



Associated Students of Western Washington University
Board of Directors

A Resolution Regarding Consent Resolution
February 2015

WHEREAS, Western Washington University Associated Students lacks a definition of and stance on the value of consent in sexual expression and other social aspects of life; and,

WHEREAS, a culture of consent aims to change the underlying behaviors and attitudes that support sexism, racism, ableism, sexual violence and harassment, and rape culture; and,

WHEREAS, consent is defined as an unimpaired verbal or primary means of communications 'yes' that may be revoked at any time. Consent is required, no matter the relationship status or duration between individuals. Consent can not be given nor received while sleeping, unconscious or under the influence of any substances. Consent is required each time there is sexual activity or further activity. Silence is not consent. Non-verbal responses are not consent unless previously agreed on. Consent is free from coercion and force; and,

WHEREAS, all forms of sexual misconduct, particularly sexual assault, have become recognized as an epidemic on college campuses across the country, affecting people of all identities, particularly people of marginalized identities; and,

WHEREAS, 95 percent of attacks go unreported nationally, and sexual assault remains the most underreported crime; and that many existing statistics do not represent the entire picture of sexual assault cases, due to fear of victim blaming or a general lack of support and action from available reporting infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, most sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim/survivor is acquainted with, and that those perpetrators are often serial offenders; and,

WHEREAS, all people, regardless of race, gender, ability level, sex, class, age, sexual orientation and relationship status deserve to have their personal boundaries respected and feel safe in their own communities; and,

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama issued the presidential memorandum and "It's On Us" campaign to combat sexual assault on college campuses by increasing transparency, enforcement, public awareness and interagency coordination; and,

WHEREAS, presence of alcohol is relevant on college campuses, with 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 being victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape cases and more than 100,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 report having been too intoxicated to know if they consented to having sex; and,

WHEREAS, the university defines “Sexual Misconduct” as including sexual harassment, sexual intimidation, sexual coercion, sexual exploitation, and sexual assault; each fully defined in the University’s Student Rights and Responsibilities Code; and,

WHEREAS, Western Washington University supports Title IX by providing services to report sexual violence in multiple locations on campus including the Office of Student Life and Equal Opportunity Office; and,

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of Western Washington University values strengthening partnerships and increasing communication between students, faculty, staff and administrators; and,

WHEREAS, Western Washington University is a community of change makers that can stop sexual violence; and,

WHEREAS, Consultation and Sexual Assault Support is an on-campus resource to provide emotional support for all students who have experienced any type of violence; and,

WHEREAS, sex positivity is a movement to embrace and freely express all sexual attitudes and acts, given that they are safe and consensual, so that all people can feel more confident and safe in their sexual decision-making, at any level of sexual activity; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Associated Students Sexual Awareness Center, and other organizations on campus (Prevention and Wellness Services, Consultation and Sexual Assault Support, Equal Opportunity Office, and other relevant offices) will work together to create a campaign and opportunities to foster a culture of consent at Western.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that students of Western Washington University call for consent and bystander intervention training delivered to every student.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to execute bystander intervention techniques in their everyday encounters so that we are able to create a safer community for all students at our university.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that Western Washington University will strive to develop a positive and effective culture of consent, where personal boundaries are valued and celebrated.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that by the University providing more bystander intervention training opportunities, we strive to create a community where people will become active bystanders when they see peers in critical or dangerous situations.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that we will not support the practice of victim blaming. A person’s clothes, gender, sexuality, race, sex, relationship status, or substance consumption will not be considered a factor in sexual assault, as it is not proven to affect circumstances.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of Western Washington University strives to create a safer space for victims/survivors of sexual assault by openly offering

resources, support and empowerment through programming, political action, advocacy, and partnerships within the Associated Students community.

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