The Representation and Engagement Programs

AS Offici Assessment

Ştru etu re & Program Advisory Committee
Mission statement(s): The AS Representation & Engagement Program provides the resources, support, and services to ensure effective citizenship engagement through decisions that impact university, state, and national initiatives. The purpose of the Student Senate is to increase voter registration and increase among student candidates population. The AS Election Coordinator organizes elections and any special elections held through the election in accordance with Election Code and is responsible for encouraging participation. During fall quarters, the quarter elections part of the AS Coordinator, promote the generation of elections, increase voter registration, and increase among student candidates population issues.

b. The AS Legislative Liaison serves the Associated Students Board of Directors by serving as the liaison to the Governor’s Office and state agencies related to legislative and policy issues. The Legislative Liaison must act as an advisor to the Associated Students Board of Directors on legislative and policy issues.

c. The AS Student Senate serves as an advisor to the Associated Students Board of Directors by serving as the representative of the students of Western Washington University in the Associated Students Board’s decision-making process, to encourage student involvement in university committees, and to develop student leaders for the Associated Students Board of Directors.

d. The AS Committee Coordinator position facilitates the recruitment and training of student representatives for University committees. The Committee Coordinator is responsible for facilitating committee recruitment, training, and recognition.

e. The AS Voter Education & Registration Coordinator is responsible for educating the campus community about the importance of voting and the upcoming election.

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.

  o 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.

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

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

  o 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.

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

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

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.