

The Whitworthian

The student voice of Whitworth University since 1905

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The Whitworthian has served as the main source of news and sports coverage for the Whitworth community since 1905. The Whitworthian is an organization composed entirely of students which produces The Whitworthian monthly newspaper and thewhitworthian.news.

OUR MISSION

The Whitworthian staff is dedicated to presenting accurate and relevant information in an innovative manner. Our goal is to be accountable while informing, entertaining and providing a forum for expressing the interests of the Whitworth community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The print edition of The Whitworthian is published monthly, except during January and student vacations. The content is generated entirely by students. The college administration does not review the newspaper's content. Opinions and ideas expressed in The Whitworthian are those of the individual artists, writers and student editors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Associated Students of Whitworth University (ASWU), the university, its administration, faculty/staff or advertisers. The Whitworthian is paid for through advertising and subscription revenue and in part by student activity fees as budgeted by ASWU.

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Columns, editorial cartoons and reviews are the opinions of their individual creators and not necessarily the opinion of The Whitworthian, its editors or its staff.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Whitworthian is a public forum that believes in freedom of speech and expression as guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

CONTACT US

The Whitworthian
c/o Whitworth University
300 W. Hawthorne Rd.
Spokane, WA 99251
509.777.3248
www.thewhitworthian.com

CORRECTIONS

If you have a comment or question about the fairness or accuracy of a story, send an email to kevers23@my.whitworth.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Whitworthian welcomes reader responses to articles or issues of interest to the Whitworth community. Send letters to kevers23@my.whitworth.edu.

Limit to 250 words.

From the Editors

What is normal?

Aside from being a question one might encounter in The Matrix, normality has become a major consideration over the course of these past twenty-four months. Normality is something that has never been more idealized, missed, or questioned as we continue to feel the effects of COVID-19. Never before have we wanted so badly to return to normal.

Perhaps we have been asking the wrong questions and waiting for the wrong thing. Normality is never truly set in stone. It is nothing more than a fleeting understanding of our current state of homeostasis. For us college students, normality is the blanket under which we rest during the dark rainy days of fall. However, normality is in fact only the prelude to something greater. It pushes forward at a steady pace toward one of our greatest fears and most constant companions: change.

Change is one of the most defining features of being human. Change forces us to examine our lives, our choices, our purpose. Change is painful, yet at the same time, incredibly precious and beautiful. In this time of change, we must see the beauty of those things yet to come. These past few months have been trying. Any sense of normality has been forever lost to the ether of reality. And we are better for it. Hindsight is twenty-twenty and change forces us to realize that some remnants of normal are best left in our metaphorical rearview mirror. There are a multitude of new faces here on campus, new programs and new ideas. Each of these changes is ushering in a new facet of life here on campus that forces us all to adapt - which is what a college campus is supposed to do.

As we continue to experience new change here on campus, we do the same here at The Whitworthian. We have a brand-new website that better suits our needs and our Instagram is about to undergo a major change as well. The time in which we live is constantly changing and so we must as well. We are excited to have many new faces here telling your stories and we are committed to embracing change right along with you.

The Consensus of the Editorial Board



Photos by Juan Rodriguez, Mario Gonzalez, Brandt Hodgson, and Munkhkhuleg Tserenpurev

Because I am Christian, I am Vaccinated

Nicole Harris | Opinions Editor

I am exhausted.

I am tired of trying to convince other Christians around me to mask up, get vaccinated, protect the vulnerable. I think Nike said it best: "Just do it", people.

We all expected the pandemic to end a long time ago, and I think it's fair to say we were all disappointed when it didn't. Many of us expected a 9/11-type response and instead our concerns were shoved to the side.

I could sit here and write about how this situation is a sign of change in our country, how we should have expected it, how capitalism ties into it all...and so much more.

What I really am is exhausted.

This year, to attend most colleges and universities around the United States, students will need a COVID-19 vaccination card. Requiring vaccinations is nothing new, as both public and private schools have done so for years. Even some employers have previously required vaccination records.

What we forget as a society is the reason for these requirements, as well as some of the historical pushback against them. One term comes to mind: rights infringement.

This leads to another buzzword: "exempt."

According to COVID Care Team supervisor Randall Michaelis, that is what the Whitworth community should call those who have chosen, either for medical, religious or philosophical reasons, to not get vaccinated against COVID-19 - "students and employees with exemptions, rather than [the] unvaccinated."

Even if someone has an allergy concern, the SRHD says, "The good news is you have three vaccines to choose from." Chances are, one will work.

Theology professor Jonathan Moo, Ph.D. says, "It's difficult for me to

uncommon. They must be granted by a doctor, most likely due to allergies and allergic reactions, which only have occurred in about two to five cases per million doses.

Even if someone has an allergy concern, the SRHD says, "The good news is you have three vaccines to choose from."

"We made it about the government and Christ always made it about the kingdom."

mean refusing to use all sorts of medicines."

Besides, the development of cell lines, resulting from aborted fetuses in the 1980s, is only directly tied to the development of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is not a mRNA vaccine, according to a recent journal article by the United States National Library of Medicine.

Even then, no aborted fetuses were actually used in the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, only the cell lines found by the initial research using fetal tissue.

According to AP News, many religious leaders are saying no to religious exemptions, stating a clear lack of evidence within religious doctrine to support not getting the vaccine.

Even Pope Francis has endorsed the COVID-19 vaccine, calling it an "act of love" in a recent message reported by NPR.

However, Michaelis still says that Whitworth is doing pretty well in its continued COVID-19 response.

He says that while the administration wasn't sure what to expect for the number of persons who would request an exemption, they estimated a higher percentage of exemptions than actually

received based on what they saw at other institutions. While they estimated about 10-20% of the community, they received closer to 10-12%.

But we can do better. English lecturer Jerusha Emerson says that as a pastor, the response to the COVID-19 vaccine, particularly the argument against mandates, by many Christians grieved her heart. To her, this was a moment in which Christians were choosing to prioritize their personal rights and liberties.

"We made it about the government and Christ always made it about the kingdom," says Emerson. Emerson was vaccinated in

early April 2021, for practical reasons - her premature daughter and immuno-compromised mother. To her, "the kingdom is a kingdom where you lay down your life for the other", which made the choice for her to get vaccinated as a healthy individual an easy one.

Just because I say that I'm exhausted doesn't mean that I will not continue to have tough conversations.

"For white Christians, there is no reason to get unvaccinated for fear of bad science."

I truly believe that as a white Christian, I have a duty to protect those who have a reason to be concerned about government-mandated medicine -

those who have been taken advantage of and made to suffer for the sake of science.

Moo uses the example of Deuteronomy 22:8, in which a law required people to build a parapet around the roof of their houses, so no one falls off.

As Emerson suggests, "there is a great inequity in our fear." According to The New York Times, studies like Tuskegee are a huge source of distrust in government and medicine for people of color in the United States. Tuskegee was also not an isolated incident. Others include the mass sterilization of nonwhite women between 1930 and 1970, both through coercion, as in the case of one-third of Puerto Rican women, and by force, as in the case of thousands of Native American women.

"Maybe you think you're in no danger yourself of falling off, and it would be expensive and time-consuming to put in a low wall to protect others from falling off.

"But Scripture assumes that we and all we possess belongs to God, and it calls us to act wisely to look out for others, to love and protect and care for the vulnerable."

For white Christians, there is no reason to get unvaccinated for fear of bad science. For other groups, mistrust in the medical system caused by

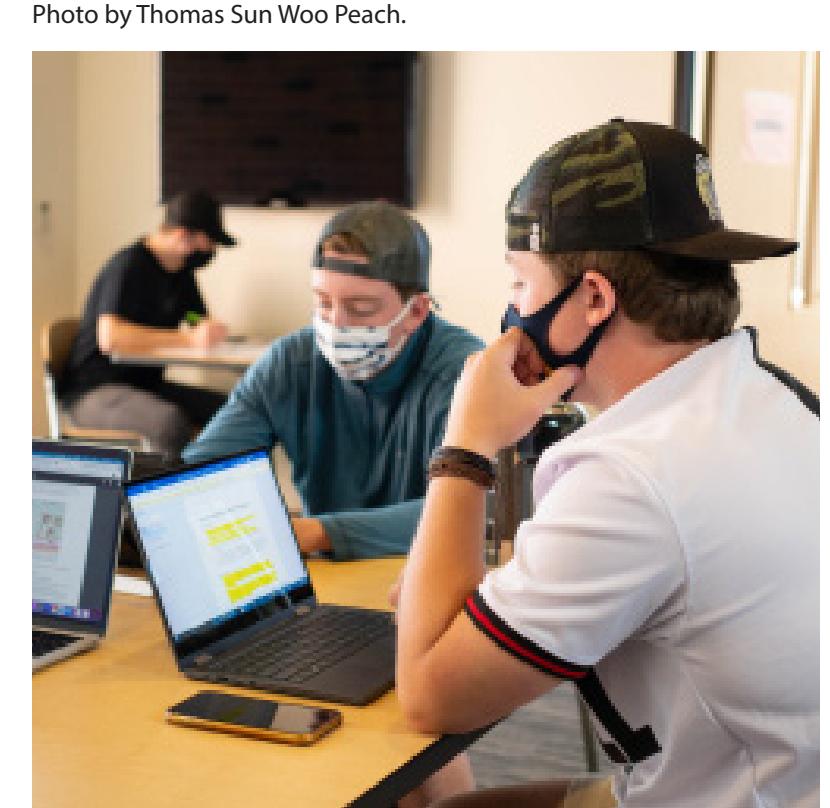


Photo by Thomas Sun Woo Peach.

ASWU Budget Cuts

The effect on U-Rec programs

Isaac Price | Staff Writer

The U-Rec's intramural and outdoor recreation programs have had their annual budgets cut by 25% and 23%, respectively, by the Associated Students of Whitworth University.

Last spring, ASWU executives from the outgoing and incoming teams deliberated on the budget for the 2021-2022 academic year and came to a decision to keep funding student bus passes, as well as make cuts to many budgets around campus. As a result, many student programs have found themselves operating on smaller budgets than in the past, including the U-Rec.

ASWU funds two specific areas of the U-Rec: intramurals and outdoor rec. In 2020-2021, the intramurals budget was \$20,000

"The cuts to the U-Rec go back to a greater conversation about bus passes."

and the outdoor recreation budget was \$17,000. These two areas were greatly affected by the budget decisions made last spring, according to 2021-22 ASWU President Rachel Ayres.

"It is my understanding

that the money goes to those programs for referees, trip leaders, new equipment, but not to the front desk workers. While both programs asked for more money for this coming year, they were budgeted \$15,000 for intramurals and \$13,000 for outdoor recreation, respectively," Ayres said.

Cuts to the U-Rec were a challenging end to a difficult budget process last spring, according to Ayres. "The cuts to the U-Rec go back to a greater conversation about bus passes. . . This decision to cut the funds to these programs was super hard, and there was no easy way around it," Ayres said.

Budget planning was especially complicated this past spring with additional positions added to ASWU, a total of forty-four clubs- more than ever before - requisitioning funds, as well as a minimum wage increase to \$13.69 per hour that took effect in Jan 2021. Furthermore, the ASWU student fee has stayed constant the past two years at \$125 per semester.

In the initial budget talks, the U-Rec had full funding for both the intramural and outdoor rec programs. However, this budget reduced, including the U-Rec.

"We had to do what we felt



U-Rec staff member Kaleb Sieg trains students on safety procedures for the bouldering wall. Photo by Munkhkhuleg Tserenpurev.

pass program that provides all

Whitworth students with free bus passes through the Spokane Transit Authority. The program costs ASWU anywhere from

\$17,000 to \$20,000 a year, a cost that Ayers describes as "a significant chunk of change."

However, due to protest from the student body, bus passes were re-inserted into the budget and funds for the program were pulled from ten other areas. All ASWU executives and several coordinator positions took a pay cut, and several other programs saw their budgets reduced, including the U-Rec.

Outdoor Recreation Student Coordinator Lexi Nakhla explained that these

reductions were necessary to keep the U-Rec open.

"We had to cut half of our trips this year, and we also had to basically cut half of our staff, because we didn't have the resources to keep the program running. . . If we're not given enough money, we have to choose between doing less programs or shutting down in April," Nakhla said.

Pointer added that budget cuts forced the U-Rec to give up some of their mainstay opportunities. "It's not like we're doing half of the awesome trips. We chose the cheapest trips to keep around and eliminated the most expensive ones," Pointer said.

The cuts also affect students of lower socio-economic levels, according to Nakhla. "We would usually lead trips during semester breaks for students on campus who can't go home and see their family, and these trips are more expensive. . . This year, we can only offer one or two small ones, so we're not able to reach as many people," Nakhla said.

One consequence of the budget change is that intramurals and outdoor rec programs have been cut back, according to Assistant U-Rec Director Brad Pointer.

"[This year], the U-Rec wasn't funded enough to pay our trip leaders and staff. . . [Normally], all of our programs are run super cheap or at a cost so that all the students who want to can come on trips," Pointer said.

who are already overtasked with many commitments to now do more with less," Nakhla said.

According to Ayres, ASWU's priority in conversations around the budget remains the wellbeing of all students on campus.

"We fund so many different areas of campus: HEAT, the

"The U-Rec overall is one of the best ways that students are able to build a community, [which] wasn't reflected in what we were given."

chapel budget, jazz concert, bus passes, all clubs and more. All of

the clubs' budgets are less than intramurals for example, so the budget was a game of matching at the end of the day . . . This past year, our priority might have looked like bus passes because there was outcry about this, but in general our priority is just students and our changing demographics," Ayres said.

To this end, Ayers explained, ASWU is currently looking at creative ways to continue funding bus passes while restoring funding to other areas on campus, including raising the ASWU student fee, a process that requires approval from the board of trustees.

"Even if students pay just 10 dollars more per year, that gives us a lot of funding to run a lot of really cool programming," said Ayers. "One of my big selling points when I go to the

board of trustees to ask about this is cuts to outdoor rec and intramurals. Raising the student fee, if passed through the board of trustees, wouldn't go into effect until fall of 2023, so we will face the same problem of a limited budget until then."

ASWU likewise recognizes the importance of intramurals and outdoor recreation and are doing what they can to preserve both programs. "I think intramurals and outdoor rec are fantastic programs

[that] are very meaningful, and I don't want them to be underfunded. This has just been a super hard year, and that comes with hard decisions. Our future is bright, but it will look financially different for a while," Ayres said.

In the meantime, Ayres has reached out to the leaders of intramurals and outdoor recreation to open the conversation about more immediate funding for this year and next.

"[The budget cuts are] a consequence of Whitworth's overall budget cuts, and I know a lot less students came to

A student trains at the weight rack in the U-Rec. Photo by Munkhkhuleg Tserenpurev.



Whitworth this year than they were predicting, especially with COVID last year. I hope that we'll see the importance and impact of Whitworth Outdoors and the U-Rec reflected again in next year's budget," Nakhla said.

In the meantime, ASWU has also created a committee to examine some of the funding issues. "We are starting a bus pass committee that will look into other ways

to fund those programs that will give us more room to give back other areas the funding they need for their programs," Ayres said.

The U-Rec recognizes the challenges of this year but hopes next year comes with change.

"[The budget cuts are] a consequence of Whitworth's overall budget cuts, and I know a lot less students came to

A student trains at the weight rack in the U-Rec. Photo by Munkhkhuleg Tserenpurev.

Meet Xiaosha Lin

Whitworth University's new director of choral activities

Samantha Holm | Arts & Culture Editor

Collegiate music programs across the country underwent changes due to COVID-19, and Whitworth University's was no exception.

Along with Zoom rehearsals and socially distanced performances, former director of choral activities, Marc Hafso, retired after working at Whitworth for 18 years. In response, the music department launched a rigorous search to fill his position during the last months of the 2020-2021 school year.

After reviewing applications and interviewing candidates, the music department faculty selected Xiaosha Lin.

Scott Miller, director of vocal studies, served as a member of the candidate search committee and listened to audition tapes submitted by each applicant. During this process, he said he was particularly impressed by Lin. "What stood out to me initially was the clarity of her conducting," he said. "To me, it seemed efficient and expressive at the same time."

When Lin applied for the position at Whitworth, she

was serving as a visiting choir director at the University of Toledo in Ohio. Once Whitworth offered her the job, University of Toledo responded with a generous counteroffer.

However, Lin said Whitworth's core values of community and faith convinced her that this was the place she belonged.

"I see how Whitworth values the students," she said. "I am really drawn to the concept that you are not only

feeding the students' knowledge, but you care about their mind, you care about their growth and you care about their spirit."

Religious conviction and community are fundamental to Lin's teaching philosophy. She said both values played a role in her musical journey and eventual pursuit of choral conducting.

From the age of 10, Lin participated in her church's youth choir within her hometown of Santou, China. She said her grandparents' passion

for music helped foster her own. "I really enjoyed seeing them sit by the piano and then use one finger to play out hymn tunes," Lin said. "I was amazed by that."

From there, her musical aspirations intensified. After graduating from high school, she attended the Xinghai Conservatory of Music and

received her bachelor's in music education. As she was considering her options for grad school, she

oscillated between choral conducting and music therapy.

Once she conducted a choir by herself for the first time, however, she was fully dedicated to choral conducting. She received her master's in choral conducting from Hong Kong Baptist University, where she also served as an assistant choir director for a couple of years.

Highly driven and hungry for knowledge, Lin desired to further her musical education after earning her master's

She browsed colleges around the world and fixated on Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. "I was like, 'There is a college for choir? How amazing is that!'" she said.

According to the college's website, Westminster Choir College boasts world-class faculty and aims to prepare students for a serious career in the music industry. Consequently,

Lin said the environment at Westminster was high-pressure. "I have to be honest that I cried a lot for the two years at Westminster," she said. "It's a really, really tough school."

As a student at Westminster, she was mentored by former Westminster Choir director, Joe Miller.

She described Miller as a strict and highly principled teacher, who pushed her and other students to "be better." These two simple but powerful words are ingrained in Lin's teaching philosophy.

"I am forever grateful for what he taught me. I really think he changed me tremendously," she said. "He pushed you and made you cry, but he would also just let you know that

he pushes you because he knows you can do better."

After graduating with her Master of Arts in choral conducting, she attended Michigan State University to earn her Doctor of Musical Arts. There she met David Rayl, director of choral activities at MSU. He became her mentor, as well as a confidante and friend.

Lin said Rayl is a personable individual and a caring, attentive instructor. While she was job-hunting, he provided her with meaningful advice. Anytime Lin had questions, Rayl would answer, even on weekends. "I want to be a teacher like him, to be available for my students, to be there for them and to offer anything I can to help them," she said.

This desire, as well as Lin's other teaching philosophies, are highly compatible with Whitworth's values. "I feel that [Dr. Lin] is a good fit, not just for the choir and the department, but for the university," said Scott Miller.

Students who have had the opportunity to work with Lin agree with Miller. Polina Beymanov, a senior member of the Whitworth Choir, said she admires Lin's passion. "I appreciate how enjoyable Dr. Lin makes the rehearsal feel," she said. "There is a constant reassurance that we are getting closer to our goal, even if it is a very small step forward."

"In my teaching philosophy, I really care about community building, especially within a choir," Lin said. "You need to sing out loud; that's a very vulnerable experience."



At the beginning of choir rehearsals, Lin leads singers through a series of physical and vocal exercises that help get students in the mindset of singing. Photo by Juan Rodriguez.

very sweet person just in general; she's very understanding and flexible," said first-year Lindi Cornett, a new member

Another ambition of hers is

range of gender identities. to "promote the Whitworth Choir and Spokane."

Her goals of increased inclusivity and community will be the primary informants of

In March 2022, the Whitworth Choir will perform at the Northwest American Choral Directors Association (NW ACDA) conference, a large choir festival that is held annually. Students from around the country attend the event to

These insights from students demonstrate that Lin's goal to

form relationships with students is already being accomplished.

Another primary objective of Lin's is to cultivate community within the choirs. One way

that she has started to do so is

the creation of an 'affirmations box,' which allows members

of the Whitworth Choir to anonymously compliment one another. Some of these affirmations are read every day at the beginning of rehearsal.

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Whitworth athletes profiting from name, image, likeness changes

Katelyn McLean | Sports Editor

The NCAA passed a regulation change on July 1 that allows NCAA athletes within all three divisions to profit off their name, image and likeness. The rule permits athletes to use their status to sell products through affiliate codes and brand advertising, as well as earn income from social media.

Several Whitworth athletes have already found opportunities to profit under these rules.

Baseball pitcher Josh Grimes was already using Sideline Swap, an app where users buy and sell secondhand sports equipment, before the NCAA's ruling went into effect.

"They sent out an email, like 'Hey, if you're a college athlete, reach out to us and we'll see if you will get accepted'... I applied and the guy said, 'I'd love to have you on our team,'" Grimes said.

Outfielder Jaxsen Sweum found a similar opportunity with an up-and-coming clothing brand.

"One of my high school buddies started his own clothing line. It started as a joke and now he's getting pretty serious about it. He just reached out to all of his athletic friends that are doing collegiate sports and said, 'Hey, just come on the team'", Sweum said.

While this new rule allows Division III athletes opportunities, it has less impact for them than for athletes at Division I schools - both because Division I athletes have more status and because the Division III rules were more relaxed to begin with.

"Division I was much more restrictive in terms of if I was a music artist, as a Division III athlete, I could produce an album with my name on it and it would have been fine," Demant said.

"We have restricted those things: alcohol, tobacco, gambling, sex related industries. So, basically, does what you're doing reflect upon us well?" Demant said.

Division I athletes run more of a risk of running into snags, as prominent D1 athletes are tasked with sorting through brands that have offered to sponsor them.

According to Forbes.com, Louisiana State University gymnast Olivia Dunn signed a partnership with activewear brand Vuori that is estimated to be in the "mid

department, have guidelines in place for the athletes allowed to take advantage of this new opportunity.

"What we've told students is that they can't use their Whitworth uniform and they can't use the Whitworth logo. They can say, 'I'm a college quarterback,' but they can't say, 'I'm the quarterback of Whitworth University'", Demant said.

Whitworth also prohibits

athletes from taking

partnerships or sponsorships

from companies that negatively

affect the school's reputation or

are illegal per university policy.

A well-known program

produces well-known athletes,

which produce a large fanbase.

As such, these athletes have

six figures". ESPN Top 100 basketball recruit Hercy Miller reportedly signed a \$2 million endorsement deal with the tech company Web Apps America before even stepping foot on campus for his debut season at Tennessee State University, according to CBS News.

"This is awesome for them.

They obviously work very hard

and have a lot more on their plate,

arguably, because they're really

going to D1 to play athletics

and that's mainly it. From my

perspective, the degree comes

second to how they perform

on the field," Sweum said.

people know about D3 athletes,

which is okay. I'm okay to

live that life with a chip on

my shoulder," Sweum said.

Still, though, Division

III athletes have a unique

opportunity to play the game

they love and support brands

they already enjoy or use.

"So many times a year we have

to do advertisement posts on

Instagram or Twitter, and then

anytime they're doing a giveaway

or anything like that, we just

have to retweet it, basically

just promote it, and then they

send us some sweatshirts

and some gear," Grimes said.

"I'm doing something I

love, and I get benefits from

doing that too. It's not just like

you work really hard, play

a sport, and then nothing

comes out of it," Grimes said.

Both Grimes and Sweum

profit from promoting

brands on social media in

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The new Pines Cafe is now open to serve the Whitworth community. Photo by Westley Hackler.



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