

Services and Activities Fee

Students – General Policies

CWU Policy 801-02

Effective: February 23, 2026

Policy Review Date: YEAR

Policy Executive: Vice President of Student Engagement & Success

Responsible Office/Unit: Office of Student Engagement & Success

Policy Statement:

Service and Activities (S&A) Fees are fees, other than tuition, that students pay for the purpose of funding student activities and programs. S&A fees should primarily be used to support programs and activities aimed at student engagement, leadership, cultural enrichment, recreation, and overall well-being, and not for the normal maintenance and operation functions of the college. Students play an important role in proposing budget recommendations for consideration by the Board of Trustees; therefore, it is vital that the process is transparent and that students have a strong voice in presenting recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

Applicability:

This policy applies to all student organizations, departments, committees, and programs that request or use Service and Activities (S&A) Fee funding. It governs the allocation, expenditure, and reporting of these funds, requiring all stakeholders to follow institutional policies, state regulations, and standards of transparency and accountability.

Content:

Policy

(1) STUDENT SERVICES & ACTIVITIES FEE GUIDELINES - CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

- A. These *Student Services & Activities Fee Guidelines* are established by the CWU Board of Trustees pursuant to RCW 28B.15.045 to assist the students and administration in implementing the provisions of RCW 28B.15.041, RCW 28B.15.044, and RCW 28B.15.045 relating to the programs, services, and activities funded through student services and activities fees (S&A fees). These guidelines are intended to give students a strong voice in presenting recommendations to the board of trustees regarding the allocation of S&A fees.

(2) SERVICES & ACTIVITIES FEE COMMITTEE

- A. There is hereby established the CWU Student Services & Activities Fee Committee reporting for administrative purposes to the Vice President of Student Engagement and Success.
- B. Committee Structure
1. Committee Members.
 - a. The S&A fee committee shall consist of upto thirteen voting members, which includes the ASCWU Board of Directors (ASCWU-BOD) executive vice president, and two *ex officio* nonvoting members.
 2. ExOfficio Members.
 - a. The Vice President of Student Engagement & Success(or the Vice President's designee), and the student funds financial manager shall serve as the two *ex officio* nonvoting members.
 3. Student Members.
 - a. All voting committee members shall be students, with one being the ASCWU-SG executive vice president and the remaining being recommended by the ASCWU-BOD and appointed by the Vice President of Student Engagement & Success. The student members will serve a one-year term and may be reappointed.
 - b. Student Representation. Student members should represent the diversity of the student body and its varied interests. ASCWU-BOD is responsible for making every effort to ensure that there should be student representation from each of the four academic colleges, non-traditional student representation, student representation who reside on campus, and representation to the university centers.
 - c. Academic Standing. Student members must be in good academic standing at the time of their appointment and for the duration of their term. Students who fall below good academic standing during their appointment on the committee will have to vacate their position and ASCWU-BOD will work to quickly recommend a replacement to the Vice President of Student Engagement and Success for the remainder of the appointment term.
 - d. Preferred Qualifications. Student members should have general knowledge of and/or the ability to understand university policies, procedures, and budgets in addition to having knowledge of the programs, services, and activities funded through S&A fees.
 - e. Student Appointments. Prospective student members may be interviewed by the executive vice president of the ASCWU-BOD and an attempt made to nominate/recommend by the ASCWU-BOD by the end of Spring Quarter of each academic year. The Vice President of Student Engagement & Success shall appoint the student committee members no later than the third week of classes of fall quarter.
 - f. Student Appointments – Summer. If there is need to convene the committee during Summer Quarter or prior to the start of Fall Quarter, ASCWU-BOD can nominate/recommend temporary alternative student members to serve on the committee. These student members shall be appointed by the Vice President of Student Engagement and Success.
 4. Faculty Members.

- a. Three of the non-voting committee members shall be faculty members appointed by the provost/vice president for academic affairs from among those faculty recommended by the faculty senate. The faculty members will serve staggered four-year terms and may be reappointed.
- b. Faculty Representation. Faculty members should represent the diversity of the academic departments and their varied interests. So far as practicable, there should be diverse faculty representation from amongst the four academic colleges.

5. Committee Officers.

- a. The committee will elect three of the student members to serve as committee chair, vice chair, and parliamentarian. The chair, vice chair, and parliamentarian will serve a one-year term and may be reelected.
- b. The chair shall be responsible for overseeing the general business meetings of the committee and will work with the advisor on setting the agendas and responding to communications received.
- c. The vice chair will assume the duties of chair when the chair is unable to serve. The vice chair is also responsible for convening and chairing most S&A sub-committees.
- d. The parliamentarian will assume the duties of the chair when the chair and vice chair are unable to serve. The parliamentarian is responsible for ensuring that the committee is following appropriate parliamentary procedure during their meetings.

6. Committee Advisor.

- a. The Vice President of Student Engagement & Success (or designee) will serve as advisor to the committee.

E. Committee Meetings

1. Training Meetings. The first two meetings of the S&A fee committee during the academic year will be reserved for training purposes. Members of the ASCWU-BOD are encouraged to attend these meetings.
2. Regular Meetings. Regularly scheduled meetings of the S&A fee committee will be held during the regular academic year while classes are in session at a time and place to be established by the committee at its first meeting. The committee chair and/or advisor will notify members if any scheduled meeting is cancelled. Additional meetings may be called by the committee chair in consultation with the committee advisor. The chair and/or advisor will notify members of the time and place of such additional meetings, giving as much notice as practicable in the circumstances.
3. Public Comment. Meetings of the S&A fee committee shall be open to the public and the committee shall provide an opportunity for all viewpoints to be heard at a public meeting during the committee's consideration of funding requests. Published meeting agendas should include the name of each group requesting funding and a brief description of each request. The ASCWU-BOD and CWU administration may address the committee regarding any issue during the public comment portion of the meeting or by requesting to be included on the agenda. The committee may meet in executive session if permitted by law as determined in consultation with the assistant attorney general. The committee will otherwise follow any

applicable guidelines for public meetings as provided in the Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30. The committee advisors, at their discretion, may limit public comment to ensure it does not interfere with the published meeting agenda.

4. Voting and Disclosure Requirements.

- a. Voting. Committee members must be in attendance to vote. Voting by proxy will not be allowed.
- b. Conflicts of Interest. Committee members are required to disclose their relationships and/or any conflicts of interest with respect to any groups or organizations that are requesting or receiving funding through S&A fees. Committee members who have authority over, who work for, or who receive any type of benefit from, such groups shall abstain from the voting concerning such groups, but may participate in the committee's discussions in the same capacity as a member of the general public during public comment or if called upon to answer a question by a voting committee member.

5. Attendance.

- a. Requirements. Committee members are expected to attend all committee meetings and to provide prior notice if they are unable to attend a meeting.
- b. Excused Absences. An excused absence requires prior notice to the committee chair and/or advisor.
- c. Removal. A committee member who is not fulfilling their responsibilities on the committee with more than two unexcused absences per year, or who the chair or advisor feel is abusing excused absences, may, by a vote of the committee, have their name submitted to the appropriate appointing authority for removal from the committee. The committee member will be given notice one week in advance of the committee vote.

(3) S&A FEE BUDGETING PROCEDURES

A. General Guidelines

1. Budget Information. The student funds financial manager will provide the S&A fee committee as needed with information regarding anticipated S&A fee revenues, debt service costs, and other pertinent financial data.
2. University Notification. The S&A fee committee will provide information in a timely manner to the university community concerning the guidelines, procedures, and timelines for reviewing funding requests, conducting budget hearings, allocating available funds, and reviewing funded budgets.
3. Funding Priorities. The S&A fee committee must give priority consideration to, in order of priority: preexisting contractual obligations, debts already incurred, legal obligations, contracted agreements recognized and approved by the committee, the Student Union and Recreation Center and support costs, and stability for programs affecting students.

4. Budget Proposals. The S&A fee committee will accept budget proposals from previous funding recipients as well as new proposals for S&A funding. Giving first priority to the obligations referenced in section (3).A.3, Funding Priorities, immediately above, the committee will proceed to evaluate funding requests and to prepare recommendations for the allocation of S&A fees, with supporting documentation. All requests, whether new or continuing, will be evaluated in accordance with how the funding proposals will benefit CWU students.
5. SURC Reserve Fund. The S&A fee committee may recommend allocating a portion of the available funds to the reserve account for the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC). The union board will have a strong voice in the utilization of those funds, subject to final approval by the Vice President of Student Engagement and Success.
6. S&A Fee Reserve Fund. The S&A fee committee may recommend allocating a portion of the available funds to the services & activities fee reserve fund. The S&A reserve fund shall maintain a minimum reserve balance of \$500,000 as emergency reserve for supplemental funding in accordance with section (3).E, Supplemental Funding Procedures, below.

B. Changes in Services & Activities Fees

1. S&A Fee Changes. S&A fees shall be established by the board of trustees on recommendation of the CWU administration. Pursuant to RCW 28B.15.069, S&A fees may be (but are not required to be) increased annually by amounts that shall not exceed four percent per year, as determined to be reasonable and necessary by the S&A fee committee and the board of trustees.
2. Initiation of Fee Changes. The S&A fee committee and/or CWU administration may initiate a request that the board of trustees approve an increase or decrease in S&A fees. Recommended changes will be reviewed by the S&A fee committee, the ASCWU-BOD, and CWU administration prior to submitting a recommendation to the board of trustees. Disputes between the S&A fee committee and CWU administration, if any, will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures provided in section (5).A, S&A Fee Change and Allocation Disputes, below.
3. Timeline for Approval of Fee Changes. Proposed changes in the amount of S&A fees must be published at least twenty-one calendar days before the board of trustees meeting in which they are being presented in order to comply with the public notice and comment requirements of RCW 28B.15.067.

C. Base Funding Allocation Procedures

1. Solicitation of Funding Requests. No later than October 1st of every fourth year (beginning October 2008), the S&A fee committee will publicize the timeline for considering proposals for funding of programs, services, and activities through S&A fees for the next four-year funding cycle. A notice will be published in the first issue of the university's official student newspaper for the academic year inviting funding opportunities at the Ellensburg campus and university centers to submit proposals. A notice will also be sent via email directly to all existing base funding units.
2. Submission of Funding Requests. Base funding proposals must be submitted to the Vice President of Student Engagement and Success no later than December 1st of every fourth year (beginning December 2008). To facilitate the development of such proposals, the student funds financial manager will provide training and/or assistance to organizations for the purpose of forecasting funding needs.

3. Committee Review. The S&A fee committee will begin hearing base funding requests no later than the third week of classes during winter quarter. The presentation of funding requests will be limited to ten minutes for each presentation, with ten additional minutes allowed for questions, for a total of twenty minutes. The committee reserves the right to recall presenters to provide additional information and respond to further questions.
 - a. One week following the final funding presentation the S&A Committee will share its first draft of the funding recommendation with all areas. Funding areas will have one additional week to provide feedback to the committee. This can be done either via communications received through the S&A Advisor, or the area can request to be added to the next meeting agenda.
 - b. Following the public meeting, the committee will review, make any final changes and vote on the final funding recommendations via the deliberation process. The committee shall make its S&A fee amount and funding recommendations accessible to the campus community via its website not less than one week later.
4. Administrative Review. The S&A fee committee shall submit recommended S&A base funding allocations, with supporting documentation, no later than the first week of March to the ASCWU-BOD via the ASCWU Vice President for sharing at the next ASCWU public meeting. Once shared, the S&A committee will share the final recommendation with the CWU administration, to include the Vice President of Finance and Administration, the Vice President of Student Engagement and Success as well as with the requesting areas. The ASCWU-BOD and the CWU administration by its Vice President of Student Engagement and Success shall provide a written response, with supporting documentation, to the S&A fee committee no later than the last week of April. The response from the Vice President of Student Engagement and Success shall outline potential areas of difference between the recommendations of the S&A fee committee and the proposed budget recommendations of the CWU administration. Disputes between the S&A fee committee and CWU administration will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures provided in section (5).A, S&A Fee Change and Allocation Disputes, below.
5. Board of Trustees Review. Proposed S&A base funding allocations must be submitted for consideration by the board of trustees at or before its regular meeting during spring quarter. Student representatives from the S&A fee committee shall have the opportunity to address the board before decisions are made regarding recommended S&A fee budgets and/or any disputed matters pursuant to section (5), Dispute Resolution Procedures, below. Final action shall be by the board of trustees, which, pursuant to RCW 28B.15.045, shall adhere to the principle that the desires of the S&A fee committee be given priority consideration with respect to funding proposals that do not fall into the categories of (a) preexisting contractual obligations, (b) bond covenant agreements, or (c) stability for programs affecting students.

D. Annual Adjustments to Base Funding Allocations

- a. During each year of each four-year funding cycle, the S&A fee committee will evaluate the impact of inflationary or other costs on base funding allocations and may, in the committee's discretion, propose adjustments to those allocations. The recommended adjustments will be subject to the review and approval procedures under section (3).C, Base Funding Allocation Procedures, above.

E. Supplemental Funding Procedures

1. Supplemental Requests. Groups and organizations receiving S&A funding are expected to operate within their base funding allocations. The committee recognizes that circumstances may arise for base funded units beyond what was initially planned during the base funding allocation process. Base funded units may make funding requests outside of the base funding allocation process and those requests will be considered as supplemental funding requests.
2. Evaluation Criteria. The S&A fee committee will evaluate supplemental funding requests in accordance with the following criteria listed in order of funding priority:
 - a. First Priority. The request pertains to conditions that were not reasonably anticipated at the time of the base funding request (such as the acquisition of essential equipment due to loss, destruction, premature failure, etc.).
 - b. Second Priority. The request pertains to opportunities to add, expand, or enhance programs, services, or activities that do not result in the addition of non-student payroll positions.
 - c. Third Priority. The request pertains to opportunities to add, expand, or enhance programs, services, or activities that do result in the addition of non-student payroll positions.
 - d. Emergency Requests. Supplemental requests to fund amounts already committed will not be approved unless such expenditures are determined by the S&A fee committee to be necessary for the safety of the university community or for the protection of CWU and/or ASCWU property and equipment.
 - e. Base Funding Increases. Supplemental requests for increases in base funding allocations may be considered, for good cause shown, in accordance with the criteria set forth above for evaluating supplemental funding requests.
3. Supplemental Funding Limitations. Notwithstanding the above provisions for evaluating supplemental funding requests, such requests will not be funded if such funding would cause the services & activities fee reserve fund to fall below \$500,000, except with respect to unforeseen conditions substantially impairing existing contractual obligations, including but not limited to bond covenant obligations or the operation of the SURC.
4. Supplemental Budget Hearings.
 - a. Submission of Supplemental Requests. The S&A fee committee will conduct hearings on supplemental funding requests on as-needed basis as determined by the committee chair in consultation with the committee advisor. A group or organization requesting supplemental funding must notify the committee chair in writing via the committee advisor. Unless otherwise approved, supplemental requests must be received no later than fifteen academic work days in advance of the requested committee hearing.
 - b. Student Funds Manager Review. The student funds financial manager must review all supplemental funding requests before such requests can be placed on the committee's agenda. No funds may be expended or committed, nor may any contracts be executed, before supplemental funding is approved by the S&A fee committee and board of trustees.

- c. Committee Review. Upon receiving one or more supplemental funding requests, the committee chair and/or advisor will notify the committee, the requesting party (or parties), and the university community of the date, time, and place of the supplemental budget hearing(s). The hearing(s) will be conducted in the same manner as the committee hearings for base funding requests.
 - d. Administrative Review. The S&A fee committee shall submit its recommendations regarding supplemental funding requests to the ASCWU-BOD and to the CWU administration through its Vice President of Student Engagement & Success. The ASCWU-BOD and the CWU administration will provide a written response to the committee outlining any identified concerns with the committee's recommendations. Recommendations as to which there is a disagreement between the S&A fee committee and the CWU administration will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures provided in section (5).A, S&A Fee Change and Allocation Disputes, below.
5. Board of Trustees Review. Final approval of supplemental funding proposals shall be by the board of trustees, except that the university president (or the president's designee) shall have delegated authority to approve supplemental requests under twenty-five thousand dollars per request.

(4) S&A FUND MANAGEMENT

A. Administration of Funds

1. Fund Management. S&A fees, as well as revenues generated by programs, services, or activities funded by such fees, shall be deposited, expended, and accounted for through the office of the Vice President of Finance and Administration. Such funds shall be managed in accordance with applicable state laws and institutional policies or procedures, including but not limited to the State Budgeting & Accounting Act, RCW 43.88.
2. Fund Transfers. With the exception of any funds needed for bond covenant obligations, once the budget for expending S&A fees is approved by the board of trustees, S&A funds shall not be shifted from any budgeted S&A fund account, or from the services & activities fee reserve fund, to any other fund account unless the CWU Administration provides written justification for the proposed transfer and the transfer is approved by the S&A fee committee and by the board of trustees. In the event of a dispute among the S&A fee committee, the CWU administration, and/or board of trustees, such dispute shall be resolved pursuant to the dispute resolution procedures provided under RCW 28B.15.045(12) and section (5).B, Fund Transfer Disputes, below.
3. Budget Review, Accounting, and Reporting.
 - a. Excess Fee Revenues. Any S&A fee revenues collected that are in excess of initially budgeted and allocated amounts will be subject to RCW 28B.15.045(13) and all applicable provisions of these *S&A Fee Guidelines*.
 - b. Over-Expenditures. Groups receiving S&A fund allocations are expected to expend and/or commit no more than the maximum amounts allocated. Over-expended fund accounts will result in an account deficit carrying forward to the subsequent year, thus reducing available funds. Repeated and/or egregious overspending will result in the account being placed in probationary status and may result in the denial of future

funding. Conditions of probationary status will be determined by the S&A fee committee and shall include mandatory periodic budget reports to the committee and to the Vice President of Student Engagement & Success.

- c. Under-Expenditures. Unused S&A fund allocations may not be carried forward at the end of the fiscal year it is allocated. Exceptions may be approved by the S&A fee committee, but only in advance and for good cause shown.
 - d. Unexpended Salary. If S&A funds are allocated to fund a staff position, and the position remains vacant for one month, any salary savings resulting from the unfilled position will revert to the S&A fee committee for reallocation of those funds.
 - e. Unused Supplemental Funds. Approved supplemental funds that are not expended within 60 days of the original requested expenditure date, unless under contract, may be called back for review by the S&A fee committee. The S&A fee committee may determine to continue the funding with an updated expenditure date or may revert the funds to the S&A fee committee for reallocation.
4. Annual Reports. No later than December 1st of each year, each recipient of S&A funding must submit a written report to the S&A fee committee and to the Vice President of Student Engagement & Success describing: (a) how allocated S&A funds were used; (b) any funds provided in addition to S&A funds in support of the funded program, service, or activity; (c) any approved transfers from one S&A fund account to another; and (d) the specific program, service, or activity supported by S&A funds (e.g., type and location of the program or service, the number of students directly or indirectly served, and how they benefited). Failure to submit the required annual reports may result in the denial of further funding.
 5. S&A Committee Review. The responsibility for recommending program priorities and S&A funding levels for that portion of program budgets derived from S&A fees shall reside with the S&A fee committee. The committee reserves the right, for good cause shown, to review and recommend changes at any time to any S&A base funding allocation.
 6. Public Information. Information pertaining to S&A fees budgets shall be made available to interested parties pursuant to the Public Records Act, RCW 42.56. In addition, by September 30th of each year, the S&A fee committee, in coordination with the CWU administration, shall post S&A fees expenditure information for the prior academic year on the CWU website so that the information is clearly visible and easily accessible to students and the public. At a minimum, such information must include all major categories of expenditure and the amounts expended in each category.

(5) DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

A. S&A Fee Change and Allocation Disputes

1. Disputes between the S&A fee committee and CWU administration regarding recommended S&A fee changes and/or funding allocations will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures provided under RCW 28B.15.045(6), (7), and (8), as now or hereafter adopted, and the remaining provisions of this section (5).A, S&A Fee Change and Allocation Disputes.
2. S&A Fee Committee. In the event of a dispute or disputes involving the S&A fee committee recommendations, the CWU administration shall meet with the S&A fee committee in a good

faith effort to resolve such dispute(s) prior to submitting a final recommendation to the board of trustees.

3. Dispute Resolution Committee. If the dispute is not resolved within fourteen calendar days, a dispute resolution committee shall be convened within fourteen calendar days by the chair of the S&A fee committee. The dispute resolution committee will consist of two nonvoting advisory members appointed by the CWU administration, three voting members appointed by the board of trustees, and three voting student members of the S&A fee committee appointed by the S&A fee committee chair. The S&A fee committee chair will also appoint a student member of the S&A fee committee to serve as a nonvoting chair of the dispute resolution committee.
4. Dispute Resolution Procedures. Meetings of the dispute resolution committee shall be open to the public. The dispute resolution committee shall meet in good faith and shall settle by vote any and all disputes. In the event of a tie vote, the chair of the dispute resolution committee shall vote to settle the dispute.
5. Board of Trustees. The board of trustees may take action on those portions of the S&A fee budget that are not currently in dispute resolution in accordance with customary budget approval timelines established by the board. The board of trustees shall consider the results, if any, of the dispute resolution committee and shall take action.

B. Fund Transfer Disputes

1. Disputes among the S&A fee committee, CWU administration, and/or board of trustees relating to proposed fund transfers will be resolved pursuant to RCW 28B.15.045(12) and the applicable dispute resolution provisions of this section (5), Dispute Resolution Procedures.

(6) AMENDMENTS

A. S&A Committee Review

1. Proposed changes to these *S&A Fee Guidelines* may be reviewed by the S&A fee committee or by a sub-committee thereof consisting of at least three student members, with the ASCWU-BOD executive vice president and the Vice President of Student Engagement and Success (or designee) serving in *ex officio* capacities.

B. Administrative Review

1. The S&A fee committee, upon review of the proposed changes, will submit a recommendation to the ASCWU-SG through its executive vice president and to the president's cabinet through the Vice President of Student Engagement and Success. In the event of any disagreement, the ASCWU-BOD executive vice president and the Vice President of Student Engagement & Success will meet and confer in a good faith effort to resolve the matter.

C. Board of Trustees Review

1. The president, giving due consideration to the recommendations of all interested parties, will submit recommended changes for final review and approval by the board of trustees. These *Guidelines* may also be amended by the board of trustees on its own motion.

History:

Approved by Board of Trustees June 5-6, 2008

Responsibility: Student Success, Reviewed/Endorsed by: S&A Fee Committee and ASCWU-BOD 11/7/12; 4/20/16; Dean of Student Success, 11/21/12; 5/16/16; Approved by Provost Council, 6/16/16; 04/26/22; Approved by Board of Trustees, 02/01/13; Updated at UPAC, 02/16/2020; Motion 13-04, Res 13-01

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2/23/2026 - Updated language to Policy, Approved by: A. James Wohlpart, President.*