

OFFICIAL GUIDANCE

Approved by: AS Student Government, [Approving Motions]

Effective: [May 26, 2023]

See Also: AS Charter
<https://vu.wwu.edu/policies/aswwu-charter>
 AS Constitution
<https://vu.wwu.edu/policies/aswwu-constitution>

GUD-AS-GOV-01**AS NON-BINDING GOVERNANCE POLICY**

This policy describes how policies, procedures, charters, and any other governing documents are related.

Definitions:

Associated Students (AS) – The Association of all currently enrolled students at Western Washington University.

AS Student Government – The Student Senate and Executive Board, established by the AS Constitution

Governing documents – Documents that govern the operations of the AS, approved by the AS Student Government or designee.

Voting bodies – The Student Senate, Executive Board, and all committees and councils of the AS.

1. All governing documents must conform to the AS Charter and AS Constitution.**2. The AS Election Code will only conform to the AS Charter and AS Constitution.**

Recognizing the need for independent elections, the authority to maintain the AS Election Code is delegated to the AS Office of Civic Engagement.

3. Governing documents must conform to each other in the following manner:

Types of governing documents are listed in their order of authority with documents lower on the list needing to conform to those documents above them. Governing documents don't need to conform to documents of a higher order if that higher-order document is unrelated.

Binding governing documents

- a. Policies: establish what must be done, rules.
- b. Resolutions: express a voting body's opinion and/or take an action.
- c. Committee charters: establish committees and their rights and responsibilities.
- d. Procedures: establish the methods for completing tasks.

Non-binding governing documents

- e. Official guidance: guides people on how to approach various topics and actions, approved by a voting body.
- f. Unofficial guidance: guides people on how to approach various topics and actions.
- g. All other governing documents

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4. **Where multiple governing documents cover the same topic, every effort should be made to ensure that they all agree in substance.**
5. **New or modified governing documents shall not conflict with other existing, binding governing documents.**

If a voting body wants to change how the AS is governed it should change all governance documents relevant to that topic simultaneously. In the case that the voting body does not have authority over all relevant governance documents, it should work with the other voting body or bodies that do have the authority.

6. **This non-binding policy should be modified into a regular policy by June 14, 2024**

The 2022-23 AS Student Government recognizes that passing this as a regular policy at the very end of the 2022-23 academic year disallows the necessary time for the review of this policy.