

**Members:**

Present: Gabe Wong (Chair); James Dinh, Lauren Johnson, Mariana Flores (At-Large); Lola Thompson, Melissa Bernal (CENV); John Hardgrove (CSE); Devin Moreno, Dacey Durbin (CBE); Ellen Esteves (Graduate); Yasmin Lamas Flores, Miguel Acuna (CHSS); Miguel Acuna (CHSS); Lily Duong (Woodring)

Absent: Ella Byerly, MJ Dizon (CFPA)

**Advisor:** Leona Friedman

**Secretary:** Nely Vasquez

**Guests:**

**MOTIONS**

<b>SEN-24-W-26</b>	To approve Consent Items
<b>SEN-24-W-27</b>	To table the “Considering the removal of Ella Byerly” item
<b>SEN-24-W-28</b>	To approve the “Minor Revisions to Rules of Op and Parli Pro” item
<b>SEN-24-W-29</b>	To approve the “Confirmation of Zoe Absalonson as the CSE Student Senator” item

**Call to Order:** *Gabe Wong, Student Senate President, called the meeting to order at 4: p.m.*

**I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- a. Discuss Action Items after Consent Items
- b. Have Lauren Johnson be appointed instead of Dacey Durbin for the appointment to Elections Advisory Committee

**II. CONSENT ITEMS** *(subject to immediate action)*

- a. Approval of Minutes – 1/24/24 & 2/7/24

Strike the word “resolution” for the ASWWU Charter Resolution in the 1/24/24 minutes.

- b. Yasmin Lamas Flores Appointment to Academic Coordinating Commission
- c. Lauren Johnson Appointment to Elections Advisory Committee

<b>MOTION:</b> To approve Consent Items			
<b>Motion Made By:</b> Dacey Durbin	<b>Second:</b> Melissa Bernal	SEN-24-W-26	
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 11 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			<b>Action Result:</b> <b>Passed</b>

**III. PUBLIC FORUM** (*comments from students and the community*)

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests\***

**V. ACTION ITEMS – Guests\***

- a. Considering the removal of Ella Byerly

The Senate tabled it because Byerly resigned before the Senate meeting.

<b>MOTION:</b> To table the “Considering the removal of Ella Byerly” item			
<b>Motion Made By:</b> Devin Moreno	<b>Second:</b> Dacey Durbin	SEN-24-W-27	
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 13 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			<b>Action Result:</b> <b>Passed</b>

**VI. PERSONNEL ITEMS** (*subject to immediate action*)

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Senate\***

**VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a. Bylaws Summary & Questions for Senate

The Senate went over the discussion questions from document 1.

- b. Ramadan Accommodations Resolution

Wong explained some of the changes made to the resolution. Some changes made were adding a general timeline for the start and end of Ramadan, extending dining hall hours, and adding lines 31-34, 55, 58-59, etc.

**IX. ACTION ITEMS – Senate\***

- a. Minor Revisions to Rules of Op and Parli Pro

Wong proposed adding the word “voting” in some sections for clarification. She also proposed changing the name “AS Governance Meeting Guidelines” to “AS Governance Tools of Operation”.

- b. Confirmation of Zoe Absalonson as the CSE Student Senator

Durbin and Wong lead the discussion for why Absalonson should be appointed.

<b>MOTION:</b> To approve the “Minor Revisions to Rules of Op and Parli Pro” item			
<b>Motion Made By:</b> Devin Moreno	<b>Second:</b> John Hardgrove	SEN-24-W-28	
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 12 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			<b>Action Result:</b> <b>Passed</b>

<b>MOTION:</b> To approve the “Confirmation of Zoe Absalonson as the CSE Student Senator” item			
<b>Motion Made By:</b> Lily Duong	<b>Second:</b> John Hardgrove	SEN-24-W-29	
<b>Vote Count:</b> Aye: 13 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			<b>Action Result:</b> <b>Passed</b>

**X. SENATE REPORTS**

- a. Chair Report

Wong and the Senate discussed their ongoing projects/gave updates on their college.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Adjournment:** *Gabe Wong, AS Senate President, adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.*



# Western Washington University

Student Senator Position Description 2024-25

## About the Program & Position

The Associated Student Government at Western is charged by the President to represent the interests of the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) in shared governance of the University. ASWWU Government is a two-body governing system, comprised of the AS Executive Board and the AS Senate.

The ASWWU Executive Board represents student interests to University Administration (Non-Academic Divisions, Departments and Programs), the Board of Trustees, and appropriate external governmental agencies. AS Executive Board positions are responsible for representing our students in issues concerning the University beyond the classroom.

The Student Senate represents student interests in academic affairs such as department policies, curriculum design, and academic support services. Two senators from each College advocate for students within their respective colleges, while four At-Large Senators represent all WWU students. Student Senators represent student interests by serving on relevant academic committees, making decisions in Senate meetings, and pursuing projects that align with their constituents' priorities and values.

## Term of the Position

This position starts the Saturday of Spring Commencement after ASWWU annual regular elections and ends the Friday of Spring finals week the following academic year. Student Senators can work up to 10 hours/week during Fall, Winter, and Spring Academic Terms excluding finals week. Limited Summer Term hours will be required for training and planning for the upcoming Academic Year. Work during intersession and breaks may be approved by AS Governance staff in certain circumstances.

## Required Qualifications

Candidates/Senators must:

- Be enrolled six or more credits for undergraduate students and four or more credits for graduate students during upcoming Fall/Winter/Spring academic terms.
- Have a minimum of a 2.00 cumulative GPA at time of candidate filing and maintain throughout terms of service if elected.
- Be able to complete the entire term of the position.
- Be eligible for employment in the U.S. from the time of filing for candidacy through the full term of the position, includes DACA recipients.
- Be available for limited/occasional evening/weekend work throughout the Academic Year.

## Preferred Qualifications

- Leadership experience
- Strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practices
- Working knowledge of the general operations of the Associated Students
- Critical thinking skills
- Previous council, committee, or government experience at Western Washington University
- Knowledge of the University governance system and organizational systems
- Knowledge of local, state, and national legislative systems
- Strong organizational and time management skills
- Ability to communicate accurately and effectively with a wide variety of groups
- Experience working in groups or as a member of a team
- Ability to balance multiple projects at one time

## **Position Responsibilities**

Ensure the effectiveness of AS Senate operations by:

- Attending all AS Senate trainings and retreats, unless previously communicated a needed absence.
- Attending all bi-weekly regular and special Student Senate meetings, unless absence approved prior to meeting.
- Attending, at minimum, bi-weekly check-in meetings with designated AS Government Advisor.
- Reviewing all relevant meeting documents (e.g. Agendas, Minutes, Documents Packets) before Senate meetings.
- If presenting at a Senate meeting, submitting necessary documents for presentation at least 48 hours prior Senate Meeting.
- Collaborate with other Student Senators on relevant projects.
- Regularly communicating with their co-senator(s) about all Senate work.
- Ensuring AS Senate is operating in alignment with current AS Government Charter, Constitution and By-laws.
- Maintaining a regular weekly work schedule to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position between 7am-9pm, M-F, includes scheduled office hours (see below).
- Communicating current work schedule with AS Gov Advisors, SGAs, and other Student Senators.
- Avoiding any major academic or employment commitments that would conflict with the essential responsibilities of this position, such as study abroad.

Represent the interests of ASWWU by:

- As part of regular work schedule, establishing and maintaining one to two publicly posted office hours per work week (Monday-Friday) to be available to constituents.
- Being available to constituents via email and by-appointment.
- Represent student interests by serving on one to three Departmental, University, and/or Associated Students committees.
- Holding the interests of the student body above any personal interests, aspirations, or goals.
- Representing the interests of WWU students on all issues that come before the AS Student Senate.
- Meeting with the University Dean or Associate Dean at least once a month to discuss students' concerns, plan events for the College, conduct research for the College, and any other relevant topics.

## **Pay Rate**

Starting Rate for Student Senators (2024-2025) is \$20.85/hour



# Western Washington University

## Student Senate President Position Description 2024-25

### About the Program & Position

The Associated Student Government at Western is charged by the President to represent the interests of the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) in shared governance of the University. ASWWU Government is a two-body governing system, comprised of the AS Executive Board and the AS Senate.

The ASWWU Executive Board represents student interests to University Administration (Non-Academic Divisions, Departments and Programs), the Board of Trustees, and appropriate external governmental agencies. AS Executive Board positions are responsible for representing our students in issues concerning the University beyond the classroom.

The Student Senate represents student interests in academic affairs such as department policies, curriculum design, and academic support services. Two senators from each College advocate for students within their respective colleges, while four At-Large Senators represent all WWU students. Student Senators represent student interests by serving on relevant academic committees, making decisions in Senate meetings, and pursuing projects that align with their constituents' priorities and values.

The Student Senate President is the chair of the student senate and serves as the primary liaison between the Student Senate and the AS Executive Board. This is an elected position charged with serving all WWU students. The President is responsible for representing students, leading the Student Senate, and working with the Executive Board. The Senate President is also responsible for communicating with university faculty on behalf of students and assisting students in their communication with faculty.

### Term of the Position

This position starts the Saturday of Spring Commencement after ASWWU annual regular elections and ends the Friday of Spring finals week the following academic year. The Student Senate President can work up to 25 hours/week during Fall, Winter, and Spring Academic Terms excluding finals week. Limited Summer Term hours will be required for training and planning for the upcoming Academic Year. Work during intersession and breaks may be approved by AS Governance staff in certain circumstances.

### Required Qualifications

Candidates/Senators must:

- Be enrolled six or more credits for undergraduate students and four or more credits for graduate students during upcoming Fall/Winter/Spring academic terms.
- Have a minimum of a 2.00 cumulative GPA at time of candidate filing and maintain throughout terms of service if elected.
- Be able to complete the entire term of the position.
- Be eligible for employment in the U.S. from the time of filing for candidacy through the full term of the position, includes DACA recipients.
- Be available for limited/occasional evening/weekend work throughout the Academic Year.

### Preferred Qualifications

- Leadership experience
- Conflict resolution skills and experience
- Strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practices
- Working knowledge of the general operations of the Associated Students
- Critical thinking skills
- Previous council, committee, or government experience at Western Washington University

- Knowledge of the University governance system
- Knowledge of local, state, and national legislative systems
- Strong organizational and time management skills
- Ability to communicate accurately and effectively with a wide variety of groups
- Experience working as a member of a team
- A working knowledge of the University governance and organizational systems
- Experience working in groups or as a member of a team
- Ability to balance multiple projects at one time

## Position Responsibilities

Represent the interests of the student body of Western Washington University by:

- Establishing and maintaining one publicly posted office hour each day of the week (Monday-Friday) to be available to constituents.
- Communicating with diverse groups of students on a regular basis.
- Holding the interests of the student body above any personal interests, aspirations, or goals.
- Attending and representing students at all Associated Students, University, and other committee meetings under position purview.
- Representing the interests of WWU students on all issues that come before the ASWWU Student Senate.
- Seeking and facilitating opportunities for student representation in University-wide decisions.
- Working with the Office of Civic Engagement to recruit

Ensure the effectiveness of the ASWWU Student Senate Operations by:

- Convening and presiding over all meetings of the ASWWU Student Senate.
- Writing and approving all agendas and documents for ASWWU Student Senate meetings.
- Working with the Advisor to plan & facilitate all ASWWU Student Senate retreats, meetings, and work sessions.
- Serving as the spokesperson of the ASWWU Student Senate.
- Meeting regularly with the designated Advisor.
- Avoiding any major commitments that would conflict with the essential responsibilities of this position such as study abroad.
- Identifying short- and long-term strategic goals for the Student Senate.
- Communicating goals with the Student Senate, Advisor, and relevant collaborators.
- Ensure vacant positions that arise after the election are filled.

Ensure the effectiveness of University, Associate Students, and Departmental Committees by:

- Reviewing and nominating student appointees to serve on committees under position purview.
- Communicate with students and chairs of committees under position purview.
- Ensuring the appointment for all vacant student senator positions in standing committees.

Collaborate with other University Organizations by:

- Regularly communicating with WWU Administration, including the University President, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services, and the Dean of Students.
- Pursuing communication with relevant University Administration and offices on topics of interest to the Student Senate and constituents.
- Communicating with the AS Executive Board President biweekly.
- Attending Western Washington Board of Trustees meetings as a recurring invitee.
- Serving on the following committees:
  - Faculty Senate
  - Student Tech Fee
  - University Planning and Resources Committee
  - Academic Coordination Committee
  - Finance Council
  - Additional committees as necessary

## **Pay Rate**

Starting Rate for Student Senate President (2024-2025) is \$20.85/hour





**RESOLUTION OF THE  
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

**E.B. Res. 2023/24-01**

**“Standing with our students and calling for a ceasefire in Palestine and Israel.”**

**WHEREAS**, on October 13, a small group of Western students and community members gathered in Red Square in support of Palestine; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 20, they did the same; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 25, around 100 Western students walked out to participate in a national action in support of Palestine; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 17, around 300 Western students and community members rallied on campus as part of the international “Shut it Down for Palestine” campaign; and

**WHEREAS**, at these demonstrations hundreds of students called for a ceasefire; and

**WHEREAS**, Western students have been significantly impacted by the continued violence in Gaza and the West Bank; and

**WHEREAS**, Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, Jewish, and Israeli students have been particularly impacted by increases in anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, Islamophobic, antisemitic, and anti-Israeli harassment, rhetoric, hate, and threats; and

**WHEREAS**, the ASWWU is charged with promoting the general welfare of students [1]; and

**WHEREAS**, the ASWWU is charged with representing student interests and opinions to appropriate governmental agencies [1]; and

**WHEREAS**, Western students are represented at the city level by Bellingham City Council Members Hannah Stone, Hollie Huthman, Daniel Hammill, Edwin H. “Skip” Williams, Lisa Anderson, Michael Liliquist, and Kristina Michele Martens; and

**WHEREAS**, Western students are represented at the federal level by U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray who represent the State of Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, those students living in Bellingham are further represented by U.S. House Representative Rick Larsen who represents Washington’s 2nd Congressional District; and

**WHEREAS**, Western students are represented by U.S. President Joe Biden; and

**WHEREAS**, On October 7 the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), the Al-Qassam Brigades, broke through the Gaza wall at many points, took around 250 Israeli hostages, and engaged with the Israeli Defense Force, Israeli Police, Israeli Settlers, and Israeli Civilians [2, 3, 4]; and

**WHEREAS**, the attacks on October 7 killed around 1200 Israelis; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. State Department considers Hamas’ actions on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> terrorism [5]; and

**WHEREAS**, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) has responded with disproportionate violence against Palestinians which has led to the devastating loss of thousands of civilian lives and has deeply impacted the students of Western Washington University; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S.-funded weapons are actively being used by Israel to kill Palestinians that were not involved in the Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> attacks. [6, 7]; and

**WHEREAS**, those weapons are further being used to ethnically cleanse the Gaza Strip and expel Palestinians [8]; and

**WHEREAS**, those weapons are further being used against Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem [9, 10]; and

**WHEREAS**, Israel has launched an invasion of the Gaza strip and raids in the West Bank [10, 11]; and  
**WHEREAS**, Israel has limited the flow of water, power, food, fuel, medical aid, and communications in and out of Gaza [12, 13]; and  
**WHEREAS**, infrastructure has been destroyed to hinder the advancement of Palestine; and  
**WHEREAS**, Hospitals, refugee camps, schools, media offices, communications facilities, civilian homes, mosques, churches, and bakeries have been bombed by Israel [14]

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

**THAT**, the ASWWU Executive Board stands against the ongoing war crimes and ethnic cleansing in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem;  
**THAT**, the ASWWU Executive Board condemns all violence against civilians and non-combatants;  
**THAT**, the ASWWU Executive Board supports a long-term ceasefire and a just peace in Palestine and Israel;  
**THAT**, the ASWWU Executive Board requests that the Bellingham City Council pass a Resolution supporting a long-term ceasefire;  
**THAT**, the U.S. Congress and the U.S. President have the ability and legal responsibility to stop the senseless killing in Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank;  
**THAT**, the ASWWU Executive Board requests that U.S. House Representative Rick Larsen co-sponsor H.Res 786 “Calling for an immediate de-escalation and cease-fire in Israel and occupied Palestine;”  
**THAT**, the ASWWU Executive Board requests that U.S. Senator Patty Murray and U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell call for a ceasefire by sponsoring or co-sponsoring a Senate Resolution similar to H.Res 786;  
**THAT**, the ASWWU Executive Board requests that U.S. President Joe Biden instructs the US Ambassador to the UN to support ceasefire actions and enforcement in the UN Security Council.

*Agreed to in the Executive Board, December 7, 2023*

cc: Council Member Hannah Stone 1<sup>st</sup> Ward  
Council Member Hollie Huthman 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
Council Member Daniel Hammill 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward  
Council Member Edwin H. “Skip” Williams 4<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Council Member Lisa Anderson 5<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Council Member Michael Lilliquist 6<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Council Member Kristina Michele Martens At Large  
Rep. Rick Larsen WA-02  
Sen. Patty Murray  
Sen. Maria Cantwell  
Pres. Joe Biden

- [1] Western Washington University and the Associated Students of Western Washington University, *Associated Students Charter*, Bellingham, WA, 2010.
- [2] Al Jazeera, "Why the Palestinian group Hamas launched an attack on Israel? All to know," Al Jazeera, 9 October 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/7/palestinian-group-hamas-launches-surprise-attack-on-israel-what-to-know>. [Accessed 30 November 2023].
- [3] V. Beaulieu, "A detailed look at how Hamas secretly crossed into Israel," ABC News, 12 October 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/detailed-hamas-secretly-crossed-israel/story?id=103917182>. [Accessed 30 November 2023].
- [4] H. Sherwood, "Hamas says 250 people held hostage in Gaza," The Guardian, 16 October 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/16/israeli-hostages-hamas-gaza>. [Accessed 30 November 2023].
- [5] The Secretary of State, "Israel Under Attack," U.S. Department of State, 7 October 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.state.gov/israel-under-attack/>. [Accessed 18 November 2023].
- [6] T. Deen, "American Weapons Used in Gaza Trigger War Crime Accusations Against US," 23 October 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/10/american-weapons-used-gaza-trigger-war-crime-accusations-us/>. [Accessed 5 November 2023].
- [7] C. Panella, "Pentagon says there are no limits on how Israel uses US weapons as death toll climbs amid airstrikes in Gaza," 30 October 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.businessinsider.com/pentagon-on-how-israel-uses-us-weapons-gaza-hamas-2023-10>. [Accessed 5 November 2023].
- [8] United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, "UN expert warns of new instance of mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, calls for immediate ceasefire," 14 October 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/un-expert-warns-new-instance-mass-ethnic-cleansing-palestinians-calls>. [Accessed 5 November 2023].
- [9] Newsfeed - Al Jazeera, "Mass arrests of Palestinians in occupied West Bank," Al Jazeera, 17 October 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/newsfeed/2023/10/17/mass-arrests-of-palestinians-in-occupied-west-bank>. [Accessed 30 November 2023].
- [10] Al Jazeera, "Deadly assault on Jenin refugee camp as Israel raids on West Bank intensify," Al Jazeera, 9 November 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/9/deadly-assault-on-jenin-refugee-camp-as-west-bank-raids-intensify>. [Accessed 30 November 2023].
- [11] E. Fabian, "IDF says it carried out two major raids in West Bank," The Times of Israel, 19 November 2023. [Online]. Available: [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-says-it-carried-out-two-major-raids-in-west-bank/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-says-it-carried-out-two-major-raids-in-west-bank/). [Accessed 30 November 2023].

- [12] A. K. Ahmed, "Israeli Authorities' Cutting of Water Leading to Public Health Crisis in Gaza," Human Rights Watch, 16 November 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/11/16/israeli-authorities-cutting-water-leading-public-health-crisis-gaza>. [Accessed 30 November 2023].
- [13] J. Yerushalmy, "Crisis in Gaza: why food, water and power are running out," The Guardian, 17 October 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/17/crisis-gaza-why-food-water-power-running-out>. [Accessed 30 November 2023].
- [14] AJLabs, "Israel-Gaza war in maps and charts: Live tracker," Al Jazeera, 29 November 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>. [Accessed 30 November 2023].

# The ASWWU Constitution

## The Associated Students of Western Washington University

*For Approval in the Spring 2024 General Election Effective April 19, 2019, per ASB 19-S-14*

### Preamble

~~We, the~~ Associated Students of Western Washington University, ~~has~~ have the right and responsibility to serve as a resource and advocate for all students. For this purpose, ~~the governing bodies of~~ 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, ~~academic-faculty~~ governance structures, and appropriate external government ~~agencies~~ bodies, (2) support student success in their academic endeavors, (3) foster students' rights and responsibilities, ~~and~~ (4) inform students on the proceedings of the Associated Students and of the University, and (4~~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.

### Article II. Membership

#### 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.

#### ~~Section A – Qualification Membership~~

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

#### ~~Section B – Assignment of Rights of Membership~~

~~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.~~

## Article II. Elections

### 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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### 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.~~

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- ~~— 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.~~

### 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 issues concerning students.~~

### 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 measure shall be referred to the membership of the ASWWU upon receipt of 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 eElections Code to be included on an election ballot, five percent of the membership of the ASWWU.~~

### Section E – 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 (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 recall election.~~

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. ~~AS Elections Coordinator.~~

~~Section C –~~

Article III. Governing Structure

~~Executive Board~~ASWWU Government

Section A –

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.

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following elected ~~members~~officers:
  - a. ~~AS~~President, Chair of the Executive Board
  - ~~b. AS Senate Pro Tempore~~
  - ~~c. AS~~Vice President for Activities
  - ~~d. AS~~Vice President for Diversity
  - ~~e. AS~~Vice President for Governmental Affairs
  - ~~f. AS~~Vice President for Student Services
  - ~~g. AS~~Vice President for Sustainability
  - ~~h. AS~~Vice President for University Operations
  - ~~Student Senate~~

~~The Student Senate will consist of the following elected members:~~

2. The Student Senate will consist of the following elected membersofficers:
  - ~~f. a. AS Senate~~ President Pro Tempore, Chair of the Student Senate ~~(non-voting except in the case of ties and procedural matters)~~
  - ~~j. 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. College of the Environment
    - viii. Woodring College of Education
  - ~~c. Four~~ Student Senators to represent students ~~at-large~~At-Large

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**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 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.

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**Article IV. Meetings of Governing Bodies**

**Section A – Quorum**

A majority of currently seated members-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. Elections**

**Section A – General Elections**

1. 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.
2. 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.

**Section B – 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.

**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 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.

### Section E—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.

### Section F—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.

## Article VI—Article V. Powers and Granted Authorities

### Section A – ASWWU

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

1. 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.
2. To employ student staff in a manner consistent with the policies and procedures of the University.
3. To administer monies allocated to the ASWWU by the Services and Activities Fee to ensure continuous, safe, and efficient operations.

### 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 ~~a~~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.
  - 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.

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- 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 B—Section C – ASWWU Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall be granted the authority to fulfill its duties ~~and~~ within the provisions set forth herein, ~~to act in any University related matter while adhering to University policies and procedures.~~ 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. ~~To~~ formulate the official opinion of the ASWWU-Executive Board through a resolution.
3. To sit on and appoint student representatives ~~on~~ 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.

**Section C—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.
- ~~1-2.~~ Formulate the official opinion of the Student Senate through a resolution.
- ~~2-3.~~ 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.
- ~~3-4.~~ 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 VII:~~Article VI. Amendments and Bylaws

Section A – Bylaws

~~Governing bodies~~The Student Senate and Executive Board of the ASWWU shall have the authority to adopt and amend their ~~respective own~~ bylaws, with the consent of the Conference Committee and other body, by a majority vote of approval from all active bodies. 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 ~~WWU Board of Trustees~~University President for their acknowledgement for ratification.

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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

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~~Section C – Section A – Abolishment~~Abolition of the whole ASWWU

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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. The ASWWU may only be abolished by a two-thirds majority vote cast by the membership of the ASWWU. If the ASWWU is abolished, the powers given in this constitution become null and void.

Section B – Abolition of the Student Government

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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

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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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**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 1)2) are proactive about recognizing Ramadan, and encourage students to seek accommodations,
- 66 2)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 3)4) faculty members are courteous with reasonable absences of Muslim students due to the  
70 observance of Ramadan,
- 71 4)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 5)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 the-practice-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-holidays-ramadan/>  
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 splcf-facebook-post-sj-robson/](https://noisywatersnw.com/2017/08/18/bellinghams-fortress-of-faith-listed-as-a-hate-group-by-the-splcf-facebook-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://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5166-  
103 S.PL.pdf?q=20230227145715](https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5166-S.PL.pdf?q=20230227145715)



# THE OUTBACK

# NEEDS

# YOUR HELP

**1** SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW

**2** CHOOSE AN EMAIL TEMPLATE

**3** SEND YOUR EMAIL AND VOICE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE OUTBACK

(PLUS BE ENTERED TO WIN OUTBACK SWAG!)





## A Discussion on Academic Uses of AI

3/5/2024

Gabe Wong and John Hardgrove

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### Background

#### What is AI?

AI in our context consists of the generative AI features of large language models like OpenAI's ChatGPT, Microsoft's Copilot, Google's Gemini, among others.

Large language models "train" on huge datasets so that they can "recognize and interpret human language or other types of complex data" ([Cloudflare](#)). This allows them to respond to "natural language" in a way that older technologies couldn't.

#### Limitations

The responses that these AI generates are limited by the data that they "ingest."

#### Example Usage – English Essay

An instructor assigns an essay in an English course asking students to analyze a facet of postmodernism in *Slaughterhouse Five*.

A student opens up ChatGPT and enters "write an essay analyzing a facet of postmodernism in *Slaughterhouse Five*." The student receives an AI-generated essay which they could adapt, ask ChatGPT to adapt, or even submit without edit.

Another student opens up ChatGPT and asks it to illuminate some key postmodern themes in *Slaughterhouse Five*. The student follows up with further questions about some of those themes. Using the knowledge from the dialogue with ChatGPT, the student writes an essay.

#### Example Usage – Programming

An instructor assigns a programming assignment that asks students to create a website with a login system.

A student asks ChatGPT to write some HTML and JavaScript for such a website. ChatGPT responds.

Another student asks ChatGPT to provide examples of how login systems can work on websites. This student bases their project off of one of these examples.

#### How does Western Currently handle AI?

Current practice is that the use of AI by students for their classwork is prohibited unless allowed by their instructor.

Western does not offer any institutionally accessible AI detection software.

#### What are faculty perspectives on AI?

Some faculty are strongly opposed to the use of AI in the academy while others see AI as having potential uses.

### Discussion Questions

1. Have you or your constituents used AI for classwork? How was it used? Was it beneficial to learning?
2. Have you or your constituent's professors expressed any opinion on AI use?
3. Do you see AI as a tool? as a form of cheating? as something else?
4. How should the University address AI use?