

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WHITMAN COLLEGE

PREAMBLE

We, the Associated Students of Whitman College, hereafter referred to as ASWC, in order to serve as an extracurricular resource for the student body as a whole with the goals to

- 1) Foster and facilitate student initiative in its myriad of forms,
- 2) Advocate for student interests and faithfully promote them through representative government, and
- 3) Enrich student life and provide unique and diverse experiences for its members.

do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Article I – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

All regular students as defined by the Whitman College Faculty Code are required to pay an ASWC fee as specified in the By-laws. The payment of this fee establishes membership in ASWC. Any student of any status of enrollment at the college who pays the ASWC fee shall be considered a member of ASWC and the student body and accordingly shall be entitled to the commensurate benefits and rights.

ASWC acknowledges the difficulty some students face with paying the ASWC fee, and shall make every reasonable effort to accommodate their situation.

Article II – Powers

The Associated Student Government shall have the power to represent, legislate, and advocate on behalf of the student body.

It shall have the power to levy a membership fee in accordance with its constitution and bylaws.

It shall have the power to grant recognition to clubs in accordance with the constitution and bylaws.

It shall have the power to make bylaws.

The Government dually recognizes that our existence is specifically allowed for in College governing documents and policy. The government shall make no law or statement that conflicts with official College policy and shall have all other powers and rights that are permitted.

Article III – REPRESENTATION

Section One: Congress

"Congress" shall be defined as the members of the ASWC Executive Council, the ASWC Senate and any standing committees they may sanction. No person may serve in both houses simultaneously and no Senator or Representative may hold more than one seat.

Section Two: Purpose

The purpose of Congress shall be to

- 1) Serve as the steward of ASWC funds and ensure their responsible use in accordance with the bylaws,
- 2) Represent of the interests of the student body and legislate and advocate on their behalf, and
- 3) Enrich the Whitman experience and provide opportunities for the personal development of its participants.

Section Three: Houses of Congress

Subsection I: The Executive Council (EC)

Shall act in an executive capacity for ASWC and be comprised of the chairs of all standing internal committees and any elected or appointed official as defined in the by-laws.

Subsection II: The Senate

Shall be the foremost student voice in ASWC affairs and shall be comprised of four senators representing each class.

Subsection III: The Internal Committees

The internal committees shall be the issue-based centers of ASWC to conduct its formal business and shall be comprised of one executive council member, senators, and other appointed officials in accordance with the by-laws.

Section Four: Voting

- A. Only representatives elected by the student body at large shall be qualified to vote in matters that create official policy for or voice the official opinion of ASWC.
- B. On matters coming before the Executive Council, each qualified member on the committee shall be entitled to one vote. The president shall always vote on all matters except in cases of a conflict of interest.
- C. On matters coming before the Senate, each elected Senator and elected chair on the EC shall be entitled to one vote. The president shall vote only to break ties.
- D. On matters coming before the standing committees, each member of the committee shall be entitled to one vote. The chair of the committee shall only vote to break ties.

Section Five: ASWC Recognized Clubs

Subsection I: Purpose and Intent

Clubs shall be recognized with the intent to fulfilling the rights of members to be supported in their endeavors and enrich and diversify the Whitman experience.

They shall also be recognized with the intent to provide leadership and learning opportunities for students that would not otherwise be available.

They shall also be recognized with the intent that the ASWC Congress may solicit any clubs' expertise on any matter that is pertinent to them.

They shall also be recognized with the intent that the benefits or services provided by the monetary support they receive from ASWC shall always and without exception be available to all members.

Subsection II: Standards and Requirements for Recognition

Clubs shall be required to:

- Submit a constitution according to set standards
- Appear before the senate to present their club
- Send representatives to certain meetings
- Train in accordance with the bylaws
- Adhere to any other guidelines passed by the congress

Section Six: Rules Duties and Specifications

Rules, duties and specifications of Congress members are outlined in the By-laws.

Section Seven: Permanent Absence of Representatives

- A. In the case of the permanent absence or resignation of the President, the Vice President of Student Affairs shall assume the office of President for the remainder of the term. The Ombud shall be offered

the opportunity to chair the Committee on Student Affairs as Vice President for the remainder of the term. If he or she refuses, the Vice President shall be determined as in B., directly following.

- B. In the case of a permanent or extended absence of any other executive officer, the Senate shall select a Senator to fill the vacancy. The Senators seat will then be filled in accordance with the bylaws.
- C. In the case of a temporary absence of an executive officer, the members of his or her committee shall elect a temporary chair from within their membership by a majority vote.

Article V – OVERSIGHT

The Oversight Committee shall be an impartial and autonomous organization designed to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of all appointed and elected members of ASWC. The impartiality and autonomy of the Oversight Committee has these benefits for ASWC:

1. Unbiased consideration of all grievances brought forth against members of ASWC
2. The fair and democratic election of the Senate and Executive Council
3. The ability to judge the Constitutionality of the actions taken by Congress without invested interest in said actions

The Oversight Committee additionally serves as a resource to ASWC through their extensive knowledge and understanding of the Constitution and by-laws that govern all ASWC proceedings. New members of this Committee shall be nominated by the existing Oversight Committee and confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Council and the Senate.

Article VI – Elections

Section One: Executive Council

The Executive Council shall be elected to terms consisting of one academic year each spring. All members of ASWC will be eligible to vote in the election.

Section Two: Senators

All Senators are to be elected as outlined in the By-laws. Senators shall be elected in the spring term to serve for the next academic year, excepting the representatives for the first-year and transfer class entering in the fall who shall be elected as soon as is practicable in the fall.

Section Three: Oversight Committee

All ASWC Elections shall be conducted by the Oversight Committee in accordance with the bylaws.

Section Four: Election Rules

The Oversight Committee shall maintain and perpetuate rules necessary for the fair execution of elections. The format, date, time and location of elections and campaign events shall be conducted in accordance with the bylaws.

Section Five: Voter Information Packet

The Oversight Committee shall publish a voters' information packet one (1) week prior to all elections.

Article VII – RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Section One: Ratification

This Constitution shall be adopted by a 2/3 vote of at least 20% of ASWC Members. It must then be ratified by a 2/3 vote of the outgoing ASWC Congress without amendment. This Constitution shall go into effect upon ratification and shall replace all earlier Constitutions. Members of the existing government shall fulfill the duties of their office until new officers can be elected under this Constitution.

This constitution may be amended for one year after their passage by unanimous consent of ASWC representatives, and no amendment may change the intent of existing law.

Ratification of this constitution shall be conducted by the Oversight Committee in accordance with the bylaws.

Section Two: Method of Proposing Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed to the student body by two different methods.

- A. The Student Affairs Committee may propose amendments by a 2/3 vote with confirmation by a majority of the Senate.
- B. Any member of ASWC may propose an amendment by submitting a petition signed by 10% of the membership of ASWC.

Section Three: Ratification of Amendments

The general membership of ASWC must approve all amendments by a 2/3 vote of 20% of ASWC members before an amendment may go into effect.

Article VII – BILL OF RIGHTS

Section One

The rights enjoyed by the members of the Associated Students of Whitman College will not be denied or restricted on the basis of gender, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity, disability status, age, veterans status, marital status, political beliefs, socioeconomic status, HIV/AIDS status, or any other basis prohibited by applicable federal, state, or local laws.

Section Two

No organization that discriminates against one or more of the aforementioned distinctions shall receive support, financial or otherwise, from ASWC Congress.

Section Three

Upon an ASWC member's graduation or permanent leave from Whitman, all Oversight Committee records of any investigations pertaining to that person shall be destroyed.

Section Four

At all times, members of ASWC shall enjoy the rights of due process. These rights are further delineated in the By-laws.