

Summary of '22-'23 AS Charter Chatter

October 20, 2023

Gabe Wong

Timeline

April 26 – Sen. Pres. Rahma brings up that WWU admin wants to get the AS Charter ([Appendix II](#)) 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](#).

May 15 – Rahma meets with Melynda Huskey. WWU admin is open to waiting into the next school year. WWU admin presents a preliminary revision to the AS Charter ([Appendix III](#))

Summer – Gabe and Keara briefly discuss Charter

October – Melynda provided an updated AS Charter revision ([Appendix IV](#)) to Gabe and Keara

October 19 – Melynda presented that newest Charter revision to the Executive Board.

Tentative Consensus (Per 22-23 Senate)

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 (Racist implications of viking mascot)
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 (Contentious, on Oct 19 Melynda claimed there was a 1920 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.

Appendix I

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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.
History of AS Charter – October 2023

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.

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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.

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

Appendix II - AS Charter 2010 (Transcribed)

Associated Students of Western Washington University

2010 Charter (Transcribed)

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.

Appendix III – AS Charter March 2023 revision (from WWU Admin)

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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Appendix IV – AS Charter September 2023 Revision (from WWU Admin)

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 electing a student government (AS Government) which:

- Represents student interests and opinions to the university administration, Board of Trustees, and appropriate governmental agencies,
- Fosters participation and inclusion of the student body in university governance and operations as appropriate,
- Communicates with the ASWWU membership 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 official student government of Western Washington University (AS Government) shall consist of the ASWWU Executive Board and Student Senate, with the privileges and responsibilities assigned to it by this charter. The ASWWU's authority to participate in shared governance of the university is established by the President of Western Washington University, with the consent of the ASWWU membership, and acknowledged by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. The AS Government 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. The ASWWU may only be abolished by a vote of the voting membership of ASWWU. In such case, the ASWWU will be dissolved 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 AS Government shall make every effort to represent the needs and concerns of students through its participation in shared governance.

Section 2. The AS Government 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 AS Government shall consult with and report to university bodies on matters of concern to students.

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

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

Section 6. The AS Government 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 AS Government is granted the authority to fulfill its duties within the provisions set forth in this charter and within the constraints of University regulation, policy, and procedure. In addition, the AS Government shall have the following special authorities:

Section 1. With regard to student fees, the AS Government has the authority to:

- a. Ensure that monies allocated to the AS Government 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. To fulfill its administrative responsibilities, the AS Government 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 AS Government, 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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