

# Constitution of the Associated Students of the University of Washington

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## **Preamble**

We, the Associated Students of the University of Washington, in order to initiate and coordinate student activities; to promote student interests; to provide the opportunity to develop individual leadership qualities and an understanding of group action; to supplement and complement formal education on the University of Washington campus; to represent student interests, needs, and welfare within the University community; to provide for the expression of student opinion and interests to the community at large on issues affecting student life; and to provide a physical and social environment in which to achieve the above objectives in accordance with the educational and cultural standards of the University, do affirm and establish this Constitution of the Associated Students of the University of Washington.

## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Statement**

The Associated Students of the University of Washington is dedicated to upholding the values of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. We recognize that diversity includes a wide range of identities and protected classes. We are committed to fostering an environment where all individuals feel valued, respected, and included to contribute and implement their unique perspectives and talents. We strive to dismantle barriers, address systemic inequities, and promote a safe and inclusive environment that embraces and celebrates all students.

## **Land Acknowledgement**

The Associated Students of the University of Washington acknowledges the stewards of Coast Salish lands, the lands on which we currently sit, and the UW occupies. We acknowledge the original and current caretakers; Duwamish, Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations and peoples.

### **Article I: Name**

The name of the Association shall be “The Associated Students of the University of Washington,” and shall be hereinafter referred to as the “ASUW.”

### **Article II: Articles and Regulations Taking Precedence**

The government of the University of Washington is vested in a Board of Regents, and the Board of Regents has delegated to the President of the University authority to formulate rules incident to the management of student affairs. All action taken by the ASUW must be consistent with University rules as well as all provisions in the Articles of Incorporation of the ASUW.

### **Article III: Mission**

The Associated Students of the University of Washington is the democratic voice of the students that engages the campus community through programming, services, and advocacy. The ASUW is dedicated to fostering a safe and inclusive environment. The ASUW strives to enrich student life and develop future leaders.

## **Article IV: Membership**

All regularly enrolled University of Washington students who have paid supporting fees established by the Board of Regents, and who so voluntarily choose, are to be members of the ASUW. Only members of the ASUW are entitled to vote in any ASUW election, to represent the ASUW, or to hold any office controlled by the ASUW.

## **Article V: Management and Control**

### **Section 1: Delegation of Management and Control**

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- A. The management and control of the ASUW is vested in the Board of Directors, the Student Senate, and the Judiciary, which shall employ necessary staff and shall maintain student administration as hereinafter provided. A new session of the Board of Directors, and of the ASUW, starts at noon on the first Friday following each Spring Quarter's final examination period, and at such time the previous session of the Board of Directors expires.

### **Section 2: University Authority**

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- A. The members of the ASUW recognize that the ASUW is an integral part of the University of Washington, that the ASUW exercises power delegated to it by the University, and that the President of the University, acting for the Board of Regents, therefore has the right of final approval or disapproval of all actions of the ASUW and its governing body, agents, and agencies.

## **Article VI: Constitutional Officers of the ASUW**

### **Section 1: Defined**

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- A. The constitutional officers of the ASUW are the President, Vice President, Finance and Budget Director, Personnel Director, Communications Director and at-large members of the Board of Directors. The President, with the assistance of the other officers, shall exercise the executive functions of the ASUW.

### **Section 2: Succession**

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- A. If the office of ASUW President becomes vacant, the ASUW Vice President becomes President.
- B. If both the office of ASUW President and the office of ASUW Vice President are vacant simultaneously, the Board of Directors chair pro-tempore shall fulfill the duties of both

offices until one or both offices are no longer vacant, and during such period any references in this Constitution to the ASUW President refer to the chair pro-tempore. A special election shall be held to elect a new ASUW President.

- C. Vacancies in the office of other officers of the ASUW are subject to the provisions in the ASUW Bylaws.
- D. By the end of the first regular meeting of Autumn Quarter, the Board of Directors shall elect a representative at-large member of the Board of Directors to serve as chair pro-tempore.

### **Section 3: Responsibilities**

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- A. The President shall:
  - a. Serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
  - b. Serve as the official spokesperson for ASUW, advocating for student interests on campus, in the community, and at the state level.
  - c. Build and maintain relationships with campus leadership, student organizations, and external partners.
  - d. Coordinate with the Vice President on internal operations.
- B. The Vice President shall:
  - a. Serve as the Chief Operational Officer of the Association.
  - b. Oversee the day-to-day administrative functions and ensure the effective operation of all ASUW entities.
  - c. Oversee and manage Personnel and Finance and Budget.
- C. The Personnel Director shall:
  - a. Serve as the Chief Human Resources Officer of the Association.
  - b. Oversee all paid employee hirings, in coordination with the Personnel Committee.
  - c. Oversee all volunteer and paid employee disciplinary procedures in coordination with the Personnel Policy and the Volunteer Policy.
- D. The Finance and Budget Director shall:
  - a. Serve as the Chief Financial Officer of the Association.
  - b. Prepare and oversee the annual ASUW budget in collaboration with the Finance and Budget Committee, subject to review, amendments, and final approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- E. The Communications Director shall:
  - a. Serve as the Chief Marketing Officer of the Association.
  - b. Coordinate public relations campaigns to promote ASUW events, programs, and advocacy efforts.

## **Article VII: The Board of Directors**

### **Section 1: Membership**

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- A. The voting membership of the Board of Directors consists of the following nine student members, each with one vote:
  - a. The President, who shall act as chair.
  - b. The Vice President, who shall serve as vice-chair.
  - c. Six representatives at-large as provided for in the ASUW Bylaws.
  - d. One representative selected by the GPSS.

- e. One representative selected by the Student Senate.
- B. The non-voting membership of the Board of Directors consists of the following six ex-officio members:
  - a. The Finance and Budget Director.
  - b. The Personnel Director.
  - c. The Communications Director.
  - d. The Director of Student Activities, or proxy.
  - e. An official representative of the University administration, selected by the President of the University.
- C. Whereas if a position on the Board of Directors is designated to be filled by another entity, that entity is responsible for selecting a member. The selected member must meet the eligibility criteria and follow the selection process established by the entity.

## **Section 2: Election of Directors**

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- A. The President, Vice President, and Board of Directors representatives-at-large shall be elected by the membership of the ASUW during the fourth week of Spring Quarter each ASUW session.
- ~~B.~~ Prospective candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, and Board of Directors representatives-at-large shall declare which position is sought when filing for candidacy.
- C. The Board of Directors may, in the ASUW Bylaws, provide for a process to nullify electoral contests that exhibit irregularity. The nullified election must be re-held within one month of the election being declared invalid.
- D. Elected positions of the ASUW will be conducted under ranked choice voting.

## **Section 3: Hiring of Directors**

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- A. The Personnel Director, Finance and Budget Director and Communications Director are hired, appointed, and serve as provided by the ASUW Bylaws and personnel policies.
- B. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the ASUW Vice President or a representative-at-large Board of Directors position, the Board of Directors shall call for and review applications, then hire and appoint a qualified student to fill the vacancy. Such appointment expires at the end of the ASUW session in which it is made.

## **Section 4: Recall of Directors**

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- A. A special election to recall the ASUW President, the ASUW Vice President, or a representative at-large member of the Board of Directors must be ordered if one of the following occurs:
  - a. A petition for recall is submitted and duly certified as containing the signatures and permanent student file numbers of at least five percent of the ASUW membership.
  - b. The Student Senate, by the concurrence of two-thirds of their present and voting membership, orders a special election for recall.
  - c. The Board of Directors, by the concurrence of two-thirds of their voting membership, orders a special election for recall. The Board of Directors has the

additional power to take other appropriate action, including, but not limited to, freezing pay, reprimanding, or censuring the Board of Directors member.

- B. When ordered pursuant to this Section, it is the duty of the Board of Directors to schedule, hold, and ensure completion of a special election for recall within thirty calendar days. No issue other than the question of recall may be presented to voters at the election, but if special elections for recall have been ordered for multiple members of the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors may elect to hold a single election with a question of recall for each member.
- C. If the recall of a Board of Directors member is approved by a majority of those voting on the question, the Board of Directors is immediately recalled and dismissed. The vacancy created must be filled as otherwise provided in this Constitution; provided, that the recalled Board of Directors member is ineligible for voting membership on the Board of Directors until the end of an ASUW session has intervened.

## **Section 5: Functions and Powers of the Board of Directors**

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- A. The Board of Directors has general supervision and control over all ASUW activities, and has the power, either directly or through its appointed agents and agencies, to:
  - a. Exercise the final legislative, executive, and judicial powers of the ASUW, subject to the exercise of such powers ultimately resident in the membership of the ASUW;
  - b. Enact and amend the ASUW Bylaws and other rules necessary for the regulation of the affairs of the ASUW, and the Board of Directors, under this Constitution;
  - c. Appoint and remove all salaried officers, employees, and agents of the ASUW;
  - d. Approve all appointments made by the President
  - e. Approve the budget and expenditures of the ASUW, including final authority to budget, to disburse and withhold funds, or to authorize entry into contractual or financial relationships on behalf of the ASUW;
  - f. Publish an annual ASUW Financial Statement;
  - g. Delegate to committees or employees the power to act in specified areas without Board of Directors approval of those acts;
  - h. Exercise final approval or disapproval of all legislative, executive, or judicial acts of committees or agents of the ASUW;
  - i. Establish rules for the approval of student organizations by the ASUW, and grant approval according to such rules;
  - j. Express the opinion and interests of members of the ASUW to the community at-large on issues affecting student life; and
  - k. Exercise student leadership and representation in publications, athletics, student organizations, Union Building program and management, University Book Store management, student welfare, student housing, educational affairs and other critical issues of student life.
  - l. Ensure the ASUW:
    - i. Works hours and pay that respects the time and commitment to any elected, hired, or appointed ASUW position;

- ii. Is accountable to work and represent the interests and values of the UW student body.

## **Section 6: Meetings of the Board of Directors**

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- A. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors must be held at least once each calendar month throughout the regular school year.
- B. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the ASUW President upon at least 24 hours notice to members of the Board of Directors and of the news media, as required by the Open Public Meetings Act.
- C. Quorum consists of a majority of the voting membership of the Board of Directors. No member of the Board of Directors may vote or attend by proxy.

## **Section 7: Budget Approval**

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- A. The ASUW Finance and Budget Committee shall make its budget recommendations in the manner provided by the ASUW Bylaws.
- B. Before the end of each ASUW session, the Board of Directors must approve, with or without amendment, the budget recommendations of the Finance and Budget Committee for the budget of the following ASUW session.
- C. Before substantially amending or otherwise rejecting a budget recommendation of the Finance and Budget Committee, the Board of Directors must refer the recommendation back to the Finance and Budget Committee for reevaluation.
- D. The Board of Directors has the power and responsibility to determine the priorities upon which the Finance and Budget Committee makes its decisions.

## **Article VIII: ASUW Bylaws**

The Board of Directors may establish and amend the ASUW Bylaws to provide for rules and other regulations not inconsistent with this Constitution.

## **Article IX: The Student Senate**

### **Section 1: Structure**

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- A. The Student Senate is the opinion making body of the ASUW with certain powers of oversight and is hereby delegated the power equivalent to the Board of Directors to the extent necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Article.
- B. The Student Senate consists of a membership, as defined by this Constitution, collectively charged with representing the membership of the ASUW.
- C. The Student Senate may designate one or more committees charged with aiding the Student Senate in its functions. Each committee must have a committee chair charged with providing expertise in their specific committee and facilitating fair, productive discussion.
- D. The Student Senate may designate liaisons charged with representing the Student Senate in a defined capacity to a specific group.

- E. Each Student Senate session ends simultaneously with the end of each ASUW session, at which point a new Student Senate session immediately begins. However, no meetings of the full Senate may be convened until at least the first week of Autumn Quarter.
- F. The Student Senate must have a website, accessible to all members of the ASUW, housing all Student Senate Bylaws and Rules and past and present legislation.

## **Section 2: Governance**

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- A. The Student Senate is governed by this Constitution and, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this Constitution, the ASUW Bylaws, Student Senate Bylaws, and Student Senate Rules. The Student Senate alone has the power and responsibility to establish and enforce its Bylaws and Rules. Bylaws of the Student Senate are adopted or amended by the concurrence of two-thirds of the present and voting membership. Rules of the Student Senate are adopted or amended by the concurrence of a majority of the present and voting membership.
- B. The Student Senate has the power to choose their own officers, who are charged with representing and ensuring the operation of the Student Senate. Any Student Senate officer who receives payment for services rendered to the ASUW must be in compliance with ASUW's personnel policies.
- C. Any funds spent by the Student Senate must be spent in accordance with the ASUW's finance and budget policies.
- D. Amendments to the ASUW Bylaws which directly affect the Student Senate do not have effect with regard to the Student Senate until after consultation with the Student Senate representative to the Board of Directors, and, if requested and promptly scheduled by the Student Senate, a presentation at a meeting of the Student Senate.
- E. If the Senate does not comply with its governing documents, any aggrieved member of the ASUW may engage the Judicial Board to form recommendations.

## **Section 3: Membership**

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- A. The Student Senate consists of the following members:
  - a. A Speaker, who must be elected by the membership of the Student Senate, and who may only vote in the case of a tie.
  - b. Any ASUW member who has been elected by the Student Senate to serve as an officer of the Student Senate, and who has a duty to represent students at-large.
  - c. The President.
  - d. One representative from each voting member of the Joint Commissions Committee.
  - e. Two representatives selected by the GPSS.
  - f. Representatives of specific constituencies, selected in the manner prescribed by the Student Senate Bylaws.
  - g. Members of the Board of Directors shall serve as Senators without voting privileges.
  - h. One representative selected by the Student Activities Office, without vote.
  - i. One representative, known as a protected seat, shall be appointed from each of the following:
    - i. The Black Student Union;

- ii. First Nations;
  - iii. Filipino American Student Association;
  - iv. Micronesian Island Clubs;
  - v. Polynesian Student Alliance;
  - vi. Movimiento Estudiantil Chicax de Aztlán (MEChA);
  - vii. The Student Advisory Board;
  - viii. The Interfraternity Council;
  - ix. The Panhellenic Association;
  - x. The Multicultural Greek Council;
  - xi. The National Pan-Hellenic Council;
  - xii. The Residential Community Student Association;
- B. Membership Requirements.
- a. Senators holding protected seats, as described by this article within the ASUW Constitution, are subject to Senate Rules, Bylaws and proceedings regarding senatorship status and are subject to the Senate Leadership's attendance policy. The Protected Seats, if made inactive, must be activated upon request immediately.
  - b. Members of the Student Senate may provide a proxy in their absence, provided the proxy is in compliance with the Student Senate Bylaws and any rules imposed by the group represented.
  - c. The term of office for a member of the student body lasts until the end of each Student Senate session, unless otherwise provided in the Student Senate Bylaws or Rules.
  - d. Any member of the Student Senate not in compliance with the ASUW Constitution, Student Senate Bylaws, or Student Senate Rules may be expelled from the Student Senate with the concurrence of two-thirds of the present and voting membership. The Student Senate reserves the first right to expel its own membership or outline their privileges. While also maintaining accountability from the other branches of the ASUW.

## **Section 4: Legislative Actions**

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- A. The Student Senate has the power to consider and approve legislative actions, which stand as the official opinion of the ASUW in the manner prescribed by this Section. No other body of the ASUW may formulate official ASUW student opinion.
- B. All members of the ASUW have the right to propose legislation to the Student Senate for consideration.
- C. Legislation classified as resolutions of student opinion approved by the Student Senate must be presented to the Board of Directors for their approval, re-commission to the Student Senate, or veto.
  - a. If the Board of Directors approves the resolution, then the resolution takes effect immediately.
  - b. If the Board of Directors re-commits the resolution to the Student Senate by the concurrence of two-thirds of its voting membership, then the resolution must be further considered by the Student Senate. If the Student Senate again concurs in passing the resolution, with or without amendments, the resolution must be presented to the Board of Directors anew, but may not be re-committed once again.

- c. If the Board of Directors vetoes the resolution by the concurrence of two-thirds of its voting membership, then the resolution does not take effect unless the Student Senate passes the identical resolution again by the concurrence of three-fourths of its present and voting membership.
- d. If the Board of Directors does not approve, recommit, or veto the resolution as provided in this Section, the resolution will take effect 14 school days after its passage by the Student Senate.

## **Section 5: Oversight**

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- A. The Student Senate may submit recommendations to the Board of Directors for consideration. Upon passage by the Student Senate, the Senate representative to the Board of Directors shall introduce the recommendation to the Board of Directors, who must consider adoption of the recommendation within two weeks of introduction. Recommendations of the Senate, having been approved by the Board of Directors, have the same authority as an approved Board Bill.
- B. The Student Senate approves the ASUW Legislative Agenda and ASUW University Agenda in conjunction with the Board of Directors. Agendas most recently approved by both the Student Senate and the Board of Directors will be active until both the Student Senate and the Board of Directors approve a replacement agenda.
- C. The Student Senate shall have at least one voting liaison to every ASUW and Board of Directors committee, task force, or similar group; with the exception of the Elections Administration Committee, and any personnel hiring committees; and may select one voting liaison to both the Services and Activities Fee Committee and the Student Technology Fee Committee. The Student Senate may select liaisons to serve on additional University committees, as allowed by the ASUW Bylaws.
- D. The Student Senate may order a recall pursuant to Article VII, Section 4.
- E. The Student Senate may compel the production of information from any ASUW officer and any leadership of an ASUW entity, committee, or taskforce.
- F. The Student Senate may order the proposal of an amendment to this Constitution pursuant to Article XIII, Section 1.

## **Article X: Commissions of the ASUW**

### **Section 1: Purpose**

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- A. Commissions of the ASUW exist for the purpose of representing students and organizations that have faced historical or social discrimination. Commissions also provide services, advocacy efforts, and programming for the benefit of those represented by the commissions and for creating exposure for the rest of the campus community.

### **Section 2: Creation and Elimination**

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- A. Prior to the creation of any new commission or the elimination of any existing commission, a task force must be created and composed of relevant stakeholders to evaluate the need for and benefit of the commission or proposed commission. The task force must present its findings to the Joint Commissions Committee, the Student Senate, and the Board of Directors within seven school weeks of its creation. Upon completion of the task force, an ASUW commission may be created or eliminated only by

concurrence of three-fourths of the voting membership of the Board of Directors. This process is initiated by a Board Bill or a Senate Bill.

## **Article XI: Committees of the ASUW**

### **Section 1: Generally**

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- A. The committees established in this Article are the delineated committees of the ASUW. In addition, the Board of Directors may create such standing committees or task forces as it deems necessary.

### **Section 2: Judicial Committee**

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- A. Membership.
- a. The voting membership of the Judicial Committee consists of the following seven student members, each with one vote:
    - i. One student from the Board of Directors, who shall serve as chair.
    - ii. Four students chosen through the open selection process provided in the ASUW Bylaws.
    - iii. The President, or proxy.
    - iv. One representative selected by the Student Senate.
  - b. The non-voting membership of the Judicial Committee consists of the following two members:
    - i. One representative from Student Legal Services.
    - ii. One representative selected by the Student Activities Offices.
- B. Functions.
- a. Definitions.
    - i. A recommendation is a decision made by the Judicial Committee that suggests a particular course of action to the Board of Directors.
  - b. Recommendations are used to advise the Board of Directors after:
    - i. Reviewing proposed revisions of this Constitution or the ASUW Bylaws.
    - ii. Reviewing proposed creation or revision of the bylaws of ASUW agencies, commissions, or committees.
    - iii. Interpreting this Constitution or any governing bylaws.
  - c. Judgments are used to:
    1. Determine if actions or decisions of the Board of Directors are in violation of this Constitution or the ASUW Bylaws.
    2. Determine if actions or decisions of ASUW agencies, commissions, or committees are in violation of this Constitution or any governing bylaws.
    3. Determine whether ASUW candidates have violated election policies and regulations, and levy fines as provided in the ASUW Bylaws.
  - d. In addition, the Judicial Committee has the power and responsibility to:

- i. Determine the classification of all ballot measures, and review ballot titles and recommend changes if necessary.
- ii. Determine standards for the form of petitions and referenda.
- iii. Ensure the compliance of all involved parties and individuals with election policies and regulations.
- iv. Verify that all actions and decisions of the ASUW comply with Washington State law, the Articles of Incorporation, this Constitution, and the ASUW Bylaws.

#### C. Procedures.

##### a. Recommendation Procedures.

- i. The Board of Directors may refer any legislation to the Judicial Committee for recommendation when the legislation involves interpretation of this Constitution or the ASUW Bylaws.
- ii. The Board of Directors will refer any legislation to the Judicial Committee for recommendation when the legislation involves amending or replacing this Constitution or the ASUW Bylaws.
- iii. Any student who is not a member of the Judicial Committee may submit legislation to the Judicial Committee for recommendation.

##### b. Judgment Procedures.

- i. The Board of Directors may refer any legislation to the Judicial Committee for judgment when the legislation involves interpretation of this Constitution or the ASUW Bylaws.
- ii. Legislation approved by the Board of Directors or any ASUW entity or committee may be submitted to the Judicial Committee by any student who is not a member of the Judicial Committee to verify compliance with this Constitution and the ASUW Bylaws.

#### D. Limitations.

- a. No member of the Judicial Committee may initiate or endorse any action requesting review by the Judicial Committee.
- b. Any member of the Judicial Committee who intends to endorse or participate in any ASUW election campaigning must resign their position 14 days before the candidate filing date in the EPP. If the resignation does not take place, the Judicial Committee member will automatically forfeit their position on the committee. This provision does not apply to the representative-at-large Board of Directors member serving as chair or the ASUW President but does apply to any proxies of the ASUW President. Members of the Judicial Committee to which this clause does not apply must be treated as though not a member of the Judicial Committee during the discussion and judgment of election violations.
- c. At-large members may not serve on any other ASUW committee during their continuance of office.
- d. The Board of Directors may reject a judgment of the Judicial Committee by the concurrence of three-fourths of its voting membership.

### **Section 3: Elections Administration Committee**

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- A. Membership
  - a. The Elections Administration Committee Co-Chairs are hired and appointed pursuant to the ASUW personnel policies. Volunteer members of the committee are appointed through the open selection process provided in the ASUW Bylaws.
- B. Functions
  - a. The Elections Administration Committee conducts elections as provided in the ASUW Bylaws.
  - b. The Elections Administration Committee will also administer the elections through the approved Elections Policies and Procedures (EPP) for that session's election, which shall act as the EAC's bylaws.

### **Section 4: Legislative Steering Committee**

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- A. Membership.
  - a. The voting membership of the Legislative Steering Committee consists of the following eleven members, each with one vote:
    - i. The Director of Legislative Affairs, who shall serve as chair.
    - ii. The President, or proxy.
    - iii. The representative at-large member of the Board of Directors most responsible for oversight of the Office of Government Relations, or its successor.
    - iv. Two representatives selected by the Joint Commissions Committee
    - v. Two representatives selected by the Student Senate.
    - vi. Four students chosen through the open selection process provided in the ASUW Bylaws.
  - b. The non-voting membership of the Legislative Steering Committee consists of the following members:
    - i. All employees of the Office of Government Relations, or its successor.
    - ii. One representative selected by GPSS.
    - iii. One representative selected by the Student Activities Office.
- B. The Legislative Steering Committee has the power and responsibility to:
  - a. Annually write and propose the ASUW Legislative Agenda, subject to passage by both the Student Senate and the Board of Directors;
  - b. Make recommendations to the Student Senate and the Board of Directors on current legislation affecting higher education;
  - c. Complete other projects assigned by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 5: Finance and Budget Committee**

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- A. Membership
  - a. The voting membership of the Finance and Budget Committee consists of the following eleven members, each with one vote:
    - i. The Finance and Budget Director, who shall serve as chair.
    - ii. The President, or proxy.

- iii. The Vice President.
  - iv. The representative at-large member of the Board of Directors most responsible for the programming efforts of the ASUW.
  - v. The Personnel Director.
  - vi. Four students chosen through the open selection process provided in the ASUW Bylaws.
  - vii. Two representatives selected by the Student Senate.
- b. The non-voting membership of the Finance and Budget Committee consists of the following one member:
- i. A representative selected by the Student Activities Office.
- B. The Finance and Budget Committee has the power and responsibility to:
- a. Prepare and submit to the Board of Directors an annual budget, including both expenses and revenue, for the activities of the ASUW.
  - b. Make decisions on all ASUW expenditures not provided for in the annual budget, subject to repeal, amendment, or delay by the Board of Directors;
  - c. Recommend admission fees to ASUW events.
  - d. Make recommendations on salaries, salary ranges, and contracts.
  - e. Provide for an annual audit of the accounts of the ASUW through the University.
  - f. Prepare and submit a financial report to the Board of Directors each quarter.
- C. All decisions of the Finance and Budget Committee are unofficial until six school days have passed and the Board of Directors has met at least once. The Finance and Budget Director, or designee, must report to the Board of Directors all business carried out by the Committee at each meeting of the Board of Directors that follows a meeting of the Committee.

## **Section 6: Joint Commissions Committee**

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- A. Membership
- a. The voting membership of the Joint Commissions Committee consists of the following members, each with one vote:
    - i. The representative at-large member of the Board of Directors most responsible for the diversity efforts of the ASUW, who shall serve as chair.
    - ii. The President, or proxy.
    - iii. One employee representative from each ASUW Commission.
    - iv. One employee representative from ASUW entities determined by the ASUW Bylaws.
    - v. One representative selected by the Student Senate.
  - b. The non-voting membership of the Joint Commissions Committee consists of the following one member:
    - i. The Finance and Budget Director.
    - ii. One representative selected by the Student Activities Office.
    - iii. The representative at-large member of the Board of Directors most responsible for the programming efforts of the ASUW.
    - iv. One representative selected by the Office of Government Relations.

- c. The functions of the Joint Commissions Committee shall be defined in the ASUW Bylaws.

## **Section 7: Personnel Committee**

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- B. Membership
  - a. The voting membership of the Personnel Committee consists of the following members, each with one vote:
    - i. The Personnel Director, who shall serve as chair.
    - ii. The President, or proxy.
    - iii. The Vice President.
    - iv. The Finance and Budget Director.
    - v. One representative selected by the Student Senate.
    - vi. One ASUW employee.
    - vii. Five students chosen through the open selection process provided in the ASUW Bylaws.
    - viii. During Spring Quarter only, two additional students chosen through the open selection process provided in the ASUW Bylaws.
  - b. The non-voting membership of the Personnel Committee consists of the following one member:
    - i. A representative selected by the Student Activities Office.
- C. The Personnel Committee has the power and responsibility to:
  - a. Recommend salary guidelines to the Finance and Budget Committee for submission to the Board of Directors.
  - b. Recommend ASUW personnel policies to the Board of Directors; and
  - c. Serve as a grievance committee to the Board of Directors for all personnel grievances within the ASUW.

## **Section 8: Appointment of Members**

- A. For the purpose of this Article, “committee” includes all ASUW committees, task forces, boards, bureaus, panels, and similarly created groups within the ASUW, but excludes the Board of Directors and the Student Senate.
- B. Student members of all committees are appointed by the President, with the concurrence of the Board of Directors, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the committee’s creation.
- C. The President, or designee, is an ex-officio member with vote on all ASUW committees.
- D. A representative selected by the Student Activities Office is a member without vote on all ASUW Committees.
- E. Membership on all committees lasts until the end of an ASUW session, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the committee’s creation.

## **Section 9: Powers**

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- A. No action of any committee is final until it has been approved by the Board of Directors, except in cases where the Board of Directors has delegated specific authority to the committee.
- B. Any individual ASUW member or group of ASUW members has the right to appeal from the decision of any ASUW committee directly to the Board of Directors.
- C. Each committee may formulate its own bylaws to provide for policies, rules and other regulations not inconsistent with this Constitution, subject to such restrictions as the ASUW Bylaws may provide. All bylaws must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the committee's voting membership and be approved by the Board of Directors before becoming effective.
- D. A quorum is a simple majority of any committee or meeting student members, including voting and non-voting. For voting to approve any business a quorum of the total voting membership, not only the present voting membership, is required. Abstentions shall be considered as further quorum rules are outlined in the ASUW Bylaws

## **Article XII: Legislative Powers**

### **Section 1: Legislative Powers**

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- A. The legislative powers of the ASUW are vested in the Board of Directors, except those powers specifically delegated to the Student Senate, subject only to the right of the members of the ASUW to propose legislation not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, and to enact or reject the same.

### **Section 2: Initiative and Referendum**

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- A. Petition for Initiative.
  - a. The Board of Directors shall provide for an initiative vote whenever a petition for a legislative act is presented to it and duly certified by the Registrar to contain the signatures and permanent student file numbers of at least five percent of the current membership of the ASUW.
- B. Referendum
  - a. A legislative act may be referred to the membership of the ASUW as a referendum by the concurrence of two-thirds of the voting membership of the Board of Directors.
- C. Initiative or Referendum Vote
  - a. All initiatives and referendums must be submitted to the members of the ASUW at the next regular election, or at an earlier special election called by the Board of Directors. In no case may less than twenty school days elapse between the submission of any petition, initiative, or referendum and the election. The initiated or referred measure is adopted if a majority of those voting on the measure vote in favor of it, whereupon the measure becomes effective immediately.
- D. Binding Until Repealed

- a. Any initiative or referendum, adopted by a majority of the members of the ASUW voting on the measure is binding upon the ASUW, its officers, and the Board of Directors until repealed. Such measures may be repealed or rescinded only by constitutional amendment or subsequent initiative or referendum.

## **Article XIII: Amendments**

### **Section 1: Proposal of Amendments**

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- A. A proposed amendment to this Constitution must be placed on the ballot if adopted by two-thirds of the voting membership of the Board of Directors.
  - a. Before the Board of Directors begins consideration of any constitutional amendment proposal, the sponsor must submit the language of such proposal to the Judicial Committee, who shall review the language and recommend to the Board of Directors a revision or alteration of the proposal as deemed necessary by the Judicial Committee.
- B. A proposed amendment to this Constitution must be placed on the ballot upon receipt by the Board of Directors of a petition requesting such action, duly certified by the Registrar to contain the signatures and permanent student file numbers of at least five percent of the current membership of the ASUW.
  - a. The ballot question must be placed on all petitions before signatures are gathered.
  - b. The wording of all ballot questions must be referred to the Judicial Committee and approved by the Board of Directors before signatures are gathered.
- C. A proposed amendment to this Constitution must be placed on the ballot if ordered by the Student Senate with the concurrence of three-fourths of its present and voting membership, and such proposal must include the exact language of the constitutional amendment to be adopted, and the question to be placed on ballots.
  - a. Before the Student Senate begins consideration of any constitutional amendment proposal, the sponsor must submit the language of such proposal to the Judicial Committee, who shall review the language and recommend to the Student Senate a revision or alteration of the proposal as deemed necessary by the Judicial Committee.
  - b. The Board of Directors, by and with the consent of the Judicial Committee, may amend question to be placed on ballots with the concurrence of two-thirds of its voting membership.
  - c. The Board of Directors may, with the concurrence of three-fourths of its voting membership, refer the amendment proposal back to the Student Senate with recommendations for amendment. Such referral shall have the effect of terminating the Student Senate's order unless the order is once again passed by the Student Senate, with or without amendments. The Board of Directors may exercise this referral power twice for any single order, regardless of amendments made during the process. However, it may not refer orders back to the Student Senate more than 14 school days after their passage or re-passage.

- d. Except as explicitly provided in clause C of this Section, orders of the Student Senate proposing amendments execute automatically, and are not subject to approval, amendment, delay, or rejection by any other body.

## **Section 2: Adoption of Amendments**

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- A. Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be submitted to the members of the ASUW at the next regular election, or at an earlier special election called by the Board of Directors. In no case may less than twenty school days elapse between the proposal of such amendment and the election. The amendment is adopted if a majority of those voting on the amendment vote in favor of it, whereupon the amendment becomes effective immediately unless otherwise specified in its passage.

## **Section 3: University Approval of Constitution**

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- A. In order to further encourage and facilitate student responsibility for student affairs and activities on the campus of the University through the Associated Students of the University of Washington as provided in its Articles of Incorporation, the President of the University, acting for the Board of Regents, approves, subject to the rules and regulations of the University, this Constitution as the Bylaws under the governing Articles of Incorporation of the Associated Students of the University of Washington.

## **Article XIV: General Meetings of the ASUW Corporation**

### **Section 1: Calling**

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- A. The Board of Directors may call a general meeting of the members of the ASUW Corporation, to take place within twenty calendar days of the passage of the motion.
- B. Upon receipt by the Board of Directors of a petition requesting a general meeting of the ASUW Corporation, duly certified by the Registrar to contain the signatures and permanent student file numbers of at least five percent of the current membership of the ASUW, the Board of Directors shall call and hold a general meeting of the ASUW Corporation within twenty calendar days of the submission of the petition.

### **Section 2: Amending the Articles of Incorporation**

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- A. All amendments to the ASUW Articles of Incorporation become effective upon approval by two-thirds of the ASUW members present at a general meeting, at which time a majority of the members of the Board of Directors and the ASUW President shall sign the amendments and submit them to the Washington State Secretary of State with the required fee.

### **Section 3: Quorum**

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- A. No action taken at a general meeting of the ASUW is valid unless at least three percent of the current membership of the ASUW is present at such meeting.

## **Section 4: Agenda**

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- A. The agenda for a general meeting must be published in the student newspaper at least one week prior to the day on which the general meeting is to be held.
- B. No action taken at a general meeting is valid unless it relates to the subject matter of an item on the agenda.
- C. Any proposed item or items to be placed on the agenda for a general meeting of the ASUW must be limited to the purpose and function of the ASUW, as provided in Article II of the ASUW Articles of Incorporation.
- D. Items shall be placed on the agenda upon receipt by the ASUW President of a written agenda request at least ten days prior to the day on which the general meeting is to be held.

## **Article XV: The Graduate and Professional Student Senate**

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) is separate from the ASUW and is a totally autonomous political unit subject to funding by the Board of Regents.

## **Article XVI: ASUW Property**

The ASUW may acquire, own, hold, manage, control, mortgage, pledge, rent, lease, use, sell, dispose of, or otherwise deal in and occupy property of any kind and nature wherever situated or located, for the purposes and in the manner provided by the Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution.

Last updated: October 6, 2004 by Sheridan M. Gray; May 15, 2006 by Karl D. Smith; May 19, 2007 by Laura Baird; June 5, 2008 by Rob Barnum-Reece; June 11, 2010 by Ehsan Aleaziz; July 6, 2011 by Sarah Round; May 17, 2013 by Kate Callison; May 15, 2014 by Evelina Vaisvilaite; March 2, 2015 by Amber Amin; June 8, 2016 by Noe Merfeld; April 17, 2017 by Taylor Beardall; June 9, 2021 by Antonio Gonzalez; April 18, 2024 by Francisco Dojenia; April 24, 2025 by Naomi Snow.