



Directive to authorize the formation of a Special Committee for Constitutional Interpretation

On Thursday May 17th, on the request of the Chancellor, I had Nate, John, and Aaron meet with Rolf Johnston, the Deputy Attorney General that serves with the University of Washington. He had reviewed our now passed constitutional amendment and noticed that both the new and current version is missing a technical clause.

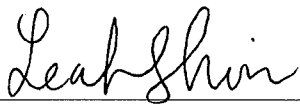
Current case law in the state of Washington for student government charters is based on a 1975 Washington State Supreme Court case, Good v ASUW. The lawsuit was filed by a group of students that had become alarmed at the ASUW spending SAF dollars for what the students saw as partisan initiatives. The grounds of their argument relied on a potential violation of their first amendment rights because public dollars, the Service and Activity Fee, was being taken by the university and 'gifted' to an outside organization: the Associated Students of the University of Washington.

The court disagreed, though, on a narrow edge because the ASUW is technically an organization within the University of Washington, which further meant that public dollars at no point are being gifted to an outside organization.

There are two specific legal clauses that must be present to sufficiently meet this Supreme Court decision: the first we have – it is Article II which states that any University rules or procedures can take precedence over our student government's charter, the second we are missing. We are missing a clause that explicitly states the relationship between the President of the University of Washington and the Associated Students of the University of Washington Bothell.

Fortunately, though, there is a simple solution. I will be using Article XI of our constitution to form a Special Committee for Constitutional Interpretation to investigate if the aforementioned Article II contains the capacity for the necessary clause to ensure the legal integrity of the ASUWB Constitution.

Article XI requires that the committee have two Executive Council members and have no more than three total members. Therefore, I will be appointing Hussain Altamimi, Ali Darvish, and Aaron Yared as voting members with Nate Blanchard, Kelly Snyder, and Sam Al-Khoury as Ex-Officio members. They will work alongside the Deputy Attorney General to ensure that our constitution is legally sound. They will convene and deliver their findings as soon as possible so that our constitution can be officially approved.



Leah Shin, President of the ASUWB

5/24/18

Today's Date