

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
WHITMAN COLLEGE
STUDENT SENATE
SPRING SEMESTER 2015

**IN THE SENATE
ACT SAS15.9**

POWER AND PRIVILEGE SYMPOSIUM ACT

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SECTION I TITLE

This act shall be referred to as the Power and Privilege Symposium Act.

SECTION II JUSTIFICATION

- a. The mission statement of Whitman College explicitly states an intent "to foster intellectual vitality, confidence, leadership, and the flexibility to succeed in a changing technological, multicultural world"; and
- b. Both the students and administration of Whitman College strive to make our campus a place of diverse cultures, perspectives, and experiences; and
- c. Encounters, a mandatory class for incoming students, through its multi-disciplinary approach to learning, seeks to examine "encounters between peoples and cultures, and the formation and transformation of dominant and competing worldviews"; and
- d. The importance of race and ethnicity, specifically, has failed to be an emphasized component of diversity at Whitman College; and
- e. In 2006, controversy concerning racial issues ignited discussion throughout the student body, motivating students and faculty to provide a forum for these conversations to take place; and
- f. The Whitman College administration, in creating the Race Symposium in the fall of 2006, pledged that the symposium would merely be the first step in a long line of steps addressing the issue of diversity and racial conflict in the Whitman College community; and
- g. In dealing with incidents of alienation the execution of the Whitman Race Symposium in 2006 was largely successful in that it garnered popular attendance, fostered discussion among individual students, and reduced some of the risk of alienation that comes with diversity; and
- h. The Power and Privilege Symposium has greatly expanded over the past three years and now addresses issues of structural inequality beyond race, including gender, socioeconomic status, intersectionality, sexuality and a myriad of other issues; and
- i. The faculty has voted to cancel classes for the Power and Privilege Symposium for the next three years; and
- j. The Symposium has achieved an unprecedented level of popularity and legitimacy on campus.

SECTION III PURPOSE

I. The Power and Privilege Symposium Act:

- a) Ensures the coordination and implementation of the Power and Privilege Symposium that will take place annually on the Whitman College campus and receive the appropriate financial support from ASWC.

II. The Power and Privilege Symposium Act hereby creates an ad hoc committee which will be charged with:

- a) The responsibility for the execution of the Power and Privilege Symposium.

III. The Power and Privilege Symposium Act is designed to support the discussion about diversity at Whitman and seeks to spark dialogue about the ways in which social hierarchies and identities manifest themselves on the Whitman College campus and beyond.

SECTION IV FORMAT

The committee shall consist of an Executive Director and three sub committees, each led by a Director, hereafter referred to as the Planning Committee:

a) Executive Director

The Executive Director shall be responsible for organizing the Planning Committee and shall be selected by the current Power and Privilege Chairperson, incoming WEB Chair, incoming ASWC President, and the incoming Nominations Chair in consultation with other appropriate leaders involved in the Symposium by no later than the last Senate of the spring semester. The Executive Director shall be required to give weekly updates to the ASWC Executive Council on the status of the Symposium. The Executive Director will be an excellent communicator, detail-oriented, meticulous, and organized. The duties of this position will be as follows:

- i) Overseeing Directors and chairing weekly meetings with the Directors
- ii) Selecting the Directors of Programming and Communications
- iii) Coordinating with different offices on campus
- iv) Meeting monthly with the ASWC President and Vice President
- vi) Meeting once per week with the Student Activity Advisors
- vi) Providing updates to an Advisory Board at least three times per year
- vii) Writing outcome reports and creating condensed feedback reports by students, faculty, and staff
- viii) Establishing goals for the Symposium planning
- ix) Reevaluating and assisting in the planning process of the Symposium for the 2016-2017 academic year

b) Operations Sub-Committee

The Operations Sub-Committee will consist of three members and will be led by the Director of Operations, who shall be the WEB Chair for the 2015-2016 academic year.

The duties for this committee will be as follows:

- i) Appointing, in consultation with the Executive Director, Fundraising and Budget Managers
- ii) Managing the committee

- iii) Coordinating operations and logistics for the day of the Symposium
- iv) Reporting to the Executive Director at weekly meetings
- v) Organizing catering and coordinating with Bon Appetit
- vi) Overseeing any other logistical tasks associated with the Symposium

c) Communications Sub-Committee

The Communications Sub-Committee will be tasked with advertising the Symposium to the Whitman community and will be comprised of 3-4 people. The Director of Communications shall be an individual who is creative, strategic, and an excellent communicator. The duties for this committee will be as follows:

- i) Outreach through legitimate means; both at Whitman and in the greater Walla Walla area
- ii) Advertising through means including but not limited to Facebook, Emails, Blogging, etc.
- iii) Brand creation
- iv) Creating an effective campaign for the Power and Privilege Symposium
- v) Networking with other schools and outside organizations to share ideas and build relationships

d) Programming Sub-Committee

The Programming Sub-Committee will be comprised of 8-10 individuals and chaired by two Directors of Programming. The Directors of this sub-committee must be highly organized, possess exemplary researching skills, and be familiar with educational know-how and learning techniques. The duties for this committee will be as follows:

- i) Designing workshops and panels
- ii) Soliciting ideas for workshops and panels and working with members of the Whitman community to generate ideas for workshops
- iii) Soliciting outside moderators for panels and workshops
- iv) Reviewing and selecting workshops proposed by members of the Whitman community

The duties of the Directors of Programming will be as follows:

- i) Managing the committee
- ii) Spearheading all major initiatives and acting as a resource for all committee members in the planning for, reviewing of, and generation of workshop proposals
- iii) Selecting committee members
- iv) Meeting with a member of the Student Activities Office once a month

SECTION V APPLICATION PROCESS

- i) The Associated Students of Whitman College shall solicit applications for the Executive Director of the Symposium Planning Committee.
- ii) The Directors of Programming and Communications shall be selected by the Executive Director.

SECTION VI FINANCES

i) Along with support and funding through ASWC and WEB, the Executive Director shall be charged with seeking out funding from various groups and organizations who would benefit from the symposium.

SECTION VII REPORT

The Executive Director of the Symposium Planning Committee shall give an evaluative presentation to the ASWC Senate after the Symposium has taken place. This presentation may be given at any ASWC Senate meeting during the spring semester.

SECTION VIII OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

This act must be reviewed and reauthorized every year for it to continue taking effect.

SECTION IX EXCEPTIONS

Any of the responsibilities proposed under the three sub-committees may be swapped and shuffled by discretion of the appointed committee Director and the Executive Director.

SECTION X NOTWITHSTANDING

Should any provision of this act come into contradiction with the ASWC Constitution or bylaws; or should any provision of this act come into contradiction with Whitman College policy; or should any provision of this act come into contradiction with state or federal law, that specific provision shall be considered null and void, while leaving intact all other complying provisions of this act.