

**Associated Students of Willamette University**  
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**FALL 2012 Report**

**TRANSPARENCY**

Transparency is a fundamental value in our student government. ASWU's focus on transparency encompasses clarifying policies and processes both internally and externally, as well as making all relevant information and meetings accessible to students. In doing this we hope not only to be more effective but also to increase student involvement in ASWU. Over the course of the semester, ASWU created the Committee on Constitutional Review to improve the structure of ASWU, decrease bureaucratic processes, clarify the language of our bills and learn from best practices in other student governments. With these goals in mind, ASWU senate passed the Combat Confusion Act, which provides senators with a clearly outlined way to pass new legislation. It requires that all legislation is presented to Senate and discussed one week prior to official voting. This act is a way for senators to have equal understanding of the inner functioning of senate and to better represents you.

ASWU has also worked to simplify the budget request process for student leaders and is now providing on-site support for club representatives at budget hearings. The Vice-President of Finance is actively circulating relevant information to interested parties in club funding. Thanks to the Collegian's support we are now able to inform you about our work and initiatives through our section in the back page of the weekly Collegian newspaper. We have made senate meetings open to all of the student body and we invite you to come and see for yourself what we are up to each week (Thursdays at 7pm in the Montag Den). If you would like to know what our meetings will be about you can find that information on our Facebook page, which is now updated weekly.

**VISIBILITY**

Visibility is ASWU's ongoing effort to be "out there" for students, as a resource and to learn about what the students want from their student government. I have personally committed to holding some office hours in the Bistro in an effort to make myself more accessible and visible. As president, I have also attended a number of different events and represented the CLA students at Board of Trustees committee meetings. Exec members have been present at a variety of events such as Opening Days events, matriculation events, OMA events, student panels for prospective students, the activities expo, the Greek block party and midnight breakfast to inform students of our work. Our senators are also involved in a variety of clubs all over campus, attend many events, and participate in an array of activities. ASWU senators have taken the initiative to increase their participation in budget hearings to support club leaders even if they are not on finance board.

We are looking to improve our visibility on campus next semester by making use of a new logo on our website, on ASWU funded events and activities, and in ASWU gear (paid for by the senators themselves) to be easily identified. They have also passed a bill where ASWU commits to participating as a group in a community service event or initiative once per semester.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

One of the most important aspects of our work as your student representatives is to be accountable to you, to the University, and to each other within ASWU. In past years ASWU has passed a number of resolutions, bills, acts, and taken on projects that we, as your current leaders

are responsible for reevaluating and/or securing. A couple examples are Blitz the Bearcat and Honor Council. Blitz the Bearcat Act was a student led initiative to increase school spirit and support for our athletic teams that ASWU passed. In recent years Blitz the Bearcat had not obtained a sustainable funding source. This year ASWU resolved that issue by outlining a comprehensive stipend program in which ASWU will pay for this year's expenses for Blitz the Bearcat while we find a permanent solution for future years.

Last year, ASWU passed an Ethic directed toward maintaining academic integrity at Willamette University. This code mentioned an Honor Council as the central organization responsible for reviewing cases of plagiarism and cheating. However, the Honor Council was not created the same year and this year ASWU has been working to finalize the bylaws and structure of the Honor Council in order to be accountable for our own initiatives. We are currently finalizing the bylaws and initiating the process of putting together a pilot honor council composed of students and faculty. When discussions around the Honor Council are finalized, it is the hope that Honor Council becomes a separate entity from ASWU, allowing more students to be involved and removing unnecessary power from Senators or executive members.

One of ASWU's most visible responsibilities is that of allocating funding to student organizations on campus. We are accountable for the way in which your student fees are spent and for funding events and initiatives that enrich student life on campus. When student organizations go in debt, it is our responsibility to work with them to find the best possible solutions to this conflict. This year ASWU Senate passed a Bill on Financial Responsibility that is directed toward keeping clubs and organizations accountable to the student body for the way in which they make use of student fees. For details on this bill you can follow this link: <http://www.willamette.edu/org/aswu/senate/resolutions.html>.

The finances for ASWU have been successfully managed and are in a healthy position for the upcoming semester. As per the Constitution, during both semesters 27% of the money that has been allocated to ASWU from student body fees has been apportioned to WEB with an additional 18% being apportioned to the Collegian. The ASWU Senate will distribute the remaining portion of the allocation available for this upcoming semester to the various student organizations as per review from the Finance Board and passage.

Even though WEB, Collegian, and all other student organizations are separately managed, each student organization is a subsidiary group of ASWU and thus is focused on furthering the overall goals of ASWU. The most essential of these primary goals continues to question how will the Willamette student body at large benefit from carrying on requested events.

In order to be accountable to students ASWU needs to be actively engaged in obtaining student feedback and input about student concerns in all areas. This year we have attended events and collected feedback cards from students, conducted surveys, organized student forums about smoking on campus and are close to finalizing the process of installing feedback boxes around campus so that students have permanent and visible ways of providing their student government with feedback, comments, and concerns.

Other work ASWU continues to engage in and improve is the ASWU Shuttle Program, Building Bridges, ASWU sound, COSO, and our relationships with the Collegian and WEB. The mission for Building Bridges, an ASWU initiated program, is to facilitate a reciprocal relationship between ASP and Willamette students through student involvement activities as to foster cross-cultural inclusiveness and awareness within Willamette's community. Currently, the ASWU VP of Administration, Alexis Gilbert, and the Building Bridges Director, Matthew

Bateman, are working to create a sustainable framework within all parts of the Willamette community as to foster meaningful relationships between ASP and Willamette students. ASWU Sound is yet another ASWU initiated program to serve the Willamette community. ASWU Sound is a student-run organization that provides the highest quality sound equipment, technicians and service to the student body for all types of events. ASWU Sound is completely funded by ASWU, completely run by the students for the students, and in fact, every club gets one free event per semester through ASWU Sound. Lastly, the Willamette Events Board is focused on using their automatic allocation of student fees to put on events for the whole campus. ASWU is excited to continue partnering with WEB and invested in maintaining a presence and being available to students at these campus-wide events.