

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: President Sabah Randhawa on behalf of the Associated Students

DATE: April 11, 2024

SUBJECT: **Associated Students**

PURPOSE: Associated Students Report

Purpose of Submittal:

AS President Keara Ryan will brief the Board of Trustees on recent activities of the Associated Students.

ASWWU Report to WWU Board of Trustees

April 11th, 2024

Presented by Keara Ryan, AS President

Dear Trustees,

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide an update from the Associated Student Government as we transition from the Winter Quarter to the Spring Quarter. As we approach the end of the academic year, we are preparing for the upcoming student government elections and reflecting on our recent accomplishments and initiatives.

Governing Documents

At the beginning of 2024, the AS Student Government Charter was updated, which has been important in ensuring student government documents align with practices. These updates have necessitated corresponding revisions to the ASWWU Constitution. I am pleased to announce that both the AS Executive Board and the Student Senate have approved an edited Constitution, which will be included in the Spring Election Ballot (official language for the ballot questions is pending).

The key updates include:

- **Removal of the Senate President from the Executive Board:** This adjustment is a crucial step towards achieving operational bicameral legislature, a goal pursued by numerous past student governments with the establishment of the Student Senate. The work on the student government structure does not end here. I am certain that the work accomplished this year will set up future student governments to create a structure that best represents and reflects the needs of students.
- **Creation of the AS Vice President for University Operations:** This new position will collaborate with university divisions such as Communications, Business & Financial Affairs, and the Foundation & Alumni Association. These are parts of the university student government does not have a strong connection with or is done so solely through a sustainability lens, limiting our potential for collaboration. We hope this role will facilitate more effective engagement between student government and these critical parts of the university.
 - If this addition in the Constitution passes, it will be the work of the next student government to fill this position through appointment in the Summer or a special election in the Fall.
- **Establishment of a Conference Committee:** This committee will ensure joint governance by resolving disputes between bodies and assisting in the editing and creation of governing documents. Comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of each body, no single entity will have sole governance over this committee.

I am thankful for all the work of my colleagues that has ensured these important changes have been made. I would like to extend special recognition to Gabe Wong, President of the Student Senate, whose leadership and collaboration has been instrumental in this process.

Spring Elections

I am pleased to announce that the Spring Elections will commence shortly. The candidate filing period for all positions opened on March 23rd and will close on April 21st. Student Government has been collaborating with the Elections Coordinator and the Associated Students Office of Civic Engagement to promote both candidate filing and voting. Our aim is to ensure that no position remains uncontested (a scenario unprecedented for the AS President position in recent years) and to increase voter turnout. I am grateful for the diligent efforts of our Student Senators and Student Government Advisors in fostering broad engagement in the Spring Election.

As many of us are aware, student government at our university and across the state has suffered from a significant decrease in voting participation over the past decade. I ask that if you have any idea or opportunity to promote voter turnout in the Spring Election, please let me know. Your insights and contributions are essential as we strive to enhance student engagement and representation within our university community.

Thank you for your continued support of the ASWWU Student Government.

Keara Ryan
President, ASWWU Student Government