this year and start next year, and build rapport with administration," Watrin said.

Charter cements legitimacy of AS

Lillian Furlong | WF

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photo by Lillian Furlong | WF

Western President Bruce Shepard, left, signs the Associated Students Charter as AS Board members Matt Jarrell, Bernard Ikegwuoha, Mike Pond and Colin Watrin watch.

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1907

The Associated Students is founded

1933

The AS is established as a nonprofit organization

1972

Board of Trustees issues an agreement outlining the responsibilities of the AS

2010

First official charter for the AS

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This year, the AS created a process for each programming office to evaluate its effectiveness in meeting student needs.

"[The charter] will be a great way to wrap up this year and start next year, and build rapport with administration," Watrin said.

Item E – November 2009 Charter Draft

Western Washington University Associated Students Charter

November, 2009

Preamble:

We, the Students of Western Washington University, have the right and responsibility to achieve a system of shared governance. For this purpose the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) has been established. The ASWWU will:

- Foster students' rights and responsibilities
- Promote the general welfare of students
- Establish channels of communication within the University
- Represent student interests and opinions to the University Administration, Board of Trustees, and appropriate governmental agencies

Article I: Membership

The membership of the ASWWU shall include all full-time, part-time, graduate, and undergraduate students who are registered for a minimum of one academic credit at Western Washington University.

Article II: Authority

The ASWWU shall be the officially recognized student government of Western Washington University with the privileges associated with this recognition provided to by the Board of Trustees and state legislature. The ASWWU shall derive its authority to participate in the University governance from the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University.

Article III: Responsibilities

The ASWWU, as the primary representative of the students shall make every effort to meet the needs and concerns of the students. The ASWWU, through a membership elected Board of Directors shall:

- A. Make every effort to encourage students involvement in development of university policies
- B. Consult with and report to any university bodies on matters of concern to the students
- C. Be aware of university actions concerning the students
- D. Inform the university community of actions taken by the ASWWU

Article IV: Powers

The ASWWU shall have the power to fulfill its responsibilities within the provisions set forth herein and to act in any University-related matter not specified within the constraints of University regulations, policies and procedures. The ASWWU shall also have the following powers:

- A. To administer and appropriate Services and Activities Fee monies given to the ASWWU by the Board of Trustees. This includes all reserve accounts established by the ASWWU

- B. To obtain and review information made available on the affairs of the University
- C. To develop recommendations for the allocation of University funds
- D. To appoint all student representatives to standing University committees, and other bodies upon request
- E. To recommend student representatives to the Board of Trustees and its committees and as when deemed appropriate by the Board of Trustees
- F. To have oversight and input over all fees paid by students and be provided by the University Administration all information pertaining to the usage of such dollars
- G. To have a majority of student voting membership on fee committees overseeing voluntary student fees and services and activities fees
- H. To reserve the right to have a student chair on all committees overseeing and appropriating student fee dollars with exception to the operating and building fees
- I. To recommend to the Board of Trustees all increases or renewals in voluntary fees by student vote or a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the ASWWU Board of Directors
- J. To enter into contracts and employ persons in a manner consistent with those articles and regulations, policies and procedures of the University
- K. To create and oversee a program of student activities and services

Article V: Agreements

- A. ASWWU Not-For-Profit corporation shall be permitted to exist in order to secure and manage private resources for the benefit of the ASWWU membership;
 - 1. The ASWWU Not-For-Profit shall be governed by the ASWWU Board of Directors.
 - 2. The ASWWU Not-For-Profit will make its books and records available to the Board of Trustees and/or their designees
 - 3. The ASWWU Not-For-Profit may establish by-laws consistent with the authority stated in this charter.
- B. The ASWWU manages the net operating revenues of the AS Cooperative Bookstore and acts in partnership with the administration through involvement in the development and recommendation of general policy for the bookstore.
- C. The Viking Union shall serve as the primary facility, provided by the University, for the ASWWU and its operations. The ASWWU will be consulted regarding significant changes to the facility and operations of the Viking Union.
- D. The ASWWU may only be abolished by a vote of the membership of ASWWU. In such case the powers given herein become null and void.

Article VI. Enabling

The ASWWU shall have the authority to adopt by-laws, as necessary, to govern its organization and structure in a manner consistent with this Charter and the policies, regulations, and procedures of the University. All amendments to this Charter must be approved by the ASWWU Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees

Item F – March 2010 Charter Draft

Western Washington University Associated Students Charter

March, 2010

Preamble:

We, the Students of Western Washington University, have the right and responsibility to achieve a system of shared governance. For this purpose the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) has been established. The ASWWU will:

- Foster students' rights and responsibilities
- Promote the general welfare of students
- Establish channels of communication within the University
- Represent student interests and opinions to the University Administration, Board of Trustees, and appropriate governmental agencies

Article I: Membership

The membership of the ASWWU shall include all full-time, part-time, graduate, and undergraduate students who are registered for a minimum of one academic credit at Western Washington University.

Article II: Recognition

The ASWWU shall be the officially recognized student government of Western Washington University with the privileges associated with this recognition provided to by the Board of Trustees and state legislature. The ASWWU shall derive its authority to participate in the University governance from the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University.

Article III: Responsibilities

Section 1. The ASWWU, as the primary representative of the students shall make every effort to meet the needs and concerns of the students.

Section 2. The ASWWU membership shall elect a Board of Directors to a one year term, each academic year.

Section 3. The Board of Directors are elected:

- a. To serve as the representatives of the ASWWU to the Board of Trustees through the President, University Administration, Faculty Senate, State of Washington and other entities as necessary
- b. To make every effort to encourage student involvement in the development of university policies
- c. To consult with and report to any university bodies on matters of concern to students
- d. To be aware of university actions concerning students
- e. To inform the university community of actions taken by the ASWWU

Article IV: Granted Authorities

Section 1. The ASWWU shall be granted the authority to fulfill its responsibilities within the provisions set forth herein and to act in any University-related matter not specified within the constraints of University regulations, policies and procedures. In addition, the ASWWU shall also have the following granted authorities:

- a. To administer and appropriate monies allocated to the ASWWU by the Services and Activities Fee Committee to ensure continuous, safe, and efficient operations
- b. To obtain and review information made available on the affairs of the University
- c. To be included in the development of recommendations for the allocation of University funds
- d. To appoint student representatives to standing University committees, and other bodies upon request
- e. To be consulted with and be given reasonable opportunity to provide recommendations regarding any increases and renewals of all mandatory and voluntary student fees
- f. To be provided by the University Administration all information pertaining to the usage of student fee dollars
- g. 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
- h. 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
- i. To employ students and staff in a manner consistent with those articles, regulations, policies and procedures of the University
- j. To allow the ASWWU Board of Directors to make decisions in creating and overseeing a program of student activities and services. These decisions may be reviewed by the University President or their designee

Article V: Agreements

Section 1. The ASWWU acts in partnership with the administration through involvement in the development and recommendation of general policy for the bookstore in addition to managing the net operating revenues of the AS Cooperative Bookstore.

Section 2. The Viking Union shall serve as the primary facility, provided by the University, for the ASWWU and its operations. The Viking Union will, in good faith, consult with the ASWWU regarding changes to the facility and operations of the Viking Union.

Section 3. The ASWWU may only be abolished by a vote of the membership of ASWWU. In such case the powers given herein become null and void.

Article VI. Bylaws and Amendments

The ASWWU shall have the authority to adopt bylaws, as necessary, to govern its organization and structure in a manner consistent with this charter and the policies, regulations, and procedures of the University. All amendments to this Charter must be approved by the ASWWU Board of Directors and the University President.

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