

Members:

Present: Gabe Wong (Chair); James Dinh, Lauren Johnson, Mariana Flores(At-Large); Melissa Bernal (CENV); John Hardgrove, Zoe Absalonson (CSE); Devin Moreno, Dacey Durbin (CBE); Milla Miller, Ellen Esteves (Graduate); Miguel Acuna, Yasmin Flores (CHSS); Emily Carsten (Fairhaven);

Absent: Miguel Esteves (Fairhaven); MJ Dizon (CFPA); Lauren Johnson (At-Large); Lola Thompson (CENV)

Advisor: Leona Friedman

Secretary: Nely Vasquez

Guests: Isaac Brandt (Elections Coordinator)

MOTIONS:

SEN-24-S-41	To approve the Consent Items with replacing the W to S in the motion for the April 3 rd , 2024 minutes
SEN-24-S-42	Amending the Constitutional Referendum Language to change Student Senate to Senate
SEN-24-S-43	Adopting a weekly meeting schedule with adjusted hours and an online format for the new meetings
SEN-24-S-44	Approve the Constitution Referendum Language
SEN-24-S-45	To approve the referendum question language at the end of the proposal section, with the addition of “full time students”
SEN-24-S-46	To move the reports to next week’s meeting

Call to Order: Gabe Wong, Student Senate President, called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

- a. Appointment of Milla Miller to the Graduate Faculty Governance Council
- b. Appointment of Zoe Absalonson to the Committee on Undergraduate Education
- c. Approval of the April 3rd, 2023 Minutes

MOTION: To approve the Consent Items with replacing the W to S in the motion for the April 3 rd , 2024 minutes	
Motion Made By: Melissa Bernal	Second: John Hardgrove
SEN-24-S-41	
Vote Count: Aye: 12 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0	Action Result: Passed

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

The Senators introduced themselves to Zoe Absalonson. Brandt announced candidate filing is due this weekend.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests*

- a. Senator Committee Appointments

Wong presented document 2B to the Senate, and Friedman presented document 2A. This document listed committees under each college and if the Student Senators on them. She would like to know if there is room for Senators to sit on the committees that don't have them as members.

Dinh left the meeting at 5:22 PM.

V. ACTION ITEMS – Guests*

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

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Senate*

- a. Yearly Senate, Committee, and College Reports

Wong presented 1A, B, & C, which is a what the Senators will fill out for next year's new group of Senators.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Body Name & Potential Constitution Adjustment

Durbin would like to go from Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Senate to Associated Students of Western Washington University Senate. The Senate is in support of this.

Mariana Flores left the meeting at 5:44 pm.

MOTION: Amending the Constitutional Referendum Language to change Student Senate to Senate			
Motion Made By: Devin Moreno	Second: Miguel Acuna	SEN-24-S-42	
Vote Count: Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			Action Result: Passed

b. AS Gov Outreach 2024-2025

Friedman presented document 4. She would like to plan for next year regarding Student Senate outreach. Flores would like to do a Wavelength video, Moreno and Durbin both like the idea of a AS Government event.

IX. ACTION ITEMS – Senate*

a. Referendum on Food Insecurity

Carsten was wondering how funds would be distributed equitably since the food pantries are under two different organizations and

b. Adopting a weekly meeting schedule for the rest of the year

Wong advocates for having weekly meetings, giving her reasons. Durbin is in support of this. The new meetings would be one hour long and online.

c. Constitution Referendum Question

Wong presented document 6, with the new changes and language.

MOTION: Adopting a weekly meeting schedule with adjusted hours and an online format for the new meetings			
Motion Made By: Melissa Bernal	Second: Zoe Absalonson	SEN-24-S-43	
Vote Count: Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			Action Result: Passed

MOTION: Approve the Constitution Referendum Language			
Motion Made By: Devin Moreno	Second: John Hardgrove	SEN-24-S-44	
Vote Count: Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			Action Result: Passed

MOTION: To approve the referendum question language at the end of the proposal section, with the addition of “full time students”			
Motion Made By: Yasmin Flores	Second: Devin Moreno	SEN-24-S-45	
Vote Count: Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			Action Result: Passed

X. SENATE REPORTS

- a. AI Workgroup Report
- b. Reports from:
 - College of Business and Economics
 - College of Fine and Performing Arts (by proxy)
 - College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - At-Large

MOTION: To move the reports to next week’s meeting			
Motion Made By: John Hardgrove	Second: Melissa Bernal	SEN-24-S-46	
Vote Count: Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0			Action Result: Passed

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Adjournment: *Gabe Wong, AS Senate President, adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.*

Referendum Proposal to Address Food Insecurity at WWU

Proposed to AS Senate & Exec Board by Lola Thompson

UNDERSTANDING FOOD INSECURITY

For students at Western Washington University, food insecurity is a regular issue. The office of Student Life has identified that 45% of students experience food insecurity on at least a monthly basis. This staggeringly high number has likely grown since the 2021 survey; the Swipe-out-Hunger program has been inactive for over a year and prices around campus have continued to climb.

With declining support from the state government and increasing economic inequality across the state, students are reliant on the on-campus food pantry network to secure their nutritional needs. This critical safety net has also experienced declining state support and, as of spring 2024, is struggling to meet the needs of the Western community. Through conversations with students, staff, and pantry operators, the following needs have been identified:

- Additional Resources:** Nearly all food pantries on campus are currently funded exclusively through departmental funds and agreements with community organizations. With these limited resources, the pantries often struggle to provide adequate resources. Shelves can go unstocked for days and the variety of the food available is often determined by the donating organizations.
- Staffing Pantries:** Pantry operators, on top of their regular responsibilities as university employees, are tasked with the additional responsibilities of operating the food pantries. With limited time and money, these pantry operators struggle to manage stocking shelves, gathering donations, purchasing foods, and conducting outreach.
- Reducing Stigma:** Students struggling with food insecurity are often hesitant to use the on-campus pantry network due to a sense of stigma, perceived barriers to access, and a hesitance to use the resources available to them. This stigma results in students not willing to access resources which would tangibly benefit their life circumstances.

PROPOSAL

We students are uniquely vulnerable to food insecurity, but we also have the unique capacity to enact positive change. It is not our responsibility to pick up the slack left behind when our State Representatives and University Administration neglect our basic needs. Still, we have the opportunity to make a tangible impact in our community as we call upon these officials to step up. The AS, as a student organization, is positioned to facilitate this positive change for each of the points identified above. Thus, we call upon the student body to answer the following question:

Shall the students of Western Washington University approve a quarterly fee of \$4.50 to bolster food stock in food pantries across campus and to pay for a two-year position to administer this fund while implementing long-term food security strategies?

SPECIFICATIONS

If passed, this referendum would permit the AS to collect a \$4.50 fee during fall, winter, and spring quarters from full-time students who attend courses on WWU's Bellingham campus. This fund shall be used by the AS Western Hub of Living Essentials (WHOLE) pantry to hire a full-time staff member for a two-year term to help orchestrate food distribution and work towards systemic, long-term solutions which reduce reliance on pantries. The remaining funds will be used to purchase food stock to be distributed to all pantries on campus as appropriate. This referendum shall be re-evaluated by ASWWU constituents every second election, with the first re-evaluation occurring the academic year following the staff member's hiring

Should this resolution provide alternatives for professors to create assignments that prevent or discourage students from using AI to cheat?

What alternatives to current classroom models could discourage AI use?

Given the current atmosphere of budget cutting at WWU is AI detection software the best use of university funds?

Is it right to use tuition money for AI detection software?

Resolution outline

1. Preamble:

- a. Context: ATUS has released guidelines for the Academic Uses of AI for students. This website defines AI terms and provides guidance for academic AI use.
- b. Context: A previous AI detection software was available through a free trial offered by Turnitin which expired December 31st.
- c. Turnitin claims 1% false positive for 20% or more AI content. Sentence false positive rate is 4% - Annie Chechitelli, Chief Product Officer, Turnitin. 14 Jun 2023
- d. Context: UW rejects a university sponsored AI detection software over concerns of false positives.
- e. Context: January 10th, 2024, Memo issued by CHSS faculty expressing concern over AI use for academic dishonesty.
- f. Context: 3% cut across all divisions
- g. Context: \$10 million projected budget shortfall

Be it resolved:

2. Resolving clauses

- a. The ASWWU senate opposes any AI detection software implemented by the university using student funds
- b. Sense of the Senate on AI in the classroom (e.g. work with it not against it)
 - i. assignments can be structured to prevent AI use?
 1. handwriting prevents AI use
 2. in-person exams prevent AI use
 3. how can an essay be structured such that AI isn't useful
 - ii. Courses can be structured to prevent AI use?
 1. synchronous and asynchronous assessment (take home essay, in class quizzes, class discussion, etc.)

2. synchronous elements in large, lecture-sized classes would be difficult to implement
- c. That no tuition moneys be spent on the acquisition of a new AI Detection subscription
- d. The ASWWU Senate sympathizes with the concerns of professors regarding the disruptive effects AI can have on the classroom