

## ASWU Speaker Review Procedure

Whitworth is committed to fostering an educational community that welcomes free and open discourse. Speakers provide an opportunity for students to hear and discuss opposing viewpoints on a wide range of topics. As such, Whitworth encourages student organizations to plan, promote, and engage in thoughtful, respectful, and challenging dialogue. It should be understood that providing a forum for a guest speaker by a club does not imply university approval or endorsement of the views expressed by the sponsored speaker.

In order to facilitate clubs bringing speakers who are not members of the Whitworth community to campus, the student government has implemented the process detailed below. All clubs seeking to invite a speaker to campus must use this process. This process will be annually reviewed by the Division of Student Life.

For purposes of this process, a speaker is someone from outside the Whitworth community whom a registered club has invited/organized to speak on or off campus to club members or other students on campus.

In other words, this process does not apply to:

- Speakers from within the Whitworth community.
- Faculty, academic units, or university units or groups other than registered clubs who are bringing speakers to campus.
- Members of a club who decide to attend a speaker's event that is organized outside of the club or university's influence.

Additionally, the process for invited guests other than speakers (musicians, comedians, cultural presentations, etc.) is detailed on page 3.

1. **Application:** Any ASWU club seeking to invite a speaker to speak on-campus must complete an application through Campus Groups (HFS). The club leadership should complete the application to the best of their ability and will have the opportunity to update and supplement the application throughout the process.

Club leadership is encouraged to submit applications for speakers with as much lead time as possible. At a minimum, applications must generally be submitted no less than one month prior to the initial proposed date. Applications for events less than one month away will be considered if feasible.

2. **Speaker Review Process:** The club chartering committee meets bi-weekly on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of every month. Meeting logistics are coordinated and supported by the club coordinator.
  - At each meeting, the club chartering committee reviews applications that have been submitted in the prior month. If needed, the committee may collect additional information from the club regarding the proposed speaker.
  - Using the considerations detailed below, the club coordinator will then review the request and notify the club chartering committee of the request at least 3 days before the

committee meeting. The sponsoring club is then responsible for presenting to the club chartering committee and must be able to articulate to the committee answers to various questions, provided below, as well as why they want to bring the said speaker to campus and what they hope to achieve in doing so.

- If the speaker request is passed by the club chartering committee, the club coordinator will notify the assembly, via an agenda item, of the proposed speaker at the next weekly meeting. The club president who is sponsoring the speaker will have the opportunity to repeat the presentation to the ASWU assembly for consideration.
- Voting members of the assembly will have one week to gather feedback from their constituents prior to an assembly vote (one week). The ASWU president will provide the club president the opportunity to facilitate questions prior to the assembly vote.
- If the assembly approves the request through a majority vote, the club president and/or officers will send any necessary contracts to the Club Coordinator and the Assistant Dean Student Programs for negotiation and agreement with the speaker. Only the ADSP may sign or give a verbal yes to any contract.

**\*\*If at any point any of these steps is not approved, the proposed speaker request does not pass, and the club will not be allowed to host the speaker on campus through ASWU.**

Every time frame detailed in this process may be revised by the club chartering committee or ASWU or the requesting club, to ensure proper review of all relevant materials.

Clubs may not begin publicizing that they intend to bring a particular speaker to campus until a final decision has been made about whether the club may move forward with inviting the speaker to campus. This includes but is not limited to, extending invitations, printing or distributing fliers or posters, and publicizing via social media or word of mouth. Clubs are strongly encouraged to request that the speaker also not publicize the potential invitation.

3. **Considerations.** When making recommendations regarding speakers, and considering all the information provided by the club through the application process and at the meeting, the Review Committee considers the following criteria:
  - Whether the proposed speaker and their message meet both the mission of Whitworth University and the ASWU mission?
  - Whether the proposed speaker accurately represents the interests of Whitworth students.
  - We expect speakers to encourage mutually respectful inquiry on a wide variety of subjects. Speakers that encourage hatred or physical violence are not aligned with Whitworth's mission.
  - Whether the speaker aligns with Whitworth's Statement on Freedom of Expression and Civil Discourse for Our Campus Community.
  - Whether the speaker may reasonably be expected to urge unlawful order or otherwise threaten public safety or the physical safety of any Whitworth community members.
  - Whether the speaker may reasonably be expected to significantly threaten the safe and orderly operation of Whitworth business or facilities.

- Whether the speaker has a history of abuse or threats against an identifiable person or community of people in a derogatory fashion based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, parental status, family relationship status, physical or mental disability, military status, genetic information, or other protected status.
4. **Academic Department Sponsorship/Endorsement of a Speaker:** Clubs may choose an alternative option to sponsor a speaker on campus. This may be a result of the aforementioned process resulting in a failed vote by the assembly. A club may need an expedited pathway to have a speaker on campus. Regardless of the situation, this process involves sponsorship by an academic department. Once the sponsorship has been confirmed, the club must follow the rules:
- Clubs cannot use ASWU funds for marketing and promotion.
  - Posters: ASWU or Club symbolism cannot be used on any promotional materials.
  - Clubs may table to promote the event with materials provided by the academic department.
  - Clubs cannot table at an event that has departmental sponsorship.
  - Club members can attend or assist with an event without direct reference to the club.
5. **Approval process for musicians, comedians, entertainers, cultural performers, etc.:**
- Application through campus groups (HFS) sent at least a month in advance.
  - Approval by Club Coordinator and Assistant Dean of Student Programs.
  - Sent to ASWU for approval.
  - Contracts sent to ADSP for negotiation.