

From: [Marqise Allen](#)
To: [Erin Sargent](#); [Robbi Goninan](#)
Cc: [Joel Klucking](#)
Subject: Please Reconsider Funding Cuts to The Observer
Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 1:55:15 AM

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Dear Advisors of the Services and Activities Committee,

I'm writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed funding cuts to The Observer. As a proud alum, this news is not only disheartening but personal.

During my time at CWU, The Observer was more than just a student publication. It was a training ground, a newsroom, and a classroom rolled into one. It gave me the opportunity to put theory into practice—whether I was covering football games or reporting on the construction of what was then the new student union building. These weren't just assignments. They were experiences that helped shape me into the professional I am today.

The skills I gained from The Observer laid the foundation for my career. I went on to work at several daily newspapers and eventually transitioned into a role in public service, where I continue to use those same skills—clear communication, critical thinking, and a commitment to public information—every day. My story is just one of many. For over 110 years, The Observer has served as a launchpad for generations of student journalists and communicators.

But the impact of the paper reaches far beyond the newsroom. It plays a vital role in keeping students informed, connected and engaged. It gives voice to student concerns, celebrates campus achievements and helps create a more informed and active student body.

I can only imagine the challenges you face as a committee trying to preserve as much as you can with dwindling resources, but I encourage you to seek potential alternatives to simply eliminating such a meaningful program. The Observer is not just a student publication—it is a vital thread in the fabric of CWU's community and a foundation for countless students' futures.

I strongly urge the Committee to reconsider this decision and to continue investing in the development, education, and empowerment of CWU students through The Observer.

Best regards,

Marqise Allen

C/O 2008

From: [Tim Booth](#)
To: [Joel Klucking](#); [ASCWU](#); [Robbi Goninan](#); [Erin Sargent](#)
Cc: [Paul Elstone](#); [Jim Wohlpart](#)
Subject: Funding of Observer and PULSE Magazine
Date: Friday, April 11, 2025 10:02:40 AM

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Hello -

My name is Tim Booth. I am currently a sports reporter for The Seattle Times following a 20-year career working for The Associated Press.

Those are my professional credentials. But this is a personal note as a 2000 graduate of CWU from the Department of Communications, a past member of the CWU Alumni Association Board and someone who deeply cares about the success of the university.

I am OUTRAGED at the decision by the S&A Committee to cut funding for both The Observer and PULSE to the point where neither publication can survive.

What is the justification -- from a financial, ethical and educational perspective -- to essentially gut the idea of free press and self-expression through the written word on the CWU campus? From an outside perspective that is the impression of what this decision would do.

Speaking as a professional journalist now for a quarter-century, the opportunity to work on The Observer while in school was formative in providing me skills and experience that helped translate into my professional career.

Why is that opportunity for a new generation being threatened by these decisions?

Additionally, The Observer provides the opportunity for students to still read about people, activities and events that are happening on campus that another news outlet or organization likely is not covering or providing to the campus community.

These funding decisions are frankly short-sighted and feel vindictive in a way that seems like S&A is trying to end the institution that is The Observer and PULSE.

I sincerely hope that the university and the S&A Committee re-evaluate their decisions and choose to fully fund both publications before the university finds itself receiving attention it probably does not want for what seems like an attempt to silence student publications like this. Is that an overly dramatic statement to make? Probably. But keeping these publications healthy and thriving should never be a question.

I am happy to speak with anyone who would like to talk about this topic or these decisions.

Thank you,
Tim Booth

