

Associated Students of Western Washington University

Board of Directors

A Resolution Emphasizing Campus Safety Regarding Advocacy Work June 2015

WHEREAS, universities should foster an environment of peace and the promotion of global welfare; and,

WHEREAS, Western Washington University is a liberal arts institution that values holistic and multi-faceted approaches to complex issues; and,

WHEREAS, it is the mission of Western Washington University to “bring together individuals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives in an inclusive, student-centered university”; and,

WHEREAS, student representation, collaboration, student learning and development, inclusion, and Community and Social Engagement are the core values of the AS as expressed in the Strategic Plan; and,

WHEREAS, it is the duty of ASWWU to fairly represent the diverse interests and views of all students at Western Washington University and to foster dialogue, learning, and an inclusive campus environment; and,

WHEREAS, Western Washington University is committed to ensuring equal opportunity and prohibiting illegal discrimination and inappropriate behavior in all aspects of employment and for students in educational and extracurricular programs and activities; and,

WHEREAS, ASWWU has an obligation to focus its attention and resources primarily on addressing issues directly impacting the general welfare of the student body; and,

WHEREAS, to maintain as safe and inclusive of a campus environment as possible, tensions between students should be defused in a healthy and collaborative manner rather than be exacerbated; and,

WHEREAS, isolation and intimidation of student groups can lead to the perpetration of disrespectful bias, hostility, hate, censorship, or harassment against those groups; and,

WHEREAS, ASWWU has a set procedure in place, which requires a campus wide vote to be able to take stances on certain issues, should the students call for it, as stated in the AS Elections Code; and

WHEREAS, the ASWWU recognizes the Four Freedoms: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear, and acknowledges their importance in advocacy work; therefore, (Citation)

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASWWU shall take action to foster dialogue in a safer environment and protect

students, faculty, staff, or guests of AS sponsored events from individuals or groups that intentionally threaten or intimidate them based on their membership in a protected class (1) as stated in WAC 516-21-110, along with the addition of political affiliation, gender identity, criminal record and documentation status.

1. Protected identities: race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, genetic information, status as a veteran, and/or sexual orientation
2. are stated in the 1941 State of the Union Address, and reiterated in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

“A Resolution Emphasizing Campus Safety Regarding Advocacy Work”

Proposed Motion: *Move to approve the “Resolution Emphasizing Campus Safety Regarding Advocacy Work”*

Sponsor: *VP for Activities, Giselle Alcantar Soto & VP for Diversity Cristina Rodriguez*

Persons of Contact: *Cristina Rodriguez, Giselle Alcantar Soto, Zachary Dove; Julianna Jackson; Isabel Moskowitz; Mckenna Paddock; Emily Seynaeve; Alia Taqieddin*

Guest Speaker: *Cristina Rodriguez, Giselle Alcantar Soto, Zachary Dove; Julianna Jackson; Isabel Moskowitz; McKenna Paddock; Emily Seynaeve; Alia Taqieddin*

Date: 6/5/15

Attached Document

“A Resolution Emphasizing Campus Safety Regarding Advocacy Work”

Background & Context

June 2014 there was a resolution titled the International Divestment, Boycott & Sanctions Resolution that was passed with the intent to provide a “framework to talk about these issues and how decisions will play out, in a way that is best representative of ASWWU” (ASBoD Minutes, 6/5/14, IV, B). However, it became clear that the resolution was being interpreted in different ways and being used in ways it was not meant as stated in the BoD meeting on June 10, 2014: “Kohout wondered if this would prevent AS Clubs from boycotting individuals can do whatever they wish and clubs have a greater autonomy from the AS. Roberts said that the only body that can take a position on behalf of all Western Students is the AS Board. Roberts said that the Board could still boycott companies but only if there are specifically identified issues with that company and not because they are from a specific nation. Ellison asked if they would also not take positions in support of countries, they can see this being an issue if there was a conflict between two countries. Roberts thinks this is an interesting question, but she doesn’t know that it is the position of the student government to support a specific nation. Eckroth dittoed. Ellison said that this is a soft policy to not be involved in international issues.” (ASBoD Minutes, 6/10/14, V, C).

Summary of Proposal

This February, AS President, Annika Wolters took action and decided bring up a repeal, as the resolution was not doing what it was originally meant to do. After lengthy conversations, VP for Activities proposed a Taskforce to look deeper into the issue and find a better solution that would maintain the intent of the original resolution while not prohibiting students’ advocacy work on campus. After four weeks and five meetings, the International Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Taskforce, has worked in and outside of these meetings to create a new resolution, which is made up of statements from the original resolution as well as new additions that emphasize the original intent of the resolution.

Taskforce:

As stated before we meet a total of five times, in the period of four weeks and will meet once more (maybe twice, depending on need). The documents we discussed were brought mainly by the voting members of the Taskforce, and conversation was mainly lead by them and facilitated

by VP for Diversity (vice-chair) and VP for Activities (chair). Minutes were taken, and are accessible through requests only and approval of the taskforce's majority vote. The first 3-4 meetings were primarily discussion of documents, the rest were "work sessions" on the new resolution.

At the beginning there was an obvious divide in opinions among the committee members, but towards the end they were able to find common ground which is what the resolution is based on.

Fiscal Impacts

There are no fiscal implications with this proposal.

Rationale

In order for this resolution to be able to be in place, the old resolution will have to be repealed.

Passing this new resolution will allow us to keep working towards a safer environment when it comes to advocacy work in our campus by giving our students a voice and framework to be able to advocate for their issues while reinforcing our values towards inclusivity dialogue and safety .