



# Associated Students of San Diego Mesa College Constitution

## Preamble

The highest intellectual, social, and moral life is achieved by the order pursuit of learning and scholarship. Aspiring to this noble ideal, we, the academic community of the students of San Diego Mesa College, do hereby establish this Constitution as the governing document under which our student administrators shall promote the interests of our college community and its students.

## Mission Statement

We, the student leaders of San Diego Mesa College intend to achieve and excel academically, to do everything to the best of our ability. We agree to enrich our personal experiences by celebrating the diversity of our college community, while we pursue different interests. We stand united in pursuit of our goals with the promise of integrity, equity and altruism towards our classmates, faculty and administration. We make a commitment to ‘make a difference.’

## Article I

### Name

Section I. The name of this organization shall be the Associated Students of San Diego Mesa College, hereafter to be commonly referred to as “AS”.

## Article II

### Membership

Section I. Membership in the Associated Students of San Diego Mesa College shall be open to any regularly enrolled student, faculty, administration or alumni upon payment of dues as established in the by-laws.

Section II. Membership shall allow students, faculty, administration or alumni access to all member benefits established in the by-laws and free admission to all events sponsored and financed by the Associated Students free of charge, unless otherwise levied by the Associated Student Government

Section III. An Annual Membership Fee to the Associated Students of San Diego Mesa College (AS Membership) as defined in the by-laws shall be assessed. The Associated Student Executive Council and the Associated Student Senate in consultation with Student Clubs & Organizations and its Student Constituency will establish this fee by a (2/3)-majority vote. Once determined, the AS Membership fee will be subject to the approval of the College President and the Board of Trustees.

## Article III

### Organizational Structure

Section I. The affairs and properties of the Associated Students shall be administered by the Associated Students of San Diego Mesa College. The AS Government is composed of the Associated Student

Executive Council, the Associated Student Senate, the Student Judicial Review Board (SJRB), and the Associated Student Clubs & Organizations Representatives.

Section II. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- a) The primary duty of the AS Executive Council shall be to execute and administer AS business and affairs.
- b) The responsibility of the Executive Council shall be to see that the legislation of the AS Senate is executed accurately and expeditiously.
- c) The Executive Council shall be composed of the following elected and appointed members.
  - 1.) The Associated Student President, an elected member position
  - 2.) The Associated Student Vice President, an elected member position
  - 3.) The Treasurer, an elected member position
  - 4.) The Senate Representative, an elected member position
  - 5.) The Inter-Club Council Chair, elected by the Inter-Club Council and approved by the A.S. President and A.S. Senate.
  - 6.) All members of the AS Executive Council shall have voting rights limited to only those issues stipulated in the by-laws.

Section III. ASSOCIATED STUDENT SENATE

- a) The primary duty of the Associated Students Senate shall be to originate legislation that responds to the needs of the general student body.
- b) The responsibility of the Associated Students Senate is to advocate for student needs and concerns, speaking as the voice of the general student body.
- c) The Associated Students Senate shall be composed of 15 (fifteen) elected senators:
- d) All senators shall have full voting rights.

Section IV. ASSOCIATED STUDENTS CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTATIVES

- a) The primary duty of the Associated Students Clubs & Organizations Representatives is to represent their needs and concerns and to advise and support the Associated Students Executive Council and the AS Senate.
- b) The responsibility of the Associated Students Clubs & Organizations Representatives is to provide representation of their club or organization and to actively and collectively promote the accomplishment of AS goals.
- c) The Associated Students Clubs & Organizations Representatives shall be a body of club appointed or elected representatives.
- d) Each official club or organization shall elect or appoint 1 (one) club member to serve in the position of Associated Students Representative.
- e) All AS Clubs & Organizations Representatives shall serve in an advisory capacity only and have non-voting rights.
- f) No member of the AS Senate or AS Executive Council shall serve as an AS Club & Organization Representative concurrently.

Section V. STUDENT JUDICIAL REVIEW BOARD

- a) A Student Judicial Review Board shall be established. This board shall perform duties described in Article XV of the By-laws.
- b) The Student Judicial Review Board of the Associated Students of Mesa College shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the following:
  - 1) The Associated Student President shall appoint one (1) Justice (a student).
  - 2) The Associated Student Vice President shall appoint one (1) Justice (a student).
  - 3) The Associated Student Senate shall appoint one (1) Justice (a student).

- 4) The San Diego Mesa College Administration shall appoint one (1) Justice (a faculty member or administrator).
- 5) The Academic Senate shall appoint one (1) Justice (a faculty member).
- 6) All appointments shall be confirmed by the AS Senate.

## **Article IV**

### **Nominations and Qualifications for Office**

#### Section I. NOMINATING PROCESS

Candidates shall be eligible to run for an elected position in the Associated Students after filing a nominating petition, completion of candidate orientation and upon verification of eligibility, which is determined by the Student Affairs Office.

- a) The nomination petition for an AS Senate position requires 100 (one hundred) nominating signatures from the general student body.
- b) The nomination petition for the elected executive positions of AS President, AS Vice President, and AS Treasurer requires 150 (one hundred fifty) nominating signatures from the general student body.
- c) All other positions are filled by appointment.

#### Section II. QUALIFICATIONS

Students seeking, campaigning or holding any office with the Associated Students of San Diego Mesa College must comply with the following:

- a) As per Education Code 76061, maintain a minimum of five (5) units at Mesa College throughout their term and at time of nomination
- b) As per Education Code 76061, maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- c) Have completed at least 6 units at Mesa College or any other accredited Community College or University, and,
- d) The majority of units in a candidate's course load must be attended at Mesa College

#### Section III. REQUIREMENT FOR AS PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND SENATE REPRESENTATIVE

- a.) Candidacy for the AS President, Vice President and Senate Representative shall be open only to those who currently or have held previously an elected or appointed Associate Student Government position in the Associated Students of San Diego Mesa College for at least one (1) semester or sixteen (16) weeks.
- b.) The position of AS Senate Representative is open only to AS Senators.
- c.) In the event that no eligible candidate exists based on the stipulations in Article IV, Section III a), then all candidates are eligible.

## **Article V**

### **Elections**

#### Section I. ELECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

All Associated Student Elections shall be coordinated by the Student Judicial Review Board.

#### Section II. EXECUTION OF ELECTIONS

- a.) The AS Government shall hold regular elections annually at the end of the spring semester in accordance with the AS Election Code to elect members to serve in the following academic year.
- b.) The Associated Student President, Associated Student Vice President, Associated Student Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote.

- c.) To be elected to the Associated Student Senate, a candidate must receive thirty three percent (33%) of the votes cast for that office (If a total of 1000 ballots are cast, but only 300 indicate preferences for the Senate, then 99 votes would be required for a candidate to take office).
- d.) In the event that more than fifteen (15) senatorial candidates receive the necessary number of votes, the fifteen candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be declared the winners.
- e.) In the event of a tie for any position on the Associated Students Executive Council or the Associated Students Senate, or any measures on the ballot the Student Judicial Review Board will call for a special runoff election.
- f.) The special runoff elections shall be held within five (5) days of the last election.
- g.) In the event that a regular annual election at the end of the spring semester fails to produce at least fifty percent (50%) of the Senate positions and/or fails to elect a President and/or Vice President, a special college-wide general election shall be held no later than six (6) weeks after the start of the fall semester.

### Section III. VACANCIES

- a.) In the event that a vacancy occurs in the office of an elected position of the AS Government, after the regularly scheduled AS elections, steps must be taken to fill the vacancy with a person possessing all qualifications required for an elected position.
- b.) Upon notification of the vacancy, the AS president must address the Senate with a recommendation as to whether the vacancy should be filled immediately or in the next general election. If the next election is more than one month away, attempts should be made to fill the vacancy immediately.
- c.) Should the AS choose to fill the vacancy, this vacancy must be advertised campus-wide for a time equivalent to at least two (2) weeks.
- d.) Minimum advertisement must include:
  - 1) An Advertisement placed in the school newspaper (Mesa Press).
  - 2) Dissemination of flyers.
  - 3) Posting of banners.
- e.) The responsibility and compliance of these requirements resides in the AS Executive Council.
- f.) The Student Judicial Review Board shall be convened to initiate a special election to fill the vacancy.
- g.) This special election will fill the vacancy by a simple (2/3) two-thirds majority vote of the AS Executive Council and the AS Senate meeting in a joint session. This will be a secret ballot counted by the Student Judicial Review Board.
- h.) In the event that the office of the Associated Student President is vacated, the Associated Student Vice President shall assume the office of the Associated Student President.
- i.) In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Associated Student Vice President, the Associated Student Senate Representative shall assume the office of the Associated Student Vice President.
- j.) An office of the Associated Student Executive Council and the Associated Student Senate may be considered vacant if:
- k.) There are consecutive absences in the AS Business and Discussion Meetings without prior notification.
- l.) Failure to fulfill office hours consisting of at least 75% of the semester's schedule without prior notification; and failure to meet other assigned responsibilities, (i.e. committee meetings, AS sponsored events)

### Section IV. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- a.) In the event that a member of the Associated Students feels that a senator or executive council member has not performed the responsible execution of duties, said student carries the right to request that said senator or executive council member be removed from office. Such opinion shall be made by a simple majority vote of the Student Judicial Review Board.
- b.) The Student Judicial Review Board must act upon the student's request, unless the request is withdrawn by the student.

- c.) The Student Judicial Review Board shall meet in a closed session hearing first with the student and then with the involved executive council member or senator.
- d.) A written opinion shall be forwarded by the Chief Justice of the Student Judicial Review Board to the Dean of Student Affairs, the Associated Student President, the Associated Student Vice President, all senators and complainant.

Section V. RESIGNATION

- a.) Each Associated Students Senator and Associated Students Executive Council member has the right to resign and may do so by submitting their resignation in writing to the executive or legislative body they serve and the Dean of Student Affairs. The word “resign” must appear in the resignation.
- b.) The resignation of an AS officer shall be publicly noted at the next scheduled AS meeting.

## **Article VI** **Terms of Office**

Section I. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL and ASSOCIATED STUDENT SENATE

- a) All members of the Associated Student Executive Council and Student Senate will serve terms of one (1) academic year.
- b) All the members of the Associated Student Executive Council and Student Senate shall serve no more than two (2) terms in any one position.

Section II. ASSOCIATED STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTATIVES

The Associated Student Clubs & Organizations Representatives shall serve the term of one (1) semester.

Section III. STUDENT JUDICIAL REVIEW BOARD

- a) All Student Judicial Review Board members shall serve one (1) year terms from the beginning of fall semester to the end of spring semester.
- b) All Student Judicial Review Board Members shall serve no more than two (2) terms.

## **Article VII** **Recognized Organizations**

Section I. SUPPLEMENTARY CHARTERS AND BY-LAWS

- a.) Members of the Associated Students have the right to adopt supplementary charters and By-laws for clubs and organizations that will meet their needs. However, nothing in the supplementary charters and/or by-laws shall conflict with this constitution and/or By-laws.

Section II. All supplementary charters and by-laws must have a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval by the Associated Student Executive Council and Associated Student Senate.

Section III. All supplementary charters and by-laws may be reviewed by the Student Judicial Review Board if requested by the Associated Student Executive Council or Associated Student Senate.

## **Article VIII** **Financial Code**

Section I. A financial code shall be established in the By-laws of this constitution.

**Article IX**  
**Election Code**

Section I. An election code shall be established in the By-laws of this Constitution.

**Article X**  
**Amendments, Revisions, and Ratifications**

- Section I. CONSTITUTION
- a.) Amendments or revisions to the constitution shall be made by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Mesa College students voting at a regular election as per Article V, Section II. or under a special election as per Article V, Section II.
  - b.) Amendments or revisions must be submitted in writing to the Student Judicial Review Board at least two weeks prior to the date(s) of election to be added to the ballot.
  - c.) This Constitution must be effective upon approval of the AS members voting.

AMENDED May 10, 2010