The Representation and Engagement Programs
AS Officer Assessment
Ştru etu re & Program Advisory Committee
Mission statement(s): The **AS Representation & Engagement Programs** provide the resources and support necessary to ensure that student, university, state, national, and international decisions impact the university, students, state, and society. The AS promotes effective citizenship and civic engagement through collaborative efforts.

a. The **AS Election Coordinator** organizes elections and any special elections held through Election Code and is responsible for encouraging participation in elections. During fall quarter, the Coordinator works with the Governor's Office and other state agencies to promote general elections and encourage voter registration efforts.

b. The **AS Legislative Liaison** represents the Associated Students on the Governor's Office and state agencies related to higher education, including legislative advocacy for students and disseminating information about legislative and public policy issues to students and the Associated Students Board of Directors.

c. The **AS Student Senate** serves as an advisory body to the Associated Students Board of Directors, providing input on decision-making processes, student representation, and committee development. The Senate operates under the Student Senate Chair, Legislative Liaison, and Elections Coordinator.

d. The **AS Committee Coordinator** is responsible for facilitating committees, recruitment, training, and recognition.

e. The **AS Voter Education & Registration Coordinator** is responsible for voter registration efforts during even-numbered general elections. The Coordinator also coordinates voter registration and encourages participation in the local community.

The Representation and Engagement Programs (REP) was approved by the AS Board on March 11, 2010, bringing the Student Senate Chair, Legislative Liaison, and Elections Coordinator positions into one office in addition to creating a new REP director and REP support staff position.
The REP began its first year of operation 3 years ago in the 2010-2011 academic year.

- The Student Senate was founded on October 30, 2000, and was made an official AS committee on May 9th, 2001 by referendum with a 77.82% majority in the general election.

- Western Votes founded in 2005, and became an AS-contracted organization in 2010.

- The Legislative and Voter Education Assistant Work-Study position was created in 2011.

- The REP Assistant position that originally served as senate secretary, assistant to the office, and committee organizer, was reformed and revised into a committee coordinator position in 2012.

- The Voter Education and Registration Coordinator was established in 2012.

- A work-study REP Local Liaison position was approved in 2012.

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The REP serves many functions, including the following:

- Administration of the AS Committee system and recruitment efforts for those bodies.
- The Elect Her event, which seeks to encourage women-identified persons to run for office and empower those around them.
- Annual voter-registration drives - 2012 was a high-water mark.
**Strategic Recommendations**

1. **Strongly advise the development and Implementation of standard assessment practices for internal and external use.**
   a. The creation of departmental REP standards for participant, candidate, and volunteer identification will help all REP offices determine whether they are accomplishing their strategic outcomes.
   b. This data should be collected and used for any REP-sponsored events as well.
      i. This data should be centrally stored and maintained in order to assist future department/office personnel in learning about challenges and strengths of past programming, elections, committee participation, and (potential-)voter outreach. This in turn will help those personnel see whether their outcomes are being met - whether in the SPAC process or in real time.
         1. This would give more information on who engages in AS Committees and the AS spring elections.

2. **Further the gains made during recent election cycles by establishing key resources and personnel structures.**
   a. The Vote Staff position works toward this goal, but further successes in voter registration and turnout would be accomplished by:
      i. The establishment of a permanent ballot drop box on Western's campus.
         1. This would require coordination and work with the Whatcom County Auditor’s Office.
      ii. The creation of liaison responsibilities within Western Votes!’ membership in order to foster regular communication and cooperation with the REP.
         1. This could include participation in REP departmental trainings, as well as pertinent office meetings.

3. **Advise the development of new practices and the refinement of established ones to help ensure the strength of the AS Committee system.**
   a. This could include the maintenance of the committee system by the department’s director over Summer Quarter.
   b. The possible exploration of OrgSync (or other systems) as a replacement for E-Sign forms now used by the AS Committee system.
i. Were OrgSync to be explored, it would be advised that the REP wait until the AS/OrgSync pilot program ended before doing so.