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 work – do critical work across Western Washington University from keeping students safe to keeping facilities running to maintaining programs and services; and

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 Washington University voluntarily recognize the OSE bargaining unit [1]; and

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 Washington University recognizes the OSE bargaining unit [3]; and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University is capable of voluntarily recognizing the OSE bargaining unit; and

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

WHEREAS, Western Washington University already has a relationship with WAWU-UAW; and

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

WHEREAS, within this 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

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

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

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

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 Washington University, OSEs, the membership of the ASWWU, and the public; and

THAT, the ASWWU requests that Western Washington University

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

Introduced Jan. 10, 2023, in the Student Senate.

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


