

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF  
WHITMAN COLLEGE  
STUDENT SENATE  
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IN THE SENATE  
ACT SAS17.2

WRITTEN BY: Jayden Dirk '20, Merone Hadush '20, Lily Parker '19, Gautam Produturi '19,  
Jeanette Schwensen '18

SPONSORED BY: Kimberly Taylor '20, Paris Fox '19, Omar Aldahleh '20, Gordon Kochman '17

SIGNATORIES: Caroline Bauwens '19, Emma Bishop '18

*An Act Amending the By-laws Article XIV on Elections to Include a Section on Senate Vacancies*

**SECTION I TITLE**

This act shall be referred to as An Act Amending the By-laws Article XIV on Elections to include a section on Senate Vacancies.

**SECTION II JUSTIFICATION**

- a. There is often disagreement or confusion over how to fill vacant Senate seats and there is no codified procedure on how to address this issue.
- b. Although there is a procedure for Interim Elections delineated in the By-laws, it is often not the most efficient choice to immediately run an Interim Election. There are consistently well-qualified candidates who have run in recent elections who have been able to step in and fill vacancies.
- c. In the past, filling Senate seat vacancies has been at the discretion of the Oversight Committee. This By-law amendment will codify the procedures for addressing such issues, using past Oversight Committee's actions as precedent.

**SECTION III PURPOSE**

This act shall amend the By-laws Article XIV on Elections, adding a section on Senate Vacancies.

**Section Six. Senate Vacancies**

- A. In the event of a Senate seat vacancy, the procedure to fill the vacancy shall be directed by the Oversight Committee.**
  - 1. If a Senate seat becomes vacant during or after spring break, as indicated by the Whitman College academic calendar, the seat shall not be filled, considering the short amount of time left in the Senate cycle.**
- B. The Oversight Committee shall turn to the results of the most recent election for the class year that has the vacant seat.**

**C. It is at the discretion of the Oversight Committee to determine how many candidates from the considered election shall be offered the open seat.**

- 1. The Oversight Committee shall not offer the open seat to a candidate that earned zero votes in the considered election according to the BigPulse election results.**

**D. In the event that the vacant seat cannot be filled according to the aforementioned procedures, then the election shall be carried out according to the Interim Election as defined in Section Seven.**

#### **SECTION IV 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.