**PREAMBLE**

We, the students of Willamette University, establish this constitution to uplift the quality of the student experience in all levels of the university and campus life. We shall uphold the standards of accountability, visibility, and transparency between students, elected officials, and campus administrators and faculty.

**ARTICLE I: ASWU**

**SECTION 1.**

1. This organization shall be known as the Associated Students of Willamette University or ASWU.

**SECTION 2.**

1. All registered students of Willamette University College of Liberal Arts and students of the American Studies Program (ASP) shall be members of the Association upon payment of the student body fee.

**SECTION 3.**

1. The ASWU government shall consist of an Executive Branch, a Legislative Branch, and a Judicial Branch and shall be overseen by a faculty advisor from the Office of Student Activities.

 **ARTICLE II: Executive Branch**

**SECTION 1.**

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

**SECTION 2.**

1. Each Executive Board officer shall:
	1. Be a member of the Associated Students of Willamette University.
	2. Remain in good academic standing, defined by the University Registrar and the Office of Student Activities as a cumulative 2.5 GPA and not being on academic probation.
	3. Meet when called on by the ASWU President or any two members of the Executive Board.
	4. Be prepared to answer to the ASWU Senate and Judicial Branch on any matters relevant to his/her position.
	5. Maintain appropriate transition materials.

**SECTION 3.**

1. The President shall:
	1. Serve as the primary representative of the members of ASWU.
	2. Inform students of the progress of ASWU at the end of each semester through a formal report.
	3. Serve as the student representative to the Board of Trustees of Willamette University.
	4. Nominate student members to any campus committee that requires student representation.
	5. Have the power to veto any legislation of the ASWU Senate. A veto is only effective if the Vice President receives a written statement outlining the rationale of the veto by the President within a week of the date the legislation in question was approved by the ASWU Senate.

**SECTION 4.**

1. The Vice President shall:
	1. Assume the duties of the President in his/her absence.
	2. Serve as the President of the Senate. The Senate President shall only cast a vote in the event of a tie.
	3. Nominate a Senator to act as President Pro Tempore upon majority approval by the Senate. The President Pro Tempore shall act as President of the Senate in the event of an absence of the Vice President.
	4. Serve as Chair of the Elections Commission in overseeing the elections process.

**SECTION 5.**

1. The Treasurer shall:
	1. Manage, administer, and keep appropriate records of the ASWU finance system.
	2. Present all Budget Proposals for approval by the ASWU Senate.
	3. Serve as financial advisor for all ASWU activities, committees, organizations, and boards.
	4. Propose the ASWU Office Budget for approval by Senate at the last meeting of spring semester. Edits may be proposed throughout the semester for Senate approval.

**SECTION 6.**

1. In the event that an Executive Officer of ASWU cannot fulfill his/her year-long term of office, these established and prescribed procedures shall go into effect to fill the position until an election can be held:
	1. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of ASWU President, the Vice President shall serve as the interim President and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall serve as the Vice President until an election can be held. s
	2. In case of the vacancy of the offices of Vice President or Treasurer, a new Executive Board member will be nominated by the remaining members of Executive Board and confirmed by the Senate within two weeks of the vacancy.

**ARTICLE III: Legislative Branch**

**SECTION 1.**

1. The Legislative Branch shall consist of the ASWU Senate. The 21 members of the ASWU Senate shall be comprised of five elected students from each class and one elected student from the American Studies Program.
2. The officers of the ASWU Senate are the:
	1. President of the Senate who shall be the Vice President of the Executive Board.
	2. President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
	3. Class Whips of each class caucus.
	4. Senate Parliamentarian, who shall be the Chief Justice of the Judicial Branch.

**SECTION 2.**

1. Each member of the Senate shall:
	1. Be a member of the Associated Students of Willamette University.
	2. Remain in good academic standing, defined by the University Registrar and the Office of Student Activities as a cumulative 2.5 GPA and not being on academic probation.

**SECTION 3.**

1. The Senate shall:
	1. Have the power to investigate and report on any area of student life.
	2. Propose legislation to serve the needs of the student body.
	3. Levy and allocate funds of the Association and the ASWU Endowment.
	4. Have the power to override a presidential veto by a two-thirds majority.
	5. Have the power to override a Judicial Branch ruling by a two-thirds majority.
	6. Meet when called upon by the President of the Senate or President Pro Tempore.
	7. Meet in an emergency session when called upon by at least two members of the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE IV: Judicial Branch**

**SECTION 1.**

1. The Judicial Branch shall consist of five Justices.
2. The Justices shall be nominated by the President of ASWU and confirmed by a two-thirds majority of Senate.
3. The Senate shall elect one of the confirmed members to serve as the Chief Justice.

**SECTION 2.**

1. Each member of the Judicial Branch shall:
	1. Be a member of the Associated Students of Willamette University.
	2. Remain in good academic standing, as defined by the University Registrar and the Office of Student Activities as a cumulative 2.5 GPA and not being on academic probation.

**SECTION 3.**

1. The Judicial Branch shall:
	1. Hold the legislative and executive branches accountable to standards set by the Constitution and subsequent legislation.
	2. Notify Senate 48 hours prior to the “final vote” on legislation if changes need to be made to the proposed action.
	3. Review the actions of Executive Board members at their discretion.

**SECTION 4.**

1. The Justices shall be nominated by the President of ASWU at least one week prior to the final Senate meeting of the semester.
2. The nominated Justices shall be confirmed by the Senate at the last Senate meeting of the semester by a two-thirds majority.
3. Two Justices shall be nominated by the outgoing ASWU President at the end of Spring semester and three shall be nominated at the end of Fall semester.
4. Justices must be reconfirmed by a two-thirds majority of the ASWU Senate at the end of two consecutive semesters of service if they wish to keep their office.
5. Justices seeking to be elected to other ASWU offices must resign from their position as a Justice to be eligible.

 **ARTICLE V: Elections**

**SECTION 1:**

1. The ASWU Elections Commission, hereby referred to as the Elections Commission, shall have administrative authority overseeing the elections process which shall be chaired by the Vice President. The date of the elections shall be recommended by the Vice President and approved by the Elections Commission, as outlined by the elections process.
2. The Elections Commission will not have the authority to make changes to the established elections processes, but instead shall only have the authority to carry out elections processes.
3. Membership of the Elections Commission shall consist of: the Vice President as a non-voting ex-officio Chair of the Commission, one Senator nominated and approved by ASWU Senate, one Justice nominated by the Judicial Branch and approved by Senate, and three at-large students who are recommended by the ASWU President and approved by the Senate.
4. The Elections Commission shall be formed at the end of each semester to serve for the following semester.
5. The Elections Commission shall carry out the elections process. All operations of the Commission shall be in accordance with laws pertaining to the elections process and secondarily the Elections Packet signed by all candidates.
6. Candidates must be made aware of the elections process and affirm their understanding of the process by agreeing to the standards set in the Elections Packet.
7. It is the responsibility of the Elections Commission to make the following items available to all candidates within the Elections Packet: Election rules; all dates pertaining to the campaign and election; and an expenditures form.
8. The Elections Commission shall ensure that all candidates participating in off-campus study programs are provided with the same opportunities and resources as other candidates.

**SECTION 2:**

1. If the Vice President is a candidate for ASWU elected office, they shall recommend a member of the ASWU Executive Board to serve as chairperson of the Elections Commission for the duration of the election. The Vice President shall not in any way participate in the administration of that election.
2. In the event that a member of the Elections Commission becomes a candidate for ASWU elected office they shall not participate in the administration of that election and a replacement will be nominated and approved by Senate.

**SECTION 3:**

1. Anyone may notify the Elections Commission of a potential violation. The Elections Commission shall be in charge of investigating the validity of each accusation within 48 hours.
2. Only confirmed members of the Commission will be permitted to hear and rule on the violation.
3. A decision against the defendant requires a three-fifths vote of the Commission.
4. A statement concerning the findings of the Commission shall be issued immediately following the hearing.
5. Candidates can appeal an Elections Commission decision within twenty-four hours of the announcement by sending a written statement to the Elections Commission Chair and the Chief Justice. The Judicial Branch shall then review the appeal.
6. If the election is to take place before the Judicial Branch’s consideration of the appeal, the election will be postponed until after they rule on the appeal.

**SECTION 4:**

1. All ballots cast will be secret.
2. All ASWU fee paying members shall be entitled to vote.

**SECTION 5:**

1. All candidates for ASWU office shall be in good academic standing, defined by the University Registrar and the Office of Student Activities as a cumulative 2.5 GPA and not being on academic probation.
2. The Elections Commission must certify the eligibility of all candidates.

**ARTICLE VI: Amendments**

**SECTION 1.**

1. Amendments to the Constitution or replacement of the Constitution shall be recommended to a student body referendum upon two-thirds approval of the ASWU Senate or upon presentation to the Senate of a petition signed by no less than twenty percent of the student body.
2. Prior to the referendum, the proposed changes must be announced publicly and be made available to the student body for no less than one week.
3. The proposed changes shall be voted on by the Associated Students of Willamette University and ratified upon approval by a majority of votes cast.

**ARTICLE VII: Ratification of the Constitution**

**SECTION 1.**

1. Upon approval by a majority of votes cast by the Associated Students of Willamette University, this Constitution will go into effect at the end of the Spring 2013 ASWU election cycle.