

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
WHITMAN COLLEGE
STUDENT SENATE
SPRING SEMESTER 2017

IN THE SENATE
ACT SAS17.5

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An Act to Arrange for a Student Forum to Discuss the Student Fee in 2018

SECTION I TITLE

This act shall be referred to as An Act to Arrange for a Student Forum to Discuss the Student Fee in 2018.

SECTION II JUSTIFICATION

- a. The Student Fee has a significant impact on student life and affairs. Its establishment is an essential function of ASWC and affects the scope and nature of the services which ASWC is able to offer. It also contributes to the substantial financial burden undertaken by attending Whitman College.
- b. It has lately become clear that there are significant barriers obstructing engagement by the student body in the process of establishing such a fee. In 2017 specifically, the fee was passed well after midnight. There was little debate and all guests to the Senate's deliberations had departed.
- c. While many efforts have been made to make ASWC as transparent as possible, it is clear that the time, place and manner by which the fee is established has limited the accessibility by the students to this aspect of ASWC's fiscal policy.
- d. The aftermath of the fee's passage has led to frustration and disengagement on the part of many students. Presentations to the student body for the purpose of discussing the student fee would improve accessibility.

SECTION III PURPOSE

- A. In the second semester of the 2017-2018 academic year, there shall be a forum, open to the public, for the purpose of discussing changes to the ASWC student fee.
 - a. The Finance Chair, in consultation with the Executive Council, shall secure an appropriate venue to host such a forum, which shall occur at least one week before the Senate establishes the student fee for the following academic year.
 - b. The venue and administrators shall be available so that the forum may occur for at least sixty (60) minutes.
 - c. This forum may be incorporated into a town hall with the consent of the Student Affairs Chair and Club Director. However, if it is not incorporated, the two events shall not occur at the same time, so as to avoid either obstructing or interfering with the business or attendance of each other.
 - d. This forum shall be led by the Finance Chair and the Club Director.

- B. The Finance Chair shall present information on the state of ASWC's finances and a recommendation for the next student fee as approved by the Finance Committee.¹
1. Following the presentation given by the Finance Chair, there shall be a period for public questions and commentary.
 2. The structure of attendance shall be the same as that of a town hall for Senators and Executive Council Members.
 - a. The Club Director shall be charged with recording the attendance of the members of the Senate and of the Executive Council.
 - b. The members of the Finance Committee, including the Oversight Committee member assigned thereto, unless their absence has been duly excused, shall attend and be available to answer questions.
 3. If circumstances necessitate the delay of this forum and no alternative date is available (as determined by a vote of the Executive Council), the Senate shall provide for the presentation by the Finance Chair as well as a period for public questions and commentary at the beginning of the session during which the establishment of a student fee is to be considered.
 4. The Executive Director of Communications shall distribute to the student body by email (and by any other means proper) the location, date, time, and topic of this forum as well as the location, date, and time when the Senate is to consider the establishment of a student fee.

SECTION IV OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. This act must be reviewed and reauthorized every year for it to continue taking effect.

SECTION V 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.

¹ Source: Art. 2, Sec. 3, *The Constitution of the United States*.