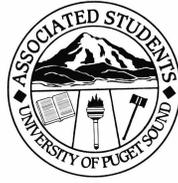




February 2022

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. Please take a moment to read through this [land acknowledgment statement](#),¹ developed as a part of the preparations for the 2018 Race and Pedagogy National Conference.

Reflection

I look forward to the prospect of meeting with you in person and on campus. The student body is grateful to be in community together and continues to adapt to the challenges we face due to the pandemic. As you read my report, I hope you will find that the student government used this year to remember the resilience that we have cultivated over the course of the pandemic, honored the healing that took place within our community and ourselves, celebrated the process of reuniting and rebuilding, and held respect for those who support and sustain our community.

Document Revisions

On January 20th, the Senate adopted a second round of revisions, put forth by the ASUPS Cabinet, to the ASUPS Constitution, Bylaws, and Financial Code—Senate Bill 21-131, 21-132, and 21-133. Revisions to the Constitution will be reviewed by the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and voted on by the student body during the Spring General Election; revisions to the Bylaws will be reviewed by the Academic & Student Affairs Committee; and revisions to the Financial Code will be adopted after review of the ASUPS General Manager, Sherry Mondue. [Cover letters](#)² explaining the revisions are available on the ASUPS website.

Senate

Under the leadership of Chair Stensland, the Senate has been a strong advocate of student support and for extracurricular activities during challenging times. The group has affirmed the creation of several new clubs, approved the allocation of funds to support student initiatives, and reviewed and adopted over one hundred and fifty (150) pages of revisions to official governing documents. As of this writing, the Senate has passed one resolution, the [Hybrid Learning Resolution](#),³ and is preparing for committee work to set the FY23 operating budget.

Graduate Student Representative

As I shared in May, one of the ASUPS Cabinet's goals has been to promote a system of governance that represents the entirety of the student body. While graduate students may be associated with ASUPS through Article II, Section 2., of the ASUPS Constitution, we originally lacked an avenue for their voice, and concerns, to reach the highest level of University of Puget Sound governance: the Board of Trustees. The creation of the Graduate Student Representative position, affirmed by the student body and Board of Trustees in October, seeks to remedy the shortcomings of ASUPS regarding representation.

However, I am disappointed that the voice of graduate students will, once again, not be included in the ASUPS President's Report as an election for the position has not yet been held. However, the Elections Committee and Senate continue to explore the option of holding a special election this semester or waiting to welcome the inaugural Graduate Student Representative after being elected in the Fall General Election of 2022.

Spring General Election

As of this writing, the Elections Committee and Senate have selected February 24th for the Spring General Election. During the Spring General Election, the student body will elect five (5) Senators, a President and Vice President, and adopt or reject the revisions to the ASUPS Constitution. I look forward to the possibility of sharing who the next President and Vice President of ASUPS will be when we meet, if the results are in by February 25th.

Honor Court

A student government is only as strong as its system of accountability. The [Honor Court](#),⁴ as a check-and-balance to the ASUPS Executive and Legislative branches, holds a long and impressive history of seeking out truth and championing justice. In recent history, as with almost all student-led groups, the Honor Court has suffered a lack of participation due to the pandemic—zero Justices served on the Court at the start of the academic calendar. However, as an administration dedicated to accountability, I am happy to report the confirmation of Justice Coleman, Justice Saller, Justice Gutierrez, Justice Cooper, Justice Norton, Justice Shafiei, Justice Cohn, and Court Clerk Lane. Today, all of the Honor Court Justice positions have been filled and one appeal has been submitted to the court. As of this writing, the Court has elected Justice Saller to serve as Chief Justice for one year and no opinion to the appeal has been published.

ASUPS Cabinet

The [ASUPS Cabinet](#),⁵ thanks to the guidance and leadership of [Vice President Konkel](#),⁶ continues to provide high-quality oversight and management of ASUPS day-to-day operations. I can confidently say that I have never worked with a group so smart, passionate, or charismatic. I am forever grateful for their contribution to ASUPS, the student body, and the University of Puget Sound as our community made the challenging transition back to in-person operations. I

have every bit of confidence that each Director will make waves of positive change and provide strong leadership to whichever endeavor they pursue after their time at the university—we are lucky to have them.

Student Leadership Council

As shared in my October report, the Board of Trustees' Committee Student Members collectively provides representation from 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. I am appreciative, as always, for their commitment to our community and confident their leadership has served your committees well.

I will note, as we approach the February committee meetings, that recent changes to the Board of Trustees Bylaws—Article VI, Section 2 and Article IX, Section 1.B—affirmed in October to align with the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act (New Act) RCW 24.03A.575(1), may create a committee dynamic shift. I ask that committee chairs be cognizant of the decrease in the legislative authority granted to Student Members and deeply consider any student feedback provided; especially now that the “student voice” is no longer expressed by vote, but exclusively by committee feedback.

Institutional Transparency

For years, ASUPS has promoted its value of transparent leadership. However, I firmly believe that transparency is a practice, not a policy. As the student governing body, ASUPS can always do better—we must do better. We owe it to our peers to be honest and open with the decisions we make on a day-to-day basis.

To continue our practice of transparency, the ASUPS Cabinet will release my [Board of Trustees Reports](#),⁷ documents that have traditionally been kept out of student access; the [ASUPS Budget Task Force Report](#),⁸ our recent call to increase the student government fee; and all 46 volumes of the ASUPS Senate Minutes (1952-2021) to be uploaded to the university website for institutional research and history keeping. ASUPS Reports will require UPS credentials to access. Reports will be uploaded once outside viewer restrictions are applied later this year.

Executive Restructuring

As communicated in my October report, the ASUPS executive branch completed an internal restructuring during the summer months of 2021. The transition was initiated to provide clear leadership understanding, both internally and externally, with regard to ASUPS Cabinet oversight—see [organizational chart](#).⁹ As a result, ASUPS has experienced better communication channels and an increase in department efficiency.

However, the positive results have increased the workload of our ASUPS Department of Business Services, negatively impacting our ability to provide our peers with timely and necessary financial services. Retroactively, ASUPS researched University of Puget Sound [comparison institutions](#)¹⁰ and their student governments to understand the most productive and feasible solution to current department bottlenecks. Research supports the need for new student leadership positions focused on ASUPS financial services, which we have developed and are now accepting applications for: Deputy Director of Budget and Deputy Director of Services.

Human Resources Officer

The ASUPS Human Resource Officer, a position created by the 2021 Constitution revisions to provide an advisor to the ASUPS Vice President on university hiring practices, will be filled by Donelle Pearson, Human Resources Director. Director Pearson has worked closely with Vice President Konkel as an advisor and a mentor during the past six months and was instrumental in the creation of this position. We are grateful and excited to continue strengthening our productive relationship with the Office of Human Resources.

ASUPS Operations Coordinator

In recent months, Vice President Konkel, in consultation with the Office of Human Resources and Division of Student Affairs, has conducted the initial interview process for the ASUPS Operations Coordinator position. We look forward to inviting a candidate to campus for a second round of interviews this semester. The new position will keep ASUPS in line with university policy and keep administrative oversight within the department.

Student Support Space Advisory Body

The ASUPS Cabinet has developed a shared-governance group to facilitate the advancement of an inclusive, accessible, and welcoming physical space(s) for historically and systemically marginalized students at the university: the [Student Support Space Advisory Body](#).¹¹ This semester, they will seek to find a solution to institutional shortcomings with a sense of intentionality and urgency, with respect to demands from identity-based groups, and consult the *Student Support Center Proposal (Feb 2020)* and the *Multi-Identity Based Union Demand Three: Repurpose the Welcome Center* as supporting documentation to identify the need and function of the space(s). I am extremely thankful for Head of Staff Mrdjan's leadership as chair of the group and look forward to the development of the bodies' first semester-end report, due April 14th, 2022.

Emergency Fund

At the start of the 2021-22 academic year, the [Emergency Fund](#),¹² a fund developed to financially support University of Puget Sound students experiencing an emergency, experienced strenuous financial projections given the limited revenue and increased demand for financial support due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

became available to the student body, so the ASUPS Cabinet closed the Emergency Fund application to develop an online application, new review panel, and a more sustained method of continued revenue: Financial Code Initiative Funding. We look forward to reopening the application process soon.

Club Engagement

There are very few metrics available to measure club engagement. However, the most recent internal Mid-FY22 Expense Budget Report figures lead us to believe engagement is low. To increase engagement and intentionality, Director Sintz will continue to offer community-building events; Director Dolan will provide a Winter Club Fair for students to join clubs during the Spring semester; and Director Kannan is in communication with academics and consultants to develop a club leader orientation centered on educating clubs and community members on resources and pathways that can be used to address incidents of bias, discrimination, or hate on personal, structural, communal, and institutional levels.

Technology Improvements

The relationship between ASUPS and the Office of Technology Services holds a long and complicated history. Several years ago, ASUPS Leadership developed the Director of Technology Services position to “insource” technology support and eliminate the department's complete reliance on the Office of Technology Services. As a result, ASUPS technology is old and inefficient. To continue to strengthen the relationship between the two departments, Director Christensen, now Director of Medias and Technology Services has requested that Technology Services add ASUPS to the Departmental Computer Plan program, citing that, “[t]he Media Room computers need to be heavily updated so that our Medias can work efficiently in producing content for the school.”

Event Programming

This year has presented several challenges to event programming, but Director Sintz and the [Program Officers](#)¹³ have worked extremely hard to develop and provide community-building activities for the campus community. ASUPS has been able to provide weekly campus films, Jazz Band concerts, a Delfeayo Marsalis concert, light up Wheelock Student Center to signify the “light” in the midst of darkness, and Grizz's Winter Bash in celebration of the last day of fall classes.

Multi-Identity Based Union (MIBU)

On November 10th, 2021, the Multi-Identity Based Union (MIBU), a coalition of identity-based clubs, organized a walkout in solidarity with the [MIBU Demands](#).¹⁴ On the steps of Jones Hall, students gave speeches and a full readout of *Demand 10: Protests and Demonstrations*. ASUPS is fully supportive of the current review of the Student Integrity Code, including the University's Statement on Academic Freedom and the Exercise of Free Speech. The ASUPS Cabinet has

communicated revision suggestions to the Student Integrity Code Review Committee and appointed Director Sansone, Director of Business Services, as the student representative.

Medias

The Media Heads have worked extremely hard to rebuild their organizations and provide an outlet for students to get involved and express themselves. While we were unable to hire leadership for both the Wetlands and Elements, you can, once again, listen to [KUPS](#)¹⁵ anywhere with an internet connection or read the [2021 Special Edition of The Trail](#).¹⁶

Appreciation

Over the past three years, I have come to recognize the authenticity of the Puget Sound experience. In this community, theory is not just learned in the classroom, but applied and challenged in a student's everyday experience: as friends walk to the sub, visionaries create clubs, advocates host DJ talks, creators flip pizzas in The Cellar, artists publish poems, and maybe, just maybe, optimists serve on the student government. It is on this campus, through those experiences, where we discover who we are—our passions, our values, our community, and, through our community, a desire to make the world a better place.

As ASUPS leaders, Grant and I have come to understand the labor and trust required to foster such experiences. To our friends, colleagues, mentors, advisors, professors, and fellow peers: Thank you for trusting us, and thank you for the labor you give to our community. It has been an honor to serve and grow together.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have developed while reading this report. I look forward to the work we will do in February.

Best,



Kayden Diodati
ASUPS President 2021-2022
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Inserted Links

¹https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WuYzMqGj5_HSGzOA2keONvX1GBTXbSdv/view?ts=6089f0b6

²<https://www.pugetsound.edu/asups-revisions-cover-letters>

³<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/legislative-branch/resolutions-passed-asups-senate>

⁴<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/judicial-branch/honor-court-history>

⁵<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/cabinet>

⁶<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/asups-vice-president>

⁷<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/asups-president/asups-board-reports>

⁸<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/asups-vice-president/asups-budget-reports>

⁹<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/cabinet/organizational-chart>

¹⁰<https://www.pugetsound.edu/institutional-research/higher-education-resources/puget-sound-resources/comparison-institutions>

¹¹<https://www.pugetsound.edu/student-support-space-advisory-board>

¹²<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/request-funding-asups/emergency-fund>

¹³<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/programmers>

¹⁴<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Z8BlughkZsHSbQ8bTcfVRZBkYJx9jyFm>

¹⁵<https://kupsfm.wordpress.com/>

¹⁶<http://trail.pugetsound.edu/>