



Associated Students of Western Washington University

Legislative Affairs Council Charter
Expires in December 2024

I. CHARGE

The purpose of the Legislative Affairs Council is to increase student representation by:

- Encouraging civic engagement and student participation in the political process.
- Creating, reviewing, and proposing Local, State, Federal, and other proposed Legislative and Administrative Agendas to the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) Executive Board of Directors
- Submitting recommendations to the Washington Student Association (WSA) statewide Legislative Agenda.
- Establishing contact with elected officials to ensure that student perspectives are being considered at all levels of government.
- Formulating policy positions for all matters concerning students in higher education for approval by the AS Executive Board of Directors
- Reviewing funding request proposals, making financial decisions, and monitoring the expenditures of student funds paid to the Legislative Action Fund.
- Approving a budget for the Legislative Action Fund in areas designed to more directly represent Western Students at the local, state and federal level, which follows the LAF budget policy.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Voting:

AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs or designee (Chair)

AS Director of Legislative Affairs (Vice Chair)

AS Local Issues Coordinator

AS Senator

~~1-3-5-7~~ Students at-Large, including one or more Graduate students, ~~appointed by the AS Executive Board~~

~~1~~ Graduate Student or Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) Representative

1 ESC Student Staff Representative (~~appointed by ESC Presidents Council~~)

~~1~~ ESP Student Staff Representative (~~appointed by the ESP Director~~)

1 LGBTQ+ Western Student Staff Representative

1 BSC Student Staff Representative

1 Blue Resource Group Student Staff Representative

1 Sustainability Engagement Institute Student Staff Representative

Non-voting:

AS Voter Recruitment and Engagement Coordinator

AS Civics Involvement Coordinator

AS Vice President for Diversity

Office of Civic Engagement Advisor (Advisor to the Council)

~~AS OCE Director Associate Dean of Student Engagement and Director of Viking Union
Facilities or designee (Advisor)~~

III. CHAIR

The Chairperson shall be the AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs. They shall convene the meetings, draft agendas, and preside over all meetings. The AS Director of Legislative Affairs shall serve as the Vice Chairperson and act in the absence of the AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs.

IV. MEETINGS

Meetings shall be called by the Chair. The committee shall meet weekly with a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours' notice. Meetings may also be called by any member with support of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the seated, voting membership.

V. VOTING

In order for a motion to pass, it must obtain a majority of the legal votes cast. An abstention by a Legislative Affairs Council member will not count as a vote cast in favor or against the action item or resolution being voted upon.

VI. QUORUM

A majority of the seated, voting membership shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present, the Chair will adjourn the meeting and reschedule to a new day and hour. During the summer, or when the council is not in session, the council's responsibilities fall to the AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs and AS Director of Legislative Affairs.

VII. SUBCOMMITTEES

In order to provide for coordination and direction, the council may establish subcommittees as necessary. Unless otherwise noted, these groups shall follow the provisions of the council with respect to procedure.

VIII. RULES OF OPERATIONS

The council may adopt and amend the rules of operations governing its operation by a majority vote of the council, subject to review and approval by the AS Executive Board.

IX. AMENDMENTS

This Charter may be amended by a majority vote of the AS Executive Board.

X. REPORTAGE

This committee shall report to the AS Executive Board through the AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs.