

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF  
WHITMAN COLLEGE  
STUDENT SENATE  
FALL SEMESTER 2016

IN THE SENATE  
ACT SAF 16.1

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***AN ACT AMENDING AND CLARIFYING THE STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BY-LAWS***

**SECTION I TITLE**

1. This act shall be referred to as An Act Amending and Clarifying the Student Affairs Committee By-laws.

**SECTION II JUSTIFICATION**

- A. The current By-laws regarding the Student Affairs Committee are rather minimal, which has created confusion and frustration amongst past committees and authors of legislation.
- B. Past Student Affairs Committees have historically received incomplete legislation, which has required the Committee to spend the majority of its meeting time revising grammatical and clerical errors rather than discussing in depth the content of the legislation.
- C. Additionally, authors of past legislation have rushed their respective acts and/or resolutions through the Committee and onto the Senate on the basis of time sensitivity and wanting their legislation to be reviewed at an impending Board of Trustee meeting.
- D. A strategy that has been employed by many individuals who have submitted incomplete or late legislation to the Student Affairs Committee has been to amend that legislation with a friendly amendment on the floor of the Legislative Assembly so as to gain more time to work on the legislation. This practice effectively nullifies the mission and purpose of the Student Affairs Committee as a body that appraises and presents legislation to the Senate.
  - a. This Act will require that an amendment may only be considered friendly if the ASWC Vice President makes the determination that the Student Affairs Committee has adequately discussed the amended version.
  - b. This Act delineates that it shall be the duty of the Oversight member assigned to the Student Affairs Committee or, in his or her absence, the highest ranked present Oversight member, to determine whether or not a change is clerical.
- E. These changes will improve the vetting process for legislation by establishing a deadline for legislation submission and clarifying proper sponsorship procedure.
  - a. The Act will amend the existing By-laws to include both a sponsor and at least two signatories. The inclusion of signatories will serve to provide further support to the quality of the legislation as it moves onto the Senate. The signatory will be an individual who has read and discussed the legislation. They may agree or disagree with the document as their main role is to affirm that the legislation has been thought about and discussed thoroughly. Contrastingly, the sponsor will be someone who champions and agrees with the

legislation being put forth. This act will clarify that an author cannot sponsor their own legislation. This change will increase the legitimacy of the legislation and will ensure that other members of the Senate body are confirming the quality and readiness of the legislation being put forth.

F. Additionally, this Act will clarify and attempt to improve Town Hall procedure. The Student Affairs Chair, along with the Club Director, is tasked with organizing at least two Town Halls per semester. In order for Town Hall to run as effectively as possible and to ensure that it properly addresses Clubs' interest and concerns, this Act proposes to require that at least one of the two town halls centers on a Club related issue (i.e. sustainability and divestment) and the other on an ASWC related and motivated issue.

G. This Act will clarify and explicate attendance standards for the Student Affairs Committee within the By-laws. Additionally, it will indicate attendance violation as a circumstance in which a formal investigation by the Oversight Committee can be requested.

H. These proposed By-law changes will better standardize expectations of both the committee and authors. It will encourage individual authors and the Committee to be aware of finite dates, such as the Board of Trustees meeting, and to ensure that they have whatever legislation they wish to present prepared and polished in sufficient time before the deadline. Additionally, these proposed changes will legitimize the role of the Student Affairs Committee and its purpose as the vetting committee.

### SECTION III PURPOSE

1. This act shall amend the By-laws Article VIII, Section Two, A, adding clauses 3, 4, and 5 to read as follows:
2. Such measures all need to be reviewed by the Student Affairs Committee before they are presented to Senate.
3. **To be reviewed by the Student Affairs Committee all pieces of legislation must be submitted to the Student Affairs Chair no less than 48 hours before the beginning of a Student Affairs Committee meeting.**
4. **All legislation must be ready for review by the Student Affairs Committee at the time it is submitted to the Student Affairs Chair.**
  - i. **It shall be the duty of the Student Affairs Chair to determine if a piece of legislation is ready for review by the Student Affairs Committee.**
5. **It shall be the duty of the Student Affairs Chair to publicize to the ASWC Senate and Executive Council the date of the next meeting of the Whitman College Board of Trustees and the date by which the Student Affairs Committee must receive a piece of legislation to be presented at that Board of Trustees meeting.**
2. This act shall amend the By-laws Article VIII, Section Two, B, revising clause 1 and adding clause 2 to read as follows:
  1. All legislative bills also need **one (1) sponsor and two (2) signatories** from within the current Senate or Executive Council before they can be presented to the Student Affairs Committee. ~~Current Senators or Executive Council members may sponsor their own legislative bills.~~
    - i. The Student Affairs Committee shall lobby the College Administration in support of the interests of ASWC members.
  2. **Once passed by the Student Affairs Committee, no piece of legislation may be amended unless an Oversight member deems the change clerical or unless the piece of legislation is amended on the Senate floor.**



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.