

**Western Washington University**  
**Associated Students Charter**  
November, 2009

**Preamble:**

We, the Students of Western Washington University, have the right and responsibility to achieve a system of shared governance. For this purpose the Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) has been established. The ASWWU will:

- Foster students' rights and responsibilities
- Promote the general welfare of students
- Establish channels of communication within the University
- Represent student interests and opinions to the University Administration, Board of Trustees, and appropriate governmental agencies

**Article I: Membership**

The membership of the ASWWU shall include all full-time, part-time, graduate, and undergraduate students who are registered for a minimum of one academic credit at Western Washington University.

**Article II: Authority**

The ASWWU shall be the officially recognized student government of Western Washington University with the privileges associated with this recognition provided to by the Board of Trustees and state legislature. The ASWWU shall derive its authority to participate in the University governance from the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University.

**Article III: Responsibilities**

The ASWWU, as the primary representative of the students shall make every effort to meet the needs and concerns of the students. The ASWWU, through a membership elected Board of Directors shall:

- A. Make every effort to encourage students involvement in development of university policies
- B. Consult with and report to any university bodies on matters of concern to the students
- C. Be aware of university actions concerning the students
- D. Inform the university community of actions taken by the ASWWU

**Article IV: Powers**

The ASWWU shall have the power to fulfill its responsibilities within the provisions set forth herein and to act in any University-related matter not specified within the constraints of University regulations, policies and procedures. The ASWWU shall also have the following powers:

- A. To administer and appropriate Services and Activities Fee monies given to the ASWWU by the Board of Trustees. This includes all reserve accounts established by the ASWWU

- B. To obtain and review information made available on the affairs of the University
- C. To develop recommendations for the allocation of University funds
- D. To appoint all student representatives to standing University committees, and other bodies upon request
- E. To recommend student representatives to the Board of Trustees and its committees and as when deemed appropriate by the Board of Trustees
- F. To have oversight and input over all fees paid by students and be provided by the University Administration all information pertaining to the usage of such dollars
- G. To have a majority of student voting membership on fee committees overseeing voluntary student fees and services and activities fees
- H. To reserve the right to have a student chair on all committees overseeing and appropriating student fee dollars with exception to the operating and building fees
- I. To recommend to the Board of Trustees all increases or renewals in voluntary fees by student vote or a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of the ASWWU Board of Directors
- J. To enter into contracts and employ persons in a manner consistent with those articles and regulations, policies and procedures of the University
- K. To create and oversee a program of student activities and services

#### **Article V: Agreements**

- A. ASWWU Not-For-Profit corporation shall be permitted to exist in order to secure and manage private resources for the benefit of the ASWWU membership;
  - 1. The ASWWU Not-For-Profit shall be governed by the ASWWU Board of Directors.
  - 2. The ASWWU Not-For-Profit will make its books and records available to the Board of Trustees and/or their designees
  - 3. The ASWWU Not-For-Profit may establish by-laws consistent with the authority stated in this charter.
- B. The ASWWU manages the net operating revenues of the AS Cooperative Bookstore and acts in partnership with the administration through involvement in the development and recommendation of general policy for the bookstore.
- C. The Viking Union shall serve as the primary facility, provided by the University, for the ASWWU and its operations. The ASWWU will be consulted regarding significant changes to the facility and operations of the Viking Union.
- D. The ASWWU may only be abolished by a vote of the membership of ASWWU. In such case the powers given herein become null and void.

#### **Article VI. Enabling**

The ASWWU shall have the authority to adopt by-laws, as necessary, to govern its organization and structure in a manner consistent with this Charter and the policies, regulations, and procedures of the University. All amendments to this Charter must be approved by the ASWWU Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees