

AS Finance Council

Values Statement

The ~~20232-20243~~ AS Finance Council has identified values as a guide when reviewing financial requests.

Finance Council Core Values:

- Transparency
- Equity
- Stewardship and Accountability
- Student Success, Retention, and Well-being
- Community Enrichment

In order to create a shared understanding, the council has described what these values mean to them:

Transparency

ASWWU Finance Council will have transparency in decision making. We commit to transparency through having our language be accessible; by utilizing language that is easy to read and understand or providing definitions for the user. Agendas and documents will be posted publicly on the website.

Equity

Primarily, it's essential to reflect on present inequities in this institution. The ASWWU Finance Council commits to making financial processes and budgets accessible and welcoming to the involvement of multicultural and diverse students at WWU. Prioritizing the needs of students traditionally underserved or with marginalized identities, including but not limited to BIPOC students, LGBTQ+ students, disabled students, and undocumented/mixed-status students is necessary. The council recognizes that there are areas that need extra attention: dismantling antiblackness, amplifying student voices, etc.

Stewardship and Accountability

We, as stewards of student dollars, must consider the whole campus community and act with their needs in mind. Balancing the budget financially and ethically with consideration given to the needs of the ever-changing student body, organizations/programs/services, and campus At-Large.

Student Success, Retention, and Well-Being

Success should comprise of opportunities for students to grow academically, personally, and professionally. ASWWU Finance Council supports students succeeding mentally, physically, academically, etc. This is done through attempting to reduce various barriers faced by students be they monetary, physical, emotional, or mental, etc. Budgets should consider the impacts of students at large, specifically focused on marginalized and underrepresented communities and focus on retention. Our goal is to mitigate harm and maximize positive impacts for students, while keeping in mind differential impacts to communities on campus and carefully weighing the pros and cons of each decision we make.

Community Enrichment

ASWWU Finance Council looks for spending that is accountable to the interests of Western's diverse students. Increasing community engagement, involvement and sense of belonging is crucial, especially after isolating virtual times. Allocation of funds to endeavors that support the At-Large WWU community should focus on creating/increasing student access to services governed by student fees.