



May 2022

ASUPS Ex-Officio Report to the Board of Trustees

Nate Sansone | *ASUPS President*



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

Land Acknowledgment

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.

Introduction

My name is Nate Sansone, and I am honored to work with you all over the next year. Since we received the certified election results on February 25, Vice President Hannah Lillard and I have worked tirelessly to build our administration's capacity and proactively ensure, to the best of our abilities, that we successfully provide a student voice through representation, foster a sense of community among students, and execute the official business of the student body.

This work has been possible because of the Loggers who came before us; in particular, I would like to thank former President Kayden Diodati and former Vice President Grant Konkel for their work in rebuilding ASUPS this past year. In my report, I detail four notable initiatives their administration has carried out since the board last convened in February—the Emergency Fund, Spring Family Weekend, Diversity and Inclusion Club Orientation, and the Student Support Space Advisory Board—to demonstrate this work, of which Vice President Lillard's and my administration's increased capacity is a direct product. I am deeply indebted to them both.

While we will continue this rebuilding process where necessary (e.g., in filling positions), the organization is now, in many aspects, in a position to be reimaged—to identify where its existing structures are hindering student success and develop new policies to change ASUPS for the better. At different points, I detail either the need to rebuild or reimagine below.

ASUPS Cabinet

I am pleased to introduce Vice President Lillard's and my fellow members of the [2022-2023 ASUPS Cabinet](#):² Head of Staff Corey Hodder; Director of Business Services Jennah DeCorso; Director of Clubs and Student Interests Annie Sullivan; Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

Chloe Pargmann; Director of Events and Public Relations Abby Sanderson; and Director of Medias and Technology Services Charlie Dahle. These individuals are all proven and highly capable leaders who possess a genuine desire to serve their peers. I am honored to be working with them and excited for all we will accomplish in the coming year.

General Manager and Human Resources Officer

The General Manager and Human Resources Officer are university staff members who serve as advisors to ASUPS' financial dealings and personnel policies, respectively. On March 31, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Donelle Pearson as the Human Resources Officer for the 2022-2023 term (Senate Bill 21-162), and the appointment of Sherry Mondou as the General Manager until she concludes her service as the university's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on July 1 (SB 21-163). ASUPS is grateful for the continued support and exceptional service they provide.

Operations Coordinator

After a long and arduous hiring process, I am happy to announce that ASUPS has hired Bernardo Ribeiro as its inaugural Operations Coordinator. Bernardo's hiring helps secure ASUPS' compliance with university policy and keeps administrative oversight within the organization. ASUPS is thankful for Bernardo and for Marie Tompkins, who faithfully served as Interim Office Manager throughout the hiring process as she prepared for retirement.

Executive Hiring Process

Through no fault of their own, the past administration struggled to fill positions below the cabinet level; two of six media head positions and four of seven programming positions remained vacant this past year. Vice President Lillard plans to leverage this administration's increased capacity to resolve this issue, conducting a comprehensive hiring process for all remaining executive personnel with budget oversight—i.e., media heads, programmers, and deputy directors—in June. She will be assisted by Head of Staff Hodder and the ASUPS Cabinet member overseeing the position (see organizational chart [here](#)).³ I look forward to sharing updates on ASUPS' media and programming organizations in October.

Honor Court

[The Honor Court](#) continues to rebuild its capacity under the thoughtful stewardship of Chief Justice Paige Saller, issuing two opinions since former President Diodati's February ex-officio report.⁴ Notably, the Senate confirmed the appointment of former Court Clerk Jefferson Lane to a full-Justice title to fill an unexpected vacancy on the Court (SB 21-164). The branch has proven to be a vital check on ASUPS' executive and legislative branches, ensuring good governance across the organization.

Senate

[The Senate](#) has reelected Senator Grace Stensland as Chair of the Senate and remains dedicated in its service to the student body.⁵ This session, the Senate has taken a particular interest and demonstrable action in improving internal and external equity vis-à-vis student leadership stipends: it considerably increased stipend rates for the 2022-2023 term on February 24 by adopting the Student Leader Review Committee's stipend rate recommendation and, on April 14, passed the [Senate Pay Resolution](#),⁶ which charges the committee with "defin[ing] an appropriate stipend or benefit plan for each senate position to uphold internal equity" (SB 22-032; 22-178).

Emergency Fund

Since former President Diodati's February report, [the Emergency Fund](#)—designed to provide financial support to students in crises—reopened after a period of inactivity due to insufficient funding.⁷ To proactively promote its vitality, the recently adopted revision to the Financial Code includes a one percent allocation of ASUPS' total levied fees to the fund (SB 22-031). The fund's continuation has been made possible by the members of its application review group—AVP for Student Financial Services Maggie A. Mittuch, Director of Intercultural Engagement Vivie Nguyen, Assistant Director for Access Programs Tolu A. Taiwo, and University Chaplain Dave Wright—whose allyship towards ASUPS and the student body has not gone unnoticed.

Spring Family Weekend

ASUPS was delighted to help foster a sense of community amongst university stakeholders by continuing its annual [Spring Family Weekend](#).⁸ Students and their families attended the Spring Lu'au—put on by ASUPS' Ka Ohana me ke Aloha—to witness the celebration of Hawaiian and other Polynesian cultures through dance, stopped by the Wheelock Student Center Piano Lounge for coffee and doughnuts provided by the ASUPS Cabinet, and went to the University Leadership Awards Ceremony where students were honored for their leadership in a variety of roles across campus.

Diversity and Inclusion Club Orientation

On April 13, ASUPS, in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, held a mandatory training for its club and organization leaders centered on diversity and inclusion. The event aimed to prepare students to participate in identity work and reintroduce available ASUPS and OIED resources designed to aid students in this work. I am thankful to former Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Sowmya Kannan, Director of Intercultural Engagement Nguyen, and Students of Color Coordinator Maija Petterson for their work on this seminal project. Director Pargmann will build off this work to incorporate a similar mandatory training into ASUPS' annual Club Orientation to institutionalize this tangible step towards cultivating a community engaged in education, growth, and accountability.

Student Support Space Advisory Board

As promised in former President Diodati's February report, the Student Support Space Advisory Board has issued its [inaugural semester-end report](#).⁹ Drawing from the Oregon State University framework, the advisory board concluded that an accessible, inclusive, and welcoming physical space for students belonging to historically and currently marginalized groups would require a blend of large gathering spaces, smaller meeting rooms, and lounge areas on campus. With the help of AVP for Facilities Bob Kief and Project Manager and Facilities Analyst Kim Orr, the advisory board has identified Warner Gym and a portion of a residence hall as two feasible renovation options capable of meeting these needs. It is also exploring the possibility of constructing a new building entirely, but it understands that this option is likely cost-prohibitive. I am beyond grateful for this body and its contributing members, particularly for Bella Sanchez for being the spark that led to the formation of the group and former Head of Staff Livi Mrdjan for serving as the group's chair. I have complete confidence in Head of Staff Hodder's ability to be a thoughtful and effective steward as the body's chair for the year ahead.

Internal Expenditure Process

ASUPS' internal expenditure process is overly burdensome for its club and organization leaders. It currently provides no way for students to make purchases with their organization's funds independently, forcing them to seek reimbursement after paying with personal funds or have the ASUPS Office transact the purchase. This process impedes students' ability to make purchases that promote their organization's success, leading to more negative experiences at both the leadership and participant levels. Worse still, the policy likely disproportionately harms marginalized students, as the reimbursement route's feasibility is contingent on having ample personal funds to spend. Director DeCorso will develop and implement a new internal expenditure policy over the summer to address this issue in a way that is compliant with university policy and best practices.

Increase in Antisemitic and White Supremacist Vandalism

The campus community is currently experiencing an increase in instances of antisemitic and white supremacist vandalism and hate. Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity Dr. Lorna Hernandez Jarvis and President Isiaah Crawford issued campus-wide correspondences on January 31, March 7, and March 25, and more instances have been reported. ASUPS must, and will, develop and implement new methods to better support marginalized students, both through improved support of identity-based clubs and new organization-wide initiatives.

Looking Forward

Once again, I am looking forward to working with you all in the coming year as Vice President Lillard's and my administration rebuild and reimagine ASUPS to better support the student body. You can reach me via email, asupsresident@pugetsound.edu, or any member of the ASUPS

Cabinet by visiting our [website](#).¹⁰ Please, do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or to introduce yourselves.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate S" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Nate Sansone

ASUPS President 2022-2023

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Inserted Links

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

²<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/cabinet>

³<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/cabinet/organizational-chart>

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

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

⁶<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/legislative-branch/resolutions-passed-asups-senate>

⁷<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/request-funding-asups/emergency-fund>

⁸<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/programmers/spring-family-weekend>

⁹<https://www.pugetsound.edu/associated-students-university-puget-sound-asups/cabinet/student-support-space-advisory-board>

¹⁰<http://pugetsound.edu/asups>