

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
WHITMAN COLLEGE
STUDENT SENATE
FALL SEMESTER 2017

IN THE SENATE
ACT SAF17.11

WRITTEN BY: Meg Rierson '18

SPONSORED BY: Emma Bishop '18, Bryn Louise '19, Olivia Nicholas '18, Omar Aldahleh '20

SIGNATORIES: Anthony Reale '19, Julian Reed '18

An Act Amending the By-laws to Modify the Position of the Diversity and Inclusion Director

SECTION I TITLE

This act shall be referred to as An Act Amending the By-laws Article II, Sections One and Two; Article III, Sections One and Two; Article IV, Section One; Article VI, Section Five on the position of the Diversity and Inclusion Director.

SECTION II JUSTIFICATION

- A. As a body operating on a model of representative democratic governance, voting is one way members of ASWC express their voice and the voices of those they represent. Although the first stated purpose of the Diversity and Inclusion Director is to “voice concerns of historically underrepresented groups,” this position does not have a vote in Senate.
- B. The existence of the Diversity and Inclusion Director position reflects a commitment by ASWC to principles of diversity and inclusion in all spheres of governance. That is, this position does not relegate all issues of diversity and inclusion to the Diversity and Inclusion Director. Rather, the Diversity and Inclusion Director serves as a point person on issues that all members of ASWC and the campus at large should be engaging with.
- C. The goals of the Diversity and Inclusion Director are to represent the voices of underrepresented groups and to make progress with respect to campus diversity by moving past symbolic gestures of representation and orienting towards goals of equity and empowerment. Thus, the lack of a vote for this position is antithetical to these ends.
- D. Currently, the position of Diversity and Inclusion Director is appointed, and thus cannot vote. Upon changing the Diversity and Inclusion Director to an elected position, this position will have a vote.

SECTION III PURPOSE

1. The following By-laws have been amended to make the Diversity and Inclusion Director an elected, voting position.

SECTION IV FORMAT

This act will take effect on the date that petitions are released for positions for the 2018-2019 school year: February 26th, 2018. This does not confer voting rights to the Diversity and Inclusion Director appointed for the 2017-2018 school year on February 26th, 2018. Changing the position to have a vote makes it elected, so the Diversity and Inclusion Director for the 2018-2019 school year will follow the ASWC process for elections beginning on February 26th, 2018. The Diversity and Inclusion Director appointed for the 2017-2018 school year will continue to serve on the Executive Council until the end of the school year as an appointed member. This act amends the following bylaws:

Article II, Section One, Composition of ASWC Congress to read as follows:

Article II. Congress

Section One. Composition of ASWC Congress

A. **The Executive Council is composed of the President, Vice President, Finance Chair, Nominations Chair**, an Ombudsperson, an Executive Director of Communications, Club Director, Oversight Chair, Sustainability Director, **Diversity and Inclusion Director**, and the Whitman Events Board Chair. ~~who will not vote.~~

~~1. Executive Council members who can vote are: elected Chairs and an Ombudsperson.~~

~~2. Executive Council members who cannot vote are: Executive Director of Communications, Club Director, Oversight Chair, Sustainability Director and Whitman Events Board Chair.~~

B. The ASWC Senate is composed of members elected by each class.

C. Internal ASWC Committees to include Student Affairs, Finance, and Nominations.

And, this act shall amend Article II, Section Two on the Duties of ASWC Congress to read as follows:

Article II. Congress

Section Two. Duties of ASWC Congress

A. As the only members of the ASWC Congress to be elected by the entire membership, the Executive Council is charged with advocating the will of the student body to all levels of governance within the college.

~~B. Elected Members of the Executive Council are in control of the direction and agendas of each of the standing committees.~~

C. As the only elected deliberative body within ASWC, the Senate is charged with assembling and advocating for their constituents in all matters before ASWC, specifically in regard to setting and approving the ASWC budget, considering any legislative statements concerning ASWC, lobbying on behalf of ASWC, and acting as ASWC's collective voice.

D. Internal Committees shall be issue-based centers of ASWC to conduct its formal business.

And, this act shall amend Article III, Section One on the composition of the executive council to read as follows:

Article III The Executive Council

Section One. Composition of the Executive Council.

- A. The Executive ~~Officers~~ **Council**, who shall also provide leadership in the Senate, ~~shall be the President, the Student Affairs Chair, the Finance Chair, the Nominations Chair, the Club Director, the Ombudsperson, the Whitman Events Board Director, the Executive Director of Communications, the Oversight Chair, the Sustainability Director, and the Diversity and Inclusion Director.~~ **shall be composed of elected and appointed members. The elected members shall be the President, Student Affairs Chair, Finance Chair, Nominations Chair, Ombudsperson, and the Diversity and Inclusion Director. The appointed members shall be Club Director, Whitman Events Board Director, Executive Director of Communications, Oversight Chair, and Sustainability Director.** Only those members directly elected by the student body may vote in the Executive Council and the Senate.
- B. If, for whatever reason, an elected Executive Council Chair (with the exception of the Oversight Chair) must leave office, it is the responsibility of the Executive Council to appoint an interim replacement until a permanent replacement can be found.
1. The Executive Council shall nominate a permanent replacement.
 2. The incoming chair shall be confirmed by a majority of the Senate.

And, this act shall amend the By-laws Article III, Section Two, Subsection J on duties of the Diversity and Inclusion Director to read as follows:

Article III. The Executive Council

Section Two. Duties of Executive Officers

J. The Diversity and Inclusion Director shall:

1. **Vote in Senate.**

And, this act shall amend the By-laws Article IV, Section One, Subsection A, Sub-sub section 2, sub-sub-sub section ii on voting rights for the Senate to read:

Article IV. The Senate

Section one. Composition and Duties of the Senate

- A. Composition of Senate
2. Voting rights for the Senate
 - ii. The Student Affairs Chair, Finance Chair, Nominations Chair, and **the Diversity and Inclusion Director** shall have the right to vote in senate

And, this act shall amend the By-laws Article VI, Section Five Investigations, Subsection E, Sub-sub section 2, sub-sub-sub section i on investigation panels to read:

Article VI. Oversight

Section Five. Investigations

E. Sanctioning Process

2. The Oversight Committee will then present the findings of the investigation and the sanctions to a panel.

I. The panel shall be composed of

a. The ASWC President

i. If the ASWC President is a party in the case then the responsibility will fall to the next Executive Council member on the following list who is not a party in the case:

a. ASWC Vice President

b. ASWC Finance Chair

c. ASWC Nominations Chair

d. Club Director

e. Executive Director of Communication

f. WEB Chair

g. Sustainability Director

h. ~~Open Position~~ **The Diversity and Inclusion Director**

SECTION IV 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 state or federal law, that specific provision shall be considered null and void, while leaving intact all other complying provisions of this act.