

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
WHITMAN COLLEGE
STUDENT SENATE
SPRING SEMESTER 2017

IN THE SENATE
ACT SAS17.1

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***AN ACT TO MAKE PERMANENT THE POSITION OF THE ASWC DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSION DIRECTOR***

SECTION I TITLE

1. This act shall be referred to as An Act to Make Permanent the Position of ASWC Diversity and Inclusion Director.

SECTION II JUSTIFICATION

1. Issues of diversity and inclusion¹, as well as the success of students belonging to underrepresented groups on campus, requires 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. The Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC) believe that a student liaison between ASWC, the Whitman administration, the Board of Trustees, campus organizations, and the President improves the experiences of all individuals who seek advocacy and support.
4. The continuation of the Diversity and Inclusion Director position will advocate for all marginalized voices.
5. The permanence of this position would encourage diversity within ASWC by creating a safe space for students of underrepresented backgrounds. This visibility of diversity would allow all voices to be heard in various platforms around campus such as Senate.
6. Institutionalizing this position would emphasize ASWC's dedication to diversity by and for historically underrepresented groups on campus.

¹ This document understands diversity and inclusion as "encompass[ing] acceptance and respect. It means understanding that each individual is unique, and recognizing our individual differences. These can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, [ableism, nationality], religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies. It is the exploration of these differences in a safe, positive, and nurturing environment"

"Definition of Diversity," University of Oregon, accessed February 10, 2017,
<http://gladstone.uoregon.edu/~asuomca/diversityinit/definition.html>.

7. The continuation of this position would demonstrate to the college that diversity and inclusion are a priority to students and would help to hold the college accountable to its stated commitment² to increasing diversity.

SECTION III PURPOSE

1. This act hereby makes permanent the position of ASWC Diversity and Inclusion Director, which will be tasked with the role of advocating for related issues at Whitman College.

SECTION IV FORMAT

This act shall further amend the By-laws Article III, Section One, Subsection A to read as follows:

- A. The Executives Officers, 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 Chair, the Executive Director of Communications, the Oversight Chair, the Sustainability Director, and **the Diversity and Inclusion Director.** ~~the optional open position to be appointed by the President.~~ Only those members directly elected by the student body may vote in the Executive Council and the Senate.

This act shall further amend the By-laws Article III, Section Two, Subsection A to read as follows:

12. ~~Appoint, in conjunction with the Executive Council, a third person to serve as a non-voting member on the Executive Council;~~
14. ~~Create the duties of and responsibilities for the Open Position;~~

This act shall further amend the By-laws Article III, Section One on Composition of the Executive Council Subsection J to read as follows:

J. The Open Position The Diversity and Inclusion Director shall:

- ~~1. Help realize larger goals for the Executive Council in a manner that either expands or assists the duties already assigned to ASWC officials as outlined in these by-laws;~~
- ~~2. Follow the responsibilities assigned to them by the president.~~
- 1. Voice the concerns of historically underrepresented groups on campus.**
- 2. Coordinate with ASWC-affiliated activist groups and coalitions.**
- 3. Increase ASWC's accessibility and appeal to individuals of diverse backgrounds to apply and run for positions.**
- 4. Advocate for and create methods to establish administrative, faculty, and general academic/emotional support mechanisms for students of these backgrounds.**
- 5. Serve on the Whitman Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (WIDE) council.**
- 6. Work with Residence Life to improve mandatory first year diversity and inclusion training sessions.**
- 7. Prioritize the employment of work study-eligible students.**

²"Diversity, Equity and Inclusion," Whitman College, accessed February 10, 2017, <https://www.whitman.edu/about/diversity>.

8. Aid the college in efforts to recruit faculty and staff of underrepresented backgrounds.
9. Improve diversity training for faculty, staff, and members of ASWC.
10. Revise the 2005 Whitman College Trustee statement on diversity to reflect current campus ideals and values.
11. Be involved in various campus events dealing with inclusion and diversity in order to help advocate for all groups.
12. Meet with Whitman's Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion, the Dean of Students, the Associate Dean of Students, and/or the Student Affairs appointees throughout the school year.
13. Create statements with the Executive Council and members of the Senate that aim to answer current exigencies that arise within the world and on campus.

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.