



Associated Students of Western Washington University
Board of Directors

A Resolution Regarding Transparency in Associated Students, Faculty Senate, and University Committees and Shared Governance
April 2017

WHEREAS, students at large are unaware of the shared governance structure of Western Washington University; and,

WHEREAS, the Associated Students Board of Directors are often overworked and do not have time to be able to talk to students about concerns; and,

WHEREAS, a lot of committee, shared governance, and policy and decision making information are available online but is not accessible for students to seek; and,

WHEREAS, there are many student positions in university committees that are often unfilled throughout the whole academic year; and,

WHEREAS, there are still many university committees with no student representation; and,

WHEREAS, these student committee positions are often dominated by faculty, staff, and administration, which creates a power dynamic with decision making processes; and,

WHEREAS, students with marginalized identities are not represented in AS and university committees, and when they are given a spot, there is little to no outreach to ensure their spot is filled; and,

WHEREAS, the AS Board of Directors appoint students at large to be part of AS and university committees, but there is no further contact with these students after being appointed; and,

WHEREAS, there is no centralized way for current student committee members to share information with one another; and,

WHEREAS, there are no programs, offices, courses, or any outreach that empower students to be part of the main university decision making body and shared governance structures that ensure students to be able to communicate and advocate for their needs ; and,

WHEREAS, there are committees that decide on how allocation of student dollars are spent, and certain university policy changes with no transparency given to students-at-large, or they tend to be very inaccessible ; and,

WHEREAS, student committee representatives are often expected to know the scope of their responsibilities without proper training or overview of the committee's charge and charter, which sets students to failure; and,

WHEREAS, once student representatives are appointed, there is little to no effort in making sure their voices are actually being heard, their attendance is shown importance, and the space is made to be safe for students; and,

WHEREAS, retention rates of students in university committees are very low; and,

WHEREAS, there are only select college curricular committees that have student voting members before it reaches for approval in the Academic Coordinating Commission; and,

WHEREAS, the AS VP for Academic Affairs is the only student in the Academic Fee Committee, that takes one week of review, an 8-hour day of approval that often occur during Prep/Finals Week of winter quarter, which reviews all academic fee changes and approval that affect multiple colleges; and,

WHEREAS, the AS VP for Academic Affairs and the AS VP for Business and Operations are the only two students positions in the University Planning and Resource Council, that determine how funding and resources are allocated to the whole university, which affects more than Academic Affairs, and University Operations; and,

WHEREAS, the AS VP for Academic Affairs sit on 12 committees, and nominate students for 18 committees, which does not equal to a 19 hour per week position ; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students provide a physical space with information about shared governance and ways to get involved in committee representation.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students urge University Committee chairs to be mindful of student workload and provide adequate training and outreach to students that are going to be sitting in their committees.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students continue to provide inclusive space for underrepresented students in AS and university committees.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students create a space where students can freely voice their concerns and grievances with the university structure without burdening student employees, especially the AS Board of Directors.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students Structure Review Committee continue to look at the recommendations under this resolution in order to provide a cohesive governance structure for the AS.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students Academic Affairs Council take on the responsibility of reaching out to students under their own college/constituents until the Student Senate is fully implemented.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students fund a full-time staff to be an advisor for the student senate, and AS and university committees.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students urge university committee chairs to increase the number of student representatives and make sure that their voices are equally being heard.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students urge Faculty Senate to create and increase student voting membership in college curricular committees, college governance councils, and Senate Standing Committees.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students Board of Directors summer orientation include an in-depth overview of committee responsibilities before appointing students in the fall.

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