



# ASWWU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

## Documents for:

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 | 5:30 PM | VU 567, Teams  
Town Hall

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## **ASWWU Report to WWU Board of Trustees**

**February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Presented by Keara Ryan, AS President**

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Dear Trustees,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update from the Associated Student Government with the Western Washington University Board of Trustees. Student government has been hard at work over the past few weeks after a pause in operations during winter break.

### **Student Government Documents**

Over the past few months, a small group of students representing the Executive Board and Student Senate have worked together to pass an updated version of the ASWWU Charter. Currently, the Senate President, Gabe Wong, and I are working together to edit the AS Constitution to reflect the Charter and our current operations. We hope to have a constitutional amendment on the 2024 Student Government ballot. I am looking forward to the progress that I can share on this amendment in the coming months, especially with some possible changes to the membership of each body. Additional documents being amended or passed are the Student Senate bylaws, Parliamentary Procedure, and Rules of Operation for both boards. By the end of the year, nearly all student government documents should be updated. I am thankful for the help of everyone involved and am confident the work done this year will set future student government boards up for success.

### **Lobby Day**

I am excited to announce that on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> the Associated Students is taking 80 students to visit Olympia and lobby on issues like the increasing access to the Washington College Grant and housing affordability. In recent years the Associated Students has hosted two separate lobby days, Western Lobby Day and Western Intersectional Lobby Day. Due to budget constraints, we are only able to offer one opportunity for students to lobby. The decision was made to host Western Intersectional Lobby Day as our sole lobby day. We are still working on how we will reflect intersectional identities in the bills students lobby for but are excited to provide this opportunity for students.

### **WWU Foundation Investment in Fossil Fuel**

In January, the Foundation Board responded to the Resolution in Favor of Divestment. This resolution was passed unanimously, supported by the Faculty Senate, and was signed by over 800 students, faculty, and alumni. While we appreciate the response, we are displeased with its content. The student government intends to release a full response, and before then we would like to bring two points to your attention.

First, speaking on behalf of the student government, we are extremely disappointed with the rejection of student and faculty involvement in the RFI process. Previously, students and faculty have been involved in similar processes and the complete removal of their involvement is disheartening. In the memo given we received, it stated, "The Foundation Board's Finance Committee will not be seeking outside involvement in the industry review process." No explicit reason was stated. It is disappointing to have the Foundation, a key part of campus, consider students outsiders when students are the beneficiaries of scholarships provided by the Foundation and past students are donors.

Second, the response mentions the intention to create a website surrounding sustainable investments, but we are hesitant receiving this response due to a similar plan being mentioned in the 2021 student-led project, "Investing in our Future: A Plan for Sustainable Investment at Western Washington University". Three years have passed since this plan was mentioned to students, it is disappointing to see us still in the same place, but we look forward to progressing being made around accessing information on sustainable investments.

Student clubs have been the driver of this movement for over 10 years at Western Washington University. It is disappointing to see their concerns not being addressed and progress being setbacks from the rejection of students and faculty in the RFI process.

## Western Intersectional Lobby Day Legislative Agenda, Draft 6

### **Values Statement:**

The Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) believe that when we invest in students, we are investing in the future workforce and long-term economic growth of Washington State. We ask the Legislature to provide financial aid opportunities that are robust and equitable, contribute to student employment, improve housing availability, and provide inclusive health services to postsecondary educational institutions. Additionally, we believe that investing in the future includes taking steps to make Washington a more sustainable and climate-resilient place to live.

### **Centering Equity & Justice:**

Students with intersecting marginalized identities face multiple systems of oppression and discrimination. This legislative agenda targets systemic issues such as housing, health care, employment discrimination, and wealth disparities to address students' needs, especially marginalized students who are disproportionately affected by these problems which originate from systems of oppression.

- ◇ **Support [HB 1541](#) & [SB 5616](#) Establishing the nothing about us without us act.** Underrepresented populations and historically oppressed groups are often left out of the policy-making process. This bill seeks to remedy this problem by requiring that entities developing policies have representation from the communities they are trying to serve. It is crucial that the communities that are likely to be affected by new policies can have a seat at the table and speak to their lived experiences with these issues and how to best address them.

### **Financial Aid:**

ASWWU believes that investing in financial aid will help students from across the state access higher education. Increasing eligibility for the Washington College Grant (WCG) will encourage more people to pursue higher education and help the state reach its goal of having 70% of adults possess post-secondary credentials. ASWWU also stands in solidarity with incarcerated students and supports increased access to higher education for incarcerated individuals, recognizing the positive effect access to higher education can have on individuals' economic outcomes and well-being.

- ◇ **Support [SB 5999](#) Expanding financial aid eligibility for the WCG to 70% MFI.** This bill would expand financial aid eligibility for the full Washington College Grant from 65% to 70% of the state median family income, allowing more students to access essential financial aid to attend higher education institutions across the state. Currently, 27.3% of WWU students receive the Washington College Grant; if access were expanded, even more students would benefit from reduced financial stress, improving their academic outcomes.
- ◇ **Support [SB 5904](#) Extending the terms of eligibility for financial aid programs from 5 to 6 years of eligibility.** The Washington College Grant currently lasts 15 quarters, but the Pell Grant lasts for 18. An inconsistency like this makes it difficult for low and middle-income students to finish their education. Consistency across programs will help increase access and provide support to lower-income students.
- ◇ **Support [HB 1946](#) Creating the Washington health corps behavioral health scholarship program.** This bill would help medical school students working in behavioral health to pay off

their student loans. Students must work in underserved communities to qualify for this conditional scholarship. This bill would work to address existing inequities in health access and improve overall access to behavioral health services across the state.

- ◇ **Support [SB 5953](#) Concerning financial aid grants for incarcerated students.** This bill would expand accessibility to state and federal financial aid grants to incarcerated students. This access would be highly impactful in allowing incarcerated individuals to improve their post-incarceration economic outcomes and well-being.

### **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.

- ◇ **Support [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.
- ◇ **Support [HB 1889](#) Allowing persons to receive professional licenses and certifications regardless of immigration or citizenship status.** Undocumented students are unintentionally excluded from many 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.
- ◇ **Support [SB 5631](#) Requiring state agencies to clearly identify programs and services which accept applicants with deferred action for childhood arrival status.** The multiple court decisions on the constitutionality and continuation of DACA have caused confusion for those who benefit from it. Such uncertainty can be reduced by requiring state agencies to clearly identify the programs and services available for this population. More specifically, DACA-mented students can be informed of their access to in-state tuition and state financial aid.

### **Health and Wellness:**

ASWWU believes that health and wellness are necessary to be a successful student. We would like to advocate for ensuring that resources are available for mental health, sexual health, and substance abuse treatment. The legislature has an opportunity to provide remedies for victims of sexual assault, support young people experiencing mental health crises and housing vulnerability, and promote education and resources to prevent opioid overdoses.

- ◇ **Support [HB 2242](#) Supporting sexual assault survivors at institutions of higher education.** After being sexually assaulted, it is incredibly difficult to return to life as usual, which often leads to victims dropping

out of school. By providing better support for survivors of assault, we can improve their experience in higher education as well as their overall quality of life. This bill implements a list of rights to which survivors of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and gender-based violence at institutions of higher education are entitled and requires public institutions of higher education to create a Student Health and Safety Committee.

- ◇ Support **HB 1958 Concerning nonconsensual removal of or tampering with a sexually protective device.** Sexual assault on college campuses is unfortunately quite 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.
- ◇ Support **HB 1929 23-24 and SB 6050 23-24 Supporting young adults following inpatient behavioral health treatment.** Mental health struggles are one of the most common reasons Western students drop out, according to the Western Educational Longitudinal Study survey. 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. ASWWU believes that it is essential that young people, students or otherwise, receive adequate support to reenter the community at such a critical juncture in life.
- ◇ Support **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 while aiming to combat the adverse effects of climate change. The four pillars of sustainability as defined by Western include the environment, social equity, economic vitality, and human well-being. As we face these challenges, our students have demonstrated their concern about issues related to sustainability and the many underrepresented communities that unfairly take on the burdens involved.

- ◇ Support **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.
- ◇ Support **HB 2049 Forces companies to create packaging to fund state recycling services.** 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 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.

- ◇ **Support [HB 2301](#) Improving the outcomes associated with waste material management systems, including products affecting organic material management systems.** With rising food costs, many communities are struggling to consistently afford nourishing food. This bill aims to increase food security by overhauling our food waste system. In the US, 40% of our food is wasted, creating greenhouse gas emissions in the form of methane. This bill pushes to meet US and WA goals of reducing food waste by 50% by 2030 through upcycling food and redirecting waste to be composted. With over 45% of students at WWU claiming that they are facing food insecurity, this bill would make a huge positive impact on our student body. It creates a comprehensive plan to standardize many systems while making aspects like food composting more accessible as well, which would directly benefit off-campus WWU students living in apartment complexes.
- ◇ **Support [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 graduates.

### **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 most 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 must 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.

- ◇ **Support [HB 2114 23-24](#) and [SB 5961](#) Improving housing stability for tenants subject to the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act.** This bill works to stabilize the rental housing market 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.
- ◇ **Support [HB 2160 23-24](#) and [SB 5466](#) Promoting community and transit-oriented housing development.** This Bill will create a positive change for students by offering reasonable and affordable housing options. Additionally, it will allow students without/unable to operate automobile, facilitate transit commuting. Students will be able to access more food and off-campus resources and student housing will be less geographically concentrated but still accessible from campus.

### **Protections for the LGBTQ+ Community and Reproductive Rights**

- ◇ In our nation's tumultuous political climate, the ASWWU would like to express our appreciation that Washington State continuously protects the rights and freedoms of members of the LGBTQ+ community. We would like to thank the members of the legislature who remain committed to upholding LGBTQ+ rights and ask that you continue to do so as long as they are under attack.

- ◇ While Washington State has expansive access to abortion and has established itself as a sanctuary state for reproductive rights, the ASWWU believes that more can be done to support pregnancy care options. Including but not limited to, HJR 4201 which would enshrine the right to an abortion in the state constitution, require Crisis Pregnancy Centers to provide accurate information upfront to those seeking abortions and other sexual health care services, and make abortion pills accessible at student health centers on campuses at public universities.

### **Conclusion:** [OBJ]

The ASWWU offers its sincere gratitude to members of the Legislature for their time and consideration of our policy priorities for this session. As emphasized throughout this agenda, intersectionality requires us to reflect on the impacts of legislation in different communities. In anticipation of our University Administration's capital budget request for the 2025-2026 biennium, we urge the Legislature to ensure funding for critical programs that support the needs of marginalized communities on our campus. Specifically, departments that focus on mental health, disability access, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The financial capacity of the Counseling and Wellness Center determines its ability to meet the mental health needs of our student body. College students worry about their academic success while also keeping in mind the social, political, and environmental aspects of their future. The individualized care needed in many of these cases, especially when marginalized identities are at play, is an essential part of overall student success.

The Disability Access Center (DAC) serves 20% of our student population as a result, each of our Access Managers manages several hundred cases. Increasing funding will allow the DAC to adequately serve students by hiring more access managers and a pro staff member to oversee the Disability Outreach Center. This program is primarily student-led and provides disabled students with a sense of community, and connection to campus resources, as well as educational programming on disability topics.

Through Multicultural Student Services, the Disability Access Center, and LGBTQ+ Western, our university addresses the challenges and needs that students who have been historically underrepresented in higher education have to overcome. What these spaces are ultimately creating is a community for students to learn about these resources, to actively seek support, and to see themselves as capable of being successful.

Centering marginalized identities is relevant to the success of each student individually and to the University at large, by helping increase retention, completion, and enrollment rates. To meet the state's 70% attainment goal, we must remain committed to Access, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and supporting the needs of all students in and outside of the classroom.





## AS Parliamentary Procedures

This procedure describes how governing body and committee meetings are run.  
**Specific Rules:** The governing bodies of the ASWWU and committees that act on behalf of them must adhere to the Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30.

### I. General Principles

Rather than referencing standing rules of order (e.g., Robert's Rules, Reed's Rules) when questions or ambiguities arise out of these procedures, the **Chair should make a fair ruling** with consideration to these general principles:

1. **One person speaks at a time.**
2. **The chair of a [voting body](#) will recognize or call upon those who wish to speak.**
3. **Voting bodies will consider one item at a time.**
4. **The will of the majority shall determine the [voting body's](#) action.**
5. **The rights of the minority are preserved.**
6. **The public (students) are informed of actions taken or considered by a [voting body](#).**

### II. Holding a meeting

1. **A date, time, place, and agenda are set for a meeting.**  
Voting bodies will often regularly schedule meetings: weekly, bi-weekly, etc.
2. **The chair calls the meeting to order.**  
This marks the start of this meeting's proceedings.
3. **The chair moves the [voting body](#) through the agenda, sponsors present their agenda items, voting members may make motions.**  
Each agenda item is subject to action by the [voting body](#). A [voting](#) member of the [voting body](#) may move to take some action on the item (e.g., "[Last Name] moves to approve [item]").
4. **The chair adjourns the meeting.**  
The marks the end of the meeting's proceedings.

### III. Presenting an agenda item

1. **The chair asks the sponsor to present their item.**  
The chair may cede a set amount of time to the sponsor: this amount may be stipulated in the agenda.

**2. The sponsor presents their item.**

The sponsor may present their item in whatever manner they wish, within reason. Typically, sponsors go through an associated document or presentation. This initial presentation should only take up a portion of the allotted time.

**3. The sponsor opens the discussion.**

Members will seek recognition to participate in the discussion. The chair will recognize speakers. The chair may elect to have sponsors recognize speakers, temporarily delegating facilitation.

**4. Discussion ends.**

Discussion ends when the allotted time expires (the chair or designee will keep time), when conversation slows or stops and the chair transitions to the next item, or when a relevant, substantive motion passes. Discussion is paused while motions are considered.

**5. Discussion continues.**

Discussion may continue if a motion to add time to the discussion passes: the new time remaining in the discussion will be the balance of the current allotment plus the time added.

**IV. Considering and passing a motion**

**1. A voting member of the [voting body](#) is recognized by the chair and makes a motion.**

An example of a motion would be: "I move to table the parliamentary procedure discussion."

**2. The chair affirms or contests that the motion is in order.**

Affirmation may take the explicit form "the motion is in order" or is implied when the chair asks for seconds.

A contesting may take the form "the motion is not in order..." the chair should always explain why the motion is not in order and give the proposing member the opportunity to correct or withdraw the motion.

A motion is in order if it applies to the agenda item under consideration or if it's procedural in nature.

**3. A second is made by another voting member.**

E.g., "[last name] seconds the motion" or "[last name] seconds." If no second is made, the motion dies.

**4. The chair opens discussion on the motion.**

For example, "moved and seconded, do we have any discussion?"

If there's no comments, the chair closes the discussion and holds a vote.

**5. The chair holds a vote.**

The number of votes needed for a motion to pass can vary: the chair will let the [voting body](#) know the vote threshold (e.g., 11/20 for a simple majority (50%+1) or 15/20 for 3/4ths)

*There are few ways to vote:*

A vote by acclamation or a vote by unanimous consent is one where no member objects. This is often done by the chair asking, “are there any objections [to this motion]?”

A voice vote is one where each side (yes, no, abstention) says their vote aloud in series. The chair would ask “those in favor say ‘aye’... those against say ‘nay’... those abstaining say ‘aye’...” and then estimate the results by ear.

A vote by show of hands is one where each side raises their hand in series. The chair might say “those in favor raise your hands... those against raise your hands ... those abstaining raise your hands...” and count the hands for each side.

The ASWWU tends to combine the voice vote and show of hands. This is the middle ground between accuracy and efficiency.

A vote by electronic means is one where each member types out their vote into the meeting chat or otherwise casts their vote electronically.

A roll-call vote is one where the chair goes through the list of all members of the [voting body](#) and asks each of them how they vote (yes, no, abstention). This form of voting is time-intensive and is usually only used for contentious votes or transparency.

**6. All present [voting](#) members of the [voting body](#) vote; the chair and secretary record the votes.**

If the vote is not unanimous or it’s a roll-call vote, the chair and secretary should record the names of the voting members who voted yes or no, or who abstained.

**7. The chair announces the result of the vote.**

This usually takes the form of “this motion passes unanimously” or “this motion passes 12-1-0.” The vote counts are usually written out in the order of yes-no-abstentions. The chair should give opportunity for those dissenting to explain their vote.

**V. [Amending a motion](#)**

Note: A motion to amend should not be itself amended. While not usually out of order, amending an amendment is inefficient. Usually, the first amendment should first be defeated and then another amendment moved and seconded.

**1. A [voting](#) member of the [voting body](#) moves to amend a motion.**

A motion to amend is like any other motion and follows the procedure in [Section III](#).

**2. The [voting body](#) considers the motion to amend.**

**3. The [voting body](#) returns to considering the original motion, with or without the amendments depending on passage of the amendment.**

In some cases the motion to amend may be worded as a competing motion (i.e., the original motion is “motion to approve policy A” and the motion to amend is “motion to approve policy A with X amendments”). In these cases, at the discretion of the chair, an affirmative vote on the motion to amend may be taken as an affirmative vote on the original motion.

**VI. [Overruling the Chair](#)**

**1. When a voting member objects to a procedural ruling of the chair, they may move to overrule the chair.**

A motion to overrule the chair is like any other motion and follows the procedure in [Section III](#).

**Global Definitions: these definitions are consistent across all AS/VU Policies, see Master Definition List**

Voting Body – The governing bodies or committees of the ASWWU.

**Procedure-specific definitions**

Sponsor –A member of the voting body that’s bringing an item to the agenda.

Chair – The person with the authority to preside over the meeting of the voting body (e.g, Chair or Vice-chair).

Agenda – The list of topics planned for discussion and/or action during a meeting.

[Return to Procedure](#)

**Procedure Information:**

**PRO-AS-GOV-02**

**AS Parliamentary Procedure**

**Procedure Owner:** ASWWU Government

**This procedure cancels:** AS Board Parliamentary Procedures (ASB-14-W-45, Feb. 19, 2014)

**Procedure Approved By:** ASWWU Government (SEN-23-F-20; NOT YET APPROVED BY EB)

**Effective Date:** 02/09/2024

**See also:**

AS Governance [Rules of Operation](#) [GUD-AS-GOV-03]

AS Student Government Handbook, Meeting Agenda Guidelines

AS Student Government Handbook, Parliamentary Procedure Quick Reference Guide

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## AS Governance Rules of Operation

This guidance describes how [voting bodies](#) operate outside of meetings.

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**Specific Rules:** The governing bodies of the ASWWU and committees that act on behalf of them must adhere to the Open Public Meetings Act, [RCW 42.30](#).

### Scheduling meetings

- 1. At the beginning of each quarter the voting body's secretary determines members' availability.**  
The secretary and the chair collaborate to determine the best time for regular meetings. Alternatively, the chair may decide to stick with the fall quarter meeting times throughout the whole year.
- 2. The secretary makes publicly available the schedule of meetings.**  
The secretary and advisor ensure that the public disclosure adheres to the Open Public Meetings Act, [RCW 42.30](#).

### Making the agenda

- 1. The secretary and chair agree to an agenda-making process.**  
A written agreement of agenda timelines and process should be made before the first meeting of the voting body.
- 2. The chair has the final say on the agenda.**  
All voting members can propose agenda items.
- 3. The secretary makes publicly available the meeting agenda.**  
The secretary and advisor ensure that the public disclosure adheres to the Open Public Meetings Act, [RCW 42.30](#).

### Preparing for the meeting

- 1. Members review the meeting documents.**  
Members review previous meeting minutes, the agenda, and agenda documents. Members form opinions and questions on agenda items where applicable.
- 2. The secretary invites the appropriate guests.**

### Acting on agenda items

- 1. The [voting body](#) will address an agenda item in at least two meetings before action.**  
The item will be introduced in the first meeting. The item will be voted on in a later meeting. The item may be brought to the body as many times as necessary. The [voting body](#) may take action on the item in the first meeting if it deems such acceleration reasonable.

### Keeping records

- 1. Item sponsors keep track of document changes between meetings.**  
Edits are clearly noted. Source documents are retained and shared with the secretary.
- 2. Approved documents are finalized and made publicly available.**  
The item sponsor and the [voting body](#)'s chair or advisor work together to prepare the document(s) for public release.
- 3. The secretary keeps meeting minutes and makes them publicly available.**  
A voting body will approve minutes before they are made publicly available.
- 4. Voting bodies will retain agendas, minutes, meeting documents, and approved documents in an organized way.**  
The advisor will ensure that records are retained in compliance with applicable policy, regulation, and law.

### Changing operations

- 1. Committees of the ASWWU may adopt their own [Rules of Operation](#).**  
These rules should be seen as guidance, not a mandate. The spirit and intent of these guidelines should be used in their interpretation.

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#### **Global Definitions: consistent across all AS/VU Policies, see Master Definition List**

Voting Body – The governing bodies or committees of the ASWWU.

[Return to Guidance](#)

#### **Guidance Information:**

**GUD-AS-GOV-03**

**AS Governance Rules of Operation**

**Guidance Owner:** ASWWU Government

**This guidance cancels:** AS Board Meeting Operational Guidelines (ASB-14-W-45, Feb. 19, 2014)

**Guidance Approved By:** ASWWU Government (SEN-23-F-21, NOT YET APPROVED BY EB)

**Effective Date:** [02/08/2024](#)

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#### **See also:**

AS Parliamentary Procedure [PRO-AS-GOV-02]

AS Student Government Handbook, Meeting Agenda Guidelines

AS Student Government Handbook, Parliamentary Procedure Quick Reference Guide

# The ASWWU Constitution

## The Associated Students of Western Washington University

*Approved in Spring 2024 General Election.*

### Preamble

The Associated Students of Western Washington University has the right and responsibility to serve as a resource and advocate for all students. For this purpose, the Associated Students of Western Washington University shall, (1) represent student interests and opinions to the University Administration, the Board of Trustees, faculty governance structures, and appropriate external bodies, (2) support student success in their academic endeavors, (3) foster students' rights and responsibilities, (4) inform students on the proceedings of the Associated Students and of the University, (5) provide opportunities for student engagement through clubs, activities, and programming, and (6) promote the general welfare of all students.

### Article I. Name & Membership

#### Section A – Name

This association shall be known as the Associated Students of Western Washington University, hereinafter called the ASWWU.

#### Section B – Membership

The membership of the ASWWU shall consist of all persons who are currently enrolled students at Western Washington University.

### Article II. Elections

#### Section A – Voting Membership

Consistent with the ASWWU Student Government Charter, 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.

#### Section B – General Elections

During spring quarter, the voting membership of the ASWWU shall decide referenda and initiatives and elect its officers to the ASWWU Government (Article III). Terms begin on the Saturday of spring commencement and end the Friday of spring finals week after one academic year. Election results shall be certified by the Office of Civic Engagement.

#### Section C – Special Elections

Special elections may be held at any time for the purpose of deciding recalls, filling vacant elected positions, or deciding initiatives and referenda.

#### Section D – Referendum

A referendum to the membership of the ASWWU may be initiated by a majority vote of the Executive Board or Student Senate and included in any election.

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No rights or privileges of membership in the ASWWU, including that of the right to vote, shall be assignable by any member. Each member shall have one vote at a meeting of the whole ASWWU.

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Student Senate elections shall be held during spring quarter. Terms begin on the Saturday of spring commencement and end the Friday of spring finals week after one academic year. Election results shall be acknowledged by the Executive Board. ¶

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**Section E – Initiatives**

An initiative requires a petition containing the verified signatures of no less than forty percent (40%) of the number of votes cast in the last general election.

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**Section F – Recall**

Recall of any elected member of the ASWWU government may be initiated by: a majority vote of the Executive Board, a majority vote of the Student Senate, or by a petition containing no less than forty percent (40%) of the number of votes cast in the last general election. The removal of the elected member shall then be decided by the membership of the ASWWU via a special election.

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**Section G – Election Code**

Article III. The Office of Civic Engagement, via committee, shall maintain an election code. The ASWWU election code shall apply to all general elections, special elections, referendum, initiatives, and recalls regarding process and deadlines. The election code will conform to this Constitution. If any provision of the election code conflicts with this constitution, that provision will be null and void. The election code shall not be changed during an active election. Election results shall be verified as fair and appropriate by the Office of Civic Engagement.

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**Structure**

**Section A – ASWWU Government**

The ASWWU Government shall be the governing board of the ASWWU. It shall consist of an Executive Board and a Student Senate. The rights and responsibilities of the whole ASWWU are vested in these two bodies.

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¶ Student Senate

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1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following elected officers:
  - a. President, Chair of the Executive Board (non-voting except in the case of ties)
  - b. Vice President for Activities
  - c. Vice President for Diversity
  - d. Vice President for Governmental Affairs
  - e. Vice President for Student Services
  - f. Vice President for Sustainability
2. The Student Senate will consist of the following elected officers:
  - a. Senate President, Chair of the Student Senate (non-voting except in the case of ties)
  - b. Two Student Senators from each of the following colleges:
    - i. College of Business and Economics
    - ii. College of Fine and Performing Arts
    - iii. College of Humanities and Social Sciences
    - iv. College of Science and Engineering
    - v. Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies
    - vi. Graduate School
    - vii. Huxley College of the Environment
    - viii. Woodring College of Education
  - c. Four Student Senators to represent students At-Large



**Section B – Permanent Bodies**

1. An Elections Committee shall be chartered by the Office of Civic Engagement. This committee will maintain the elections code (Article II, Section F). The ASWWU Government shall have no authority over the Elections Committee but may be represented on the committee.
2. An Ethics Board shall be maintained by the Office of Civic Engagement. This board will ensure that the elections of the ASWWU are ethically handled. The ASWWU Government shall have no authority over the Ethics Board.
3. A Finance Council shall be chartered by the ASWWU Government for the purpose of advising and assisting the student government in fiscal matters.
4. A Program Council shall be chartered by the ASWWU Government for the purpose of advising and assisting the student government in programming and organizational matters.

**Article IV. Meetings of Governing Bodies**

**Section A – Quorum**

A majority of currently seated officers shall constitute a quorum for all governing bodies of the ASWWU. The governing bodies may only take final action when a quorum is present.

**Section B – Voting**

In order for a motion to pass, it must obtain a majority of the legal votes cast.

**Section C – Open Public Meetings (RCW 42.30)**

All meetings of the Executive Board and Student Senate shall adhere to the Open Public Meeting Act of Washington State with notice to the public at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.

**Article V. Powers and Granted Authorities**

**Section A – ASWWU**

The ASWWU shall hold all rights associated with its recognition as a recognized student association under state law.

**Section B – ASWWU Government**

Jointly, the Executive Board and Student Senate shall:

1. Establish the structures necessary to govern the ASWWU;
2. Delegate their vested powers to ensure the efficient operations of the ASWWU;
3. Appropriate the funds allocated to the ASWWU and act with fiduciary responsibility with regards to the assets of the ASWWU;
4. Formulate the official opinion of the ASWWU through a joint resolution;
5. Exercise and delegate the authorities granted to the Student Government in article 4 of the ASWWU Student Government Charter:
  - 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.

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**General Elections¶**

Executive Board elections shall be held during spring quarter. Terms begin on the Saturday of spring commencement and end the Friday of spring finals week after one academic year. Election results shall be acknowledged by the Student Senate.¶

Student Senate elections shall be held during spring quarter. Terms begin on the Saturday of spring commencement and end the Friday of spring finals week after one academic year. Election results shall be acknowledged by the Executive Board.¶

**Special Elections¶**

Special elections may be held at any time for the purpose of deciding recalls, filling vacant elected positions, or deciding issues concerning students.¶

**Referendum¶**

A referendum to the membership of the ASWWU may be initiated by a majority vote of the Executive Board or Student Senate and included in any election.¶

**Initiatives¶**

An initiative measure shall be referred to the membership of the ASWWU upon receipt of a petition containing the verified signatures of no less than five percent of the membership of the ASWWU.¶

**Recall¶**

Recall of any elected member of the ASWWU government may be initiated by: a majority vote of the Executive Board, a three-fourths majority vote of the Student Senate, or by a petition containing no less than forty percent of the number of votes cast in the last election. The removal of the elected member shall then be decided by the membership of the ASWWU via a recall election.¶

**Election Code¶**

The provisions set forth in the ASWWU election code shall apply to all general elections, special elections, referendum, initiatives, and recalls regarding process and deadlines. The election code shall not be changed during an active election. Election results shall be verified as fair and appropriate by the AS Elections Coordinator.¶

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To employ student staff in a manner consistent with the policies and procedures of the University.¶  
To administer monies allocated to the ASWWU by the Services and Activities Fee to ensure continuous, safe, and efficient operations.¶

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- 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.
- g. Obtain and review information on the affairs of the University.
- h. At the request of University committee chairs, to appoint student representatives to standing University committees, and to other bodies.
- i. 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.
- j. Manage its allocated funds in accordance with regulations, policies, and procedures of the university and with fiduciary responsibility on behalf of students.
- k. Participate in the management of the AS Bookstore's net operating revenues, where applicable.

**Section C – ASWWU Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall be granted the authority to fulfill its duties within the provisions set forth herein.

The Executive Board shall have the authority:

- 1. To serve as the primary body of representation and advocacy for student needs in university governance structures relating to student services, activities, diversity, sustainability, and governmental affairs.
- 2. Formulate the official opinion of the Executive Board through a resolution.
- 3. To sit on and appoint student representatives to standing and ad hoc committees relating to student services activities, diversity, sustainability, and governmental affairs and Associated Students committees in coordination with the Student Senate.
- 4. To obtain information and provide recommendations with regard to university administration pertaining to student services.

**Section D – ASWWU Student Senate**

The Student Senate shall be granted the authority to fulfill its duties within the provisions set forth herein and to act in any University related matters while adhering to University policies and procedures. The ASWWU Student Senate shall have the authority:

- 1. To serve as the primary body of representation and advocacy for student needs in university governance structures relating to academic affairs and related structures.
- 2. To sit on and appoint student representatives on standing and ad hoc committees relating to academic affairs and Associated Students committees in coordination with the Executive Board.
- 3. To obtain information and provide recommendations with regard to university administration pertaining to academic affairs.
- 4. To formulate the official opinion of the Student Senate through a resolution.

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## Article VI. Amendments and Bylaws

### Section A – Bylaws

~~The Student Senate and Executive Board~~ shall have the authority to adopt and amend their respective bylaws, ~~with the consent of the other~~. This shall be done for the purpose of ~~structuring~~ their respective branches in a manner consistent with this constitution and the policies and procedures of the University.

### Section B – Constitutional Amendments

All amendments to this constitution must be approved by a majority vote of the ASWWU ~~in a general or special election (Article II)~~ and will be presented to the ~~University President for their acknowledgement~~.

### Section C – ~~Abolition of the whole ASWWU~~

~~Consistent with the ASWWU Charter, the ASWWU may only be abolished by a vote of its membership. To abolish the whole ASWWU, a majority (50%+1) vote of at least ten percent (10%) of the voting membership of the ASWWU must be obtained. In such case, the ASWWU Charter, this ASWWU Constitution, and all other ASWWU structures become null and void at the end of the academic year in which the vote is held. This would include both the AS Student Government and the AS Programs and Services.~~

### Section D – Abolition of the Student Government

~~Consistent with the ASWWU Student Government Charter, the Student Government may only be abolished by a vote of the voting membership of the ASWWU. To abolish the Student Government, a majority (50%+1) vote of at least five percent (5%) of the membership of the ASWWU must be obtained. In such case, all ASWWU structures relating to student government shall become null and void at the end of the academic year in which the vote is held.~~

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