A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
E.B. J.Res. 2022/23-01

“Recognize and Negotiate with Western Academic Workers United”

WHEREAS, academic student employees – teachers, researchers, tutors, and others who do similar work – do much of the academic labor that
1. makes Western Washington University a prestigious institution and
2. educates the students of Washington state and beyond; and

WHEREAS, a supermajority of academic student employees (ASEs) working for Western Washington University have authorized Western Academic Workers United / United Auto Workers (WAWU-UAW) to represent them in collective bargaining [1]; and

WHEREAS, WAWU-UAW has filed a representation petition with the Public Employment Relations Commission [2]; and

WHEREAS, WAWU-UAW has requested that Western Washington University voluntarily recognize their union [1]; and

WHEREAS, ASEs working at the University of Washington and at Washington State University have a clearly defined right to collectively bargain in RCW 41.56.203 and RCW 41.56.205 [3, 4]; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate of Western Washington University passed the resolution entitled “Faculty Senate Resolution in Favor of Collective Bargaining for Academic Student Employees” on January 23, 2023, with 22 votes in favor and 2 abstentions [5]; and

WHEREAS, with this resolution the Faculty Senate resolved that it supports the right of ASEs at Western to collectively bargain [6]; and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University is capable of voluntarily recognizing WAWU-UAW; and

WHEREAS, the Western Washington University Board of Trustees approved the Western Washington University Strategic Plan for 2018 through 2025 [7]; and

WHEREAS, within this strategic plan, the Board of Trustees asserts its plan to advance Western by “Improving climate and working conditions for student employees, staff, and faculty at all locations” and “Providing competitive compensation and professional development for student employees, staff, and faculty” [7]; and

WHEREAS, historical improvements to the compensation and working conditions for employees have been spearheaded by collective bargaining [8, 9]; and

DESPITE THIS, Western Washington University has not recognized WAWU-UAW.

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

THAT, Western Washington University acts in accordance with its strategic plan; and

THAT, Western Washington University immediately recognize and begin negotiating with WAWU-UAW.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Associated Students of Western Washington University Student Senate at their regular meeting on February 22, 2023.

Approved by EB-23-W-37, SEN-23-W-18
PASSED AND APPROVED by the Associated Students of Western Washington University Executive Board at their regular meeting on February 2, 2023.

Rahma Iqbal
Chair, ASWWU Student Senate

Sargun Handa
Chair, ASWWU Executive Board

cc: Liz Parkes, Director of Employee and Labor Relations
    Sabah Randhawa, President
    Melissa Nelson, Assistant Attorney General


