

**Date: March 9, 2024**

**To: The Washington State University Board of Regents**

**Subject: ASWSUTC Report**

**Submitted By: Sophia Gourley, ASWSUTC President**



Elected to serve in March of 2023, Sophia Gourley and Randy Reed have led the Associated Students of WSU Tri-Cities with the goal of developing our community by collaborating with fellow organizations and increasing engagement on campus. ASWSUTC has led countless student-centered advocacy initiatives and has been actively involved in local legislative efforts. This year's ASWSUTC team has not only significantly enhanced the campus culture but has also redefined the essence of being a Tri-Cities Cougar, making invaluable contributions that resonate positively throughout our community.

### Advocacy

Advocacy is our priority, and this year has been no exception. Creating a positive campus culture has been one of our highest interests, and through diligent work from our ASWSUTC team, we have made huge strides. We have connected with the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership to host Cougar Pride Friday events that inspire Cougs to show off their WSU gear, creating a welcoming and exciting campus.

This year, we are working to face one of our most significant issues on campus: food insecurity. During midterms week, we hosted several events offering free food to students to relieve additional stress, which allowed them to focus and prioritize their academic success. We are currently working towards bringing food delivery boxes that give students a free and accessible way to get food delivered to campus without worrying about safety or time constraints. We want to incorporate these food boxes with our Cougar Cupboard to allow students to access resources after hours or on weekends when the Cougar Cupboard traditionally is not available. Additionally, we are working towards reopening our kitchen on campus for club activities that support resolving food insecurity.

ASWSUTC collaborated with the Career Center to bring a tailored networking event to WSU Tri-Cities students to learn first-hand from PNNL, WRPS, CPCCo, Hanford and more employees. The impact from this event has left its mark and we strive to make it a yearly event that has a value for our students.

Overall, through our advocacy and engagement efforts, we have developed better relationships with our student body, received significant student input, and increased our student engagement.

### Legislative Efforts

This year, we have made strides toward connecting our students with the local, state, and federal government. We want WSU Tri-Cities students to know that their voice matters, which they can demonstrate by participating in voting and getting involved in local organizations and local government. With the help of our Director of Legislative Affairs, we hosted a successful voters hub that encouraged students to vote in this year's state elections. We are even collaborating with the League of Women Voters to get our students registered to vote and share the importance of voting.

ASWSUTC had one of its strongest years yet, thanks to the exemplary Coug Day at the Capitol event. We had a record-breaking number of students apply to lobby at the event, displaying our success in developing our community.

### ASWSUTC Elections

With the Spring Elections taking place, ASWSUTC is currently in the process of transitioning to a new team for the upcoming academic year. This year's election saw multiple candidates for each senatorial position, as well as two executive tickets and a record-breaking number of student voters. The executive team's commitment to inclusion has resonated well with the student body, reflecting positively on student government and its integral role in representing the campus. This year's ASWSUTC members are proud of the advocacy work that has taken place and are excited to see that dedication continue. ASWSUTC continues to represent our iconic motto, "for the students, by the students."

Please contact me at [sophia.gourley@wsu.edu](mailto:sophia.gourley@wsu.edu) if you have any questions or would like to receive further information on my team's great work thus far.

Thank you, and Go Cougs!

*Sophia Gourley*

Sophia Gourley ASWSUTC President