Winter Quarter 2025

Students for ASWUU Evaluations

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Introduction

Hi!
We are Students for ASWWU Evaluations.
The ASWWU was founded by students for students over 112 years ago. Now, our university has become a pinnacle for student leadership! To preserve this legacy, we must remember the people that make it possible. Direct feedback from students is what will ensure a thriving future for ASWWU, especially when deciding how to allocate funds with a smaller budget. This is how we did it.



Issue

ASWWU presence has declined since the pandemic, resulting in a policy change that has created a total 40% decrease in ASWWU funding. Our solution: increasing funding and restructuring the budget with an annual ASWWU survey.

Our plan...

Demand 1: Partial reinstatement of the policy. Allowing for ASWWU fees to be larger than 1% of net tuition.

Demand 2: Separate ASWWU dues from general fees, thus creating transparency and flexibility/accessibility for future budgeting.

Demand 3: Annual surveys asking student opinions on what they want to see in the future to aid in the allocation of funding within ASWWU's budget to improve the experience of students.



Target

Dr. Prakash Ramoutar

Our decision-maker cares about finances and logistics. He has extensive background in accounting and administration. We predict his main priority is how the university is doing financially, though has an appreciation for foreign policy.



Darren Wilkins

Darren will have a budget meeting with Prakash. He is the highest ranking person for ASWWU. He is in support of the survey, but reluctant to take ASWWU feed back.

Brooklyn is the lawyer of WWU and the ASWWU Sponsor. She disapproved of policy changes but suggested the school-wide survey. She was passive aggressive towards the progression of our campaign.



Brooklyn Armesto-Larson

Historical Analysis

ASWWU was originally student-funded and later supplemented by administration after COVID-19. ASWWU dues shifted from 1% of gross worth to 1% of net worth, thus reducing funds. New leadership was unaware of these planned budget reductions, leading to unexpected cuts. Our overall goal is to secure long-term stable funding for ASWWU. This means negotiating the policy change and improving budget allocation. This transparency, through an annual student survey bill in the ASWWU bylaws, will ensure ASWWU's success.

Darren Willkins

Brooklyn Armesto-Larson

Alex Bryan

Desision maker:
Prakash Ramoutar
Senate

Our Team

Jodi Wagner

Jocelyn Seaton

Student Body

Our Group



Ayden McCoy

Senior, Theology



Natalya Farris

Sophmore, Social Work



Faith Montes

Junior, Social Work



Leila Tall

Junior, Social Work

Group Dynamics

We had no set Facilitator... and here is why:

- Our group made sure to share the leadership in different areas, creating a power balance.
- This helps develop everyone's voice and spread responsibility throughout the campaign.

What we did do was understand individuals' strengths and connections. USE THAT!

Group Meeting:
We had a group meeting each week, however, before the meeting date arrives, you should always have a main topic to discuss, if not a full agenda.

- Why are we meeting?
- Is the majority of the group able to attend?

Decision-making tactics: you are most likely going to be in a small group, therefore, reaching consensus is key!

- Consensus: There should be an open discussion, to review all options that ultimately leads to a decision everyone is for.

Dynamics when adding a stakeholder

We had multiple meetings with important stakeholders in our campaign... Going in blind did not work.

For the Information building meeting:

- Have detailed questions.
- Try to schedule the meeting after a group meeting.
- Prepare for half done answers (Use follow up questions like “Can you elaborate more?”)

For the Demands meetings:

- Everyone should know the history of the issue and demands.
- Have a group member take a power seat, usually at the head of the table.
    - Dean Brooklynn took the power seat in our meeting, later on, there was a power inbalance between us.
- Know what demand you are willing to negotiate on, and which are set.
- Make simulation questions before and practice together.

Strategies and Tactics

With strategy and tactic, actions can bring about the desired result for a goal. Knowledge of the issue will go a long way when deciding how to act for your campaign.

Through meetings amongst ourselves and interviews with decision makers, our group gained information and understanding of the ASWWU budget.

When the option to advocate for a policy change for the ASWWU budget was no longer viable, we decided to move examine the student management of ASWWU funds. To make reasonable “demands,” data was needed - specifically student opinions. Thus, we conducted a survey through a pop-up.

Once we had the data, a bill was written up based on student opinions. This is where our group name comes into play, as we requested not only for a change in the policy to raise funding for ASWWU’s budget, but also for annual ASWWU evaluations that asked for and acted on student preferences.

Media

Media is the means of mass communication, which you can use to spread information about your issue to other people and your targets.

Types of media that can be used is social media platforms, news, surveys, flyers, public presentations, etc.

For our campaign, we used two forms, which we included in the binder as well.

- Survey
- Flyer

Timeline

- Jan 15 - First Team Meeting
- Jan 20 - Interview with Jodi Wagner
- Jan 31 - Interview with Brooklynm Armesto-Larson
- Jan 31 - Creating the Survey
- Feb 26 - First Pop-Up to Promote Survey
- Feb 27 - Second Pop-Up to Promote Survey
- Mar 03 - Presenting Bill to Senate
- Mar 31 - Senate votes on the Bill

Survey Findings

Overall ASWWU satisfaction was high.

41% of the responders felt an overall dissatisfaction with ASWWU.

29% of responders felt that ASWWU could improve its communication.

23.4% of the responders felt that ASWWU could improve its community engagement (collaborate with clubs, athletics, etc.).

17% of responders felt that ASWWU could improve its diversity of engagement (activities that cater to different groups of students, community, global work, etc.).

Campaign Summary

In conclusion, we have seen multiple successes and failures during our campaign. We began with an idea to restore the ASWWU budget, however, by gaining more knowledge, we found the real problem was in the allocation of funds. We began our journey of the ASWWU Survey, including advisory meetings for our survey with Jocelyn and Darren. Knowing that eventually we would need to go to the Senate, one group member attended the Senate open forum where they made it a point to say “We appreciate Administration”. Now it was time for the booth where we met passive aggressiveness from Brooklyn, adamantly stating that we needed to prominently label our booth as not ASWWU sponsored. During our booth, we found problems with students only taking the survey for the free shirt, perhaps skewing the results. After the Survey booth, we went into creating a bill for the Senate that included our survey findings. Our Bill will be voted on March 31, 2025, where our mission will hopefully find a great conclusion

Conclusion

Future work for this campaign includes:

- Finding results of the Wilkins and Ramotaur meeting over increasing the ASWWU budget.
- Research the allocation of ASWWU funding.
- Reach out to local ASWWU Senator for bill passage or denial of the annual ASWWU survey.
- Ensure upkeep or improvement of ASWWU satisfaction surveys.

Additional Resources

Reach out to your local ASWWU senator for:

- G.L. 5 - ASWWU Annual Student Survey

A link to the original survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1q5OkYxxMHyZ5BDg-1X4Vu-xpxm6ShGW8gDg9yUrsYJE/edit?ts=67bcc39e

To the next group
of students...
You've got this
and
we believe in you!

Sincerely,
Natalya, Faith, Ayden & Leila