



ASWWU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Documents for:

March 7th, 2024 | 5:30 PM | VU 567, Teams
Town Hall

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**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**,~~

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 [3, 4, 5], and

WHEREAS, Muslim students may adhere to differing conditions in the observance of Ramadan due to cultural and religious variability [56], 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 [76], 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 [54], 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 have less than an hour of 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 [107], 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 [118], 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

45 **WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 5166, effective July 8, 2019, states, “educational institutions must develop policies to
46 accommodate students’ absences to allow students to take holidays for reasons of faith or conscience... so
47 that students’ grades are not adversely impacted by the absences” [129]; and
48 **WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 5166 also states that faculty members are required to “accommodate students who,
49 due to observance of religious holidays, expect to be absent or endure a significant hardship during certain
50 days of the course or program” [129].

51
52 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY:**

53
54 **THAT**, the ASWWU respects and supports the needs of our Muslim students; and
55 **THAT**, the ASWWU acknowledges the diversity among our Muslim students; and
56 **THAT**, the ASWWU Student Government is willing to help individual students receive the accommodations
57 they need, if such help is requested; and
58 **THAT**, the ASWWU encourages Muslim students to seek religious accommodations for spring quarter under
59 their Senate Bill 5166 rights by reaching out to their instructors; and
60 **THAT**, the ASWWU requests that
61 **THAT**, the administration and faculty acknowledge that Ramadan begins over 2023 Spring Break takes place
62 from around March 10 to April 8 this year; and;
63 **THAT**, the ASWWU requests that faculty members and instructors

- 64 1) acknowledge that Ramadan begins the week before Winter Quarter Finals,
- 65 2) are proactive about recognizing Ramadan, and encourage students to seek accommodations,
- 66 3) faculty members refrain from implementing unconditional Ramadan accommodations for all
67 Muslim students and instead work with Muslim students on a case-by-case basis to define
68 reasonable Ramadan accommodations,
- 69 4) faculty members are courteous with reasonable absences of Muslim students due to the
70 observance of Ramadan,
- 71 5) faculty members are courteous with 11:59 p.m. deadlines, and if a student who is fasting
72 needs to complete their assignment during the hours after sunset, implement a 24-hour grace
73 period with no impact to the student’s grades,
- 74 6) allow exams, and quizzes, if strictly timed and on limited hours, can to be taken with
75 reasonable accommodations, including at a different time, as discussed between the student and
76 instructor; and

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

79 **THAT**, the ASWWU requests that ;University Dining Services, Dining at WWU (Chartwells) provides food
80 options that accommodate the observance of Ramadan, including providing adequate full-service hours
81 before sunrise and after sunset and providing for take-out options; and that the University Administration
82 ensure the provision of such accommodations.

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- 84 [1] <https://www.muslimaid.org/media-centre/blog/spiritual-benefits-of-ramadan/>
85 [2] [https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/08/09/muslims-and-islam-key-findings-in-the-u-s-
86 and-around-the-world/](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/08/09/muslims-and-islam-key-findings-in-the-u-s-and-around-the-world/)
87 [3] <https://www.islamicfinder.org/special-islamic-days/ramadan-2024/>
88 [4] [https://www.eatright.org/food/cultural-cuisines-and-traditions/holidays-and-celebrations/ramadan-
89 thepractice-of-fasting](https://www.eatright.org/food/cultural-cuisines-and-traditions/holidays-and-celebrations/ramadan-the-practice-of-fasting)
90 [5] [https://feed.georgetown.edu/access-affordability/supporting-muslim-college-students-during-
91 ramadan/](https://feed.georgetown.edu/access-affordability/supporting-muslim-college-students-during-ramadan/)
92 [6] <https://www.bpl.org/blogs/post/the-origins-and-practices-of-holidaysramadan/>
93 [7] <https://muslimlife.wfu.edu/ramadan-accommodations/impact-on-students/>
94 [8] <https://dineoncampus.com/WWU/dining-halls>
95 [8] “A Wave of Transformation: A Customized Dining/Foodservice Proposal: Request for Proposal—PH-23-
96 7798” (Chartwells dining contract proposal) p. 103. Accessed via Public Records Request # P000774-
97 072423.
98 [9] <https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/usa/bellingham?month=2>
99 [10] [https://noisywatersnw.com/2017/08/18/bellinghams-fortress-of-faith-listed-as-a-hate-group-by-the-
100 splcfacebook-post-sj-robson/](https://noisywatersnw.com/2017/08/18/bellinghams-fortress-of-faith-listed-as-a-hate-group-by-the-splcfacebook-post-sj-robson/)
101 [11] <https://www.bpl.org/blogs/post/the-origins-and-practices-of-holidays-laylat-al-qadr-eid-al-fitr/>
102 [12] [https://lawfilesex.tleg.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5166-
103 S.PL.pdf?q=20230227145715](https://lawfilesex.tleg.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5166-S.PL.pdf?q=20230227145715)

The ASWWU Constitution

The Associated Students of Western Washington University

For Approval in the 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 Student Government shall govern on behalf of the ASWWU in order to: (1) represent student interests and opinions to the University Administration, the Board of Trustees, faculty governance structures, and appropriate external government agencies, (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, and (5) 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 – 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.

Article II. Elections

Section A – General Elections

Annually, during spring quarter, the voting membership of the ASWWU shall decide proposed referenda, 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 B – 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 C – 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.

Section D – Initiatives

An initiative proposed by general ASWWU membership 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 as defined in the Elections Code to be included on an election ballot.

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

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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.

Deleted: <#>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. ¶

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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 – 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 as defined in the Elections Code. 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 F – Election Code

The Office of Civic Engagement, via committee, shall maintain an 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 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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Article III. Governing 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 for shared governance of the whole ASWWU are vested in these two bodies.

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1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following elected officers:

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a. President, Chair of the Executive Board

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b. Vice President for Activities

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AS

c. Vice President for Diversity

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d. Vice President for Governmental Affairs

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e. Vice President for Student Services

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f. Vice President for Sustainability

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g. Vice President for University Operations

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2. The Student Senate will consist of the following elected officers:

Deleted: <#>The Student Senate will consist of the following elected members:¶

a. Senate President, Chair of the Student Senate

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b. Two Student Senators from each of the following colleges:

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i. College of Business and Economics

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ii. College of Fine and Performing Arts

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iii. College of Humanities and Social Sciences

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iv. College of Science and Engineering

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v. Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies

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vi. Graduate School

vii. College of the Environment

viii. Woodring College of Education

c. Four Student Senators to represent students At-Large

Section B – Permanent Bodies

1. A Conference Committee shall be chartered by the Executive Board and Student Senate to resolve differences in respective versions of any action they both take and ensure joint governance. No

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single body shall have sole authority over the Conference Committee, both bodies shall be equally reflected in membership of the committee and include the Chair of each body.

2. 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.
3. 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.

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.
 - 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.

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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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Deleted: <#>To be represented by majority student voting membership and a student chair or co-chair, in consultation with the University President or designee, on all committees overseeing and appropriating student fees and student fee dollars with exception to operating and building funds.¶
To employ student staff in a manner consistent with the policies and procedures of the Univer... [1]

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- 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.

Before action can be adopted by the entire ASWWU Government, both bodies must pass every measure in an identical form.

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 activities, diversity, governmental affairs, student services, sustainability, university operations, other university governance structures, and external government bodies.
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 activities, diversity, governmental affairs, student services, sustainability, university operations and Associated Students committees in coordination with the Student Senate.
4. To obtain information and provide recommendations with regard to university administration pertaining to activities, diversity, governmental affairs, student services, sustainability, and university operations.

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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 other university governance structures.
2. Formulate the official opinion of the Student Senate through a resolution.
3. 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.
4. To obtain information and provide recommendations with regard to university administration pertaining to academic affairs.

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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 own bylaws, with the consent of the Conference Committee and other body. This shall be done for the purpose of governing 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 – Construction

The ASWWU Student Government Charter supersedes this constitution. Where any conflict exists between these documents, the language in the Charter takes precedence. In such cases, this constitution must be amended as soon as practicable.

All other governing structures and documents of the ASWWU must conform with this constitution.

Article VII. Abolition

Section A – Abolition of the whole ASWWU

Consistent with the ASWWU Student Government Charter, the ASWWU may only be abolished by a vote of its membership. To abolish the whole ASWWU, a supermajority (2/3) vote of at least fifteen percent (15%) 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 B – 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 supermajority (2/3) vote of at least ten percent (10%) 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.

Section C – Restrictions

No single election shall decide on both the abolition of the student government and the abolition of the whole ASWWU. Where both questions are appropriately filed (Article II) only the first filed will be placed on the ballot.

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