

# **Associated Students of Western Washington University Constitution**

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the Associated Students of Western Washington University, 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 shall, (1) represent student interests and opinions to the University Administration, the Board of Trustees, academic governance structures, and appropriate external government bodies, (2) support student success in their academic endeavors, (3) foster students' rights and responsibilities and inform students on the proceedings of the Associated Students and of the University, and (4) promote the general welfare of all students.

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

A. This association shall be known as the Associated Students of Western Washington University, hereinafter called the ASWWU.

## **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Qualification: The membership of the ASWWU shall consist of all persons who are currently enrolled students at Western Washington University.
- 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 III: GOVERNING STRUCTURE**

- A. Executive Board: The Executive Board shall consist of the following elected members:
1. AS President, Chair of the Executive Board
  2. AS Senate Pro-Tempore
  3. AS Vice President for Activities
  4. AS Vice President for Diversity
  5. AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs
  6. AS Vice President for Student Services
  7. AS Vice President for Sustainability
- B. Student Senate: The Student Senate will consist of the following elected members:
1. AS Senate Pro-Tempore, Chair of the Student Senate (non-voting except in the case of ties and procedural matters)
  2. Two Student Senators from each of the following colleges:
    - a. College of Business and Economics
    - b. College of Fine and Performing Arts
    - c. College of Humanities and Social Sciences
    - d. College of Science and Engineering
    - e. Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies
    - f. Graduate School

- g. Huxley College of the Environment
  - h. Woodring College of Education
3. Four Student Senators to represent students at-large

#### **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS OF GOVERNING BODIES**

- A. **Quorum**: A majority of currently seated members shall constitute quorum for all governing bodies of the ASWWU.
- B. **Voting**: In order for a motion to pass, it must obtain a majority of the legal votes cast.
- C. **Open Public Meetings (RCW 42.30)**: All meetings shall adhere to the Open Public Meeting Act of Washington State with notice to the public at least twenty-four hours in advance.

#### **ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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: POWERS AND GRANTED AUTHORITIES**

- A. **ASWWU**: The ASWWU, in its entirety, shall have the rights and responsibilities:
  - 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.
- B. 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 services, other university governance structures, and external government bodies.
  2. To sit on and appoint student representatives on standing and ad hoc committees relating to student services and Associated Students committees in coordination with the Student Senate.
  3. To obtain information and provide recommendations in regard to university administration pertaining to student services.
  4. To formulate the official opinion of the ASWWU Executive Board through a resolution.
- C. 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. 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. To obtain information and provide recommendations in regard to university administration pertaining to academic affairs.
  4. To formulate the official opinion of the Student Senate through a resolution.

#### **ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS**

- A. Bylaws: Governing bodies of the ASWWU shall have the authority to adopt and amend their respective bylaws 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.
- B. Constitutional Amendments: All amendments to this constitution must be approved by a majority vote of the ASWWU and will be presented to the WWU Board of Trustees for ratification.
- C. Abolishment: 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.