

Dear Trustees,

I hope this message finds you well. First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to present an update on the activities and progress of the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) Student Government for the month of October. A special thank you goes to Trustee Stone for his collaborative spirit and the insightful discussion we had earlier this summer. Collaboration and communication between student leaders are vital components that have been missing from our campus, and we are committed to addressing this issue.

As we progress into the academic year, it's imperative to revisit our overarching objectives of transparency and accountability as outlined in my August report. These objectives continue to serve as the guiding pillars of our work within the ASWWU Student Government. Specifically, we remain steadfast in our commitment to enhancing transparency and fostering accountability.

### **1. Outreach and Engagement:**

A cornerstone of these objectives is effective outreach and engagement with the student body. We have been actively working with various campus offices to attend or speak at key back-to-school events, including the highly successful First Night Out. These events offer invaluable opportunities to connect with students, particularly those in their first and second years of study. An initiative that the student government has undertaken is the reinstatement of class visits for introductory and FIG classes—a practice our student government had prior to the pandemic. Both Student Senate and Executive Board members have been proactive in reaching out to introductory classes, clubs, and campus offices related to their respective positions. Personally, as AS President, I have committed to visiting two different classes each week to introduce myself and provide students with insights on how they can actively participate in the student government. Our outreach efforts are multifaceted, encompassing on-campus events, AS club visits, regular updates on social media and via email, as well as open Q&A sessions with student government officials.

### **2. Addressing Student Concerns:**

In addition to engagement, we are dedicated to understanding and addressing the concerns of our student body. To this end, we have initiated conversations with students and are creating a survey to identify the issues that matter most to them. We recognize that the best solutions are born from informed perspectives, and our conversations with students are proving invaluable in this regard. Once we have identified these concerns, our intention is not to scatter our efforts across a multitude of issues, a pitfall that student governments often encounter. Instead, we aim to discern a central issue that garners significant support and warrants our undivided attention. By focusing on this key issue, we can channel our resources, energy, and the passionate commitment of our engaged students into a concentrated effort that yields tangible results.

### **3. Recruitment Challenges:**

Despite our outreach efforts, we have encountered challenges in recruiting students for leadership roles within AS. Committee membership, a vital component of AS governance, has not yet fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels. While we are optimistic that this issue will gradually resolve as our outreach efforts expand throughout the academic year, the need for many students to fill at-large positions within the first month of the academic year does pose a challenge.

#### 4. Vacancies:

Currently, there is one vacancy in the Executive Board and three vacancies in the Student Senate. The Student Senate is diligently working to fill the three vacancies through an appointment process. The Executive Board vacancy is a more complex matter and will be filled either through a special election or an appointment process. Our aim is to have the position of Vice President for Activities filled by mid-November.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize our unwavering commitment to our objectives of enhancing transparency, fostering accountability, and actively engaging with the student body. While we face challenges, we remain dedicated to our mission and optimistic about the positive changes we can make. Your support and guidance are invaluable to us as we strive to achieve our goals and we will continue to keep you updated on our progress.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your continued support and interest in the ASWWU Student Government.

Sincerely,



**Keara Ryan** | [she/her/hers](#)  
AS President | [AS Executive Board](#)  
Western Washington University  
516 High Street, Bellingham WA 98225  
[aspres@wwu.edu](mailto:aspres@wwu.edu) | Viking Union 514