

Washington Asian and Pacific Islander Student Union (WA APSU)

Principles, Structure and Decision-Making

The **Washington Asian and Pacific Islander Student Union (WA APSU)** is the Washington statewide network of Asian and Pacific Islander student organizations. WA APSU serves as a communications network for campuses to exchange information, to share ideas, resources and experiences, and to serve as a unified voice for Asian and Pacific Islander students in the state of Washington.

Our **Principles of Unity**, upon which WA APSU is founded, are:

- * To build pride, unity and friendship among Asian and Pacific Islander students and to promote awareness of ourselves as Asian and Pacific Islander people.
- * To address the educational needs and rights of Asian and Pacific Islander students.
- * To actively support and participate in our communities.
- * To strive for the equality of Asian and Pacific Islander people in order to better the situation Asian and Pacific Islander people face in society.
- * To actively support the issues and needs of Asian and Pacific Islander women, and to encourage the greater participation and leadership of women in Asian and Pacific Islander organizations.
- * To create an environment that encourages participation of traditionally underrepresented people within the Asian and Pacific Islander community.
- * To unite with, learn from and support other people of color and progressive peoples who share our common quest for social justice and equality.

WA APSU's **Structure and Decision-Making Process** functions in the following manner:

The **Statewide Conference** is the highest decision-making form in WA APSU, since the Conference is usually the only time when the overwhelming majority of WA APSU member campuses are convened together at the same time. Decisions and resolutions approved by the Conference can only be rescinded by another Conference. Voting procedures at the Conference are one campus, one vote, regardless of size. The campus' vote is determined by all students who are from that campus and are in attendance at the Conference. However, because of logistical constraints at Conferences, decisions and resolutions can also be made

through acclamation, provided that this voting process receives the approval of the general assembly.

The highest-decision making structure in the absence of a Statewide Conference is the **WA APSU Statewide**. The Statewide is composed of member campuses who are present at WA APSU Statewide Meetings. Statewide Meetings are called for by either Chapter Representatives, or set at previous statewide meetings. The voting procedure at WA APSU Statewide is the same as for the Statewide Conference.

Statewide Chapter Representatives are elected through their respective campus chapter to help give leadership to WA APSU, handle administrative matters (e.g. set meeting agendas and facilitate meetings on a rotational basis) and act as a decision-making body in the absence of a WA APSU Statewide Conference. Chapter Representatives are responsible for acting as liaisons to WA APSU and their campus chapters. Each campus chapter decides independently on selecting their Representative, however, this representative will be a student involved in that campus' chapter. Each campus will have one vote, regardless of the number of delegates attending a Statewide Meeting. The length of term of a Chapter Representative is one year and lasts until the Statewide Conference; a new Chapter Representative shall be selected by each campus after the Statewide Conference and before the next Statewide Meeting.

In addition to Chapter Representatives, a **Statewide Treasurer** and a **Statewide Secretary** are elected by WA APSU Statewide. The Treasurer's responsibilities are to handle WA APSU finances and collect membership dues. The Secretary, with cooperation from the Treasurer, will maintain membership lists. The Secretary is also responsible for recording Statewide Meeting minutes and distributing them to campus chapters and their Chapter Representative. The Treasurer and Secretary's terms each last for one year until the next Statewide Conference; at that time, nominations for a new Treasurer and Secretary will be made. A new Treasurer and Secretary will be elected at the first WA APSU Statewide Meeting following the Conference. Although the Treasurer and Secretary attend the Statewide Meetings, they do not receive a vote.

Lastly, membership in WA APSU is through campuses. We encourage all Asian and Pacific Islander students interested in joining WA APSU to join their campus Asian and Pacific Islander organization, or if one does not exist, form an Asian and Pacific Islander student organization and apply for WA APSU membership. Membership dues are \$20.00 per campus organization. Membership dues entitle you to voting rights, WA APSU updates, Statewide Meeting minutes, notification of WA APSU campus and community activities, and other fringe benefits.

For more information about WA APSU, contact one of our Statewide Campus Chapters, or call APSU - UW at (206) 543-4635.