

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Session 125

Date *December 4, 2025*

Submitted by Nandana Jaideep, President

BOARD BILL 6.01 Addressing Misrepresentations of Inter-Association Communication by the Vice President of ASUWT

WHEREAS: ASUW and ASUWT maintain distinct but cooperative student governance structures, each responsible for accurately representing their internal processes and inter-governmental interactions when reporting to the University of Washington Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS: ASUW has historically maintained open, professional, and timely communication with campus partners, including ASUWT, through official University platforms such as Microsoft Teams, UW email, and in-person meetings; and

WHEREAS: members of the ASUW Board and the Office of Government Relations (OGR) report that they have been diligent, responsive, and cordial in all fall-quarter interactions with ASUWT leadership; and

WHEREAS: ASUW does not conduct business via Signal, an encrypted third-party messaging platform that is not OPMA-compliant, poses public-records retention issues, and cannot legally be used for official ASUW or OGR correspondence; and

WHEREAS: despite declining to use non-compliant platforms, ASUW and OGR have repeatedly responded on Teams, email, and in-person, maintaining consistent availability for collaboration on tri-campus matters, including preparations related to the November Board of Regents meeting; and

WHEREAS: ASUW leadership engaged in coordinated work with tri-campus leadership on the Washington Student Association State Audit collaboration, an effort furthermore approved by Vice-President Watkins in consultation with the ASUWT Executive Board, demonstrating consistent inter-campus communication and shared policy alignment; and

WHEREAS: a Huskies on the Hill advocacy date was mutually set by ASUW and ASUWT prior to the November 13th Board of Regents meeting, further establishing active coordination and contradicting later claims of non-collaboration; and

WHEREAS: in the November 13th Board of Regents report, Vice-President Rae Watkins stated: “Our year-long goal is to create a culture of tri-campus unity between our Bothell, Seattle, and Tacoma and GPSS students. Transparently, Bothell and GPSS students have been interested in connecting with our Executive teams, but reaching Seattle (ASUW) has been difficult given the connections to ASUWT's removed President. Fortunately, our Senates have been communicating and maintaining transparency about this process and their willingness to cooperate in tri-campus activities.

We have begun planning for Huskies on the Hill, which will be an ongoing tri-campus effort (provided tri-campus participation) through Winter quarter.”; and

WHEREAS: in ASUW’s judgment, this description inaccurately suggests that ASUW was inaccessible or uncooperative despite documented correspondence, established collaborations, and ongoing planning efforts, raising concerns about the accuracy of the portrayal and the potential reputational impact on ASUW and the Office of Government Relations; and

WHEREAS: inaccurate or misleading characterizations between student governments risk eroding trust, confusing university leadership, and undermining the effectiveness of unified tri-campus student advocacy;

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

THAT: the ASUW Board formally expresses concern regarding the representations made by ASUWT Vice-President Rae Watkins in the November 13th Board of Regents report, which ASUW believes is a misrepresentation of official organizational opinion and ASUW/OGR communication efforts; and

THAT: the ASUW Board reaffirms that all official business of the Association must occur through OPMA-compliant, public-records-compatible channels, and encourages all tri-campus partners to do the same for the sake of transparency and institutional integrity; and

THAT: the ASUW Board invites the ASUWT Executive Board to participate in a structured reconciliation meeting to ensure shared understanding of communication expectations, legal compliance, and collaborative norms moving forward; and

THAT: the ASUW Director of Internal Policy and the Office of Government Relations shall compile a summary of fall-quarter inter-campus communications, limited to public-records-compatible platforms, for archival clarity and Board review; and

THAT: a copy of this bill be forwarded to ASUWT leadership, the ASUW Senate, the Office of Government Relations, the Vice President for Student Life, and the Office of the Board of Regents.

End