

ASWWU Supports Western Academic Workers United

April 7, 2023

To our peers,

The students of Western Washington University believe in true democracy. Equitable unions allow workers to use their collective power free from repercussion or retaliation. The work of student employees is a large part of what makes WWU a prestigious institution that educates the people of Washington and beyond.

Student workers are doubly vulnerable to, and dependent on, faculty and staff judgement and input. Student workers do not control the conditions that impact their livelihood while they pursue their education. To this effect, a supermajority of academic student employees have founded Western Academic Workers United/United Auto Workers (WAWU-UAW), a union formed by student workers, for student workers, to collectively bargain with WWU and its administration on our own behalf.

As members of the WWU community, we are encouraged to express a democratic voice within the university; as student employees, we deserve a say in the decision-making process surrounding compensation, benefits, and employment protections. The AS Student Government, as student employees ourselves, must act in solidarity with other student groups and organizations to secure equitable conditions for student workers and students At-Large.

Therefore, we, your student government, do hereby declare our support, outright, for the full unionization of the student employees of Western Washington University.

In support of this goal, your student government has passed a resolution that calls upon the university administration to act in accordance with its strategic plan to improve climate and working conditions and, to provide competitive compensation and professional development for student employees, staff, and faculty, and to immediately recognize and begin negotiating, in good faith, with WAWU-UAW.

cc: Our fellow students
Liz Parkes, Director of Employee and Labor Relations
Sabah Randhawa, President
Melissa Nelson, Assistant Attorney General