

UPRC Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee Student Application

Applicant Qualifications

The Chair of the committee asks that all applicants/candidates:

- Have a University-wide perspective.
- Be able to think of Western's role in the state and the world.
- Be capable of thinking at a systemic level.
- Work well in a consensus-seeking environment.
- Have a commitment to the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the University.
- Have the time and desire to commit to the work required.
- Have a passion for this project.
- Have relevant experience in one's own area of the University.
- Have broader relevant experience than just one's own role in the University.

Sabrina Chou

- Junior
- American Cultural Studies

In what ways do you feel you meet these qualifications?

As an International student from Taiwan and English as Second language learner, I have come across varied difficulties in terms of being doubted the ability communicating "properly", discriminated against based on my identity as Asian; as well as women in the United States. The experiences I have been through in the United States since 2010 have influential impacts in my life, both personally and academically. I certainly understand the obstacles individuals face as International students at Western Washington University and willing to cope the obstacles within individuals and institution together. Traveling to different countries and states have me learned and understand the differences between people, yet appreciate the differences because that is what make us as human beings so unique. The varied backgrounds of me and my profound personalities have me believe that I meet the qualifications to be the member of this committee.

Why do you want to serve on this committee?

As majoring in American Cultural Studies and minoring in TESOL, I have learned different inequalities, oppressions and discriminations toward to people of color, LEBTQ members, women and especially those who are underprivileged in the system of the United States. Being empathetic and compassionate is my strengths, I am always able to put myself in someone else's shoes even if it's hard for me relating to certain issues, such as living in poverty, or not having the financial supports to achieve higher education. However, I believe it can be changed by people. That is why I want to be part of the change.

How have you been involved with the university outside of your coursework?

Since it is my first quarter at Western and due to the heavy courses work as Junior status, I have not yet participated any clubs or social events on campus. However, before transferring to Western, I attended Green River College and participated in the Taiwanese Cultural Association as the publicist. The purpose of TCA was to spread awareness of Taiwanese Cultures on campus, we had held several events relate to Taiwanese Cultures; such as Night Market tour at UW Seattle, which we were responsible for transportation and time-management. In March of 2016, I was honored to be selected to participate the annual Student of Color Conference with several students and faculties in Yakima, WA; where students from different Washington community colleges and technical colleges came together joined the conference. The conference was scheduled as 3 days event, varied topics of workshops were held on each day so that we had the choices to pick the ones we interested at the most, as well as the ones we want to learn more about. It was a fabulous experience and it was fascinating to see people from different areas, ethnicities and promoting equality and justices. Therefore, I hope by joining the committee will offer me the same or greater experiences and journey while attending Western.

How will you bring a diverse perspective to this committee?

As an International Student from Taiwan, growing and raising up in the different culture and system; coming to the different country as the United States have shaped my own personal identity. Happened to have to adjust the cultural shocks and different point of views through the last 6 years have given me

the ability to learn the differences in each individual. Therefore, I believe that I will have the ability to provide long-sighted plans and opinions for the future of Western.

How will you ensure that you're representing Western's diverse population of students during your service on this committee?

Western is not diverse enough to be called as a diverse institution, we might have several International students, people of color; but it doesn't represent the diversity on campus. Most of the people are not comfortable walk out their own bubble to learn about different cultures and experiences; including most of the International students, some of them might feel intimidated or uncomfortable being around the campus due to the language barrier and cultures differ. In my own opinion, Western lack of the bridge connecting students from different countries and family backgrounds into the culture on campus; the connections between students and faculties are crucial for me personally. The power of education isn't only about the grades, degrees or the future careers; the power of education is about changes, the changes in individuals and society as the whole. During my service on this committee, I will ensure bringing the voices of students; both domestically and internationally by listening to individual's concerns and opinions. Having those different perspectives to be heard and changed; perhaps, by doing so it will move Western one step closer to diverse and inclusive learning environment.

Lauren Vasquez

- Junior
- American Cultural Studies

In what ways do you feel you meet these qualifications?

As a Junior here at Western I have participated in student run events and helped planned them. My freshman year I took on a leadership role in planning Fairhaven Residences EndFair, which came together very nicely and had a wonderful turnout. I also helped plan a multitude of events that year as a member for RHA for Fairhaven. My sophomore year I started participated in more CEED/ESJ events and going to talks like the Teach-In series at Western to better center myself in our communities. I have found over the years that I am well organized when it comes to project management and getting work done. Not to mention that I have a passion for improving the schools/university/community which I am at.

Why do you want to serve on this committee?

I really want to see Western grow and succeed as a university just because I've grown to really love it here and my fellow community members. As a Student with a minor in Education and Social Justice, I have a real love and passion for trying to find the best ways to educate our community here at Western and to support the needs of our various communities the best I can.

How have you been involved with the university outside of your coursework?

Yes I helped run Fairhavens 2015 EndFair my freshman year here as well as participating on RHA. Lately I have been active in the CEED/ESJ community while attending various events on campus that various clubs put forward. I also have been attending a lot of NASU meetings since last year and have actively been keeping up with their events.

How will you bring a diverse perspective to this committee?

Well as a student of color I have faced adversity not only on this campus but in my everyday life. Because I am majoring in American Cultural Studies and minoring in Education and Social Justice I feel that with my studies I can approach this task with knowledgeable background and a willingness to understand other peoples perspectives.

How will you ensure that you're representing Western's diverse population of students during your service on this committee?

I actively participate or attend various events and club meeting hosted by the campus population. I am very approachable and welcoming to students who want to have a voice or share their concerns or ideas for the committee.

Kenyon Andres

- Junior
- Undeclared: Economics and Political Science

In what ways do you feel you meet these qualifications?

I feel that I meet all of these qualifications quite well. I have always felt a strong interest in understanding the world, primarily as a means to change the world. Classes such as Global Women (WGSS 314) and several internationally focused political science courses have greatly broadened my perspective and made the importance of change seem even more important. Last year I participated in Viking Lobby Day, seeking a variety of legislative solutions for problems our University faces. In a meeting with Senator Maralyn Chase, we were asked to form a club called Women's Council. This title comes from a series of meetings held by the Senator, designed to get the input of women on legislative issues. I founded that club and we've recently held a bake sale to raise money for Days for Girls (a Washington-based charity that provides feminine hygiene products and reproductive education to girls and women in areas that lack the access), and are working with the Women's Center and several other organizations to plan a Take Back the Night in spring quarter to raise awareness of sexual violence. Additionally, I have worked this year to form the recently recognized Amnesty International chapter on campus. We hope to have a lot of events focused on raising awareness for the most fundamental human rights issues, both at home and in faraway countries. Both clubs, to this point, have been run primarily on consensus, and both have seen great success from that model. My time is very available, particularly for important issues such as defining the future direction of our university. Last year I worked in Fairhaven as an EndFair coordinator, in a very short time we put on a very successful music festival and art show. Through this event and the preceding Stack Wars, Fairhaven raised over \$600 for charity! Additionally, I was given the opportunity to serve as Fairhaven's VP of Finance. In this capacity, we discovered that a great deal of information relating to Fairhaven's budget had been badly misrecorded in the prior quarters (I was elected in late winter or early spring quarter), and worked a quite a bit to assure that this problem was solved. On top of this, I designed a separate spreadsheet for this year's treasurer, so that they may keep independent record of the budget, with detailed contact information, and compare it with the University's record's system. This should allow discrepancies to be caught earlier, and simplify the process of fixing them.

Why do you want to serve on this committee?

I want to serve on this committee because it seems to be an outstanding opportunity to help shape our University and improve the daily lives of students.

How have you been involved with the university outside of your coursework?

Outside of my course work, I have helped to found two clubs dedicated to social issues at the local, state, national, and international levels. I have helped to plan events that raised, cumulatively, over \$700 for charity. I have served as Fairhaven's budget authority and helped to resolve issues that occurred, as well as prevent similar problems going forward. I was one of the lead planners for Fairhaven's annual music festival, twelve hours of entertainment including bands, the Dead Parrot Society, a DJ, arts and crafts, games, and a display of student and local art. Not only that, but I

volunteered to go to Olympia to lobby on behalf of our University and to secure meaningful support from legislators.

How will you bring a diverse perspective to this committee?

Being white, my perspective from my own life is quite limited. However, I have long prided myself on my ability to listen, to empathize, and to learn. I founded Women's Council in response to someone's request, and to the lack of a similar club on our campus. I helped to found Amnesty International because I saw the opportunity to be a part of something important while learning more about important issues that span the globe. My experience is not unique, but my curiosity and understanding are valuable to a diverse perspective.

How will you ensure that you're representing Western's diverse population of students during your service on this committee?

I will continue listening, learning, and seeking out a variety of opinions if I am selected for this committee. To improve the University, it needs to work better for all people. Through the clubs I attend, I am have access to large groups of people diverse in opinion, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and gender. This allows me to hear what their problems are and to work towards solutions.

Questen Inghram

- Sophomore
- Journalism

In what ways do you feel you meet these qualifications?

I believe that I meet these qualifications because I am fully aware how small changes in policy can affect a system as a whole. I am very concerned with the priorities and direction of this university and know that they can have a large impact on not only this community but the world and generations to come. I believe that diversity and the environment are important topics that the university must focus on, and I will be committed to solving challenges preventing the university from becoming the socially just and sustainable institution it should be.

I also believe I can serve on this committee because I can communicate well with others and articulate ideas concisely. I participated in my high school's debate team and for the past two summers have worked as a journalist for the Broadwater Reporter, my hometown's newspaper. I am also eager to compromise and collaborate with others and am able to communicate with people of differing opinions.

Why do you want to serve on this committee?

I want to serve on this committee because I believe in Western's vision of creating an academic community founded upon active learning, critical thinking, and societal problem solving. I want Western to achieve this goal while using methods and instituting policies that are environmentally sustainable and socially just.

How have you been involved with the university outside of your coursework?

I have been involved with a variety of student clubs and organizations, including Swing Kids, Philosophy Club, Argentine Tango, KUGS News, and Sailing Club.

How will you bring a diverse perspective to this committee?

I believe that I will bring a diverse perspective to this committee because I am an out-of-state student from Montana and I understand the variety in people's lifestyles and opinions within our nation. I was raised in rural Montana, and I came to Western because I understand the importance of the environment and felt this institution did too.

How will you ensure that you're representing Western's diverse population of students during your service on this committee?

If I am selected to serve on this committee I will make sure I am representing Western's diverse student body by communicating with campus groups such as the Associated Students Board of Directors, the Ethnic Student Center, and the Environmental and Sustainability Programs, as well as other groups, to make sure their needs are prioritized.