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Associated Students of Western Washington University
Student Trustee Selection Committee Charge & Charter

I. CHARGE
The purpose of the Student Trustee Selection Committee is to recommend three to five (3-5) 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 (Vice Chair)
- Current Student Trustee
- 1 Student Employee from Accessibility, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (ADEI): Ethnic Student Center, Disability Outreach Center, LGBTQ+ (appointed by the MCSS Director)
- 1 Student Employee from Residence Hall Association (RHA) or Student Union Advisory Group Member
- 2 Students At-Large

Non-voting:
- Executive Director for Student Engagement (or designee)

No member can be an applicant for the Student Trustee position

III. CHAIR
The Chairperson shall be the AS President, or designee. They shall convene the meetings, 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 Chair. The committee shall meet by the first full week of spring quarter, and all meetings shall be called with a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours’ notice.

V. VOTING
In order for a motion to pass, it must obtain a majority of the legal votes cast. 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 Chair will adjourn the meeting and reschedule to a new day and hour.

VII. 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.
VIII. 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.

XI. AMENDMENTS
This Charter may be amended by a majority vote of the AS Executive Board.

X. REPORTAGE
This committee shall report to the AS Executive Board through the AS President or designated Board member, who will approve and forward the final 3 – 5 student nominees 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 [3], 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

DRAFT RESOLUTION / NOT YET APPROVED

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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].

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 6 this year; and

THAT, the ASWWU requests that faculty members and instructors:

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

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.
andaround-the-world/
thepractice-of-fasting
[5] https://feed.georgetown.edu/access-affordability/supporting-muslim-college-students-during-
ramadan/
[7] https://muslimlife.wfu.edu/ramadan-accommodations/impact-on-students/
7798” (Chartwells dining contract proposal) p. 103. Accessed via Public Records Request # P000774-
072123.
splcfacebook-post-sj-robson/
[12] https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5166-
S_PL.pdf?q=20230227165715