

Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: ASCWU Academic Senate
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Fiscal Year: FY2024

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

The ASCWU Student Senate is a vital branch of the ASCWU Student Government dedicated to addressing matters that impact university life and ensuring students have a voice in campus decisions. Comprising 15 Student Senators who represent the university's colleges and affinity groups, the Senate empowers student voices by advocating for their needs and concerns across a range of topics, including campus safety, basic needs, student employee work conditions, and more.

These student leaders actively engage with their peers through events, tabling, and outreach efforts specific to their areas of focus, fostering open communication and meaningful connections with their constituents. By prioritizing student input and championing initiatives that reflect the needs of the community, the ASCWU Student Senate puts students at the forefront of decisions that shape the CWU experience.

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 operates with a mission of serving students, led by students, ensuring that the voices of the student body are at the center of university decision-making. The primary goal of the Student Senate is to amplify student voices and actively engage in meaningful discussions with CWU administration to advocate on behalf of students.

Effectiveness is currently evaluated based on the tangible outcomes of these conversations, including the impact of statements, resolutions, and collaborative efforts with CWU's executive leadership team, and shared governance bodies. These efforts aim to drive positive change that directly benefits the student experience.

Student Senate members continuously assess their effectiveness by aligning their actions with the goals of their programs and the responsibilities of their positions. By maintaining a student-centered focus and prioritizing accountability, ASCWU ensures its advocacy efforts remain impactful and aligned with the evolving needs of the CWU community.

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 diversity of the Senate directly connects to other programs at the university and colleagues in the areas they represent. The Senators attend club meetings, faculty senate, committee meetings, and more to stay connected with current events. The Student Senate offers a direct connection between university administrators, programs, departments and students. No other group on campus 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.”*

The ASCWU Academic Senate, governed by students for students, plays a pivotal role in advocating for the needs and interests of the CWU student body. By addressing issues that impact the student experience and working to enhance the quality of campus life, the Senate aligns closely with the purpose of S&A funding.

As a platform where students have a direct voice in shaping how their funds are utilized, the Senate ensures transparency, accountability, and representation in decision-making processes. This commitment to student advocacy and empowerment embodies the mission of S&A funding, which is to support initiatives and programs that enrich the student experience both academically and socially. Through their work, the Senate ensures that student voices drive the decisions that directly affect their campus life and overall well-being.

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

The ASCWU Academic Senate aligns with Central Washington University’s (CWU) mission and strategic plan by fostering an inclusive, engaging, and student-centered environment that empowers students to shape their educational experience.

Core Value: Engagement

The Academic Senate actively engages with the student body, administration, and faculty to address issues that impact academic and campus life. Through events, open forums, and advocacy initiatives, the Senate ensures that students are actively involved in discussions and decisions that shape the university, creating opportunities for meaningful dialogue and collaboration.

Core Value: Belonging

By representing the diverse voices of CWU students, the Academic Senate helps to create an inclusive and welcoming environment where all students feel valued and heard. Senators serve as advocates for their peers, addressing concerns related to academic policies, campus safety, and overall student well-being, ensuring that the university is responsive to the needs of all students.

Core Value: Student Success

The Senate's efforts to improve the student experience, from advocating for better academic policies to addressing basic needs, directly support CWU's commitment to student success. By working closely with the administration and faculty, the Senate helps create a supportive environment that promotes academic excellence and personal growth, enabling students to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

Through its dedication to student advocacy and leadership, the ASCWU Academic Senate embodies CWU's mission and values, ensuring that students are not only included in decision-making processes but are also empowered to drive positive change 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 academic experience, and increasing student involvement in the matters that impact them.

Senators are also required to host events throughout their tenure but do not currently have college data. ASCWU is in the process of developing consistent pathways to model utilization and will explore how Sutable can support.

Elected Student Senators from each of the following areas:

- 1 Senator from the College of Business
- 1 Senator from the College of Arts and Humanities
- 1 Senator from the College of the Sciences
- 1 Senator from the College of Education and Professional Studies
- 1 Senator from the Graduate School
- 3 Senators at large

Appointed members:

- 1 Undergraduate Transfer Student Senators
- 1 Senator for Disability Services
- 1 Senator for the Veterans Center
- 1 Senator for International Students
- 1 Senator for Athletics
- 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?

Currently, the ASCWU Academic Senate does not formally collect metrics on the specific demographics of students who engage with our programs. However, the range of students who interact with the Senate is broad and diverse, reflecting the varied needs and interests of the CWU student body. Many of these engagements occur informally, through tabling, attending events, classroom visits, and other campus activities.

Academic Senate recognizes the importance of collecting meaningful data to better understand who is being served and how Academic Senate can improve outreach and impact. While exploring methods to gather this information, Academic Senate is also working to define the specific metrics to ensure data collection efforts align with its mission of advocating for and empowering students. This process will help refine programs and enhance the ability to meet the needs of all students effectively.

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

N/A

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.

During the 2021-22 academic year, the student body voted to reduce the number of senators, which helped address some existing resource challenges. Previously, the Senate lacked adequate funding to support senators in fulfilling their responsibilities effectively. Senators currently work 5 hours per week. As a result of prior supplemental funding secured through S&A, enabled the establishment of budgets for goods, services, and programming. This funding also allowed senators to receive compensation for the training necessary to perform their duties, ensuring they are better prepared to serve the student body and fulfill the Senate's mission. Then, due to increase student engagement all 15 senator positions were filled. A second supplemental funds request was submitted and approved for programming and resources. This additional support marks a significant step in strengthening the Senate's ability to advocate for and represent CWU students effectively.

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

The expectation is that with the second supplemental request, it will provide the additional support for senators to host events in their respective areas for students and provide funds for continued development for senators.

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

Continued growth in student involvement with the ASCWU Academic Senate this includes attending the public meetings, engaging in advocacy, and involvement with ASCWU BOD.