



# ASWWU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

## Documents for:

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 5:30 PM | VU 567, Teams  
Town Hall

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# Western Washington University Associated Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023      5:30 p.m.      VU 567/Teams Town Hall

Present: Keara Ryan, Gabe Wong, Erin Godwin, Morgan Whitt, Liam Pratt, Sophie Snyder, Sebastian Mayotte

Absent: None

Advisor: Adam Lorio

Secretary: Rachel Kleffman

Guests: Mallory Schaeffbauer, Gabby Laipenieks, Erin Magarro

## MOTIONS

ASB-23-W-39	To Approve Consent Items with Stated Amendments
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*Call to Order:* Keara Ryan, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

### I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

### II. CONSENT ITEMS *(subject to immediate action)*

- a. Meeting Minutes from January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024      5 minutes (Doc 1) Ryan
  - The minutes are missing some underlines and strikethroughs that were placed. For clarity reasons, this should be adjusted.
- b. Student Academic Grievance
  - There are two applicants for the Student Academic Grievance Board and both will fit well. The committee was recently called to action, so they need to fill 6 graduate student seats and 6 undergrad student seats. The two current applicants would be for the Undergraduate seats.
  - Wong: For the committee to meet, how many graduate, undergraduate and faculty seats need to be filled?
  - Lorio: Any grievance needs two students on it. The Board should be functional after this evening.
- c. Elections Advisory Appointment
  - There is an error at beginning of document where it says "Student Advisory Committee Appointment". It should read "Elections Advisory Committee Appointment".

- For the committee to beginning meeting, a senator and a board member need to be seated.
- Sophie Snyder has several years of experience working in student government and can give insight to the Ethics Code. She will not be running for student government again this year due to graduation, which makes her a good candidate.

Mayotte joined 5:40PM

<b>MOTION:</b> To Approve Consent Items with Stated Amendments		
<b>Motion Made</b> By: Godwin	<b>Second:</b> Wong	ASB-23-W-39
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0		<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

### III. PUBLIC FORUM (*comments from students and the community*)

None.

### IV. OFFICER REPORTS

- Chair Report 5 minutes Ryan
- Ryan started to work on the survey that will be sent out to students related to Narcan through the Associated Students Communications Office. Hoping to get more access to Narcan on campus other than library.
- Senate President Report 5 minutes Wong
- The Communications Committee's first meeting was January 17<sup>th</sup>. They are trying to get all the offices connected to each other and connected to students.
- Wong is doing some long-term planning for the Senate for winter quarter, spring quarter and further down the line.
- Wong is looking at the Senate budget with Lorio and working with Dacey Durbin to fill senate vacancies in Fairhaven College, College of Science and Engineering and the graduate school.
- Vice President Report 5 minutes Pratt
- The Sustainability Action Plan closed the comment period and is getting close to being done and published.
- The Sustainability, Equity, and Justice Fund must replace a committee member that will be in Olympia for the quarter. Since there is someone interested, the seat can hopefully be filled at the next meeting.
- For Earth week there will be a food justice table, trashion show (fashion show), a potential film screening and food trucks.
- Pratt has been working with Senator Lauren Johnson to draft a proposed sustainability section for the lobbying agenda.

- The Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) application closed with 76 applicants. Those applications will be reviewed starting on January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Ryan: Can you share some of the bills you're interested in including for the sustainability section?
- Pratt: The main one is House bill 2070, which provides protection and a platform for communities that have been disproportionately affected by environmental injustices.
  
- Vice President Report 5 minutes     Whitt
  
- Working With Kevin Roxas at Woodring about creating programming for Compass 2 Campus.
- Whitt reached out to Disability Accommodation Center about accessibility on campus during the cold weather, she is having weekly meetings with the Ethnic Student Center (ESC) and she is working with the Office of Equity on a hiring committee to hire a few positions.
- She has been messaging city council regarding their Immigration Advisory Board since they are considering getting rid of it. It's important that there are resources for people who are immigrants in Bellingham.
- Ryan: I didn't know they were trying to get rid of the board, can you share about that?
- Whitt: There are a lot of vacant seats and I have been emailing them about it. I have been in communication with their at large person who is committed to trying to keep the Immigration Advisory Board.
  
- Advisor Report 5 minutes     Lorio
  
- We are in the thick of the AS operations and AS Government budgeting cycle for fiscal year 25, which starts July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Lorio will be working with Ryan and Wong on the Executive Board and Senate budgets. He will also work with Casey Hayden and the Office of Civic Engagement team to update their budget proposals.
- First drafts of budgets are due at the end of January, and they will be shared with the Executive Board before they go through.
- The Executive Board is going to begin reviewing and getting recommendations on all job descriptions to refresh them in time for elections.

## V. INFORMATION ITEMS- Guests\*

- AS Local Issues Coordinator Report 5 minutes (Doc 2) Ryan
- Whatcom county had a general election in November of last year.
  - o As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, Kim Lund is the Mayor of Bellingham.
  - o Within City Council, Hannah Stone (Ward 1) and Daniel Hammil (Ward 3) were both re-elected.
  - o Jace Cotton was elected to the at-large City Council seat.
  - o Initiatives 1 and 2 were passed.
    - Initiative 1 increases Bellingham's minimum wage \$1 above state minimum wage in May 2024. In May of 2025, it will raise \$2 above the state minimum wage.
    - Initiative 2 has to do with renter's protections. It creates relocation assistance program for renters. Landlords must give a 120-day notice when increasing rent more than 8%. When increasing the rent more than 8%, the landlords have to provide relocation assistance. This assistance amounts to 3x the rent, or the average market rate in the area along with a 5-month relocation period.
  - o Public Health, Safety, and Justice sales tax passed, which goes toward criminal justice and behavioral health programs.
  - o The Greenways Levy was passed. The Greenways Levy supports Bellingham's Greenways program, which works on parks and trails in the area.
  - o Satpal Sidhu was reelected as County Executive.
  - o Donnell Tanksley was elected as Sheriff.
  - o The Jail initiative was passed. The site will be in Ferndale and won't be operational until 2028.
- Winter shelters in the city and county are working to meet higher demand. They have been able to accommodate recent numbers over capacity due to the cold.
- Bellingham is slated to submit its final Comprehensive Plan in 2025. The plan is currently in its feedback stage, so they have been doing outreach to get feedback from groups who don't interact much with the government.
- The City Council passed a resolution urging a ceasefire in Gaza, Israel, and Palestine, and expressed support for the U.S. House Resolution 786.
- Whatcom Transportation Authority is considering an expansion of Bellingham Station to accommodate more buses. This would encourage growth in the downtown area.
- County level
  - o The City Council passed two resolutions requesting to declare an emergency in response to the opioid crisis.
  - o A sales tax was adopted by the City Council to fund the new jail along with other behavioral health and criminal justice programs.

- ABC recycling has proposed a site for a metal shredder. City Council voted against a moratorium on heavy industrial permitting for that area, giving ABC recycling the go ahead to submit a permit.
- OSE Recognition Resolution Draft 10 minutes (Doc 4) Wong
  - Operational student employees have petitioned the State Labor Board to certify their union so that they can bargain with Western Administration.
  - The Resolution requests a few things from the university, such as respecting the wishes of faculty and staff, acting in accordance with its strategic plan, negotiate with the operational student employees, formally respond to ASWWU about those requests.
  - Erin Magarro: I am currently working on the campaign for recognition of operational student employees. Student workers on this campus are tired of working two jobs and not making ends meet. I am tired of watching people on campus work jobs alongside salaried workers without the same worker protections, healthcare, or union representation. It's time that all workers on campus have a seat at the table and have a say in our workplaces. Western Washington University should voluntarily recognize the Operational Student Employee Union.
  - Wong: I will probably add another amendment on the resolution asking the university to support Senate Bill 5895. Western Washington University's current objection to voluntary recognition is that there's not an outlined structure for collective bargaining. That bill would provide that.
  - Ryan: Lets double check that the university has supported bills in the past for recognizing different groups that would like to unionize. I have heard previously that the university has a policy that they want to stay neutral.
  - Godwin: I have spoken to President Randhawa about this and his response was that the administration isn't going to do that until there is a law that clarifies the framework. What are we trying to accomplish with this resolution?
  - Wong: It's a pressure tool like any resolution is. Collective bargaining has been going on for more than 100 years, it's well established. It's about showing the administration what our position is.
  - Godwin: I agree with the goal of it. Maybe we could direct this toward our representatives of the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> legislative district in our state to get support going in that way.
  - Ryan: When it comes to reaching our elected officials, it is difficult to reach them through emails. If we want to give them a resolution, we will have to mail it to them.

## VI. ACTION ITEMS – Guests

None presented.

## VII. PERSONNEL ITEMS (subject to immediate action)

None presented.



enough time to discuss 20 bills. I want us to have a targeted and direct message.

- Wong: There was an idea last year, which was having the agenda that you're giving to the legislators and then having an appendix that you're giving to the student lobbyists. The legislators have staff, and their job is to read bills so there isn't a summary necessary.

**IX. Action Items- Board\***

**X. Other Business**

None.

Adjourn: *The Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.*



# Associated Students of Western Washington University

## Finance Council Charter

### I. CHARGE

~~The purpose of the Associated Students Finance Council is to:~~ The purpose of the AS Finance Council is to serve as a central body in responsibly managing AS funds.

The Finance Council shall have the authority to:

- Review and approve AS grant proposals ~~up to \$50,000 to be~~ funded from AS Reserves. ~~(AS Grants over \$50,000 to require AS Executive Board, AS Student Senate, and Fund Financial Manager approval.)~~
- Review and approve Large Event proposals funded from AS Reserves.
- Revise and approve AS fiscal policies.
- ~~Propose the AS Operating budget to be submitted to the Services and Activities Fee Committee. Discuss and approve a~~ recommended AS Operating Budget. This Recommended Budget is subject to approval by the AS Student Senate and AS Executive Board, the AS Fund Financial Manager (or designee), the S&A Fee Committee, and the WWU Board of Trustees.

The Finance Council has the responsibility to:

- ~~Present the recommended AS Operating Budget and grant proposals over \$50,000 per year to the AS Executive Board and AS Student Senate to approve as Consent Items and to the Fund Financial Manager for approval.~~
- ~~Present the recommended AS Operating Budget to the AS Executive Board and AS Student Senate as Information Items.~~
- ~~Keep the AS Executive Board and AS Student Senate aware of significant decisions under consideration.~~

### II. MEMBERSHIP

#### **Voting:**

AS President or delegated Vice President (Vice Chair)

AS Student Senate President or delegated Student Senator

1 Student At-Large (appointed by the AS Business Director)

1-2 Club Members (AS and/or ESC) to represent the Club area (appointed by the AS Business Director)

1 AS Employee from the following central service programs:

Communications, Business Office, Personnel, Publicity Center,

Wavelength (appointed by the Assistant Director for Student Activities and Media)

1 AS Employee from the following activities programs: Productions, Club Activities, KUGS FM, Office of Civic Engagement, Outdoor Center (appointed by the Assistant Director for Student Activities and Media)

**Non-voting:**

AS Business Director (Chair)

AS/VU Business Services Manager (Advisor)

AS Fund Financial Manager

Viking Union Staff (Fiscal Support)

Secretary

### III. CHAIR

The Chairperson shall be the AS Business Director. They shall convene the meetings, develop agendas, and preside at all meetings. The Vice Chairperson shall be the AS President.

### IV. MEETINGS

Meetings shall be called by the Chair. The ~~committee-council~~ shall generally meet every ~~other~~ week with a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours' notice. Meetings may also be called by any member with the 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 at least four affirmative votes~~. An abstention shall not count as a legal vote cast. In the case of a tie, the AS Business Director shall act as a voting member. ~~The council shall only vote electronically if action is required before the next available meeting time.~~

### VI. QUORUM

A majority of the 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, this council's responsibilities fall to the AS Business Director, AS President, and AS Student Senate President to approve time sensitive funding, ~~up to \$19,999, up to \$50,000~~, in consultation with the Business Manager and Assistant Director for Business Services & Planning, AS Fund Financial Manager or designee.

### VII. FUNDING

It shall be the responsibility of this council to recommend the annual AS Operating Budget to the AS Executive Board, ~~and the AS Student Senate, and the Fund Financial Manager~~ for submission to the S&A Fee Committee. The council will also review and approve funding for Large Events and AS Grants (under up to over \$50,000 requires additional approval) ~~and Large Events~~.

## VIII. 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.

## IX. RULES OF OPERATIONS

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

## X. AMENDMENTS

This Charter may be amended by a majority vote of the Finance Council and consent of the AS Executive Board and AS Student Senate.

## XI. REPORTING

~~This committee council~~ The Chair shall prepare regular reports ~~for to~~ the AS Executive Board and AS Student Senate, ~~though to be presented by the AS President and AS Student Senate President.~~

## XII. DISSOLUTION

The AS Finance Council is a permanent council of the Associated Students of Western Washington University. After input from Staff and Finance Council, ~~The~~ AS Finance Council may be dissolved by a 2/3 majority vote of both the AS Executive Board ~~and,~~ the AS Student Senate, the [Leadership Group], and with final approval from the Fund Financial Manager.

## Western Intersectional Lobby Day Legislative Agenda, Draft 5

### **Values Statement:**

The Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) believes that when we take steps to ease the financial burdens associated with pursuing higher education and invest in comprehensive health and wellness programs, students will fully engage with the campus community, which will increase retention, completion, and enrollment rates. We ask the legislature to provide financial aid opportunities that are robust and equitable, contribute to student employment, and provide inclusive health services to postsecondary educational institutions within Washington State. When we invest in students, we are investing in the future workforce and long-term economic growth of Washington State.

### **Financial Aid:**

ASWWU believes that investing in financial aid will help students from across the state access higher education. Increasing eligibility for the WCG will encourage more people to pursue higher education and help the state reach its goal of having 70% of adults possessing post-secondary credentials.

**SB 5999 Expanding financial aid eligibility for the WCG to 70% MFI**

**SB 5904 Extending the terms of eligibility for financial aid programs from 5 to 6 years of eligibility**

**HB 1964 Creating the Washington health corps behavioral health scholarship program**

***Proviso to increase funding for the supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness Program***

The current funding amount for this program is \$4.4 million. Increasing funding to \$10M will not only provide more housing resources for young people, but it will also support better educational outcomes. 40,000+ Washington State students are experiencing homelessness.

### **Student Employment:**

Student employment enhances professional development and prepares students to enter the workforce for careers post-graduation. A pleasant working environment and a living wage allow students to excel in their education as that contributes to individual financial stability. Allowing student employees to participate in collective bargaining creates an opportunity for them to use their voice and negotiate their working conditions. Establishing work protections for students will create a pathway for skilled students to serve our community and provide capable workers for our economy.

**SB 5895 Concerning collective bargaining for certain employees enrolled in academic programs at public institutions of higher education.**

The proposed legislation is similar to SB 5238, passed in 2023. This proposal is to add a section to RCW 41.56, which defines union bargaining frameworks for different employees in higher education, to enshrine a collective bargaining framework for other student workers who wish to form a union.

**HB 1889 Allowing persons to receive professional licenses and certifications regardless of immigration or citizenship status.**

Undocumented students are unintentionally excluded from internship and work opportunities due to their immigration status. This bill would remove employment requirements to be a U.S. citizen or resident alien

in Washington state. Additionally, employers would be prohibited from reporting an individual's citizenship status to external agencies including the federal government.

### **Health and Wellness:**

ASWWU believes that to support students in higher education, we must improve access to and quality of care. We would like to advocate for ensuring that resources are available for mental health and substance abuse treatment. Additionally, we believe that feeling safe and well in our community includes sexual health. The legislature has an opportunity to support young people experiencing mental health crisis and housing vulnerability, and provide remedy for victims of sexual assault, to promote education and resources to prevent opioid overdoses.

#### **HB 1929 23-24 (in committee): and SB 6050 23-24: Supporting young adults following inpatient behavioral health treatment**

Mental health struggle is one of the most common reasons Western students drop out (according to the Western Educational Longitudinal Study survey). The rising struggles with mental health for students can become part of their decision to drop out. This is often related to financial struggles, but it can also be a factor on its own. This bill would dedicate more resources for young people without secure housing who receive inpatient behavioral health treatments once they are released from treatment.

#### **HB 1958 Concerning nonconsensual removal of or tampering with a sexually protective device.**

Sexual assault on college campuses is unfortunately very common. According to the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN), 13% of all students experience rape or sexual assault during their undergraduate or graduate experience, which can carry serious mental, physical, and academic consequences. This bill would establish remedies for victims of a form of sexual assault and recourse for perpetrators of this form of sexual assault, allowing civil cause for nonconsensual removal/tampering of sexually protective devices.

**HB 2112 Concerning opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness at institutions of higher education.** To promote health on safety on campus, we are asking the legislature to provide funding for our school to secure free fentanyl testing strips for students. Additionally, we are asking that the legislature make Narcan, and the training required to administer it, more widely available as this medication can be used to reverse an opioid overdose.

### **Sustainability:**

Western Washington University has been a leader in sustainability practices and combating climate change. The four pillars of sustainability in our community are the environment, social equity, economic vitality, and well-being. Our students care deeply about issues related to sustainability and climate change as our generation will inherit the adverse effects of pollution and global warming. Graduates and alumni of the College of the Environment at WWU can face these challenges with adequate resources and job opportunities provided by the State Legislature.

#### **HB 2049 Forces companies to create packaging to fund state recycling services.**

HB 2049 would change who pays for curbside recycling services through what is called an “extended producer responsibility program.” Companies that supply packaging and paper products would fund the statewide program, instead of residents. WWU has a great waste management

system which is limited to our main campus. We would like to advocate for better waste management systems to be implemented statewide.

**HB 2070 Provides protection and a platform for communities that have been disproportionately affected by environmental injustices.**

In the upcoming years and decades, Washington state will become a leader in the green economy, an economy that is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive, as we continue to invest in environmental protections. However, we must ensure that environmental justice is taken into consideration in project developments moving forward.

**SB 6052 and HB 2232 Creates a new agency in Washington State to monitor oil companies.**

While the state legislature has enacted climate conscious laws, there is a lack of oversight and enforcement of these laws. This bill would create a new agency to monitor activity in Washington's petroleum market. It aims to address transparency issues related to petroleum supply and pricing in the state. This new government agency would create many job opportunities for our highly educated College of the Environment post-graduation.

### **Housing Affordability:**

ASWWU believes passing legislation that creates a stable housing market will provide security and stability for students, which are key factors for success in higher education. Approximately 70% of WWU students live off-campus, and the majority of people who live off-campus are renters and are subjected to ever-increasing rent prices. The number one reason that students leave WWU is because they are struggling financially, and housing is a major expense that students have to pay in addition to the cost of their education. It is imperative that we find a solution to this problem so that students don't have to choose between pursuing higher education and having a place to live.

**HB 2114 23-24 (in committee): and SB 5961 Improving housing stability for tenants subject to the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act**

By limiting rent and fee increases, requiring notice of rent and fee increases, limiting fees and deposits, establishing a landlord resource center and associated services, authorizing tenant lease termination, creating parity between lease types, and providing for attorney general enforcement.

## **Conclusion:**

(This is a work in progress. I'm not sure if we should have a conclusion so I haven't started one.)

Thank the Legislators for their time and consideration. Reiterate why we care about all these issues and how they impact our student body.

Ask the Legislature to ensure that the University Administration's capital budget request for the 2025-2026 biennium include funding for services that support marginalized communities on campus. Particularly the Disability Access Center, the Ethnic Student Center, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. To meet the state's 70% attainment goal, we must remain committed to ADEI and supporting the needs of all students in and outside of the classroom.



The Foundation for WWU & Alumni

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foundation.wwu.edu

## MEMO

Date: January 22, 2024  
To: AS President Keara Ryan  
From: Kim O’Neill, CEO of The Foundation for WWU & Alumni  
CC: Sabah Randhawa, President of WWU  
Mark Brovak, VP/CFO, The Foundation for WWU & Alumni  
RE: ASWWU Resolution in Favor of Continued Fossil Fuel Divestment

Dear Keara and Associated Students of WWU:

I would first like to thank you for sharing your passion and concern regarding the topic of climate change. The following is being provided in response to the recently passed ASWWU Resolution in Favor of Continued Fossil Fuel Divestment.

The Board of the Foundation for WWU & Alumni recognizes the toll of climate change on human life, biodiversity, and ecosystems worldwide, and equally recognizes the significant role that the extraction and burning of fossil fuels contributes to the climate crisis. The Foundation is committed to a thoughtful approach to investing and seeks to participate in financial markets in a way that provides the best opportunity for our endowments and scholarships to thrive, while also taking environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues into consideration.

There are different ways to approach sustainable investing, and full divestment from fossil fuel companies is only one strategy among many impactful opportunities. Full divestment presents various challenges to institutional investors – such as public universities – as it requires certain tradeoffs in the diversification of our investments, the fees associated with their management, and sometimes in investment returns.

Due to the modest size of the portfolio, The Foundation for WWU & Alumni utilizes comingled funds, which are similar to mutual funds, but on an institutional level. Over half of the Foundation’s endowment investment portfolio (\$61.3 million) is currently invested in the **Russell Sustainable Multi-Asset Growth Fund** which considers ESG factors in the security selection process and emphasizes holding stocks that reduce the carbon footprint of the portfolio by 50% compared to a market index. The Fund excludes investments in coal, tobacco, firearms weapon companies, private prisons, and predatory lending companies; the Fund emphasizes investments in companies participating in the energy transition, such as



## The Foundation for WWU & Alumni

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companies engaged in wind power generation. The Foundation for WWU & Alumni takes great pride in being the inaugural client for this fund in 2019 with a \$50.0 million commitment. Today, the fund has over \$400 million of investments from various clients. The remaining investments in the endowment portfolio of the Foundation for WWU & Alumni are spread across a diversified range of assets which include bonds, private equity investments, and real estate.

It has been noted that other institutions have publicly committed to fully divest their portfolios from fossil fuels and that WWU is falling behind in its commitments to sustainability. These commitments speak to a full divestment from all *direct investments* held in fossil fuels. **The Foundation for WWU & Alumni has no direct investment in any fossil fuel company.** Board members, staff, and the investment advisors to the Foundation must balance the fiduciary duty associated with stewarding investment funds with the commitment to seeking positive environmental and social impact; this balance is always carefully considered, and always top of mind.

Part of the Board's fiduciary duty is to review its vendor relationships periodically. This includes our investment manager, Russell Investments. The Board's Finance Committee has chosen to pursue a Request for Information (RFI) from the incumbent and two other leading providers. The RFI process will help the Foundation stay abreast of general industry updates and best practices. The Foundation Board's Finance Committee will not be seeking outside involvement in the industry review process.

The Foundation for WWU & Alumni is committed to increased transparency. We plan to build out the Foundation website to share information about sustainable investing and to develop an annual report with sustainability performance information. The Foundation for WWU & Alumni will also support communication regarding the investment process and sustainable investing more broadly. The staff of University Advancement is working closely with other divisions to implement the goals included in the University's Sustainability Action Plan and is committed to exploring opportunities in which to improve our sustainability performance going forward.

Board members and staff of the Foundation recognize the passion and care that went into developing the ASWWU Resolution in Favor of Continued Fossil Fuel Divestment. We appreciate student interest in Foundation activities and look forward to finding ways to support and promote our shared values.

# Associated Students of WWU Student Government Charter

Revised 2023

## Preamble

The students of Western Washington University, have the right and responsibility to participate in the shared governance of the university. The Associated Students of Western Washington University is the body created to represent students for this purpose. The Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU), as defined by this Charter, is charged by the president to elect a student government (AS Student 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;
- Promote the general welfare of students;
- Communicates with the ASWWU membership about institutional matters which affect them.

## Article 1 – ASWWU

- 1.1. Western Washington University recognizes the ASWWU as the sole recognized student association of Western Washington University.
- 1.2. The voting membership of the ASWWU shall include all full-time, part-time, graduate, and undergraduate students who are registered for at least one academic credit at any WWU location where students pay Services and Activities Fees. Only voting members of ASWWU may vote in student government elections.
- 1.3. The ASWWU may only be abolished by a vote of the membership of ASWWU. In such case the powers granted in this charter shall become null and void at the end of the academic year in which the vote is held.

## Article 2 – ASWWU Student Government

- 2.1. Western Washington University recognizes the ASWWU Student Government as the sole student government association of Western Washington University and as the governing body of the ASWWU.
- 2.2. The ASWWU's authority to participate in shared governance of the university through the AS Student Government is established by the President of Western Washington University, with the consent of the ASWWU membership, and registered by the Board of Trustees.
- 2.3. The AS Student Government may only be abolished by a vote of the voting membership of the ASWWU. In such case, the powers established in this charter become null and void at the end of the academic year in which the vote is held.
- 2.4. All amendments to this charter must be approved by the ASWWU Student Government and the University President.

## Article 3 – ASWWU Student Government Duties

- 3.1. The AS Student Government shall make every effort to meet the needs and concerns of the students through its participation in shared governance and representation to appropriate governmental agencies.

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- 3.2. The AS Student Government shall hold annual elections open to all members of ASWWU for the purpose of selecting representatives and deciding referenda on matters of importance to the student body.
- 3.3. The AS Student Government shall consult with and report to any university bodies on matters of concern to students.
- 3.4. The AS Student Government shall encourage student involvement in the development of institutional policies which impact students.
- 3.5. The AS Student Government shall inform the university community of actions taken by the AS Student Government.
- 3.6. The AS Student 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 4 – Granted Authorities

The AS Student 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 Student Government shall have the following special authorities.

- 4.1. With regard to student fees, the AS Student Government has the authority to:
  - a. Ensure that monies allocated to the AS Student Government by the Services and Activities Fee Committee are used to support continuous, safe, and efficient operations, consistent with federal, state, and university policy.
  - b. Provide recommendations regarding any increases and/or renewals of mandatory and voluntary student fees.
  - c. Hold elections to determine changes to or establishment of voluntary student fees.
  - d. Review all information pertaining to the expenditure and usage of student fee dollars.
  - e. Ensure a majority of student voting members on fee committees overseeing mandatory and voluntary student fees, with the exception of operating and building fees.
  - f. 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.
- 4.2. To fulfill its administrative responsibilities, the AS Student Government has the authority to:
  - a. Obtain and review information on the affairs of the University.
  - b. At the request of University committee chairs, to appoint student representatives to standing University committees, and other bodies.
  - 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 Student 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.

- Deleted: WWU membership...shall hold annual elections open to all members of ASWWU for the purpose of selecting representatives and deciding referenda on matters of importance to the student body. elect a Board of Directors to a one year term, each academic year. (... [1])
- Deleted: To...he AS Student Government shall (... [2])
- Deleted: To ...he AS Student Government shall make every effort to...encourage student involvement in the development of university (... [3])
- Deleted: To ...he AS Student Government shall inform the university community of actions taken by the ASWWU (... [4])
- Deleted: WWU...Student Government shall have the authority to ...dopt bylaws and establish structures,...as necessary,...to govern its organization and structure...arry out its responsibilities in a manner consistent with this charter and the policies, (... [5])
- Deleted: The Board of Directors are elected:¶ 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¶ To make every effort to encourage student involvement in the development of university policies¶ To consult with and report to any university bodies on matters of concern to students¶ (... [6])
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- Deleted: To be provided by the University Administration (... [9])
- Deleted: To have ...nsure a majority of student voting membership...on fee committees (... [10])
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- Deleted: <#>To employ students and staff in a manner consistent with those articles, regul (... [12])
- Deleted: To o...btain and review information made available (... [13])
- Deleted: T... appoint student representatives to standing University committees, and other b (... [14])
- Deleted: T...o support the employment of students...and permanent staff in a manner (... [15])
- Deleted: The ASWWU acts in partnership with the administration through involvement in the (... [16])
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Western Washington University  
Associated Students of WWU Student Government Charter  
(revised 2023)

Preamble:

The students of Western Washington University have the right and responsibility to participate in the shared governance of the university. The Associated Students of Western Washington University is the body created to represent students for this purpose. The Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU), as defined in this Charter, is charged by the president to elect a student government (AS Student 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;
- Promotes the general welfare of students;
- Communicates with the ASWWU membership about institutional matters which affect them.

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Article 1: ASWWU

- 1.1. Western Washington University recognizes the ASWWU as the sole recognized student association of Western Washington University.
- 1.2. 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 location where students pay Services and Activities Fees. Only voting members of ASWWU may vote in student government elections.
- 1.3. The ASWWU may only be abolished by a vote of the membership of the ASWWU. In such case, the powers granted in this charter shall become null and void at the end of the academic year in which the vote is held.

Article 2: ASWWU Student Government

- 2.1. Western Washington University recognizes the ASWWU Student Government as the sole student government association of Western Washington University and as the governing body of the ASWWU.
- 2.2. The ASWWU's authority to participate in shared governance of the university through the AS Student Government is established by the President of Western Washington University, with the consent of the ASWWU membership, and registered by the Board of Trustees.

- 2.3. The AS Student 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 academic year in which the vote is held.
- 2.4. All amendments to this charter must be approved by the ASWWU Student Government and the University President.

#### Article 3: ASWWU Student Government Duties

- 3.1. The AS Student Government shall make every effort to represent the needs and concerns of students through its participation in shared governance and representation to appropriate governmental agencies.
- 3.2. The AS Student Government shall hold annual elections open to all members of ASWWU for the purpose of selecting representatives and deciding referenda on matters of importance to the student body.
- 3.3. The AS Student Government shall consult with and report to university bodies on matters of concern to students.
- 3.4. The AS Student Government shall encourage student involvement in the development of institutional policies which impact students.
- 3.5. The AS Student Government shall inform the university community of actions taken by the AS Student Government.
- 3.6. The AS Student 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.

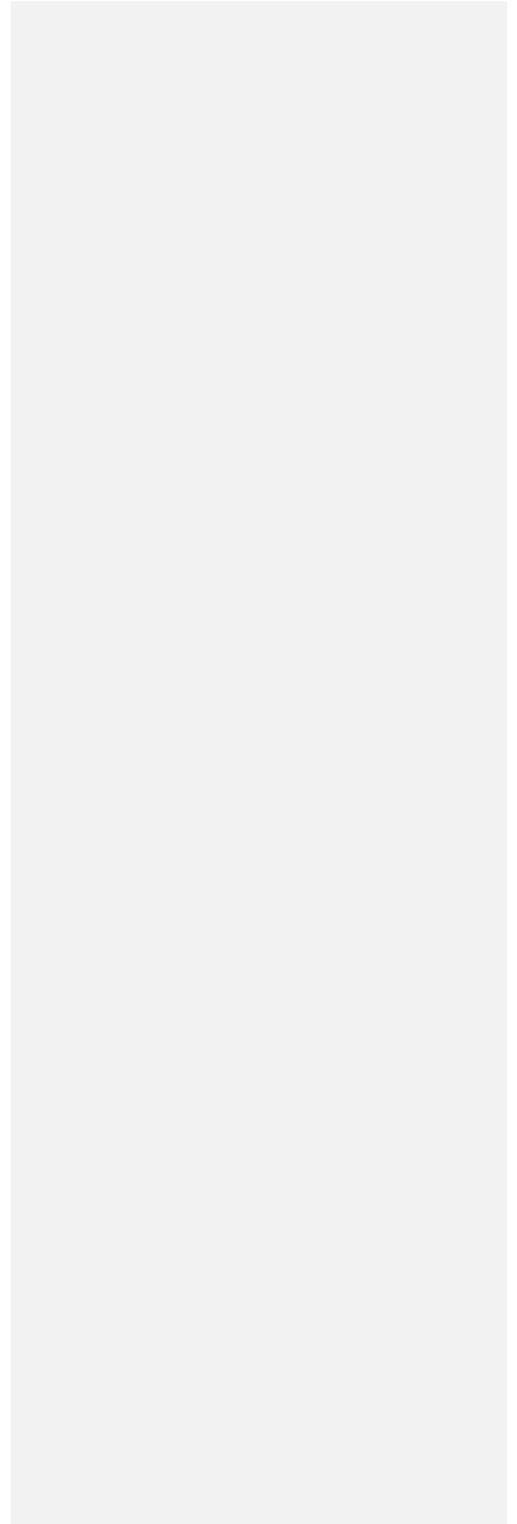
#### Article 4: Granted Authorities

The AS Student 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 Student Government shall have the following special authorities.

- 4.1. With regard to student fees, the AS Student Government has the authority to:
  - a. Ensure that monies allocated to the AS Student Government by the Services and Activities Fee Committee are used to support continuous, safe, and efficient operations, consistent with federal, state, and university policy.
  - b. Provide recommendations regarding any increases and/or renewals of mandatory and voluntary student fees.
  - c. Hold elections to determine changes to or establishment of voluntary student fees.
  - d. Review all information pertaining to the expenditure and usage of student fee dollars.

- e. Ensure a majority of student voting members on fee committees overseeing mandatory and voluntary student fees, with the exception of operating and building fees.
  - f. 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.
- 4.2. To fulfill its administrative responsibilities, the AS Student Government has the authority to:
- a. Obtain and review information on the affairs of the University,
  - b. At the request of University committee chairs, to appoint student representatives to standing University committees, and to other bodies.
  - 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 Student 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.

[Signature block]





Associated Students of  
Western Washington University

Viking Union 511-518 – MS 9106  
516 High Street, Bellingham WA 98225  
as.wwu.edu

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS  
OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
Sen. J.Res. 2023/24-02**

**“Recognize and Negotiate with WAWU Operational Student Employees”**

**WHEREAS**, operational student employees – custodians, clerks, program support staff, resident advisors, photographers, laborers, and others who do similar jobs – do critical work across Western Washington University (Western) including keeping students safe, keeping facilities running, and maintaining programs and services; and

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**WHEREAS**, a majority of operational student employees (OSEs) working for Western Washington University have authorized Western Academic Workers United / United Auto Workers (WAWU-UAW) to represent them in collective bargaining [1]; and

**WHEREAS**, WAWU-UAW has filed a representation petition with the Public Employment Relations Commission [2]; and

**WHEREAS**, WAWU-UAW has requested that Western voluntarily recognize the OSE bargaining unit [1]; and

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**WHEREAS**, every on-campus union – WFSE Local 1381, PSE of WWU / SEIU Local 1948, UFWW / WEA/AFT Local 2084, and WAWU / UAW Local 4121 – has demanded that Western recognize the OSE bargaining unit [3]; and

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Moved down [2]: **WHEREAS**, Western Washington University is capable of voluntarily recognizing the OSE bargaining unit; and ¶

**WHEREAS**, within Western’s 2018–2025 strategic plan, the Board of Trustees asserts its plan to advance Western by “Improving climate and working conditions for student employees, staff, and faculty at all locations” and “Providing competitive compensation and professional development for student employees, staff, and faculty” [4]; and

Moved down [1]: ¶  
**WHEREAS**, Western Washington University already has a relationship with WAWU-UAW; and ¶

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**WHEREAS**, historical improvements to the compensation and working conditions for employees have been spearheaded by collective bargaining [5, 6]; and

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**WHEREAS**, Western Washington University is capable of negotiating over OSE working conditions; and ¶

**WHEREAS**, collective bargaining would bring clarity to the rights and responsibilities of OSEs and Western; and

Deleted: **WHEREAS**, the Western Washington University Board of Trustees approved the Western Washington University Strategic Plan for 2018 through 2025 [4]; and ¶

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**WHEREAS**, Western already has a working collective bargaining and union-management relationship with WAWU-UAW; and

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WHEREAS, Western asserts that it is “unable to formally recognize or negotiate with any [OSE] bargaining unit” without “an authorizing statute” that “provide(s) a uniform structure, as well as orderly and clearly defined procedures for collective bargaining and dispute resolution” [7]; and,

WHEREAS, Western is able to formally recognize and negotiate with the OSE bargaining unit; and

WHEREAS, regardless, Western’s concerns are addressed by Washington State Senate Bill 5895, which would provide a uniform structure, as well as orderly and clearly defined procedures for collective bargaining and dispute resolution [8].

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

**THAT,** the voluntary recognition of the OSE bargaining unit is in the best interest of Western, OSEs, the membership of the ASWWU, and the public; and

**THAT,** the ASWWU supports SB 5895; and

**THAT,** the ASWWU requests that Western,

1. also clearly, and publicly support SB 5895,
2. respects the wishes of its faculty and staff,
3. acts in accordance with its strategic plan,
4. immediately recognizes the OSE bargaining unit,
5. begins negotiating with WAWU-UAW OSEs, and
6. formally responds to the ASWWU’s above requests.

*Introduced Jan. 10, 2023, in the Student Senate.  
Introduced Jan 18, 2023, in the Executive Board, with amendment.  
Considered Jan. 24, in the Student Senate, with additional amendment.  
Considered Jan. 25, in the Executive Board, with amendments.*

cc: Marcy Hammer, Director of Employee and Labor Relations  
Sabah Randhawa, President  
Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General  
WWU Students, Staff, and Faculty

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**WHEREAS,** despite this, Western Washington University has declined to recognize the OSE bargaining unit [7].

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- [1] [K. Thomas, E. Magarro, L. McAteer, M. Nichols, J. Houston, E. Kessler, M. Schaffer, A. Mathews, N. Ramos, S. Tello, E. Newborn, A. Knapp, E. Martez, K. Bacon, Z. Cowan, E. Ehrhart, A. Miller and Coll, "Letter from WAWU OSEs to Sabah Randhawa and Liz Parkes," 13 December 2023. \[Online\].](#)
- [2] [WAWU/International Union United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, "Representation Petition," 13 December 2023. \[Online\].](#)
- [3] [WFSE Local 1381, PSE of WWU-SEIU, UFWW-AFT, and WAWU-UAW, "Letter from Campus Unions to Sabah Randhawa and the Board of Trustees," 13 December 2023. \[Online\].](#)
- [4] [Western Washington University, "Strategic Plan 2018-2025," 13 April 2018. \[Online\]. Available: <https://provost.wvu.edu/strategic-plan-2018-2025>.](#)
- [5] [M. Walters and L. Mishel, "How unions help all workers," Economic Policy Institute, 26 August 2003. \[Online\]. Available: \[https://www.epi.org/publication/briefingpapers\\\_bp143/\]\(https://www.epi.org/publication/briefingpapers\_bp143/\).](#)
- [6] [D. Baker, "Labor Unions: The Folks Who Gave You the Weekend," Huffpost, 7 September 2015. \[Online\]. Available: \[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/labor-unions-the-folks-wh\\\_b\\\_8101242\]\(https://www.huffpost.com/entry/labor-unions-the-folks-wh\_b\_8101242\).](#)
- [7] [M. Hammer, "Letter Responding to WAWU-UAW," 27 December 2023. \[Online\].](#)
- [8] [Senators Nobles, Stanford, Conway, Dhingra, Frame, Hasegawa, Hunt,, "Concerning collective bargaining for certain employees who are enrolled in academic programs at public institutions of higher education.," 21 December 2023. \[Online\]. Available: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5895&Chamber=Senate&Year=2023>. \[Accessed 18 January 2024\].](#)