



ASWWU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Documents for:

February 28th, 2024 | 5:30 PM | VU 567,
YouTube Live

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**Associated Students of
Western Washington University**

**Student Trustee Selection Committee
Charge & Charter**

Expires December 1, 2030

I. CHARGE

The purpose of the Student Trustee Selection Committee is to recommend three to five Student Trustee candidates to the Governor of the State of Washington.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Voting:

AS President or designee (Chair)

AS Student Senate President or designee

Current Student Trustee or designee

1 Student Employee from Accessibility, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (ADEI):
Ethnic Student Center, Disability Outreach Center, or LGBTQ+
(appointed by the MCSS Director)

1 Student Representative from Residence Hall Association, National Residence
Hall Honorary, or Student Union Advisory Group

2 Students At-Large

Non-voting:

Executive Director for Student Engagement or Pro-Staff designee

No member can be an applicant for the Student Trustee position.

III. CHAIR

The Chairperson shall be the AS President or their selected designee. They shall convene the meetings, develop and approve agendas, and preside at all meetings. The Vice Chairperson shall be selected at the discretion of the committee and acts in the absence of the Chairperson.

IV. MEETINGS

Meetings shall be called by the Chairperson. The committee shall begin meeting in the first three weeks of Spring Quarter, and all meetings shall be called with a minimum of twenty-four hours' notice.

V. VOTING

For a motion to pass, it must obtain a majority of the legal votes cast from seated voting membership. An abstention shall not count as a legal vote cast.

VI. QUORUM

A majority of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present, the Chairperson will adjourn the meeting and reschedule to a new date and time.

VII. SUBCOMMITTEES

To provide for coordination and direction, the committee may establish subcommittees as necessary. Unless otherwise noted, these groups shall follow the provisions of the council with respect to procedure.

VIII. RULES OF OPERATIONS

The committee may adopt and amend the Rules of Operations governing its operation by a majority vote of the committee. Potential conflict of interest in the Student Trustee Selection Committee arises because of frequent overlap in AS Student employees and Student Trustee applicants. To address this and privacy concerns regarding hiring processes and access to application materials, this committee's Rules of Operations are not subject to review by the AS Executive Board and AS Student Senate whilst operating. This will limit the number of people involved in decision-making in an effort to maintain confidentiality.

When three to five Student Trustee candidates have been selected, this information will be forwarded by the Chairperson to the WWU President's office and to the Washington State Governor's Office.

IX. AMENDMENTS

This Charter may be amended by a majority vote of the committee whilst operating. Otherwise, this charter may be amended by a majority vote of the AS Executive Board and AS Student Senate.

X. REPORTAGE

This committee shall approve and report the final three to five Student Trustee candidates to the Governor of the State of Washington. To address potential concerns surrounding conflict of interest and privacy of Student Trustee selection, members of this committee must not report to the AS Executive Board and AS Student Senate.



**A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Sen. J.Res. 2023/24-03**

“Supporting Muslim Students Seeking Religious Accommodations for Ramadan”

WHEREAS, The Associated Students of Western Washington University recognizes the diverse backgrounds represented in our campus community, and

WHEREAS, the holy month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, occurs every year [1], and

WHEREAS, this month is of importance to the approximate 1.8 billion followers of Islam, including many Western Washington University students, staff, and faculty [2], and

WHEREAS, ~~this year the month of Ramadan lasts from around March 10 to April 8, 2024 [3], and~~

WHEREAS, during Ramadan, Muslim students abstain from food and water from dawn to dusk, or sunrise to sunset, whilst adhering to the month’s spiritual traditions of prayer, meditation, reflection, and maintenance of good character [4, 5], and

WHEREAS, Muslim students may adhere to differing conditions in the observance of Ramadan due to cultural and religious variability [6], and

WHEREAS, fasting is a mandatory act for all Muslims who are able and fulfills one of five pillars of Islam, Sawm [1], and

WHEREAS, this act of worship takes a mental and physical toll on Muslim students that may impair day-to-day functioning, such as difficulty completing assignments, taking exams at certain times, and attending classes [7], and

WHEREAS, for many Muslim students this toll will be in addition to the mental and physical toll caused by the catastrophic Israeli siege on Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem in Palestine, and

WHEREAS, for many Muslim students these tolls are in addition to the mental and physical toll caused by the continued and lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including long-COVID, and

WHEREAS, Muslim students may experience food insecurity due to the limited availability of dining options that recognize and accommodate the observance of Ramadan [5], and

WHEREAS, ~~during the second half of Ramadan, the residential dining halls will not be open before sunrise [8, 9], and~~

WHEREAS, ~~during the entirety of Ramadan, the residential dining halls will not have regular dinner service after sunset [8, 9], and~~

WHEREAS, there is mental, spiritual, and physical risk to Muslim students observing Ramadan in Bellingham due to a recognized history of Islamophobia [10], and

WHEREAS, there has been an acute rise in Islamophobia and racism in Bellingham and at Western that has placed additional mental, spiritual, and physical risk on our Muslim students, and

WHEREAS, Eid al-Fitr, a three-day holiday of celebration with friends and families occurs directly after Ramadan [11], and

WHEREAS, Ramadan may be difficult for Muslim students who are away from their families, and

WHEREAS, in this context, the ASWWU further recognizes that to foster an environment that embodies our strategic mission of “inclusive success,” we must be sensitive to and honor the needs of all students, staff, and faculty, and

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WHEREAS, Senate Bill 5166, effective July 8, 2019, states, “educational institutions must develop policies to accommodate students’ absences to allow students to take holidays for reasons of faith or conscience... so that students’ grades are not adversely impacted by the absences” [12]; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 5166 also states that faculty members are required to “accommodate students who, due to observance of religious holidays, expect to be absent or endure a significant hardship during certain days of the course or program” [12].

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

THAT, the ASWWU respects and supports the needs of our Muslim students; and

THAT, the ASWWU acknowledges the diversity among our Muslim students; and

THAT, the ASWWU Student Government is willing to help individual students receive the accommodations they need, if such help is requested; and

THAT, the ASWWU encourages Muslim students to seek religious accommodations for spring quarter under their Senate Bill 5166 rights by reaching out to their instructors; and

THAT, the ASWWU requests that the administration and faculty acknowledge that Ramadan takes place from around March 10 to April 8 this year; and,

THAT, the ASWWU requests that faculty members and instructors

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1) acknowledge that Ramadan begins the week before Winter Quarter Finals,

2) are proactive about recognizing Ramadan, and encourage students to seek accommodations,

3) refrain from implementing unconditional Ramadan accommodations for all Muslim students and instead work with Muslim students on a case-by-case basis to define reasonable Ramadan accommodations,

4) are courteous with reasonable absences of Muslim students due to the observance of Ramadan,

5) are courteous with 11:59 p.m. deadlines, and if a student who is fasting needs to complete their assignment during the hours after sunset, implement a 24-hour grace period with no impact to the student’s grades,

6) allow exams and quizzes to be taken with reasonable accommodations, including at a different time, as discussed between the student and instructor; and

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THAT, the ASWWU requests that the Dean of each college ensure that this document is sent to each Department Chair, faculty member, and instructor; and

THAT, the ASWWU requests that University Dining Services, Dining at WWU (Chartwells) provides food options that accommodate the observance of Ramadan, including providing extended full-service hours before sunrise and after sunset, and that the University Administration ensure the provision of such accommodations.

- [1] <https://www.muslimaid.org/media-centre/blog/spiritual-benefits-of-ramadan/>
- [2] <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/08/09/muslims-and-islam-key-findings-in-the-u-s-and-around-the-world/>
- [3] <https://www.islamicfinder.org/special-islamic-days/ramadan-2024/>
- [4] <https://www.eatright.org/food/cultural-cuisines-and-traditions/holidays-and-celebrations/ramadan-the-practice-of-fasting>
- [5] <https://feed.georgetown.edu/access-affordability/supporting-muslim-college-students-during-ramadan/>
- [6] <https://www.bpl.org/blogs/post/the-origins-and-practices-of-holidays-ramadan/>
- [7] <https://muslimlife.wfu.edu/ramadan-accommodations/impact-on-students/>
- [8] "A Wave of Transformation: A Customized Dining/Foodservice Proposal: Request for Proposal – PH-23-7798" (Chartwells dining contract proposal) p. 103. Accessed via Public Records Request # P000774-072123.
- [9] <https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/usa/bellingham?month=2>
- [10] <https://noisywatersnw.com/2017/08/18/bellinghams-fortress-of-faith-listed-as-a-hate-group-by-the-spl-facebook-post-sj-robson/>
- [11] <https://www.bpl.org/blogs/post/the-origins-and-practices-of-holidays-laylat-al-qadr-aid-al-fitr/>
- [12] <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5166-S.PL.pdf?q=20230227145715>