

# **Associated Students of Central Washington University Constitution**

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the Associated Students of Central Washington University, have the right and responsibility to serve as a resource and advocate for all students. For this purpose, the governing bodies of the Associated Students of Central Washington University shall, (1) represent student interests and opinions to the University Administration, the Board of Trustees, academic governance structures, and appropriate external government bodies, (2) support student success in their academic endeavors, (3) foster students' rights and responsibilities and inform students on the proceedings of the Associated Students and of the University, and (4) promote the general welfare of all students.

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

- A. This association shall be known as the Associated Students of Central Washington University, hereinafter called the ASCWU.

## **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Qualification: The membership of the ASCWU shall consist of all persons who are currently enrolled students at Central Washington University.
- B. Assignment of Rights of Membership: No rights or privileges of membership in the ASCWU, including that of the right to vote, shall be assignable by any member. Each member shall have one vote at a meeting of the whole ASCWU.

## **ARTICLE III: GOVERNING STRUCTURE**

- A. Executive Board: The Executive Board shall consist of the following elected members:
1. President
  2. Vice President
  3. Director for Governmental Affairs
  4. Director for Student Life & Facilities
  5. Director for Equity & Multicultural Affairs
  6. Senate Speaker
- B. Student Senate: The Student Senate will consist of the following elected members:
1. Senate Speaker, holding position of chair of the Student Senate (non-voting except in the case of ties and procedural matters).
  2. Senate Vice Speaker, to be nominated by the Senate Speaker and confirmed by the Student Senate in a fifty percent plus one affirmative.
  3. Elected Student Senators from each of the following areas:
    - a. One (1) Senators from the College of Business
    - b. One (1) Senators from the College of Arts and Humanities
    - c. One (1) Senators from the College of the Sciences
    - d. One (1) Senators from the College of Education and Professional Studies
    - e. One (1) Senator from the Graduate School
    - f. One (1) Undergraduate Transfer Student Senators
    - g. Three (3) Senators at large
  4. Appointed members
    - a. One (1) Senator for Disability Services
    - b. One (1) Senator for the Veterans Center
    - c. One (1) Senator for International Students
    - d. One (1) Senator for Athletics

- e. One (1) Senator for Sustainability
- 5. Unique Electoral Circumstances
  - a. One (1) Senators from ESC
- C. Subsidiary Judicial Bodies
  - a. Subsidiary Judicial Bodies shall be established according to the ASCWU Bylaws and Policy Manual.

#### **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS OF GOVERNING BODIES**

- A. Quorum: A majority of currently seated members shall constitute quorum for all governing bodies of the ASCWU.
- B. Voting: In order for a motion to pass, it must obtain a majority of the legal votes cast.
- C. Open Public Meetings (RCW 42.30): All meetings shall adhere to the Open Public Meeting Act of Washington State with notice to the public at least twenty-four hours in advance.

#### **ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS**

- A. General Elections: Regularly scheduled elections will be held annually.
- B. Special Elections: Special elections may be held at any time for the purpose of deciding recalls, filling vacant elected positions, or deciding issues concerning students.
- C. Referendum: A referendum to the membership of the ASCWU may be initiated by a majority vote of the Executive Board or Student Senate and included in any election.
- D. Initiatives: An initiative measure shall be referred to the membership of the ASCWU upon receipt of a petition containing the verified signatures of no less than five percent of the membership of the ASCWU.
- E. Recall: Recall of any elected member of the ASCWU government may be initiated by: a majority vote of the Executive Board, a three-fourths (75%) majority vote of the Student Senate, or by a petition containing no less than forty percent (40%) of the number of votes cast in the last election. The removal of the elected member shall then be decided by the membership of the ASCWU via a recall election. The petition is delivered to the Council of Probity for verification of signatures. Once signatures are verified, the council shall call for an election. A recall election is called for by the Council of Probity and the Election Commission holds a Recall Election within two (2) weeks from the time such election is called. A simple majority of those voting in a Recall Election affirm the recall. Once a Student Government Officer is recalled, the seat is declared vacant. (Note: These recall procedures do not apply to Student Senate Senators, their recall procedure is located in the Student Senate Bylaws)
- F. Election Code: The provisions set forth in the ASCWU election code shall apply to all general elections, special elections, referendum, initiatives, and recalls regarding process and deadlines. The election code shall not be changed during an active election. Election results shall be verified as fair and appropriate by the AS Elections Chairman.

#### **ARTICLE VI: POWERS AND GRANTED AUTHORITIES**

- A. ASCWU: The ASCWU, in its entirety, shall have the rights and responsibilities:
  1. To be represented by majority student voting membership and a student chair or co-chair, in consultation with the University President or designee, on all committees overseeing and appropriating student fees and student fee dollars with exception to operating and building funds.
  2. To employ student staff in a manner consistent with the policies and procedures of the University.
  3. To administer monies allocated to the ASCWU by the Services and Activities Fee to ensure continuous, safe, and efficient operations.

- B. ASCWU Executive Board: The Executive Board shall be granted the authority to fulfill its duties and within the provisions set forth herein to act in any University-related matter while adhering to University policies and procedures. The Executive Board shall have the authority:
1. To serve as the primary body of student representation and advocacy for student needs in university governance structures relating to student services, other university governance structures, and external government bodies.
  2. To sit on and appoint student representatives on standing and ad-hoc committees relating to student services and Associated Students committees in coordination with the Student Senate.
  3. To obtain information and provide recommendations in regard to university administration pertaining to student services.
  4. To formulate the official opinion of the ASCWU Executive Board through a resolution.
- C. Student Senate: The Student Senate shall be granted the authority to fulfill its duties within the provisions set forth herein and to act in any University related matters while adhering to University policies and procedures. The Student Senate shall have the authority:
1. To serve as the secondary body of student representation and advocacy for student needs in but not limited to the areas including academic affairs, disability services, veterans' services, international student affairs, sustainability, multicultural affairs, diversity, fees, and other university governance structures.
  2. To sit on and approve appointments of student representatives for standing and ad-hoc committees relating to academic affairs, school wide committees, and sub-committees in coordination with the Vice President.
  3. To obtain information and provide recommendations in but not limited to university administration pertaining to academic affairs and other university governance structures.
  4. To formulate the official opinion of the Student Senate through a resolution.
  5. To have the authority to delay decisions of the Associated Students Board of Directors (BOD) by one week to review, discuss, amend, or endorse at the advice or consent of the BOD.

#### **ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS**

- A. Bylaws: Governing bodies of the ASCWU shall have the authority to adopt and amend their respective bylaws by a majority vote of approval from all active bodies. This shall be done for the purpose of governing their respective branches in a manner consistent with this constitution and the policies and procedures of the University.
- B. Constitutional Amendments: All amendments to this constitution must be approved by a majority vote of the student body and will be presented to the CWU Board of Trustees for ratification.