

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
WHITMAN COLLEGE
STUDENT SENATE
SPRING SEMESTER 2017

ACT SAS17.6

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An Act to Make Permanent the Power & Privilege Symposium

SECTION I TITLE

1. This act shall be referred to as An Act to Make Permanent the Power & Privilege Symposium.

SECTION II JUSTIFICATION

1. Issues of diversity and inclusion, as well as the success of students belonging to underrepresented groups on campus, require immediate attention.
2. In today's current political and global atmosphere, the mental and physical health, and overall well-being of these students is in jeopardy.
3. In 2006, controversy concerning racist acts ignited discussion throughout the student body, motivating students and faculty to provide a forum for these conversations to take place.
4. The Whitman Race Symposium in 2006 garnered popular attendance, fostered discussion among individual students, and created greater awareness about issues of diversity and alienation among students from underrepresented backgrounds.
5. What is now known as the Power & Privilege Symposium has greatly expanded over the past four years and now addresses issues of structural inequality beyond race, including intersections of gender, socioeconomic status, sexuality and a myriad of other issues.
6. The faculty has voted to cancel classes for the Power & Privilege Symposium for the past four years, active through 2019.
7. The Symposium has achieved an unprecedented level of popularity and legitimacy on campus.

SECTION III PURPOSE

1. This act hereby makes permanent the Power & Privilege Symposium.
2. It ensures the coordination and implementation of the Power & Privilege Symposium that will take place annually on the Whitman College campus and receive the appropriate financial support from ASWC. The Power & Privilege Symposium 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 campus and beyond.

SECTION IV FORMAT

This act shall further amend the Bylaws by adding Article XVI: Equity and Inclusion:

Article XVI, Section One, shall read as follows:

Section One. Objectives

- A. The Equity and Inclusion Article works to actively address the concerns of historically underrepresented groups on campus through programming and student initiatives.

Article XVI, Section Two, shall read as follows:

Section Two. The Power & Privilege Symposium

- A. The Power & Privilege Symposium is an annual event designed to make space for conversations about structural oppressions, and how they manifest themselves on the Whitman College campus and beyond, including, but not limited to, racism, sexism, ableism, capitalism, etc.
- B. An ad-hoc committee, hereafter referred to as the Executive Team, will be charged with the responsibility for the execution of the Power & Privilege Symposium. The Executive Team is comprised by an Executive Director and Directors for each sub-committee.
- C. The Executive Director shall be responsible for organizing the Executive Team and shall be selected by the outgoing Power & Privilege Symposium Executive Director, the Nominations Chair, and the Diversity and Inclusion Director.
- D. The Power & Privilege Symposium shall be structured according to its own governing documents, made available to the public.
- E. Should the Faculty choose not to continue the cancellation of classes for the Symposium, the Executive Team shall re-evaluate how the Symposium will continue to take place.
- F. Should the Executive Director resign, the Nominations Chair and the Diversity and Inclusion Director will nominate a permanent replacement to be confirmed by the Senate, seeking first from within the Executive Team.
- G. **Rights:**
 - a. The Power & Privilege Symposium is protected from discrimination on the basis of any of the protected qualities described in the ASWC Bill of Rights as specified by the Constitution.
 - i. If the Power & Privilege Symposium believes discrimination or wrongdoing has taken place, it may submit a complaint to the Oversight Chair.
 1. If the complaint, as written, would constitute a violation of the Power & Privilege Symposium's rights, then the Oversight Committee shall conduct an investigation.
 - b. The Executive Director has the right to meet with the Nominations Chair, ASWC President, and Diversity and Inclusion Director at least once a month for the purposes of maintaining regular communication with ASWC.
 - c. Impeachment charges or sanctions against the Executive Director cannot be levied on the basis of content produced by the organization unless it is found to be in violation of the ASWC bylaws, the organization's governing documents, or college policy.

H. Funding:

- a. **The Power & Privilege Symposium shall receive funding through the Whitman Events Board.**
- b. **The Power & Privilege Symposium has the right to request funding from the Travel and Student Development Fund and Contingency funds. Whether or not to grant these requests shall be determined as per the procedures of the Senate and Finance Committee.**

SECTION V NOTWITHSTANDING

Should any provision of this act come into contradiction with the ASWC Constitution or By-laws; 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 local, state, or federal law, that specific provision shall be considered null and void, while leaving intact all other complying provisions.