

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF  
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY VANCOUVER  
AFFIRMED AND ESTABLISHED, SPRING 1993

Preamble

We, the undergraduate and graduate students of Washington State University Vancouver, in order to initiate and coordinate student activities in accordance with the purposes and objectives listed in ASWSU Pullman ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION; to represent student interests, needs, and welfare within the University community at large on issues affecting student life; and to supplement and complement formal education on the University campus, do affirm and establish this branch campus constitution. (amended March 2009 in the general elections)

ARTICLE I: NAME

1. The name of this organization shall be the "Associated Students of Washington State University Vancouver ("ASWSUV")."

ARTICLE II: AUTHORITIES AND POWERS

1. Authorities and powers of ASWSUV shall be exercised by the ASWSUV Senate except that the ASWSUV President and Vice President shall have such powers as are enumerated in this Constitution.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. All regularly enrolled undergraduate and graduate students attending WSU-Vancouver shall be members of ASWSUV.

ARTICLE IV: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

1. The legislative power of ASWSUV shall be vested in the ASWSUV Senate, which shall be composed of representatives proportionate to one percent (1%) of the total combined undergraduate and graduate head count population attending WSU Vancouver. The actual number of Senate representatives will be determined by rounding the figure derived to be one percent (1%) to the next closest hundred students. The number of senators to be elected for the subsequent academic year shall be by the official ten-day head count for the spring semester in which the ASWSUV General Election takes place. If the student head count fluctuates throughout the academic year, there shall be no increase or decrease in the number of senators until the next general election. The total number of Senate Representatives shall not exceed eleven (11).
2. Members of the Senate must be members of ASWSUV, must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) graded semester hours per semester, and must be in good academic standing, maintaining no less than a 2.5 cumulative GPA, with the University. Members of the Senate shall be elected in the annual spring election. (Amended March 2018 in the general election)

3. Members of the Senate shall hold office from commencement to commencement or until their duly elected successors take office.
4. Members of the Senate shall post and maintain regular office hours, as required by the By-laws, throughout his or her term.
5. Legislative Branch pay shall be paid in accordance with title II of the By-laws. (amended March 2012 in the general elections)
6. The Senate, as the legislative branch of ASWSUV, shall be the policy-making body of ASWSUV and no Executive Branch act or omission shall contravene expressed or implied Senate policy.
7. The ASWSUV Senate shall have and exercise the general powers and duties to specifically include the following powers and duties:
  - a. to adopt and amend and ASWSUV budget pursuant to Article VIII.
  - b. to authorize entry into contractual or financial relationships on behalf of ASWSUV.
  - c. to cause to have published and to approve an annual financial statement.
  - d. to confirm by two-thirds (2/3) consent of the seated membership Presidential appointments of Cabinet members, Judicial Board members, and ASWSUV Committee chairs.
  - e. to remove ASWSUV Committee chairs upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the seated membership.
  - f. to ensure that elected and appointed ASWSUV officials faithfully execute and abide by ASWSUV policies.
  - g. to apportion, as needed, the membership of ASWSUV into academic departments for purposes of ASWSUV activities and policies.
  - h. to override a Presidential veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the seated membership.
  - i. to impeach ASWSUV Officers and Senators, as provided in Article V, 11, b.

The Senate shall not delegate any of the powers specified in Article IV, Section 7 (a) through (i) inclusive.

For the purposes of this Constitution, seated membership shall be the number of Senators holding office at any given time.

8. Meetings

- a. The Senate shall meet at least semi-monthly during fall and spring semesters with exceptions for summer semester, vacations and breaks.
  - (1). A quorum shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the seated membership of the Senate;
  - (2). All meetings shall be held in accordance with legal requirements regarding open public meetings.
- b. Special meetings may be called by either the President, the Senate Chair Pro-tempore, one-third (1/3) of the seated Senate membership, or upon petition of twenty percent (20%) of the ASWSUV membership.
- c. The Vice President shall be the Chair of the Senate. The Chair may only vote to break a tie. In the absence of the Chair, the Senate Chair Pro-tempore shall chair the Senate.
  - (1). The Chair Pro-tempore shall be annually elected at the second Senate meeting by a majority vote from the seated Senate membership.

9. Senators and Senators-elect may be removed from office via the following recall process:

- a. Petitions calling for the removal from office of a named Senator or Senator- elect shall be signed by no less than twenty percent (20%) of the ASWSUV membership and shall be submitted to the Vice President for verification.
- b. Upon verification, the Senate shall set a reasonable date or dates for a recall election.
- c. At least twenty percent (20%) of the membership of ASWSUV must participate in the recall election for validation.
- d. A majority affirmative vote shall be required for recall.
- e. Challenging a recall election
  - (1). In the event a named ASWSUV Senator or Senator-elect is named in a recall proceeding or impeachment proceeding, he or she shall temporarily vacate his or her office until the proceedings are concluded.

10. Vacancies

- a. Should a Senate vacancy occur, the President and Vice President shall submit, within fifteen (15) school days of the occurrence of the vacancy, a list of three (3) nominees for the vacancy. At the next scheduled Senate meeting, the Senate by plurality vote of seated membership may select one of the three nominees to fill the vacancy or request a new list of nominees within fifteen (15) school days.

- (1). Should the President and Vice President fail to comply with the clause (a), the Senate may confirm by two thirds (2/3) vote of the seated membership, a nomination from the floor.
- b. Should more than three (3) vacancies occur at any one time, a special election as described in the ASWSUV By-laws, to fill the position must be scheduled within fifteen (15) school days.

## ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- 1. The executive power of ASWSUV shall be vested in the Executive Branch of ASWSUV. The Executive Branch shall be composed of the ASWSUV President and the ASWSUV Vice President, and cabinet officers that the President and Vice President appoint and the Senate confirms.
- 2. Members of the Executive Branch must be members of ASWSUV, enrolled in a minimum of six (6) graded credit hours per semester, and must be in good academic standing, maintaining no less than a 2.5 cumulative GPA, with the University. The President and Vice President shall run as a ticket and be elected in the annual spring election. (Amended March 2018 in the general election)
- 3. Members of the Executive Branch shall hold office from commencement to commencement. In the event elections take place post commencement, members of the executive branch shall hold office until their duly elected successors take office.
- 4. Executive Branch salaries shall be based on a percentage of the cost of tuition and books and paid in accordance with title III of the By-laws.
- 5. The ASWSUV President shall post and maintain regular office hours, as required by the By-laws, throughout his or her term of office (including summers).
- 6. The ASWSUV President shall be the chief executive officer of ASWSUV and all other members of the Executive Branch shall be responsible to the President. The President shall have and exercise the general powers and duties to specifically include the following:
  - a. to preside over all meetings of the general membership of the ASWSUV.
  - b. to preside as chair over Cabinet meetings.
  - c. to appoint cabinet officers, Judicial Board members, and ASWSUV Committee chairpersons, subject to the consent of the Senate.
  - d. to communicate the needs and concerns of all ASWSUV members to the university administration, including:

1. Meeting with university administrators;
2. Developing proposals and comments regarding university policy;
3. Attending meetings with faculty, deans, and other administrators as needed; and
4. Asserting student needs at all times.

- e. to communicate with the Student Government in Pullman and all other WSU Branch campuses in accordance with the WSUSGC constitution. This may require travel.
- f. to communicate and assert student needs to the State Legislature, the Governor, and the Higher Education Coordinating Board in accordance with the WSUSGC constitution.
- g. to make appointments not otherwise provided by the Constitution.
- h. to remove all Presidential appointees, except Judicial Board members.
- i. To veto any acts and confirmations of the Senate except resolutions, Senate vacancy appointments, and referenda, and provide written notification of such vetoes to the Vice president and Senate Chair Pro-tempore within four (4) school days of the Senate action.

The President shall have other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Senate or the ASWSUV By-laws.

7. The ASWSUV Vice President shall post and maintain regular office hours, as required by the By-laws, throughout his or her term of office (including summers).
8. The ASWSUV Vice President shall have and exercise the following powers and duties:
  - a. to be the Chair of the ASWSUV Senate.
  - b. to have general control of ASWSUV Committees, as specified in the By-laws, within the policies established by the Senate.
  - c. to exercise such power and authority as may be delegated by the President, except those powers and duties enumerated in sections 6 (a), (c), (f), (g), (h) and (i) of Article V.
  - d. to assume and execute the powers and duties of the President should the President be absent for a prolonged period of time or be deemed unable to perform his or her obligations.
  - e. to assist the President with communications between the Student Government in Pullman and other branch campuses in accordance with the WSUSGC constitution. This may require travel.

- f. to assist the President in constructing proposals and other documents.
- g. to prepare the agenda for Cabinet and Senate meetings.
- h. to perform any duty deemed necessary by ASWSUV Officers, Senate, Constitution or By-laws.
- i. Reports to the ASWSUV President.

The Vice President shall have other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Senate or the ASWSUV By-laws.

9. The interests and affairs of ASWSUV shall be managed jointly by the President and Vice President during the summer session, consistent with any Senate directives.

10. Cabinet officers shall have and exercise those powers and authorities delegated by the President consistent with the ASWSUV Constitution and By-laws, except those powers and duties enumerated in sections 6 (a) through 6 (i), inclusive, of Article V.

11. Removal of President, Vice President, president-elect or Vice President-elect.

a. The aforementioned ASWSUV officers may be removed from office via the following recall process:

(1). Petitions calling for removal from office of a named ASWSUV officer shall be signed by twenty percent (20%) of the ASWSUV membership and shall be submitted to the Senate Chair Pro-tempore for verification.

(2). Upon verification, the Senate shall set a reasonable date or dates for a recall election. These dates shall be set within fifteen (15) school days.

(3). A recall election shall require a twenty percent (20%) voting turnout of the ASWSUV membership for validation.

(4). A majority affirmative vote shall be required for recall.

b. The aforementioned ASWSUV Officers (article V) and Senators (article IV) may be removed from office via the following impeachment process:

(1). ASWSUV Officers and Senators may be impeached for failure to reasonably and properly execute their powers and duties.

(2). A four-fifths (4/5) affirmative vote of the seated membership of the ASWSUV Senate shall be required to bring impeachment proceedings against ASWSUV Officers and Senators.

(3). The Chief Justice of the Judicial Board shall preside over the impeachment proceedings, as established by the Judicial Board, which shall commence within a reasonable time after the Senate vote to bring impeachment proceedings.

(4). A one hundred percent (100%) affirmative vote of the seated membership of the senate, excluding the Senator against whom impeachment proceedings have been brought, shall be required to impeach an ASWSUV Officer or Senator.

c. Vacancies

(1). Should the office of President become vacant, the Vice President shall become President.

(2). Should the office of Vice President become vacant, the President shall appoint a Vice President for the unexpired term, this shall include when the Vice President has succeeded to the position of President, subject to the four-fifths (4/5) consent of the seated membership of the Senate.

(3). Should both offices become simultaneously vacant, the Senate shall elect from its membership a President Pro-tempore and shall schedule an election within fifteen (15) school days of the notification of vacancy.

(4). This section (Article V, section 9 (c)) shall also apply to vacancies in the Presidential-elect and Vice President-elect offices.

d. Challenges to Recall and Impeachment.

(1). In the event a named ASWSUV officer is named in a recall proceeding or impeachment proceeding, he or she shall temporarily vacate his or her office, with pay, until the proceedings are concluded.

## ARTICLE VI: JUDICIAL BRANCH

1. The Judicial power of ASWSUV shall be vested in the ASWSUV Judicial Board, which shall be composed of three (3) members. The Chair of the Judicial Board shall be the Chief Justice, who shall be elected by the Justices from the Judicial Board membership at the beginning of each academic year and whenever the position is vacant.

2. Members of the Judicial Board must be members of ASWSUV, must be enrolled a minimum of six (6) graded credit hours per semester, must be in good academic standing, maintaining no less than a 2.5 cumulative GPA, with the University, and shall hold no other elected or appointed positions within ASWSUV, except that members may serve on University and ASWSUV ad-hoc committees. Members shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the seated Senate membership. (Amended March 2018 in the general election)

3. Members of the Judicial Board shall serve from their appointment until the termination of their undergraduate or graduate enrollment, not including summers between academic years.

4. The Judicial Board shall not act without quorum of three (3) members.

5. The Judicial Board shall have and execute the power to act on all cases and controversies arising under the ASWSUV Constitution or By-laws, and in addition shall have the following powers and duties:

a. to act within twenty (20) school days of the formal filing of a complaint with the Chief Justice, such action to include rendering an opinion.

b. to reconsider, upon petition of any party to the complaint, a prior act if two (2) or more Justices deem it appropriate.

c. to validate or invalidate all ASWSUV elections upon receipt of all pertinent information, consistent with Article 7, Section 3 (c).

d. to establish by a majority vote Judicial Board procedures and guidelines.

6. The Chief Justice shall have and execute the following duties:

a. Call and preside over sessions of the Judicial Board.

b. Notify all parties of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

c. Notify all parties in writing of the charges against them within five (5) school days.

d. Make available written copies of all Judicial Board decisions to the President, Senate Chair Pro-tempore, and the parties involved within five (5) school days of the hearing.

7. A member of the Judicial Board may be removed from the Judicial Board upon a unanimous vote of removal by the seated membership of the Senate.

8. Vacancies

a. The President shall appoint a new member to the Judicial Board within fifteen (15) days of the occurrence of a vacancy on the Judicial Board, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

b. Should the President fail to comply with clause (a), the Senate may confirm, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of seated membership, a nomination from the floor.

## ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS

1. The annual Spring election shall be the Tuesday and Wednesday before spring break for the President/Vice President ticket and Senate positions, except that the dates may be changed because of extenuating circumstances upon a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the seated ASWSUV Senate.
2. Special elections shall be held as required by the ASWSUV constitution for the following purposes:
  - A. To fill vacancies in the ASWSUV Senate and Executive Branch.
  - B. To complete invalidated elections.
  - C. To recall the ASWSUV President, Vice President, or any ASWSUV Senator(s).
  - D. For any ballot measure.

### 3. Campaign Expenditure Limitations

- a. The total amount which may be spent by each ticket in the campaign for the offices of President/Vice President shall be five percent (5%) of the President's salary. The total amount all other candidates for ASWSUV offices may spend on their election is three percent (3%) of the President's salary.
- b. All expenditures made by a candidate must be reported and accompanied by an itemized report. All donations made to a candidate shall also be reported and accompanied by an itemized report. Reporting procedures and valuation procedures shall be established in the By-laws
- c. Violations
  - (1). Upon a determination by the Judicial Board that a candidate or executive ticket has exceeded their respective campaign expenditure limitation, that candidate or executive ticket shall be invalidated.

### 4. Voting

- a. All members of ASWSUV may vote for At Large Senate, President, and Vice President candidates.

## ARTICLE VIII: FINANCE

1. The annual ASWSUV budget shall be recommended to the Senate pursuant to the By-laws for final action by the Senate prior to commencement.

## ARTICLE IX: REFERENDUM AND INITIATIVE

1. The Senate, upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of the seated membership, may submit to the membership of ASWSUV any measure which it determines to be of substantial student interest, where upon a vote of the membership of ASWSUV shall be promptly scheduled for a reasonable time.
2. Upon petition of twenty percent (20%) of the membership of ASWSUV, an initiative shall be submitted to the membership of ASWSUV for a vote within a reasonable time period.
3. Initiatives and Referendum shall carry the same weight as Senate legislation.

#### ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed amendments and revisions shall be presented to the members of ASWSUV for approval upon a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the seated membership of the Senate or upon petition of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the members of ASWSUV. (amended March 2009 in the general elections)
2. Proposed amendments and revisions which are to be presented to the members of ASWSUV for approval shall be publicized in a reasonable manner and for a reasonable period of time prior to action by the membership of ASWSUV.
3. This Constitution may be amended or revised by a majority vote of ballots cast on the proposed modification at any regular ASWSUV election or special election called for that purpose, provided however, that a minimum of twenty percent (20%) of the membership of ASWSUV vote in either type of election.

#### ARTICLE XI: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (1982, ed.), or successor editions, shall be the recognized authority for procedure not covered by this Constitution and By-laws.

#### ARTICLE XII: BY LAWS

By-laws shall be adopted by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the seated membership of the Senate. (amended March 2002 in the general elections)