

PREAMBLE
to the Constitution
of the
Associated Student Union

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT UNION OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE, in order to recognize and fulfill the needs of fellow students and in seeking fair and equal representation on this campus for all students (regardless of sex, race, color, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation) do so in accordance with the laws pertained within this body, hereby ordain this constitution.

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT UNION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Associated Student Union of Los Angeles Valley College, herein referred to as the ASU.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Associated Student Union of Los Angeles Valley College shall be to promote cultural awareness, student leadership, academic improvement, student well-being, and to increase positive campus/community relations.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the ASU shall consist of all registered students at Los Angeles Valley College who have paid the ASU membership fee.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1.

The elected officers of the ASU Executive Council (as established under Article V. Section 1A.) shall be the following:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Treasurer
4. Commissioner of Fine Arts
5. Commissioner of Athletics
6. Commissioner of Campus and Environmental Concerns
7. Commissioner of Evening Divisions
8. Commissioner of Public Relations
9. Commissioner of Political Affairs
10. Commissioner of Student and Social Affairs

Section 1 A.

The officers listed above shall have the right to present a motion to the Executive Council.

Section 2.

The appointed officers of the ASU shall be the following:

1. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
2. Executive Council/I.C.C. Secretary
3. Inter-Club Council Representative
4. Parliamentarian

Section 2A.

5. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Executive Council/I.C.C. Secretary and the Parliamentarian shall be the only non-voting positions of the ASU; however, these officers shall have the right to present a motion to the Executive Council. The ICC Rep shall have one vote in the Executive Council meetings.

Section 2B.

The positions listed above under section 2 shall be appointed and approved as provided for the Bylaws of the ASU (as defined under Art. XVI, Section 2).

Section 3

The only paid ASU positions shall be those of the Executive Council/ I.C.C. Secretary. Those wages are to be paid by the ASU for services rendered by the ASU.

ARTICLE V - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Section 1.

The organizational structure of the ASU shall consist of the following:

- A. Executive Council, consisting of all elected and appointed officers (as stipulated under Article IV).
- B. Judicial Branch, as defined in Article X, Section 1.
- C. Inter-Club Council (I.C.C., formerly the Senate), as established under Article XII.
- D. Standing Committees, as specified in the Bylaws.
- E. Special Committees, as specified in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI- ELIGIBILITY

Section 1.

A candidate for elected or appointed office must conform with the E-Regulations and the ASU Constitution and Bylaws for eligibility to hold student office. All candidates must have been enrolled at Los Angeles Valley College the semester prior and have completed a minimum of 9 units (6 units for students enrolled exclusively in evening and/or Saturday classes) with a current GPA of at least 2.0. (“current” means the most recently completed semester). Elected or appointed officers must be actively enrolled and must be attending classes to meet these requirements. They must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. Failure of students to comply with the above standards will require immediate forfeiture of their offices.

Section 2.

A candidate for elected or appointed office must be an ASU member both during the semester in which he/she is running for office and during the semester in which he/she is to hold office.

ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS

Section 1.

Any Valley College student, during the time he/she is enrolled in classes, may vote in any ASU election.

Section 2.

ASU elected officers shall be elected by secret ballot in the following manner: An absolute majority of all votes cast for a specified position in a general election shall be required for the election of any and all officers. If no candidate receives an absolute majority, a runoff election between the two candidates having the largest pluralities shall be held within five (5) school days after the regular elections.

Section 3.

Elections for president, vice president, treasurer, and commissioners shall be held during the spring semester and the term of each office shall be for one (1) fiscal year commencing July 1st through June 30th, including the summer and winter intersessions.

Section 3A.

The appointed officers stated in Section II shall be held for a term of one (1) fiscal year, beginning July 1st and ending June 30th, including summer and winter intersessions.

Section 4.

All vacant ASU positions, except those of president and vice-president, shall be appointed by the Executive Council, with a 2/3 vote of the members present needed for approval. This shall be done in accordance with the Brown Act.

Section 4A.

Should the office of ASU President become vacant for any reason, the vice president shall become the president, assuming not only the duties and powers of that office but also the title. The Executive Council shall then appoint a vice president, with an absolute majority vote needed for approval.

Section 4B.

In the event that the office of the vice president shall become vacant, the Executive Council shall appoint a vice president, with an absolute majority vote needed for approval.

Section 4C.

In the event that both offices of ASU President and Vice-President become vacant, the treasurer will assume all the powers and duties of the ASU President for a period of time not to exceed fifteen (15) school days. The treasurer shall then appoint an interim vice president. During that time, a special election before the student population shall be held by closed ballot for the offices of president and vice president.

Section 5.

No person shall hold more than one (1) appointed or elected Executive Council or ICC position concurrently. This includes all elected and appointed members of campus clubs. No person shall serve on both the Executive Council and the ICC, except for the Executive Council Vice President and the ICC Representative.

Section 6.

No person shall serve more than one (1) fiscal year as ASU President.

Section 7.

Rules governing elections not covered in the Constitution shall consist of the rules set forth in the Election Code, with the approval of the Executive Council, rules set by the Commissioner of Elections and by the Elections Committee (as established in the Bylaws.)

Section 8.

Any ASU officer wishing to resign shall deliver his letter of resignation to the ASU President. Resignation will take effect 48 hours after delivery unless, during that time, said officer delivers a letter to the ASU President in which he or she revokes his letter of resignation.

ARTICLE VIII- MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

Section 1.

The Executive Council shall meet once a month during the Winter and Summer sessions and will meet weekly Fall and Spring. The first meeting of each semester shall be during the second Tuesday of the term.

Section 1A.

Special meetings of the Executive Council, for a stated purpose, may be called for by the ASU President, or at the written request of any three (3) Executive Council members.

Section 2.

All official meetings of the Executive Council shall be conducted by a quorum, consisting of a majority of voting positions filled.

Section 3.

Regular attendance of Executive Council members shall be required at all official Executive Council meetings. Any Executive Council member with more than five (5) excused absences (those recognized by the President) shall retroactively need the approval of the Executive Council to determine whether said absence was justified or not.

Section 4.

Meetings may be canceled by written consent of an absolute majority of the Executive Council members.

Section 5.

Votes on motions before the Executive Council shall be done by open vote.

Section 5A.

Any five (5) members of the Executive Council may request that a Roll-Call vote be taken on a motion.

Section 6.

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be followed in all cases where superseding documents do not specify: ASU Constitution and ASU Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX - LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POWERS

Section 1.

All ASU legislative powers shall be vested in the Executive Council. Legislation will originate in the Executive Council, except as called for in the Constitution.

Section 2.

Bylaws to this Constitution may be established by an absolute majority vote of the Executive Council.

Section 3.

Any student may present a motion to the Executive Council provided that the said motion has fifty (50) signatures of students, at least half of which must be from ASU members. The motion does not require a second.

Section 4.

Each Commissioner shall have the privilege of chairing a standing committee, as set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 5.

General supervision over all ASU activities shall rest with the Executive Council.

ARTICLE X - JUDICIAL POWERS

Section 1.

The judicial powers of the ASU shall be vested in a judicial branch, which consists of a Supreme Court and any lower court deemed appropriate by the Executive Council.

Section 1A.

The Supreme Court shall consist of the Chief Justice, and two (2) Associated Justices. These two (2) Justices shall be nominated by the Chief Justice and confirmed in their appointments by an absolute majority vote of the Executive Council.

Section 2.

All official business of the Supreme Court shall be conducted by a quorum consisting of two (2) Associate Justices.

Section 3.

The decisions of the Supreme Court shall be final at the student level, and at no time shall they be subject to review by the Executive Council or any other student organization.

Section 4.

Upon petition of an ASU officer to the Chief Justice, the validity of a motion or other legislation shall be reviewed by the Supreme Court.

ARTICLE XI - DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE ASU PRESIDENT

Section 1.

The ASU President shall have the vested power to act as the agent of the Executive Council; however, this presidential veto may be overridden by a 2/3 vote of the eligible voting members of the Executive Council. This veto must be used no later than the next regularly scheduled session.

Section 2.

The President shall be empowered to vote in matters before the Executive Council only in the case of making or breaking a deadlocked vote.

Section 3.

The president shall have the power to oversee and examine the activities of the Executive Council and the ICC, and he/she shall periodically report to these bodies about issues pertinent to the student body.

Section 4.

In the case of an emergency, the president shall be vested with the power to act for the ASU as a whole and shall be responsible to act in the best interest of the student body.

Section 5.

The president shall be responsible for the continual evaluation of all ASU sponsored activities. He shall periodically report to the Executive Council concerning the compliance of each project with the procedures, policies (rules), and regulations set forth by the Executive Council, the ASU Constitution and the Community College Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XII - INTER-CLUB COUNCIL (ICC)

Section 1.

The Inter-Club Council (ICC) shall be a synonym for the Senate for all intents and purposes.

Section 2.

The purpose of this body shall be to coordinate all on-campus club activities and act as liaison between club members and the Executive Council. The ICC shall provide each chartered club on campus a means by which it can advance its cause, voice opinions, and propose student legislation.

Section 3.

The membership of the ICC shall consist of all clubs and organizations whose constitutions have been approved by the ICC and to whom charters have been granted. Each club shall elect its own ICC representative (officer), whose duty would be to represent his/her club by regularly attending ICC meetings, and acting as a liaison between club members and the ASU.

Section 3A.

The position of Senate Speaker shall be selected by an absolute majority vote of all eligible voting members of the ICC.

Section 4.

The vice president of the ASU Executive Council shall serve as the president of this forum.

Section 5.

Any officers of the ICC may initiate student-related legislation during a scheduled ICC meeting, in the form of a motion. A motion may be passed by an absolute majority, and it shall then be transmitted to the Executive Council by the ASU Vice President or ICC designee, for final approval (as specified in Section 6 below.)

Section 6.

Upon receipt of said motion, the Executive Council has two regular meetings in which it can act. The Council may approve, disapprove, recommit, or forward the motion to the Supreme Court of review. In the event that Executive Council disapproves or recommits said legislation to the ICC, the Council must stipulate as to why such actions were taken. If no action is taken by the Executive Council in the allotted period, the said legislation stands approved.

Section 7.

All powers and duties of the ICC granted under the ICC Constitution must be in accordance with those outlined in the ASU Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 8.

A minimum of 20 % participation in all ASU conference activities shall be extended to the ICC.

ARTICLE XIII - IMPEACHMENT

Section 1.

Any one of the following may constitute grounds for impeachment for an ASU officer:

- A. Having more than three (3) unexcused absences from an official Executive Council meeting.
- B. Failure to actively fulfill one's duties as a position holder in the ASU.
- C. Gross misconduct while carrying out ASU related activities.
- D. Acting in a manner which contradicts the spirit of this Constitution, as reflected in the Preamble and/or the Code of Student Conduct.

Section 2.

Impeachment proceeding may be initiated against any ASU officer by a petition bearing the signatures of three (3) percent of the students at L.A.V.C. The validity of the petition shall be

verified by the Supreme Court. This petition must contain the reasons for the recall action. It shall be put to a closed vote before the student population within two (2) weeks from delivery of said petition to the Executive Council, with 2/3 of the votes cast needed for approval.

Section 3.

The Executive Council may initiate recall proceedings against any ASU Officer, upon a petition of any voting Executive Council member. A 2/3 absolute majority vote of the Executive Council, taken by Roll Call vote, is required for removal of said officer from his/her office. Said Position holder shall not be present while vote is taken.

Section 4.

The officer in question may appeal the Executive Council's decision to the Supreme Court. However, if members of the Court are involved, the petition is routed to the ICC (as provided for in Section 5A, below.)

Section 5.

The Supreme Court shall hear all sides of cases, whereby an impeachment committee designated by the ASU President shall present the charges, and the said officer shall represent him/herself. The Court shall come to a binding student-level decision as reached by a majority opinion of the Justices. In absence of a Supreme Court quorum, or as final appeal, the case will be referred to the ASU Advisor for final determination by the College President.

Section 5A.

ICC Representatives will hear recall proceedings against any Supreme Court Justice, whereby an impeachment committee designated by the ASU President shall present the charges, and the said Justice shall represent him/herself. Such proceedings are to be led by the ASU Advisor (in a non-voting capacity). It shall take a 2/3 absolute majority vote, taken in closed session, of ICC members to remove the said Justice from office. Final appeal may be submitted to the ASU Advisor for determination by the College President.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

Any student may initiate a constitutional amendment by attaining the signatures of three (3) percent of all registered students at L.A.V.C. The validity of the petitions shall be verified by the Supreme Court.

Section 2.

Constitutional amendments may be initiated by a 2/3 absolute majority vote of the Executive Council.

Section 3.

No constitutional amendment shall take effect until such time as it has been presented to the students in an election and approved by a 2/3 majority voted of all votes cast. This vote shall be taken by secret ballot.

ARTICLE XV - RECOGNITION OF LEADERSHIP ON TRANSCRIPTS

Section 1.

Upon request, elected and appointed ASU officers, who have consistently and faithfully performed their duties representing the students by devoting their time, knowledge, and experience, shall have their job title and dates of service recorded on their transcripts.

ARTICLE XVI - SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1.

This Constitution is recognized in its own right. It shall take precedence over the Bylaws and ICC Constitution, and will take over other student-originated legislation. It must, however, comply with District and College regulations.

Section 2.

While this Constitution is to be regarded as the framework of the ASU, the Bylaws shall elaborate on the content herein.

Section 3.

The activities of all ASU Officers shall be in compliance with this Constitution.

This Constitution was approved by the L.A.V.C. administration on Spring of 2001

Wendy Monroy
ASU President

Florentino Manzano
Associate Dean, Student Services

Baharak Ghaffarzafdegan
Chief Justice
