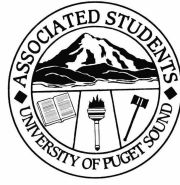




October 2021

# ASUPS Board of Trustees Report

Kayden Diodati | *ASUPS President*



Dear Members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Puget Sound,

### **Land Acknowledgement**

*Let us acknowledge that we, members of the Puget Sound community, have the privilege to work, live, and learn on ancestral stolen Coast Salish and Puyallup land. While we spend our time reflecting on our community in reading and writing this report, let us remember that we are visitors to this land. As we virtually engage in this important work, we recognize that members may be joining in conversation from land with its own distinctive and important history. Please take a moment to read through this [land acknowledgment statement](#), developed as a part of the preparations for the 2018 Race and Pedagogy National Conference.*

### **Loggers Are “Re”building!**

Across campus, this semester has felt like a new beginning. First-years and Sophomores are continuing to learn of the activities and opportunities offered during the in-person Puget Sound experience, while Juniors and Seniors continue to pave new paths as they take on leadership roles in our community. With the support of staff, faculty, administrators, and the Board of Trustees, the resilient University of Puget Sound student body is ready for all this academic year has to offer.

### **Document Revisions**

The ASUPS Executive Cabinet has done an extensive review of our guiding documents—Constitution, Bylaws, and Financial Code—to ensure the most updated and procedurally accurate information is available. These documents provide student leaders with a template of good governance and create a system of checks-and-balances within shared governance that restricts the ability of leaders to exploit the responsibilities they have been entrusted with. It is important that all ASUPS documents are representative of the procedures needed to allow the ASUPS to provide inclusive community-building resources for the student body.

### **Amendments To The Constitution**

In accordance with Article VIII, Section 2, revisions to the ASUPS Constitution were proposed by the ASUPS Senate on September 9th through Senate Bill 21-170. The Student Body will vote to adopt the new revisions during the Fall General Election. *Article VIII, Section 1 requires any amendments or revisions to the ASUPS Constitution to receive approval from the Board of Trustees before adopting the document.*

First, the revisions will remedy incorrect citations, update terminology to make the document more inclusive, and correct grammatical errors. It will update procedural practices that have benefited our organization and allow for the continued practice of said procedures.

Second, the revisions will include the creation of Student Executive Advisory Bodies that will allow for student leaders within ASUPS to meet weekly for discussions centered on ASUPS' overall mission given by the ASUPS Constitution.

Third, the revisions will create and update positions within the government that will allow for better operational practices and representation of the student body. An affirmative vote will add a new graduate student position within ASUPS—Graduate Student Executive Representative—to elevate the graduate student voice, a Human Resource Officer position to build a line of communication between the two departments to keep ASUPS acting within university employment protocol, an Identity-based Club Liaison within the senate charged with assisting Identity-based Clubs in navigating ASUPS budget protocol, and update the Club Sports Liaison position to help with communicating high-risk mitigation protocol to our Club Sports Captains.

### **Amendments To The Bylaws**

On September 2nd, the ASUPS Senate adopted revisions to the ASUPS Bylaws. The revisions included fixing confusing language for proxy votes, added an Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee, updated terminology, and adopted the new Executive Cabinet structure. The ASUPS Senate will vote on revisions to the Student Media Board and Union Board after review by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

### **Executive Restructuring**

On August 4th, the ASUPS Vice President, Grant Konkel, approved the internal restructuring of the Executive Cabinet. The internal restructuring included the title and responsibility change of four existing director positions and the addition of two new positions—see [organizational chart](#). The transition will now provide clear leadership understanding, both internally and externally, with regard to ASUPS oversight: Medias, Clubs, Identity-based Clubs, Club Sports, Programmers, Committee Representatives, and Executive Events.

The Executive Cabinet now consists of the President, Vice President, Head of Staff, Director of Business Services, Director of Clubs and Student Interests, Director of Medias and Technology Services, Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Justice, and the Director of Events and Public Relations. You can find information regarding our ASUPS Directors and their campus involvement [here](#).

### **Senate**

The ASUPS Senate has worked extremely hard and done an amazing job transitioning from virtual to in-person meetings. The ASUPS Senate has participated in two orientations covering the role of ASUPS in serving the student body, understanding shared governance within higher education, and the senate's power and responsibility to act as a “check” on the executive branch. I look forward to their work and am grateful for their ability to be flexible during this time of transition while representing their constituents to the best of their ability.

### **General Election**

The Elections Committee has scheduled the Fall General Election for October 12th. The student body will elect 8 Senators—two vacancies due to resignation—and adopt or reject the revisions to the ASUPS Constitution.

### **Honor Court**

Our Student Government started the Fall semester with zero Justices on the Honor Court. Today, the court has one of seven on the bench. As an administration, our goal is to fill the court in the coming months. As of this writing, the Honor Court has not received notice of any Official ASUPS Document violations.

### **Budget**

In the face of declining enrollment and suppressed additional revenue streams, Nate Sansone, Director of Business Services, developed and implemented a five-year plan to gradually improve the financial situation of ASUPS. The plan, as laid out in the [FY22 Fiscal Responsibility Report](#), utilizes strategic withdrawals from the Capital Expenditures Reserve to ensure that ASUPS operates on at least 80 percent of its reasonable operating budget—the average of its total revenues from FY17–FY21—through FY27, when the current trends will be reversed. On September 12, at the recommendation of the ASUPS Finance Committee, the ASUPS Senate approved the first of these proposed annual withdrawals, amounting to \$106,728 for FY22.

### **LogJam 2021**

This year, [LogJam 2021](#), the annual ASUPS event that connects students with community-building organizations, brought the campus community together to foster in-person connections and reflection on the past year and a half. ASUPS is grateful for the collaboration campus-community members provided to help put together a week of activities and extends a special thanks to Head of Staff Mrdjan, Director Kannan, and Director Sintz for their hard work in planning the first in-person campus-wide event since the Spring of 2020.

Over the three-day event, our peers reconnected while competing in lawn sports, bouncing on the bounce house, waiting in line for food trucks, listening to Alison De La Cruz, and watching Luca. On Friday, 95+ organizations that support community-building experiences for our peers were able to table around Jones Circle.

As a community, we took time to remember the resilience that we have cultivated over the past year and a half, honored the healing that is taking place within our community and within ourselves, celebrated the process of reuniting and rebuilding, and held respect for those who support and sustain our community while [lighting Jones Hall](#) purple, blue, yellow, orange, and Logger maroon.

### **Club Engagement**

The pandemic and virtual operations have hurt membership for ASUPS Clubs. We have experienced a reduction of 71 once active clubs—89 current active clubs—but we are proud of the community building our remaining clubs continue to offer our peers this semester. After LogJam 2021, ASUPS clubs experienced a sharp increase in membership.

### **Club Orientation**

This semester, Director of Clubs and Student Interests, Danielle Dolan, hosted a series of Club Orientations geared to boost our Club Leader's understanding of event and covid-19 protocol, the budgeting process, our online campus engagement platform, adherence to FERPA law, and our hazing policy.

### **Committee Student Representatives**

ASUPS' goal in providing a holistic student voice through representation continues to be our top priority. This term, the Board of Trustees' Committee Student Representatives collectively provide representation of nine different major(s)/minor(s), participation in varsity sports, involvement amongst a variety of ASUPS clubs, residence life leadership, greek life membership, and the experience of transfer students. They are united in their desire to represent the student body to the best of their ability and share a drive to make positive change.

### **ASUPS Office Manager**

The ASUPS Office Manager role is vital to the operations and independence of our student government. We are grateful for the work of Deborah Hope Breneman who served as an amazing ASUPS team member, mentor, and friend of the ASUPS Executives. We wish her well in her next endeavors. The student body thanks Marie Tompkins for agreeing to work half-time for both CWHS and ASUPS to fill the vacant role in the interim to support our peers.

We appreciate the assistance we received from the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Human Resources as ASUPS revised the job description of the position, now ASUPS Operations Coordinator. We look forward to the hiring process ahead.

### **Student Leadership Within ASUPS**

This year, our student government is young in terms of years served. Only Sowmya Kannan, now the Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Justice, has served more than one term in ASUPS. Student leaders have embraced the challenge and continue to learn and grow together every day. Our focus has shifted to rebuilding our community and our government.

### **Website**

Thanks to Danielle Christensen, Director of Media and Technology Services, ASUPS continues to transition and add information to our website page to boost the communities understanding of our operations and overall mission. Aside from making officers more accessible on the page, we have added educational portals, like a [Club Leader Portal](#), to support our leaders with constant and transparent communication as we transition to more in-person operations.

### **The Trail**

As a medium for student opinion and an archival record for the university, The Trail has spent the semester without an Editor-in-Chief. The ASUPS office is regularly in contact with community members invested in The Trail, but with little desire to lead the publication. We have hired an advisor for the student newspaper and the Executive Team continues to actively search for an Editor-in-Chief.

At the advice of the ASUPS Vice President and Director of Business Services, the Senate approved the reallocation of 7.85% of The Trail's operating budget to subsidize the universities subscription to The New York Times to continue providing a free media outlet for our peers. In a normal year, these reallocated funds would have already been spent by The Trail in their first month of operations.

**KUPS**

Similar to all other ASUPS affiliated organizations, our student-run and Board of Trustees licensed radio station, KUPS 90.1 FM “The Sound,” has experienced amazing leadership and support this year. Beck Barr, the student General Manager, has worked hard to keep the station on-air and in compliance with FCC regulation as the Board of Trustees seeks license renewal. We are appreciative of the support given by University Counsel, Joanna Carey Cleveland, and the recently hired KUPS Advisor.

**Staying Connected**

My door, or “zoom link,” is always open for conversation and questions. I am very proud of the work the ASUPS Executive Cabinet has accomplished already this year and excited for the work we get to do together for the remainder of our term. You can reach me by email, [asupspresident@pugetsound.edu](mailto:asupspresident@pugetsound.edu), or any member of the ASUPS Cabinet by visiting our [ASUPS website](#).

Please, do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or just to better introduce ourselves.

Best,



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