

## **2.14 Community Organizational Structures**

**2.14.1 Wartburg Associated Students** For students, the understanding of community finds expression in the form of student government. With the adoption of the constitution in February of 1980, the Wartburg Associated Students (WAS) was established to help students and student's families have an organization to discuss matters of concern of students and their families and to actively shape community life for students and their families together with faculty staff and the Board of Directors to support the mission of Wartburg Theological Seminary.

The purpose of WAS is: 1) to function as the official voice for students; 2) to provide a forum for expression of students' concerns; 3) to facilitate communication between students, faculty, administration, staff, and other groups at Wartburg; and 4) to encourage the academic involvement and social interaction of students and other groups. These purposes are accomplished by various groups and committees and are coordinated by the WAS Council which consists of the WAS president or copresidents, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and class presidents and vice presidents.

Class presidents are elected early in the fall term and are responsible for representing the concerns of their respective classes before the WAS Council, on which they, along with class vice-presidents, have voting privileges. Class presidents are also responsible for coordinating activities that directly affect their classes.

The WAS president (or co-presidents), aided by the other council members, is (are) responsible for overseeing and coordinating the work and activity of the various student committees and classes. Elected by WAS during the spring term of his/her second year, the WAS president takes office after internship at the beginning of the final year. The WAS president functions as a liaison in the area of student life, student-faculty, and administration relations and attends all faculty meetings, board of directors meetings, student matters committee meetings when possible, and represents WAS at official WTS functions. The WAS president ensures that appropriate information arising from these meetings is communicated to WAS. In addition, he/she is responsible for calling and conducting all WAS and WAS Council meetings. The WAS president may meet regularly with the Vice president for admissions and student services to discuss matters of common concern.

WAS occasionally sponsors community activities that are organized by WAS Committees. Such events are funded through WAS including decorations, food, media and equipment requirements, etc. A portion of student fees charged by the seminary goes to WAS for sponsoring these activities and other committee work that seeks to enhance the life of the whole seminary community. The Constitution and Bylaws for WAS can be found in Appendix D.