Purpose of Submittal:
AS President Keara Ryan will brief the Board of Trustees on recent activities of the Associated Students.
Dear Trustees,

Thank you for the opportunity to present an update from the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) Student Government. This report offers insights into our current focus areas, objectives for the upcoming academic year, and an introduction to our newly elected Executive Board members.

Given the ongoing nature of summer and the concentrated time dedicated to training, this report centers on my vision for the upcoming academic year and provides a glimpse into our Executive Board's aspirations.

I. Objectives for the Academic Year:

As the President of ASWWU, I have two principal objectives for my term: enhancing transparency and fostering accountability within our student government.

1. Transparency:

Recognizing that a small percentage of the student population participated in the last AS election, we are committed to amplifying participation and transparency between the student body and the student government. Our focus centers on refining communication channels between the Executive Board, Senate, and the student body. To facilitate this, we intend to institute monthly video or written reports to apprise the student body of the actions and initiatives undertaken by their elected student leaders. We anticipate that these updates will achieve dual purposes: enhancing student engagement and ensuring responsible leadership. While this endeavor may appear formidable to those of us who are more camera shy, we are steadfast in our resolve to bridge this communication gap.

2. Accountability:

We are set to begin the academic year by assisting the President in renewing the AS Charter. Subsequent to this crucial step, our efforts will be directed toward revamping both internal and external operational processes, including the constitution and by-laws. Given the necessity for student body approval to amend the constitution, this comprehensive process will span a year. During this period, we will collaborate closely with professional staff, administrators, and students to optimize the governance structure of the student government. Recognizing the prevailing concern of limited accountability mechanisms, we aim to institute measures that will address this issue. Presently, the only avenues for holding elected student officials accountable are impeachment or a recall election, both of which are intricate and burdensome procedures. To circumvent this, my colleague Gabe Wong and I are developing a set of pre-emptive expectations for elected leaders, followed by strategies to ensure adherence. We are currently unsure if these expectations will be part of our by-laws, similarly to other institutes in Washington States, or part of a student government code of conduct.

II. Executive Board Member Introduction:
To provide a glimpse into our Executive Board’s aspirations, here is a brief introduction of each member along with their goals for their respective roles:

**Vice President for Activities**

Hello, I’m Noah Schexnayder, the AS VP for Activities. I’m happy to represent our student body and work on improving our university. I believe that clubs and activities are a vital part of our campus. They allow students to socialize, expand their horizons, or organize for causes that they believe in; I’m glad that I can help support clubs in my position and make sure everyone has a place at Western.

**Vice President for Diversity**

My name is Morgan Whitt and I am a third year here at Western, majoring in Environmental Studies with an emphasis on Justice and Community Resilience along with Minors in Political Science and Education, Social Justice. My main goal for the year is to work towards productive collaborations with organizations on campus (ESC, MCC, LGBTQ+ Center, BSC, Blue Group) and any other organizations that help support our students. Student voices and representation are what matters most to me since I can only speak on what I have been educated on and gaining the viewpoints as well as values that our students hold across campus is vital to my position. It is my job to give our students the voice they deserve while representing the diverse backgrounds they all come from.

**Vice President for Governmental Affairs**

My name is Erin Godwin, I am a senior here at WWU. My major is political science, and my minor is in leadership studies. My primary goal as the AS VP of Governmental Affairs is to engage the student body in the political process. I want students to vote, to know who and what they are voting for, and how to follow up on those people and policies. I would like to educate students on the role of government in our everyday lives so they can put this knowledge to use long after they’ve graduated from Western.

**Vice President for Student Services**

My name is Sophie Snyder (she/her). This is my second year in this position, and I have learned that there is a lot of unifying and an increased commitment to communication between student government, administration, and students that needs to be fostered. Fostering this would be my number one goal for this year. A secondary goal of mine is to examine student fees with a closer lens."

**Vice President for Sustainability**

Hello! My name is Liam Pratt, and I am this year’s AS Vice President for Sustainability. I have been interested in this position since I transferred to Western last Winter, and now that I hold this role I am excited to try and distinguish Western as a regional leader in sustainability causes. Having been heavily involved in the University of Washington’s divestment effort this last Fall, I have been very happy to see our portfolio slowly but surely shift to align with our sustainability goals, and hope to work collaboratively with the Board as well as the foundation to boost the transparency around our investments.

**Student Senate President**
I’m Gabe Wong, the recently elected President of the Student Senate. I’m an out-of-state third-year student studying Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Energy Science. I ran for this office because after a year as an At-Large Senator I saw that the Senate was still in its infancy, but that it has great potential – a potential I want to help realize.

As I said in my inaugural speech, my focuses this year are structures and community. My primary goal is for the university to be a place where student voices are heard and respected and that students feel some ownership over their institution. I wish to ensure that structures exist for this purpose and that those structures are effective and just.

To reach that broad goal I hope that this year the AS Government can clarify its relationship to those other parts of the university the AS interacts with and establish other relationships where necessary. Clarity will be a big thing for me in an effort to address the lingering “information problem” caused by the use of MS Teams and the highly cyclical nature of student government. At the core of student government should be a connection to students: I hope to continue the work of last year’s Senate by pursuing the representative and outreach aspects of the senate.