



We, the Associated Students of Whitworth University, strive to provide advocacy, a sense of belonging, and communication through grace and a holistic approach. Our members aim to represent the diverse student body and collaborate to produce an environment rich in unity, optimism, and civil discourse; while also empowering students to be their authentic selves.

2022-23 ASWU Meeting Minutes | April 19, 2023

Executive Members:

Georgia Goff President	PRESENT
Christian Aguilar Vice President	PRESENT
Michael Stavridis Financial Director	PRESENT
Sydnee Lum Marketing & PR	PRESENT

Coordinators:

Grace Johnson Campus Activities Coordinator	PRESENT
Jamie Gassman Club Coordinator	PRESENT
Reeshika Sharma Cultural Events Coordinator	PRESENT
Micah Cunningham Spiritual Life Coordinator	PRESENT
Haley Horsburgh Sustainability Coordinator	PRESENT
Larkin Dean Traditional Events Coordinator	PRESENT

Senators:

Samie Schaffer Arend Senator	PRESENT
Sierra Witte Baldwin Jenkins Senator	PRESENT
Kenzie Quinn Ballard Senator	PRESENT
Katelynn Diaz Boppell Senator	PRESENT
Katie Chilcote Duvall Senator	PRESENT
Niraj Pandey International Student Senator	PRESENT
Lucien Dallabetta McMillan Senator	PRESENT
Grace Stiger Off-Campus Senator	PRESENT
Lotanna Akukwe Oliver Senator	PRESENT
Ava Dennis Warren Senator	PRESENT

Representatives:

Gio Coronado Incoming Student Representative	PRESENT
Maleah Robles Neighborhoods Representative	PRESENT
Bobbi Jo Crittenden Off-Campus Representative	PRESENT
Nick Yochum Off-Campus Representative	PRESENT
Hannah Sommerville Off-Campus Representative	PRESENT
Rylee Baratone Off-Campus Representative	PRESENT

Meeting brought to order at 5:00pm

Mission statement read by Kenzie

Approval Of Minutes from April 12, 2023

Motioned to approve by Katie

Seconded by Bobbi Jo

Kenzie: I noticed Katelynn was reported as absent but was actually here. Could we change that?

Georgia: Do I hear a motion to approve with that friendly amendment?

Motioned to approve with amendment by Kenzie

Seconded by Katie

Favor: 15 | Oppose: 0 | Abstain: 0

Minutes Approved With Amendment

What's Up Whitworth

Georgia: I know it gets hot in here, but just know that we have fruit snacks and water in the back. If you feel weezy, tell someone and take someone out with you to get fresher air.

Christian: I am Christian and I am the Vice President this year. Today's meeting will operate in a little bit of a different way. Any concerns not related to the TPUSA speaker will be mentioned first, then we will move to club updates from club leaders, club proposals and speaker proposals, then return to discussion to talk about the TPUSA speaker. I will be making a list for speaking order as well.

Katelynn: Boppell spaces are no longer covered with dirt but still blocked off. Hoping to get those parking spaces back.

Christian: We will see what we can do about that!

Student Highlight

Christian: Our student highlight is Litzy. She was such a huge help in operating elections, ran executive debates with Isaac. She's an amazing student leader on campus.

Club Updates

Womens Club Soccer

Heather: My name is Heather and this is Lizzy who will take over next year. We have 20 active participants. We have 12-18 players per game. Pretty regular. We seek out new people by putting up posters, through word of mouth, through tabling, and even the Club Fair. Having a table at the Club Fair is a great opportunity for meeting freshmen. We will also be getting a list of incoming students about any soccer interest to reach out to them as well. We had five games in the fall. We have had two games in the spring, with Central and Eastern. We scrimmage with the Men's team. We will be playing Eastern again and playing Montana schools and Idaho. We practice 2-3 times per week, usually in Omache Field or Graves Gym if weather permits. We do things like bowling night, dinners, hikes, etc. The future looks like having four games left, and in the fall we hope to schedule our own games. Also hoping to fundraise by hosting a babysitting night sort of thing.

Lotanna: What time do you practice?

Heather: Changes but usually Mondays from 3:30pm-5pm. And Wednesdays from 3:30pm-5pm. It does fluctuate.

Katie: Is it walk on and beginner friendly?

Heather: Yes.

Meals in the Margins

Nick: I am president of Meals in the Margins. We got chartered last semester. It has picked up quite a bit since then. We elected officers. We ran a fundraiser before spring break. We raised just under 1,700 dollars. We've had slow donations come in since then. We haven't got into any outreach because I'm sick and most of us are sick. Next week, in Duvall, we are going to be holding elections for Treasurer. That will be on Monday at 4:30pm in Duvall. We hang out and talk in Duvall for our meetings and cook the meals that we take out. Also some conversation through that. Come hang out for outreach or just to hangout. Before we leave, about 15-20 min beforehand, I go over how it works and what it all looks like in terms of how to interact with houseless folks and etc. Any questions?

Katie: Are those times specific?

Nick: It's usually 4:30pm-7pm on Mondays. If I'm able to keep it around this summer, I will try to keep it going. That's unofficial as of right now.

Ice Cream Club

Meg: I'm president of Icecream club. We have 35 active members and we started a month and a half ago. We have about 20-30 participants in events. We also have an event coming up this week in Weyerhaeuser 111. We have a bunch of different icecream flavors. We've been meeting every other week. I bring homemade icecream but hoping to do more of making icecream. I'm planning on collaborating with RAs in dorms for primetimes, with Skeptics Club coming up soon and a collaboration with BSU.

Grace S: When are meetings and events?

Meg: Event is Tuesday the 25th. Meetings fluctuate by day and time based off of schedules.

Bowling Club

Casey: Bowling Club is super new, so not much to report on. I finished president training last month. The person who was going to be helping mainly abandoned me for the Gaming Club. Hit me up if you have graphic design experience. We are looking for help. Also, I've been talking with Ed, the owner of Lilac Lanes. We are trying to arrange for regular lanes. Otherwise, just trying to put everything together and manage my own classes.

Kenzie: Is it competitive bowling or the attitude of "let's teach you"?

Casey: It's anything and everything, and I do have gear to use.

Ava: What type of graphic design help do you need?

Casey: Anything. I am an English major. A poster would be awesome.

Jamie: Seeing no more questions, you're welcome to stay or go as you please.

Casey: I have anxiety so I'm leaving.

Catholic Fellowship

Natalie: We have 10 active members. We provide carpools to mass, and even to spanish mass. Looking to doing retreats for students at Silver Lake on April 29th. Also, we have been collabing with similar clubs at Gonzaga and at Eastern to try to do a night with those students for some fellowship. We've had Bible studies after mass on sundays. We want to do a tea night.

Teachers of Tomorrow

Hailey: This is my first year. Our other two are student teaching so I am here. I don't know how it goes in years past but we've been having some low turnouts. We reach out to students in the School of Education through email. Our most recent event was a Title 1 Q&A because a lot of students weren't familiar with what Title 1 is or what it means.

Gender Equality Movement

Carly: Hi, I'm Vice President of G.E.M.

Hannah: Hi, I'm Hannah and I am President.

Carly: We look to create a safe space for any gender on campus. We haven't had a ton of events. We had a lower budget than we planned for. We have been working to create a new rebrand for our club. We got in touch a lot with the National Organization for Women. We are working on that, and working on rebranding.

Hannah: If anyone wants to be involved in G.E.M next year, please let us know. We really want to make it big next year.

Women in Finance

Madeline: Hi, I'm president of Women in Finance. Like other clubs, we've had a lower turnout this year. We brought a cryptocurrency speaker, and Gonzaga invited us to a networking event so we've been able to connect with them a bit.

Club Proposal

Math Club

Andrew: The Math department has tried to get a club together for a few years now and I became the person to want to do that and want to create a space for math people in the math department to come hang out and be social with others. This would be for people in the department, or just people who like math in general, anyone could join. The idea is that we would meet every two weeks and have things like puzzles, professors coming and talking about their research, as well as math competitions and conferences maybe. It would be a good way to build community on campus. We have a lot of people interested, and all of them are not seniors. Even though I'm graduating, I'm hoping to set a foundation to make this happen.

Jamie: We will be voting on this next week.

ACT Club

Fiona: We want to make a club associated with the theater department as there isn't one. The main goal is to get people interested in theater whether they're in the department or not. We would want to just all come together and hang. It could be a space to make connections in terms of directing shows or acting in some. We would like to meet once a month for the plan right now, but maybe more if things pick up. 15-20 people have expressed interest so far. Does anyone have any questions?

Jamie: Again, we will be voting on this next week.

Speaker Proposal

Political Science Club: David Kling, Rik Wallis, Mary Logan

Reeshika: The political Science club is asking for approval for these 3 speakers. Mary Logan, the judge started the Spokane community court that helps provide resources to the clients we have and they will be for educational purposes to share about what resources are provided in Spokane and how community court started and how have it helped people. I am interning there as well for the spring. They will share about their experiences and there will be time for Q and A as well. We are planning the event to be on May 3rd, Wednesday.

Jamie: This will be voted on next week.

What's Up Whitworth Continued

Christian: Just to be clear, I want to facilitate this discussion as effectively as possible. I don't know everyone's names, so when you raise your hand, please say what your name is and I'll make a speaking order of about 10 people. Please speak clearly, say your name before you speak for the minutes so Grace can write your name for the minutes. Here in our meetings, we like to knock twice if we agree with something. Since a lot of you are standing, snaps work in place of knocks too. Please be mindful of speaking times so we can get through as many people as possible in this meeting. And before we get started, Vanessa requested to say a prayer before the meeting

Vanessa: I feel like there is a lot of pent up energy so I'd love to say a quick prayer. Dear Lord, thank you so much for the opportunity to be able to come together to talk about important things in a safe space. I want to give this conversation to you and with you. Thank you for growth and learning. I hope love can enter this conversation. I just pray that you guide this. Thank you so much for having the safe space for this. Amen.

Liz: My name is Liz. I teach full time in the English department. I am here after hearing a number of concerns from my students. I am here as a concerned faculty member. I have taught in Christian higher education for the last 16 years. The last four of those at Whitworth. My specialty is writing and rhetoric. Rhetoric is what we are here to consider. I have taken the time to go through publications, feed and rhetoric from the speaker proposed. I remain even more gravely concerned with what this brings as a precedent that this sets for future speakers. For each of my years here I've had students of color, students in the LGBTQ+ community, students who don't identify as conservative and/or christian confide in me as to what a challenging place Whitworth can be. That concerns me. As a teacher, I know that true learning requires risk taking. I also know that students are only willing to take risks in a space where they feel safe and a sense of belonging. That is why I oppose this speaker's invitation to campus. I oppose not to limit civil discourse or the free exchange of ideas, but after examining her speaker history, publications and twitter feed, I have found that her rhetoric far surpasses ideas. It actively promotes violence against non white, non straight, non gender conforming and non conservative students. That rhetoric creates instability and a lack of safety. It counters Whitworth's mission of inclusion and belonging. It inhibits students learning and safety. That is different than causing discomfort. Historically, hateful rhetoric is responsible for every act of violence that we have seen. Wars, attacks discrimination; all of it begins with language. I believe this speaker holds extreme beliefs based on the language that she uses, and we have to trust that this language is chosen directly because that's how she makes her money. She chooses this rhetoric. The affirmation of extreme beliefs such as promoting the eradication of LGBTQ+ people which she has actively proposed, will propose violence against sacred members of our community. I believe it will make it difficult for those students to learn. That is our entire goal. I thank ASWU for voting already to not extend that invitation and I urge this committee to maintain its mission for inclusion and belonging which was read at the beginning.

Ben: I recognize most people in this room and I love all of you regardless of which side. I'm not here to address any distinct side but rather how ASWU has handled it. Academic freedom and open discourse are vital components to create a diverse environment. However, the ASWU student government shouldn't have the power to vote on or bar club for bringing speakers to campus. It impetes the free exchange of ideas. In section 4 of the Whitworth Students Bill of Rights, students have the right to examine and discuss all aspects of their education and express their opinions. Denying students to hear diverse perspectives is something that the ASWU student government is infringing upon. Additionally, the universal declaration of human rights affirms the right to freedom of conscious expression which is violating by ASWU barring club's the right to bring a speaker to campus. According to the Whitworth Student Bill of Rights, students have the right to engage with the bias process. The ASWU decision to block a speaker based on her views shows an active bias. Academic freedom is necessary. Bringing speakers such as the proposed one can broaden intellectual discussion, exposing them to new ideas, which fosters critical thinking and the ASWU student government goes against this. They argue they are protecting their students. While the concern for safety and wellbeing of campus is valid, limiting free exchange of ideas is not a solution. Instead the university should set guidelines and policies for the invited speakers. This supports the growth and development of students. University is supposed to be exposed to controversial ideas and diverse thinking such as ideas from Xi Van Fleet. Barring speakers solely on their views limits their intellectual growth. While it is important to protect the community from harmful content, it is equally important to uphold academic freedom and exchange of free ideas. The university can establish their guidelines to ensure their values align with the institution as to not incite violence or is hate speech. This can be done through a vetting process as well as through ensuring the content is appropriate. Instead of banning speakers, the ASWU student government can encourage open discussion for students. This can be achieved through debates, moderated Q and A sessions. Such discussions can help students understand the complexities of issues presented by speakers. Campus community should learn to respectfully disagree with students. Thank you.

Georgia: Thank you so much for the folks who have shared already and for the folks who are going to share. For the sake of time, I propose a 2 min time limit. I would like to do an unofficial vote, so everyone can vote. Okay, looks like the majority. I will set a timer on my phone, once you are at 30 seconds, I will knock, and then at 2 minutes, I will say time and your time will be up. Does that seem fair to everyone?

Members: Yes.

Travis: I'm Travis, a lot of you know me. I know a lot of you. I am a minority. I am Hispanic. My mom is from South America. I am not part of Pride club, and I happen to be part of TPUSA, but I honor all of you. When I was a young child, I had traumatic sexual experiences. I struggled with homosexual tendencies for quite awhile. I had an encounter with Jesus, and he ended up changing my life. I don't struggle with that anymore, but I come from a place of understanding and I honor everyone. I don't want to be a bad guy because I will be talking about an inherently heated subject here. I'm your friend, alright. Whitworth Pride Club went ahead and made an instagram post of concern. It said this, the proposed speaker compares woke American culture...

Georgia: I'm so sorry to cut you off but we cannot have members recording in here. We should've let everyone know beforehand. The law states that we cannot record anything in here unless everyone expresses verbal approval.

Travis: I understand, thank you for letting me know. The speaker compares woke American culture to that of the communist revolution including for example the Black Lives Matter movement and the LGBTQ+ community. Now I want to play a quick soundbite of someone talking about Black Lives Matter as an institution and as a movement. Black Lives Matter is openly marxist. Carl Marx is the one who made the communist manifesto. Marxism and communism are tied together very closely. Furthermore, woke ideology comes from what the United States government considers the most accurate representation of the communist agenda. There are 45 points presented to Congress, one of which is to present homosexuality, degeneracy and promiscuity as natural or healthy. This is the woke agenda. Can I have 45 more seconds?

Members: No.

Travis: Okay that's fine. Essentially, Whitworth Convocation says that they encourage us to find folks to...

Members: Time.

Travis: Find folks with different views and have discussion...

Members: Time.

Alex: Hi, I am Alex Vickers and I would just like to start off by saying that I am not a degenerate for being queer. Whitworth's mission statement says that the university's mission is to provide its diverse student body an education of the mind and the heart, equipping its graduates to honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity. This mission is carried out by a community of Christian scholars committed to excellent teaching and to the integration of faith and learning. Let's sit with that for a moment. The purpose is not to provide a platform for every single idea, it's to provide a liberal arts education for diverse students, encourage critical thinking, media literacy, scientific and mathematic skills, support our endeavors, and more. Our mission is to see our diverse students as whole human beings, hearts and minds, to educate them. That mission is part of everything we do here, whether that's sports, residence life, even Sodexo. We interrogate with each thing we do and ask if it contributes or takes away from excellence of education of the whole student heart in mind. That means that there is no obligation to platform a speaker who doesn't see our diverse students as whole people, but rather as dangerous and evil. Platforming isn't part of our mission. Making priorities according to the mission isn't censorship. Civil discourse has always historically been used to force marginalized people to be civil with those in power. Enslaved people were told that if they asked nicely enough they would be free. Queer people were told that if they stayed quiet in the shadows, rights would be eventually granted to us. Whitworth is committed to modeling love based off of human differences. We see our diverse students, faculty and staff as whole people worthy of love and respect.

Georgia: Time.

Niraj: I'm the International Senator. I am one of the members who didn't want to bring this speaker onto campus. I will speak from my experience and the experience of my international students. I have double knocked and snapped on most of what people have had to say. I would just add one thing. Actually, two things. Some of the international students would've very gladly come to the challenge of dissenting on or arguing with or debating with Mrs. Van Fleet, but the discourse as we have said, would probably not have been civil. Because the talking at hand is her personal experience in communist Mao's cultural revolution. Her rhetoric was not up to par. I would not have been about that at all because if we really wanted to do that through Turning Point USA or not through Turning Point USA, we could've asked a certain faculty member who's father went through the cultural revolution. She would provide very precise and accurate information, not this rhetoric. Second of all, I would pose the question to everybody, should we platform Hitler? I don't think we would.

Georgia: Time.

Vanessa: First of all, I am Vanessa, TPUSA. If you are here to be mean or rude or nasty, check your heart for that because that's not what we are here for. We are here just to have a conversation. I'm here not only because the speaker was cancelled, but because I also care about this topic as a whole. I want people to feel like they have a home. I feel like my voice is listened to but it is not heard. I feel like I have very important things to say. It's very very frustrating that my voice is not being heard, because I have had so much hurt from the

people in here saying stuff like “we want inclusivity too, we want acceptance” but they have said hurtful things to me. Not part of this but I digress. I’m all about differences, I think differences are important, but I don’t like meanness which is what this club gets from ASWU. What happened to our campus such as papers getting torn, speakers being denied, people calling us mean names, it’s all really really mean and not okay. Feels like we are being bullied. I have different views from people in my club, and they all know that and I talk openly about that such as with abortion and what not. I embrace our differences and don’t let that separate us. I am Vanessa and I have a voice to be listened to and to be heard. It’s exhausting and ridiculous to stand up in front of everyone to explain that. I understand the rhetoric of her twitter feed, but she would be here as an immigrant to talk about her experience. That’s what she would be talking about! I am a people pleaser and I hate speaking in front of people, but I am willing to risk who I am to be able to share my voice and speak for other people. With shutting down diverse thoughts, is that actually diversity? We are not only here to challenge our thoughts but to...

Georgia: Time.

Christian: Just a quick note, once August shares, I’ll take another opportunity to make another list for those who want to speak.

Katelynn: Point of clarification. A lot of people mentioned censorship. Censorship can only be done by a government actor.

August: Student government. Quick question, are we allowed to have donate some of our time to other members if they were going to speak?

Georgia: We ask that that member goes through the same process as everybody else does. Thank you for asking beforehand.

August: Quick clarification that this is directed towards ASWU. I have nothing against Bryan or his friends. I’m not going to sugarcoat this. I am going to cut the speech down to the nasties. ASWU, I have come to meet you with deep ingratitude and displeasure. While your intentions may be to protect some of your constituents to what might possibly be harmful ideology is not your purpose or your job. You are representatives, not guardians. You are not mothers and fathers who are protecting children from possible harm. Furthermore, we are at a university where debate, conversation and the transmitting of ideas is supposed to be supported. In class I am swamped with ideologies that I do not agree with and find damaging. Most feminist critiques, Critical Race Theory, Marxism, Socialism. I have never had a complaint for the exposure to these ideas. I am thankful, in fact, because it has allowed for me to better understand them and articulate my own views and consider critiques for my own views and own experiences. Now, as I understand it, the Whitworth student government is unable to afford the same tolerance, patience or appreciation with my own views that I have of theirs. Because of this, I am greatly disappointed and offended. What I hope to come and grasp is that this vote denying the conservative speaker is much more than that. This communicates what I have honestly feared, is that there is no room for conservative students to be their authentic selves, for us to speak candidly of our thoughts and opinions. We’ve had to weigh our thoughts and feelings with the fear of judgment. The vote against the speaker was to vote against me and my people from entering any discussion. I charge you all with unfaithfulness to the student body and to your expressed mission statement. You have failed to recognize the full diversity of your student body by excluding us and giving into your own political biases. You have thoroughly failed to create an equitable environment as you all sniffed out the smallest smell of conservatives on your campus. You have destroyed the little optimism I had for this school. You didn’t even bother giving us the chance for civil discourse to take place. You clearly reinforced the idea that an authentic conservative student can in no way be encouraged to participate here at Whitworth.

Christian: I’ll take more names now.

Georgia: As a reminder, there are both water bottles and snacks in the back. We know it can get hot in here when there are a lot of people here. Going to try and keep the ball rolling here.

Clayton: I am here with great concern to address this matter. I’m not here to pick sides in any way, but just here to try to represent the love and truth of Jesus Christ. To me it seems like we are straying from Jesus Christ and that there is a rising opposition to this. Not only this but it seems that there is an attempt to suppress any opinion in opposition. The purpose of our institution is to equip and to empower students to impact the world for Christ. How can we do this if we are not fully committed to the truth of the Gospel? How can we do this if we are trying to decide for ourselves what love is when that contradicts what God himself says. It seems to me that this university is more being concerned with not being offensive than we are about the truth. In that, we are taking offense of the Gospel and removing the most important truth. This is the truth that Christ was crucified for. We are all broken sinners that fall short of the glory of God. There is nothing good that dwells in us. It is the Gospel that says that unrighteousness will not inherit the kingdom of heaven. God’s love is available to all and he says in 2nd Peter that He desires for all to come to repentance. But it is repentance that brings transformation. We are born again in the beauty of Christ. I say this because a Gospel without transformation is not the Gospel at all. Embracing LGBT ideologies along with any other beliefs contrary to what God says ultimately will lead us to destruction and death apart from Christ. Whitworth seems to be following culture and...

Georgia: Time. Again, please speak up so Grace can hear you. We do need that for our minutes.

Bryan: My name is Bryan and I am president of Pride Club. I represent those who are often marginalized. We are no stranger to mean comments, to slurs, to our posters being thrown and torn down. What this event represents is not different beliefs. We come to Whitworth University to have civil discourse. We want to have civil discourse. This represents hate speech towards us. Safety towards our students. Safety for those who are often marginalized. You guys have been proponing love and care and equality to everyone. We have been too. We are pride club, we love everyone. Civil discourse can't be had with just one view. You guys stated that you were going to have executives moderate and make sure no inappropriate questions were asked. You didn't reach out to any of us, Gen Action, G.E.M., or any of us to collaborate to help monitor anything. Collaborating is not off the table. We don't hate you guys, we just want to be safe.

Gavin: I'm Gavin, I don't have anything prepared. I wanted to come and just voice my opinion. Believe it or not, I used to be a TPUSA member and an America First member too at one point but I've progressed and have grown in my political education. Look, I understand the want for speakers to come in and have an exchange of ideas and I think that that is valuable. But I do think that the rhetoric causes an unsafe space here on campus. Her twitter account is really cringe. I think she could have valuable insight into her experience, but she just throws hissy fits a lot. Ultimately it comes down to that the representatives in ASWU voted, and they voted for what it is. The decision is final and I'm for due process. I'm impressed with some speeches so far. Not all, but some. ASWU made the vote and made the decision. I understand you are all the minority, I understand where you are coming from.

Nick: These are not my words but this is on behalf of a constituent. I am an off campus constituent and I support the right of our student government to turn away speakers that don't align with the mission statement of ASWU. Whitworth is not a place for platforming speakers to use their time online to promote divisive falsehoods about valuable programs like our DEI office or our Pride Club. It is simply untrue that the speaker was turned away for her "values not aligning with ASWU members". I believe ASWU made the right choice to turn away a speaker who has shown logical fallacies, spreads misinformation and encourages people to engage in a culture war. Whitworth's DEI initiatives are about including students who are marginalized. Our DEI office exists to help make marginalized students feel welcomed, not to revoke a culture war or make students be against each other. Climate change and conversations around that on campus are based on scientific fact. This is not about turning students into "woke warriors". Our campus communities are open to all speakers who operate in good faith and kind hearted discussion over controversial issues. One event hosted several years ago of two respected speakers, one who was pro choice, and one who was pro life, are the kinds of events I'd like to see the student government uphold. We want to see engaging people in intergroup dialogue with conservative students led by faculty and staff who are trained in non violent communication and intergroup dialogue methods. I urge the student body to not give into the fear mongering that Whitworth is somehow "eliminating free speech" by not allowing hateful or misinformed speakers on campus. Instead, I want to see our clubs invite speakers who are truly interested in cross political conversations held in good faith with neutral respect and a clear understanding of basic facts.

Hannah: I appreciate and fully value the need for diverse perspectives on this campus. I am a History major and want to continue that education. All I want to do is tell stories and I value the importance of stories greatly. What's not okay and unacceptable is when those stories being used to perpetuate hate speech, not to promote experiences and show experiences shaping people. As I did my research with the proposed speaker's Twitter, as I did my research with other things that she has published, I didn't see a single example of where she shared her experience and didn't share hate towards specific individuals. And with Whitworth's missions and values to continue to uplift diverse student voices and allow space and safety for students, we cannot have speakers who will continue to perpetuate hateful rhetoric. I do appreciate the desire for more perspectives, and I think there are many people with perspectives that can be drawn from that aren't also perpetuating horrible hateful speech.

Urvashi: Hi, I am Urvashi. Ouch, first of all. As a queer woman who is sitting in this room along with several other queer students, invalidating our sexualities. You are invalidating our experiences and our sexualities, and our lives. We are trying our hardest to be in this campus, to feel safe, to keep our faculty safe, to not have them lose their jobs based off of part of their identities. Completely not acceptable. We try to take two steps forward, then things like this happen and we take 10 steps backwards. You talk about being safe? Who is going to keep all of this population safe if stuff like this keeps happening. I also want to say that I have heard a lot of "ASWU did this and ASWU did that", let me remind you that all of the voting members are representatives for areas at this school. They are not speaking on behalf of their personal political beliefs. They talk to their constituents, they gather all of the information, they have evidence of talking to these constituents, then, they have a vote. We don't just pass these things based on their opinion. To say that a student government is taking one side or another politically is a false statement, and ASWU is here to represent our entire student body.

John: Point of clarification, is it on my time or on ASWU's time to talk about and reiterate parts of the student handbook in my time?

Georgia: I've already prepared an interpretation. My recommendation would be to put your name on the board and then you can use your time in the way that you would like.

John: What is the point of this discussion? Is there a turning point or is this just a discussion?

Georgia: With any vote done by the ASWU, there are appeal processes, and there is a vote of no confidence option. However, that requires 10% of the student body to sign a petition. Please let me know if anyone wants to see it. ASWU Constitution on our ASWU website. Let me know. For the sake of everyone's time I'm happy to discuss anything individually.

John: So what is the point of this discussion specifically? Just to discuss?

Georgia: Essentially, no one has come to me with a petition of appeal processes taken place. All this is is a discussion at this point. Nothing can be done to overturn the vote unless someone takes those steps. Like I said, all included in our constitution.

John: So this is only a discussion?

Georgia: Only a discussion.

Willow: I'm Willow and I am the Vice President of Pride Club. You asked why we are here, what is happening, but we wouldn't be here if we didn't see how you all were going to come and discuss with ASWU their opinion on vetoing the speaker. That's what brought all of us here is to support ASWU's choice. You mentioned being the minority on campus. I don't think there's a single one of us here who have not felt judgement towards us. August, you've known me for 3 years. I'm nonbinary and use they/them pronouns. I don't think you know that because I don't feel safe in the spaces where we are interacting to disclose that part of me. There are tons of spaces that I don't feel safe to bring that up. Bringing in people who have these views, and not bringing it to us shows the lack of thought for us. We heard that you guys would moderate the questions but how can you moderate our opinions and our feelings on the questions?

Christopher: I'm Christopher. I'm not part of any particular club. I'm not a traditional student so I have a decade on a lot of you. I was 16 when Hurricane Katrina hit. When police and other authority figures left, I witnessed first hand white supremacists hunting elderly black people in that community. I know where hate speech is first hand like the proposed speaker has put forward. Most people probably understand social contract as we are in an academic setting. We owe it to each other to protect each other from harm, this is why. Stopping someone who wants to spread that hate speech is exactly what is expected.

Max: I'm nervous but like Chris, I am from the south. I have had a lot of nasty interactions with people. It's really tough to grow up in an environment that perpetuates hate. I moved here to Washington and it's been overall better, but to start to give people a platform to start cycles of hatred and causes minorities to become victims, it puts your students in a bad environment. It's really not fair. To say that you are a minority because you are a conservative Christian is just naive because we are literally on a Christian campus. Jesus said love thy neighbor. I don't understand how we have a problem with this. We should be loving each other and we should be better versions of ourselves. This woman doesn't perpetuate that.

Georgia: Time. Just so everyone remains comfortable, I'd love to have folks scoot that way.

Zoey: Hi my name is Zoey. Turning Point claims that she was turned down because of her conservative views, but you have already had so many speakers. ASWU and Whitworth are open to different values and viewpoints. It's just not giving a platform to harmful ideas. Students have a right to feel safe on campus and part of that is not giving a platform to these harmful ideas. While the first amendment gives us freedom of speech, you can't spout fire in a crowded theater without facing repercussions. Speakers like this eradicate my existence. Not the kind of person who deserves a platform. You mentioned feeling a minority on campus. How do you think members of minority groups in this country feel? Especially when speakers like this are shoved in our face. Not diversity to encourage hate speech. Thank you.

Charlie: Hi, I'm, Charlie. I'm a member of the LGBTQ community. I want to say that I'm all for civil discourse and having different views. But having different views shouldn't be about who should be allowed to exist or about people being themselves. If she wants to talk about her experience, that's one thing. But when she wants to tie her views to the eradication of people like me, I feel like there's a very good chance she would bring it up in her talk. Whether you try to skirt around that or not, it makes it a dangerous place for people on this campus. This has nothing to do with conservative views. Conservatives on this campus have a place on this campus. They have a place everywhere. This is different than a pro-life and pro-choice thing. They're actively saying that my existence should be wiped out and that is hate speech.

John: I'm a student and I'm technically apart of Turning Point USA. They're cool people. I just want to remind us basically of what there is. Article 2 of the ASWU Constitution says to ensure that all students are represented fairly. Article 9 says accountability. Article 1 says jurisdiction guests, elected officials, etc. Whitworth student freedom of expression and civil discourse, first paragraph. Students, staff and faculty rooted in God. Affirmation of freedom of expression and is meant to provide guidance for the review and all creation of policy. Third paragraph, all thinkers must learn to listen to all speakers. I would ask ASWU to consider looking at what violent and destructive behavior is for the student handbook, what bias and hate incidents are, and whether or not...

Georgia: Time.

Ethan: My name is Ethan and I am a conservative man. Above anything I think truth must be sought. Truth has been sought through dialogue. This is an issue of free ideas. This is a failure of our institution for the freedom of expression or our students. I don't care about what the issue is, I would fight for your values and to honor your opinion. This issue is lost on many of you. I would ask for clear definitions on hate, violence, safety, genocide, and erratication. Our generation connects comfort with rights. Words like genocide and erratication are used on a whim. The ideology such as Critical Race Theory, and Critical Feminist Theory are accurate to Marxist ideologies. These ideas undermine and objective truth. This undermines seeking truth.

Christian: Is there anyone who has not spoken that would like to share? I'll write more names down.

Georgia: These will be the final folks to speak for the discussion before we move onto the rest of our meeting. If you have anything you feel you need to share outside of the ASWU time, I am more than happy to discuss with anybody and talk.

Eli: My name is Eli. For the people saying that we don't value you as people, me as someone who is a Christian and conservative, all of these christians are not saying they don't value you. We see you and we see that you're God's creation. However, what you're choosing to live in, is not beneficial towards.. it's the truth! There is a creator, He created us and he said male and female. He said male and female. It says it right there in the scripture. That's what God wants for you. That is ultimately what is going to lead you to not experience hurt in a way. Also, I wanted to know what is the political representation of ASWU in terms of democrat and conservatives. Can I get that?

Georgia: The political parties of our members do not come into play, and should not come into play when we make voting decisions. Every year, we train our members to not bring their own person biases or opinions ideologies into their votes, but instead to talk to their constituents and vote based on what their constituents have to say.

Eli: I just have a struggle with that because you should be openly hearing other opinions because how can your opinion is right. We have to be exposed to things that we don't believe in to understand why we believe something. You're just shadowing yourself. I don't want to hear that, that is just pathetic. Absolutely pathetic.

Georgia: I'm going to stop you. The members of my assembly are not pathetic.

Eli: I'm not saying that. I'm saying that choice is pathetic.

Georgia: I understand that there is frustration and hurt over this decision. The fact of the matter is that it's been made. There are processes that you're more than welcome to go through. I'm more than happy to discuss these things with you. Going to move forward now.

Lizzie: I wasn't going to talk but after comments that were just made, I just decided to. I am a white woman and I know I have privilege in this country. I am from Montana, I am an ally. I want to remind you that Jesus Christ was with women, outsiders, and for the oppressed. Christ followers are for the oppressed. He made us in a unique way, and so for you to say that this is not hate speech is ridiculous. You're causing harm. You're not being true christians if you're not seeing what I'm seeing. You're not being true christians if you're not allowing love and light to the oppressed. Jesus was not white, he was Jewish. Look at his mission. Look at the Bible again.

Fiona: Hi everyone, it's been so great to listen to all of y'all. It's important to listen to other people. I grew up in Christianity. I went to a conservative Christian school that taught that homosexuality is a sin and that if you act on it you will go to hell. I chose Whitworth as a christian school because I believe God loves everyone and God loves me. I was told I would be safe and I would be loved. I do not feel loved when someone believes I should die or that my friends should die or that others should die. I understand you wanted to bring someone on campus and I understand you are frustrated. Discourse is good, telling people their existence is wrong when our God promotes love and creation is not.

Kenzie: Hi folks, I am an active voting member on ASWU. I am the Ballard Senator. I am here to vote based off of my constituents. My beliefs are not as important as the safety of my constituents which is why I voted the way that I did. Something from the Whitworth Student Bill of Rights is that Whitworth University do not engage with discrimination. I believe this goes into ASWU and the voting members. We do not engage in that and we should not support that.

Maizie: I wasn't planning on talking today. But I just wanted to say I see you as people too. This isn't about the speaker anymore. I am realizing it probably wasn't a great idea to bring her. I sometimes don't feel like I have the space to speak up or talk about things. My views are not always going to align with everyone else but I feel like we should still get the space to do so. Moving on, I will be the President next year and I'd love to have that discussion and collaborate with you guys. I came to college to broaden my horizons and so I'd love to do that. I'm really sorry that you guys were hurt and that is not our intention. I love everybody and I love you guys. I hope this doesn't affect the way you guys see me. Being apart of a club shouldn't be how you identify someone.

Sara: I was closeted as a bisexual student. I've been faced with people openly loving and accepting me but expressing the belief that we shouldn't exist on this campus or in general. Faced with people smiling through their teeth. The Presbyterian church is LGBTQ+ community friendly. As a minority on campus, it's hard knowing that the people that you love are looked at with that sentiment.

Grace S: I am Grace, the Turning Point president and Off Campus Senator. For me, I respect everyone's voting power in ASWU. I've gotten over that part. The speaker wasn't perfect, that's okay. My desire for Turning Point has never ever been to make others feel like they don't belong. There's a wide range on beliefs on topics. They might share same values but have very varying opinions. Also, collaborating with other clubs might be perceived as not in agreement like Pride Club is my goal to get to do. We will be working with people who think nothing like us. Just know that you can come talk to me and I want to get to know you.

Michael: The logical inconsistency of some people who have spoken this evening is borderline farcical to say the least. What started as an open space to discuss the denial of a speaker, a process which was completed with due diligence and according to the correct procedures, has now turned into a discussion pertaining to sexuality with judgmental, offensive and violent overtones. The notion that the conservative viewpoint is being censored or silenced is illogical. In the same sense that you have the right to say and believe whatever you want, those on campus have the exact same freedom and right to react to your hurtful and problematic views in any and every way they feel necessary. Your views are not being silenced, they are being challenged. That is civil discourse. Those of you claim to be children of God, however seem to conveniently overlook that which I have been told is the "golden rule" of the Bible, love thy neighbor. You talk about not cultivating a space for conservative views to be heard, however you say that speaking on behalf of club that exists because of that exact reason. What does not cultivate a safe space is perpetuating hate and violence. Your views deserve to be heard, your views deserve to be respected; but hate does not.

Georgia: That concludes discussion. We are going to move on. Again, there are processes you can utilize if that's something you want to do. My office is always open. I am here to represent and hear all voices. You are welcome to stay or leave.

Christian: Just to echo that, my office is always open.

Sydnee: I echo that for the third time.

Jamie: I would like to echo that statement. If you have questions about the club processes and how we make those decisions, my goal is to create a space for everyone to feel safe. Conservatives, LGBTQ, anyone. Come talk to me, I'm here for all people.

Communication Director Updates

Posters

Sydnee: I've noticed multiple issues across the board. Posters need to come through me before being printed, let me know if you need a list of expectations. White boxes are just for posters, take the white box off if it's not a poster. If you send me a graphic with a white box, I will not post it.

Headshots

Sydnee: Those of you who have emailed about headshots, I will take the pictures real quick after this meeting.

Financial Director Updates

Account Totals

Capital : \$13,900 | Unallocated: \$6,805

Budget Committee

Georgia: For 7 hours, we have met determining the budget for next year. It has been very difficult. We have bumped into a few issues to try to correct. We would've voted this week but we will push to next week. We didn't want to add that to this meeting because we know it might be long.

Vice President Updates

Passing the Torch

Christian: We are preparing for passing the torch. This is a time to pass your torch to the person who will be filling your position next year. Some have physical torches. Please prepare leadership binders. We will be doing our very last ASWU meeting the 10th. At 4pm before the meeting we will do a passing the torch ceremony. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Ava: That's when you give something right?

Christian: Yes.

Ava: Are you gonna kill me or what?

Christian: You can either give your torch to StewVille or designate something for the future Warren Senator.

1 on 1's

Christian: I understand that it is a busy time so schedule a one on one if you need. They aren't mandatory, just if you need. If not, we chilling. Proud of you all.

President Updates

Board of Trustees Committee Updates

Georgia: Not too much from me. Thank you so much to those for serving on Board of Trustee committees. I want to share here about those meetings but I'll see what is confidential and what is not. Hoping to share next week.

Events: Upcoming Events

Earth Week

Haley: Happy Earth Week y'all. We've already had a lot of the events, and we have a couple more events the rest of the week. For one, we are partnering with the Lands Council. Come, that would be awesome.

Mac Combat

Kenzie: Mac Combat is April 22nd at 12:00pm. There will be foam swords, shields and armor. This event is open to everyone.

Duvall Drive In

Katie: On April 22nd at 8:00pm, we will be doing Duvall Drive In. It will be in the Pirate's Cove behind Oliver. We will be watching New Emperor's Groove. Bring blankets and cereal bowls. Currently looking at some tech complications. There will be a cereal bar.

Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention

Reeshika: In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, there will be a luncheon on April 25th at 11:45pm and 12:00pm is when she starts talking about her experience. Her name is Kendel.

Student Market

Grace J: Student Market is April 26th from 1:00pm-3:00pm in the Loop. It will be a great time with things like crochet goods, thrifted clothing, pottery, jewelry, and more.

Second Chance Prom

Larkin: Second Chance Prom will be April 28th from 7:00pm-9:00pm. The theme is Out of the Woods. It will be at Bozarth Mansion. I need 3 more people to help work. One person on security, two on food and drink. Tickets are out now.

Holi:

Reeshika: I am collaborating with Asian Alliance and the International Club. We will be wearing white and putting colors on people. It's on April 30th in the Loop at 12pm.

Springfest

Larkin: It will be May 6th. All day event. 11-3pm for the day, 7-10pm for the night. It will have some different aspects than normal.

Off Campus Coffee Event

Bobbi Jo: The off campus team will be hosting times for students to get a free coffee and hang out with some of our off campus representatives. You can get a free 12oz coffee.

Sydnee: Is it just for off campus students?

Bobbi Jo: No.

Constituency Reports

Arend

Samie: Hi all. Arend has been full of nervous chatter regarding residence hall placements and confusion over the housing lottery. We've also had a lower number of people going to primetimes, most likely due to the stress levels happening right now. Besides that, there's nothing else really going on.

Baldwin Jenkins

Sierra: Baldwin Jenkins is doing well. I had a few people stop by during my office hours in the lounge last week to ask what the answer to the riddle was. I have heard from a lovely constituent that we need to make more ASWU puns. An example given was "ASWU wish". I have also heard a lot of hype for second chance prom and BJ sweatshirts. Finally, I heard quite a few comments about the chalk around campus. I don't think ASWU can or should do anything about it, but it's definitely being noticed. I don't think we have anything for ASWU to change.

Ballard

Kenzie: Ballard is doing well, we've been getting excited for summer and Mac Combat. Lots of people are getting excited for jobs and summertime. We are reaching the home stretch and the housing lottery which lots of folks are excited about. Outside time is getting longer and longer.

Boppell

Katelynn: Boppell is doing amazing. People have been smiling at each other in the halls. I had a few people come to my office hours but not many. The only conversations I had were about the recent ASWU vote and preference on how I should vote on behalf of Boppell. The dirt is still in many of the parking spots. But overall, we are great.

Duvall

Katie: My constituents are excited about the Drive In this week. The elevator still isn't working, which is getting frustrating for residents. There was some concern expressed about the Xi Van Fleet discussion and the safety of our queer friends in the dorm. The blue lights were mentioned to safety committee earlier, they are still relevant. I believe the prior discussion in today's meeting of Xi Van Fleet covered the concerns I received from constituents. One constituent came to my formal office hours, however I have received input from about 8 residents discussing the speaker, the upcoming Duvall drive in and other less prominent subjects

Incoming Students

Gio & Liam: The incoming student class appears to be doing well as of this past week. People are enjoying the weather, despite its unpredictability. There's definitely a bit of tension in the air, and with the housing lottery happening, sports seasons coming to a close, and finals on the horizon, all of the students have been forced to accept that their first year of college is coming to a close. As for the controversial sandpit on DuvOliver lawn; students still don't seem super keen about it, but are excited at the prospect of it appearing to be nearly finished. Housing lottery is stressful but many first year students attended the Open-House primetime last night, and got the

opportunity to explore new res halls and win fun prizes, such as mini fridges. Overall, it's looking like a lot of students' first years are going to wrap up nicely.

International Students

Niraj: There has not been a lot going on for the international students except for the Faqtir celebration we did today. The diversity monologue is tomorrow where an international student, Charis is going to be presenting. Not really any issues I'm seeing among the international students that ASWU should address as of now. My office hours are always open, and my constituency is small, so I've met a decent chunk of my constituency this week, and we did talk about future events we could do.

McMillan

Lucien: McMillan is doing well. There have been some concerns about the elected senators being shoe-horned into "leadership rooms" that they don't want to be in, which has caused some drama and some division between residents and Residence Life. The flip side of that is that everyone is incredibly excited about the new leadership, as well as the housing lottery. Milk and Cookies is tonight at 10:55 as usual.

Neighborhoods

Maleah: The neighborhood has been doing okay. Everyone seems very tired and burnt out from work and school. There has been a lot going on in each person's life and a lot of overwhelming stress. It has come to my attention that there have been some people pretending to be part of Whitworth staff and attempting to break into the houses. I am not exactly sure how this can be solved right this moment, but I thought I would share it as a whole group, just so people are aware and cautious. I have been told that there has been some frustration with the housing application for the houses. I have been told that although people understand that upper class-men get top priority, they found it frustrating that they don't take into account accommodations and living situations in the application process. Again, I don't know how ASWU necessarily could help solve this, but this is what some constituents have expressed.

Off-Campus Students

Grace S: Off-campus is doing well. We set up our first few coffee dates at Little Garden Cafe which is exciting! Off campus students can come grab a coffee on us. I am also starting to plan for the off campus yard sale that will take place in May.

Oliver

Lotanna: Currently, I've received some requests about sweatshirts and stickers, and the deadline for submissions is coming up. This week, only one constituent came to my office hour. In addition to the previous discussion about the speaker proposal we had earlier, I heard from one of my constituents that they do not feel like their opinions are not asked for enough, especially in regards to the placement of a sand pit in the middle of DuvOliver lawn. It seems like there's been a few people that think the placement of the sand pit in the middle of the DuvOliver lawn is not a good idea. Also, one constituent mentioned that they'd wish that the prices for most things on campus would stop increasing like parking passes, semester boarding costs, food costs, and prom tickets.

Warren

Ava: What I have heard from my constituents this week is that the printer needs more paper and they are excited for the year to almost be over. I've also heard that some constituents got in trouble for having their alarms on for too long and other dorm rooms were getting annoyed. There is no issues that ASWU should address besides what we are discussing today. Constituents showed up to my office hours and watched the movie Tango while I was there, so I decided to watch it with them.

Shoutouts

Kenzie: Just by the way, the Hub Info desk is only taking debit card and not cash for prom ticket purchases.

Syndee: Shoutout to y'all.

Motioned to adjourn meeting by Katie

Seconded by Gio

Favor: 15 | Oppose: 0 | Abstain: 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm
