

ASUWT Constitution

DRAFT (Edited May 2009)

PREAMBLE

We, the undergraduate and graduate students of the University of Washington Tacoma, to provide student advocacy, involvement and representation of student interests, needs, and welfare; to initiate and coordinate student activities in accordance with the purposes and objectives of ASUWT; and to supplement and complement formal education at the University of Washington Tacoma do affirm and establish this Constitution of the Associated Students of the University of Washington Tacoma.

ARTICLE I

NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

The name of the Association under this constitution shall be the "Associated Students of the University of Washington Tacoma" (ASUWT).

ARTICLE II

ARTICLES AND REGULATIONS TAKING PRECEDENCE

Since the governing of the University of Washington is vested in a Board of Regents, and the University of Washington Tacoma is a campus of the said University, the Board of Regents has delegated to the President of the University, who has delegated to the Chancellor of the University of Washington Tacoma, authority to formulate rules incident to the management of affairs relating to students. All action taken by the ASUWT shall be in compliance with the University of Washington Tacoma policies.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Only members of the ASUWT shall be entitled to vote in any ASUWT election, to represent the Association, or to hold any office on the Executive, Legislative, or Judicial branch all controlled by the Association. Students eligible for any office or position must be registered and in good standing with university policy while maintaining a cumulative 2.5 GPA.

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

1. Executive Officers

- a. The executive power of ASUWT shall be vested in the ASUWT President. The Executive Branch shall be composed of the ASUWT President, Vice President, Legislative Liaison, and Finance Chair. Additional executive officers may be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.
- b. Cabinet Officers shall have and exercise those powers and authorities delegated by the President consistent with the ASUWT Constitution and By-Laws.

2. Eligibility

- a. Members of the Executive Branch must be members of ASUWT, must maintain full-time enrollment (with the exception of summer quarter), and be in good standing with university policy while maintaining no less than a 2.5 cumulative GPA with the University. Candidates for President and Vice President shall be elected in the annual spring General Election.

3. Term of Office

- a. The ASUWT President and Vice President shall hold office from commencement to commencement. The Legislative Liaison and Finance Chair will hold their position from the time of their appointment until commencement.
- b. The interests and affairs of ASUWT shall be managed jointly by the President and Vice President during the summer session, consistent with any Senate directives.

4. Functions and Powers

- a. The ASUWT President shall be the chief executive officer of ASUWT and all other members of the Executive Branch shall be responsible to the President. The President shall have and exercise the general functions and powers as follows:
 - (a) Communicate the needs and concerns of all students and ASUWT members to the university administration.
 - (b) Preside as chair over executive board meetings.
 - (c) Appoint ASUWT members or students at large to University committee, subject to the approval of the Senate.
 - (d) Make appointments not otherwise provided by the Constitution.
 - (e) Have veto rights on 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.
 - (f) Shall have other functions and duties as may be prescribed by the Senate or the ASUWT By-Laws.
- b. The ASUWT Vice President shall have and exercise the following functions and powers
 - (a) 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 duties.
 - (b) Serve as Chair of the ASUWT Senate.
 - (c) Have oversight of ASUWT Committees, as specified in the By-Laws.
 - (d) Prepare the agenda for Senate meetings.
 - (e) Shall have other functions and duties as may be prescribed by the Senate or the ASUWT By-Laws.
- c. The Legislative Liaison is responsible for overseeing relations between the University, state, and the UW Tacoma student body and shall:
 - (a) Assist the other Executive officers in the development of local, state and campus legislative priorities each year.
 - (b) Provide general direction of the Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC).
 - (c) To serve as a liaison between the Washington Student Lobby (WSL) and the State Legislature, by providing direction, guidance, and information to ASUWT.

- (d) Provide updates to the Executive Board and Senate monthly and upon request.
- (e) Shall have other functions and duties as may be prescribed by the Senate or the ASUWT By-Laws.

d. The Finance Chair shall:

- (a) Manage and oversee all financial planning and record keeping.
- (b) Assist President and Vice President in drafting and preparing new budget proposals.
- (c) Provide budget updates to Executive Board and senate monthly and upon request.
- (d) Chair the Student Tech Fee Committee along with a member of the senate.
- (e) Shall have other functions and duties as may be prescribed by the Senate or the ASUWT By-Laws.

5. Removal of Executive Officers from office

- a. ASUWT Executive Officers may be impeached under the following grounds:
 - (a) Failure to reasonably and properly execute their powers and duties as outlined by the ASUWT Constitution and By-Laws.
 - (b) Failure to follow University or ASUWT policy.
 - (c) Committing actions that are detrimental to ASUWT and or the interests of the student body.
- b. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the seated membership of the ASUWT Senate shall be required to bring forth impeachment proceedings against ASUWT Executive Officers.
- c. The Chief Justice of the Judicial Board shall preside over the impeachment proceedings, as established by the Judicial Board, which shall commence within five (5) school days after the Senate votes to bring forth impeachment proceedings.

6. Removal of Executive Officers via Recall Election

- a. Petitions calling for removal from office of a named ASUWT Officer shall be signed by ten percent (10%) of the ASUWT student body membership and shall be submitted to the Vice President for verification.
 - (b) In the event the Vice President is up for recall, petitions shall be submitted and verified by the President.
- a. Upon verification, the Senate shall set a timeframe for a Recall Election.
- b. A Recall Election shall require a fifteen percent (15%) voter turnout of the ASUWT student body membership for validation.

7. Duties/Compensation during an Impeachment/Recall

- a. In the event a named ASUWT Officer is up for a recall proceeding or impeachment proceeding, he or she shall be released of duties without compensation until the proceedings are concluded.

8. Vacancies

- a. Should the office of President become vacant, the Vice President shall become President.
- b. Should the office of Vice President or other cabinet member become vacant, the President shall appoint, from an open selection process, within fifteen (15) school days of the occurrence of the vacancy, a nomination for the vacancy. At the next scheduled Senate meeting, the Senate by a vote of seated membership may approve the nominee to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE V

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

1. Senate Representatives

- a. The Senate shall be the policy making body of ASUWT composed of representatives proportionate up to one senator for every 500 of the total combined undergraduate and graduate head count population attending UW Tacoma. The number of Senators to be elected for the subsequent academic year shall be by the official ten (10) day head count during winter quarter. If the student head count fluctuates throughout the academic year, there shall be no increase or decrease in the number of Senators until the following winter quarter when the official head count takes place. There shall be no more than fifteen (15) total Senate representatives.

2. Eligibility

- a. Members of the Senate must be members of ASUWT, must maintain full time enrollment (with the exception of summer quarter), and be in good standing with university policy while maintaining a cumulative 2.5 GPA. Members of the Senate shall be elected in the annual spring General Election.

3. Term of Office

- a. Members of the Senate shall hold office from commencement to commencement.

4. Functions and Powers

- a. To ensure that elected and appointed ASUWT Officers faithfully execute and abide by ASUWT policies.
- b. To confirm Presidential appointments of Executive Board officers, Judicial Board officers, and ASUWT Committee Chairs.
- c. To override a Presidential veto by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the seated membership.
- d. To chair, populate and maintain at least one (1) ASUWT standing committees
- e. To remove ASUWT Committee Chairs if needed upon a two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the seated membership.
- f. Raise impeachment towards ASUWT Officers and Senators, as stated in the By-Laws.
- g. Elect from the seated membership a Chair Pro-Tempore at the second Senate meeting by a majority vote from the seated Senate membership.
 - (a) In the absence of the Chair, the Senate Chair Pro-Tempore shall chair the senate meeting.
- h. Shall have other functions and duties as may be prescribed by the Senate or the ASUWT By-Laws.

5. Meetings

- a. The Senate shall meet at least twice monthly during fall, winter and spring quarters with exceptions of summer quarter, vacations and breaks.
- b. A quorum shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the seated membership of the Senate.
- c. All meetings shall be held in accordance with requirements outlined in Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30)
- d. The Executive Branch and Senate shall hold a Public Forum at each meeting before any agenda items calling for action, which shall allow no more than twenty minutes or ten (10)

persons to speak to ASUWT. Anyone may speak during Public Forum, but UWT Students are given priority. Any persons wishing to speak at Public Forum must sign in on a sign-up sheet provided at the meeting or at the ASUWT office prior to the meeting. People who wish to speak during Public Forum will have until the beginning of each meeting to sign up.

- e. Special meetings may be called by the President, Vice-President, Senate Chair Pro-tempore, one-third (1/3) of the seated Senate membership, or upon petition of twenty percent (20%) of the ASUWT membership.
- f. The Vice President shall be the Chair of the Senate. The Chair may only vote to break a tie.

6. Removal of Senators

- a. ASUWT Senators may be impeached under the following grounds:
 - (a) Failure to reasonably and properly execute their powers and duties as outlined by the ASUWT Constitution and By-Laws.
 - (b) Failure to follow University or ASUWT policy.
 - (c) Committing actions that are detrimental to the team and or the interests of the student body.
- b. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the seated membership of the Senate, excluding the Senator against whom impeachment proceedings have been brought against shall be required to begin impeachment proceedings against an ASUWT Senator.
- c. The Chief Justice of the Judicial Board shall preside over the impeachment proceedings, as established by the Judicial Board, which shall commence within five (5) days after the Senate vote to bring forth impeachment proceedings forward.

7. Removal of Senate Officers via Recall Election

- a. Petitions calling for removal from office of a named ASUWT Officer shall be signed by ten percent (10%) of the ASUWT student body 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. A Recall Election shall require a fifteen percent (15%) voter turnout of the ASUWT student body membership for validation.

8. Duties/Compensation during an Impeachment/Recall.

- a. In the event a named ASUWT Officer is up for a recall proceeding or impeachment proceeding, he or she shall take a temporary leave of absence without pay until the proceedings are concluded.

9. Vacancies

- a. Should a Senate vacancy occur, the President shall, through an open selection process, submit within fifteen (15) school days of the occurrence of the vacancy, a nomination for the vacancy.
- b. At the next scheduled Senate meeting, the Senate by a two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of seated membership may confirm the nominee to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE VI

JUDICIAL BRANCH

1. Judicial Officers

- a. The Judicial Board shall preside over ASUWT constitutional interpretations, impeachment proceedings, and instances of Constitutional or By-Law violations by ASUWT members. The composition of the Judicial Board shall consist of three members: one (1) Chief Justice and two (2) Justices.
- b. Members of the Judicial Board shall be appointed by the ASUWT President and must be confirmed by the Senate.

2. Eligibility

- a. Members of the Judicial Branch must be members of ASUWT, must maintain full time enrollment (with the exception of summer), and maintain no less than a 2.5 cumulative GPA with the University. Members cannot hold any other position funded by SAFC during their term.

3. Term of Office

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

4. Functions and Powers

- a. The Judicial Branch must present updates of constitutional discrepancies to the Senate.
- b. Recommendations are decisions made by the Judicial board that suggests to the Senate a particular course of action regarding the following:
 - (a) Suggest revisions to proposed changes of this Constitution and ASUWT By-Laws.
 - (b) Interpret the Constitution of the ASUWT and all governing By-Laws.
- c. Judgments are decisions made by the Judicial Board that mandates a particular course of action regarding the following:
 - (a) If actions or decisions of the Senate or Executive Branch are in violation of the ASUWT Constitution, By-Laws or applicable State or Federal laws.
 - (b) If actions or decisions of the ASUWT Committees are in direct violation of the ASUWT Constitution, By-Laws or applicable State or Federal laws.
 - (c) Whether ASUWT candidates have violated campaign regulations
- d. Preside over cases of impeachment of ASUWT Officials following proceedings as outlined in the ASUWT By-Laws.
- e. Shall have other functions and duties as may be prescribed by the Senate or the ASUWT By-Laws.

5. Meetings

- a. The Judicial Branch shall meet at least 3 times per quarter, excluding the summer quarters.
- b. Shall not act without quorum of all three (3) members.
- c. All meetings shall be held in accordance with requirements outlined in Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30).
- d. Special meetings or hearings may be called solely by members of the Judicial Board.
- e. All three (3) members of the Judicial Board, including the Chief justice shall have a vote.

6. Removal of Judicial Members

- a. ASUWT Judicial Officers may be impeached under the following grounds:
 - (a) Failure to reasonably and properly execute their powers and duties as outlined by the ASUWT Constitution and By-Laws.
 - (b) Failure to follow University or ASUWT policy.
 - (c) Two (2) unexcused absences per academic year.
 - (d) Committing actions that are detrimental to the ASUWT team and/or the interests of the student body.
- b. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the seated membership of the ASUWT Senate shall be required to remove a Judicial Officer.
- c. The ASUWT President shall establish and preside over the removal process, which shall commence within five (5) days after the Senate vote to bring removal proceedings.

7. Removal of Judicial Officers via Recall Election

- a. Petitions calling for removal from office of a named ASUWT officer shall be signed by ten percent (10%) of the ASUWT student body 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. A Recall Election shall require a fifteen percent (15%) voter turnout of the ASUWT student body membership for validation.

8. Duties/Compensation during an Impeachment/Recall

- a. In the event a named ASUWT Officer is named in a recall or impeachment proceeding, he or she shall take a temporary leave of absence without pay until the proceedings are concluded.

9. Vacancies

- a. Should a Judicial Board vacancy occur, the President shall, through an open selection process, submit within fifteen (15) school days of the vacancy, a nomination for the vacancy. At the next scheduled Senate meeting, the Senate by a two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of seated membership may confirm the nomination to fill the vacancy.

10. Governing Procedure

- a. The Judicial Branch governance shall be outlined in the ASUWT By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII

ELECTIONS

1. The Elections Administration Committee (EAC) Chair shall be appointed, following an open selection process by the President. The volunteer members of the Committee shall be appointed through the open selection process as delineated in the ASUWT By-Laws.
2. The EAC shall conduct elections as delineated in the ASUWT By-Laws. Annual General Elections will be in the spring quarter of the school year for the President, Vice President, and Senate positions, before the middle of the quarter, except that the dates may be changed because of extenuating circumstances upon a simple majority vote of the seated ASUWT Senate.

3. Special elections shall be held as required by the ASUWT Constitution for the following purposes:
 - a. To fill vacancies in the ASUWT Senate and Executive board if three (3) or more vacancies occur.
 - b. To complete invalidated Elections.
 - c. To recall the votes for ASUWT President, Vice President, or any ASUWT Senator(s).
 - d. For any ballot measure.
4. Voting
 - a. All members of ASUWT may vote for an at-large Senate, President, and Vice President candidate
5. EAC composition and procedures shall be outlined in the ASUWT By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII FINANCE

1. The annual ASUWT Budget for the following year shall be proposed by the Finance Chair in collaboration with the ASUWT President and Vice President to the Senate pursuant to the By-Laws for approval by the Senate prior to being presented to the Student Activities Fee Committee (SAFC).

ARTICLE IX REFERENDUM AND INITIATIVE

1. The Senate, upon two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote, may submit to the ASUWT membership any measure which it determines to be of substantial student interest, where upon a vote of the membership of ASUWT shall be promptly scheduled within two (2) weeks.
2. Upon petition of five percent (5%) of the ASUWT membership, an initiative shall be submitted to the membership of ASUWT for a vote within a reasonable time period.
3. Initiatives and Referendum shall carry the same weight as Senate legislation.

ARTICLE X BY-LAWS

1. ASUWT and its Committees may enact By-Laws for the following purposes:
 - a. Specify policies and procedures of ASUWT not otherwise enumerated in the ASUWT Constitution.
 - b. Specify the powers, functions, duties, and responsibilities of ASUWT Officials not otherwise enumerated in the ASUWT Constitution.
2. Each Committee established in the ASUWT Constitution or By-Laws may formulate its own By-Laws. All By-Laws must be approved by a vote of the committee and affirmative vote of the Senate before deemed effective.

3. In order to amend the ASUWT By-Laws, Senate approval must occur by a two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote in two (2) Senate meetings: the first (1) meeting at which the amendment is introduced and the second (2) meeting at which the amendment is voted upon.

ARTICLE XI ASSOCIATION PROPERTY

1. The ASUWT 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 in this Constitution and ASUWT By-Laws.

ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed amendments and revisions to the ASUWT constitution shall be presented to the members of ASUWT for approval upon a four fifths (4/5) affirmative vote of the seated membership of the Senate or upon petition of at least five percent (5%) of the members of ASUWT.
2. Proposed amendments and revisions which are to be presented to the ASUWT membership for approval shall be publicized in a reasonable manner and for a reasonable period of time prior to action by ASUWT.
3. This Constitution may be amended or revised by a majority vote of ballots cast on the proposed modification at any regular ASUWT Election or Special Election called for that purpose, provided however, that a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the student body membership of ASUWT vote in either type of Election.

ARTICLE XIII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

1. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (2000, ed.), or successor editions, shall be the recognized authority for procedure not covered by this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIV ENABLING ACT

1. Amendments of this document shall render each and every previously recognized Constitution for the Associated Students of the University of Washington Tacoma null and void.

ARTICLE XV
RATIFICATION

The ratification of the Preamble, Articles and By-Laws of the ASUWT shall be sufficient for the establishment of the Constitution. We the Associated Students of the University of Washington, Tacoma have ratified the Constitution and By-Laws by a general vote in which a minimum of fifteen (15) percent of the Association cast ballots and two-thirds of those voting affirmed ratification.

Witnessed by,

.....
President, Associated Students,
University of Washington Tacoma

Date of Ratification

Patricia Spakes
Chancellor,
University of Washington, Tacoma

Date of Ratification