

Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: ASCWU Academic Senate
Program Manager: Amber Hoefler, Director, SLICE with ASCWU Senate Speaker
Fiscal Year: FY23

1. In what ways does your program support CWU students? Please be specific, yet concise.

The ASCWU Student Senate is a group of student leaders committed to the engagement of all matters affecting university life by creating an inclusive environment for all students, as well as representing and empowering student voices, improving the school as a whole, and increasing student involvement in the choices that affect them. The focus of Senate is representative of multiple student positions for colleges and affinity groups around campus. The Student Senate focuses on elevating the CWU student voice and engaging in discourse to offer insight on the CWU student experience. Topics discussed on the Senate included campus safety, basic needs, food safety, title IX processes for student employees, and more for the student body. At the end of the 2021- 2022 academic year, the campus voted to reduce the number of Senators from 23 to 15 to save on financial support. Each Senator hosts various events, tabling, and attend areas in each of their topical areas to engage with student constituents.

2. What are your specific program goals or learning/operational objectives? How are you assessing the effectiveness of your program in achieving those targets?

ASCWU is governed directly by students for students. The goals of the senate are to elevate student voices and engage in complex discussion with the university administration. Currently, the assessment is subjective to the students outcome of each conversation. The Senators release various resolutions, statements, and engage with CWU Executives and Board of Trustee members to support positive change for students. One example is the dialogue on the COVID-19 vaccine mandate, discussions on Gender Based Violence Prevention, and many other topics. ASCWU currently leads informal assessments throughout the year and evaluates effectiveness based on engagement with the student body. Each board member works to evaluate effectiveness based on their scope of responsibilities and duties.

3. What is the overall purpose of your program and what service(s) does your program provide?
 - a. Are there overlaps or intersections with other university programs who have a similar purpose or service?

The ASCWU Senate hosts representatives from each academic college, unique populations (ex. transfer students, international students, veteran students, athletics, disability services, and more). The diverse representation of the Senate directly connects to other university programs with colleagues in each functional area they represent. The students attend club meetings, faculty senate, committee meetings, and campus events to stay connected to current events around campus. These student senators offer a direct bridge from university administrators, programs and services, and departments to students. There is no other student group that offers a similar university program or experience with such a large group of students.

4. How does your program align with the purpose of S&A funding? *“Supporting cocurricular and extracurricular activities and programs participated in by students in the furtherance of their education.”*

We strongly believe that our mission and governance is very much engaged and within the Killians outline of supporting Student Government students serving students. Student Government is a category mentioned in the Killian Outline as allowable funding. Student Government seeks to empower students to throughout campus in both individual developmental positions within Student Government but also through services and activities to the student body.

5. How does your program support CWU’s mission and goals? (<https://www.cwu.edu/mission/>)

The ASCWU BOD directly works to support the CWU mission and goals as well as offer critical thought to ensure students are represented in the mission/goals. ASCWU prioritizes student development across campus to help ensure each student’s experience prepares them for their individual future. The ASCWU Student Senate collectively works to move the university mission forward by meeting with various deans, university administration, and events to support students on campus.

6. Please provide detailed information regarding who utilizes your program? (*Students, faculty, staff, community? Specific demographic information? Class standing, gender, ethnicity, transfer, campus location, etc.*)

The ASCWU Student Senate is a group of student leaders committed to the engagement of all matters affecting university life by creating an inclusive environment for all students, as well as representing and empowering student voices, improving the school as a whole, and increasing student involvement in the choices that affect them. Currently, demographic data is being gathered on student senator representatives. Senators are also required to host events throughout their tenure but do not currently college data. ASCWU is in the process of developing consistent pathways to model utilization.

- Elected Student Senators from each of the following areas:
 - (1) Senators from the College of Business
 - (1) Senators from the College of Arts and Humanities
 - (1) Senators from the College of the Sciences
 - (1) Senators from the College of Education and Professional Studies
 - One (1) Senator from the Graduate School
 - (1) Undergraduate Transfer Student Senators
 - Three (3) Senators at large
- Appointed members
 - One (1) Senator for Disability Services
 - One (1) Senator for the Veterans Center
 - One (1) Senator for International Students
 - One (1) Senator for Athletics

- One (1) Senator for Sustainability
- Unique Electoral Circumstances
 - (1) Senators from ESC

7. How many unique CWU students utilize your program or services?
- a. How do you gather these metrics?
 - b. If you do not, what is preventing you from getting that data and how are you determining usage by CWU students?

The scope of students that participate is vast but ASCWU is working on developing a system to gather specific metrics and data. As the student Senate engages in dialogue with many students at tabling events, ASCWU events, and around campus, many of the discussions are informal and difficult to quantify to accurately answer this question. The question doesn't align with the function of the Senate and is confusing as to what outcome to share (ex. number of students senators talk with, number of students senators represent, number of students who share grievances with senators, etc.). The number is difficult to quantify.

8. Are there any current vacant positions in your program?

There are currently no full-time vacancies.

9. Given the budget reductions taking place and continuing for the remainder of the funding cycle, please tell us what specific impacts those reductions have had on your program compared to what was originally planned and including in your initial base funding request.

In the 2021 -2022 academic year, the student body voted to reduce the number of ASCWU Senators from 23 to 15. Each senator gets compensated for 5 hours per week and the budget has been incredibly difficult to maintain. With the reductions, the ASCWU BOD, is exploring ways to support and partner with the Senate to help supplement programming and staff development costs. The reduction has a large impact on the number of senators able to represent the student body.

10. Are there any circumstances or challenges that are currently impacting your ability to use your base funding allocation this year?

There are residual impacts with the COVID-19 pandemic as there was reduced travel, administrative expectations to spend conservatively and unclear expectations on what the reduction specifically would be while getting the fall quarter started. Now that we have the reduction, we can move forward with planning but it added a waiting period to knowing if we would have the adequate funding to hire, train, and sustain all of the student senators.

11. What growth or increases would you like to see in your program in the future?

ASCWU Senate would love to increase the future collaboration with individual academic colleges to develop meaningful relationships with the leadership in academic colleges (deans, chairs, etc.). Additionally, the Senate is hoping to expand processes to serve as a high functioning branch of student government.