

Associated Students of Cerritos College

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

5/4/2022

Senator Alamgir introduced the following Bill,
Deputy Director Amy Parker seconded the following Bill

A BILL

Establishing the Direction of the Associated Students of Cerritos College JL-2122-11

Whereas: In a time of continually rising issues and growing advocacy, it is more important than ever before for the Associated Students to fulfill their responsibilities regarding being the official advocate and voice for the students of Cerritos College; and

Whereas: There is currently minimal communication between the masses of the student body, which number over 20,000, and the student body leaders and elected representatives, as demonstrated by the lack of activity within both Cabinet's and Senate's Public Forum period as well as the turnout of less than two percent of the student body in the elections of the President, Vice President, and Student Trustee; and

Whereas: It is not possible to actively execute the desires of the students and advocate for their needs when there is such minimal communication between the different levels of power at the College; and

Whereas: The Associated Students must do everything in its power to strengthen this connection and learn the needs of the students, else its place in the College be pointless as it would not be truly representative of the student body and its desires; and

Whereas: It is necessary for as many students as possible to participate in student government elections in order to ensure that the desires of the students in terms of their choice of representation met; and

Whereas: The Associated Students of Cerritos College has many forums by which to disseminate information, such as reaching out directly to teachers, the ASCC social media, and more; and

Whereas: The State of the Students should be held regularly, on a minimal annual basis, to ensure that the student body is aware of the actions that the student government is taking; and

Whereas: Leaving these provisions not codified within the Bylaws and the Constitution leaves open the possibility of them being disregarded, weakening the advocacy and representation of the Associated Students; and

Whereas: The current Constitutional procedures regarding the publication of minutes is not being accurately followed as minutes are often not posted until many days after their approval, let alone after each meeting; and

Whereas: To ensure that bills are properly formed and the desires of all met, it is better for bills to receive comments and amendments than it is for them to just be abstained from and/or voted against,

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which causes unnecessary division and an overall lower quality of bills and resolutions; and

Whereas: Historical parliamentary organizations which have been successful have worked off the premise of resolving all the individual issues with a bill before voting on it so as to minimize the number of opposition votes and lead a collaborative environment; and

Whereas: When it is necessary to vote no on a bill as the entire premise is flawed, individuals should give full reasoning so that a compromise may be reached, the bill can be tabled for a rewritten one which achieves the objectives of all, or the author of the bill can understand the issues with the bill and drop the concept in spite of other general support; and

Whereas: A significant amount of opposition also comes from a lack of communication, which can stir unnecessary drama between student government leaders; and

Whereas: These measures are necessary to ensure that the Associated Students of Cerritos College can continue its opposition to discrimination and its promotion of equity and diversity, which all members commit to at the beginning of the year as well as within their respective oaths of office; and

Whereas: To ensure these measures are taken without any bias or attempt to gain political advantage, student leaders should not introduce or vote in either the affirmative or the dissent any bill which involves a change to the Bylaws or the Constitution, or provides funding for a club, or which provides specific significant benefit to any one group who may vote as a bloc, or any resolution which accomplishes the same, while their candidacy is public knowledge and before the final votes have been cast; and

Whereas: Justices of the Court who are running for positions should also abstain from any court verdicts or decisions as the Court transforms into the Election Board which could potentially give them an edge in the election; and

Whereas: The Bylaws already includes some references to recusals, with Section 5 of Article 6 of the Bylaws referencing a “member in default” who has “allowed a personal gain or personal loyalty to a party in a case before them to exercise an appreciable influence in their decisions”; and

Whereas: There is a need for a Student Government Guide to help direct and aid new members of the branches with their various procedures and to ensure accountability to the significant heaps of legislation passed between the Senate, Board of Trustees, the State of California, and the federal government; and

Whereas: To ensure that provisions of the Constitution are upheld by the actions of student government members, the Constitution should be clarified wherever possible; and

Whereas: To ensure proper execution of the Constitution, the Court must be able to hold sessions even when there are not enough Justices appointed to the Court; and

Whereas: To ensure proper interpretation of all Associated Students procedures, the Bylaws should directly express the hierarchy of authority with regards to approved documents; and

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Whereas: Many documents, such as the Club Guide, are difficult to obtain and utilize to their fullest extent, but are critical to the operation of the Associated Students and relevant organizations; and

Whereas: The Bylaws are currently dependent upon the Student Government Handbook, an item which has not been formally developed or passed by any chamber of the Associated Students; and

Whereas: In the spirit of collaboration between the Senate and the Cabinet, and to promote unity within Associated Students governance, either chamber should be able to propose an amendment to the Constitution, leading to a need to amend Section 1 of Article 4 of the Constitution; and

Whereas: To empower Cabinet to take bold actions and discuss bold ideas, a delegate from the Court should attend Cabinet meetings to provide aid regarding the compliance of new concepts with the laws of the Constitution, Bylaws, local, state, and federal statutes, and other laws passed by the Associated Students of Cerritos College Senate;

Resolved (1): The Associated Students of Cerritos College proposes a new amendment to the Constitution to be inserted as Subsection 3 of Section 10 of Article 2 of the Constitution, to read:

Subsection 3

The State of the Students shall happen no less than once per academic year, with at minimum one event in the Spring semester of the given academic year, and shall be attended by both the President and Vice President during a time and date to be ratified via a Joint Law by both the Cabinet and Senate, unless it must be postponed due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances affecting the President, Vice President, or both, as to be accepted by a vote of the Justices of the Associated Students Court.

Resolved (2): The Associated Students of Cerritos College proposes a new amendment to the Constitution to amend Section 2 of Article 4 of the Constitution, leading it to read (with amended parts italicized here, but not on the official document post-amendment):

Section 2—Ratification

The proposed Amendment shall be ratified with a two-thirds vote of the *dues-paying members of the Associated Students* in an election *concurrent with the election of Senators, unless the Senate unanimously votes to hold the election at a different time.*

Resolved (3): The Associated Students of Cerritos College proposes a new amendment to the Constitution to amend Section 4 of Article 1 of the Constitution, leading it to read (with amended parts italicized here, but not on the official document post-amendment):

Section 4—Senate Seats

The Senate shall have no less than twenty-six members *as long as that many have run for the position of Senator in the previous election. If there are not that many, the President's appointments to the Senate shall not cause the number of Senators to exceed twenty-six.* The addition of Senate seats shall be based on the overall growing student population *as to be determined by a Joint Resolution with explicitly enumerated formulae, as long as there are*

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enough Senate candidates at the time of the election for the expansion of membership.

Resolved (4): The Associated Students of Cerritos College proposes a new amendment to the Constitution to amend Section 1 of Article 4 of the Constitution, leading it to read (with amended parts italicized here, but not on the official document post-amendment):

Section 1—Amendment Proposal

Whenever any Member of the Senate deems it necessary, they can propose Amendments to the Constitution *via either a Senate Bill or Joint Law*. The proposal can only be recommended to the *dues-paying* Associated Students membership with a two-thirds vote.

Resolved (5): The Associated Students of Cerritos College proposes a new amendment to the Constitution to amend Section 9 of Article 1 of the Constitution, leading it to read (with amended parts italicized here, but not on the official document post-amendment):

Section 9—Senate Record

The Senate shall keep a record of its meetings and shall publish it no later than three days after *they are approved by a majority vote of the Senate, except in extreme cases where it is not possible to publish and disseminate the record in time.*

Resolved (6): The Associated Students of Cerritos College directs these Constitutional Amendments to be ratified in the next Fall election as *Amendments en Bloc 2* with a vote of affirmation, dissent, or abstention as to be directed by the Election Board, which shall maintain their references to other sections in the Constitution and shall be updated as necessary with future amendments, but shall in historical compliance with previous amendment procedure be appended to the Constitution, and with proper formatting to be determined by the Election Board and the Court or by their approval of Appendix A.

Resolved (7): The Associated Students of Cerritos College amends the Bylaws by inserting the following as Section 6 of Article 2 of the Bylaws, to read, with lettering substituted appropriately to fit the current formatting of the Bylaws:

Section 6

- a. Student Outreach Directive
 - i. The Cabinet shall engage in a consistent method of absorbing the needs and desires of the student body.
 - ii. The Cabinet shall encourage the student body as much as possible to display and demonstrate their needs, including by attending the Public Forum of its and the Senate's meetings.
 - iii. The Cabinet shall create a formal, publicized, eased process for providing both identifiable and anonymous comments to the Cabinet on any issue of any magnitude, of which all entries shall be read aloud during the Public Forum period and the members of the Cabinet shall discuss potential solutions to be enacted with methods under their jurisdiction.

Resolved (8): The Associated Students of Cerritos College amends the Bylaws by inserting the following as Subclause c of Clause 1 of Subsection A of Section 2 of Article 2 of the Bylaws, to read:

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c. Ensure the publication and ease of access of any documents from throughout the current and previous history of the Associated Students, both in direct access from Cerritos College official forums by which the Associated Students has jurisdiction and upon request by an inquisition of any member requesting documents from their archives.

Resolved (9): The Associated Students of Cerritos College amends the Bylaws by inserting the following as Subclause e of Clause 9 of Subsection A of Section 2 of Article 5 of the Bylaws, to read:

e. Provide information on how to become connected and report student needs and desires to the Associated Students Cabinet, Senate, and Court.

Resolved (10): The Associated Students of Cerritos College amends the Bylaws by amending Clause 5 of Subsection A of Section 3 of Article 9 of the Bylaws, leading it to read:

5. The President shall nominate the student at large, who must not be a member of any branch or other committee of the Associated Students unless after one week passes from an initial broadcast by the Director of Communications there are no eligible students seeking to become the student at large, at which time the President may appoint any other willing member who is not already a member of the Awards Committee.

Resolved (11): The Associated Students of Cerritos College amends the Bylaws by adding Section 4 to Article 1 of the Bylaws, to read, with lettering substituted appropriately to fit the current formatting of the Bylaws:

Section 4

A. Hierarchy of Documents

- a. The following hierarchy should be enforced to determine the validity of any and all documents when their provisions contrast with those in other documents:
 - i. Federal, state, and local law, which already has their contradictions resolved through other means;
 - ii. Official Cerritos College Board of Trustees Policies and Administrative Procedures, in the order which they take effect upon each other;
 - iii. The Constitution of the Associated Students of Cerritos College;
 - iv. These enumerated Bylaws;
 - v. Laws passed by the Associated Students of Cerritos College Senate;
 - vi. The Student Government Handbook, for all times in which it exists;
 - vii. The Club Guide, for all times in which it exists.

Resolved (12): The Associated Students of Cerritos College directs members of the Associated Students Cabinet to engage in all means necessary, as permitted by the Bylaws, Constitution, Board Policy, and local statutes, to promote voting in the election;

Resolved (13): The Associated Students of Cerritos College directs all members of the Senate and the Cabinet to be in constant communication and to collaborate on bills instead of leading silent opposition, as defined in the earlier provisions of this Bill, to make both chambers collaborative environments which

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avoid oppositional disputes and instead work in unity to execute the provisions as mentioned in the earlier addition of Article 5 to the Constitution;

Resolved (14): The Associated Students of Cerritos College will work directly with clubs, both through and outside of the Inter-Club Council, to get a sense of student and club needs directly;

Resolved (15): The Associated Students of Cerritos College directs the Cabinet to create an easier portal for examining past legislation and resolutions, including with keyword searches and an archive of PDFs of every past legislative item that is accessible, including executive orders, which can be found in all applicable archives of Associated Students legislation, as well as all new failed and passed resolutions and laws within 2 weeks of their votes;

Resolved (16): Members of the Associated Students of Cerritos College Cabinet and Senate should reach out directly to students and work with them to draft legislation;

Resolved (17): The Associated Students of Cerritos College will create and pass as a Joint Law between the Senate and the Cabinet a Cerritos College Student Government Handbook which shall contain directions for how to execute local, state, and federal laws, Board Policy, the Bylaws, and the Constitution that relate to Associated Students governance and other laws enacted by the Senate to ensure compliance by members of Student Government;

Resolved (18): The Associated Students of Cerritos College forms a committee yearly which will review the Constitution and Bylaws submitting a report on any necessary changes to the Senate and Cabinet;

Resolved (19): The Club Guide should be to be placed on the student government webpage next to the constitution and bylaws and other documents located there, as well as any other critical documents, with any obstacles or difficulties in their access being ameliorated;

Resolved (20): The Associated Students of Cerritos College authorizes a correction of the formatting in the Bylaws to resolve any issues of non-compliance with the standards demonstrated throughout the document, as long as such changes do not affect the actual policy implementations of the Bylaws;

Resolved (21): The Associated Students of Cerritos College will, when matters of interpretation of the effects of these clauses come up, use the communications of Appendices B and C to determine the meaning of statutes, including in determining whether an action meets the requirements of this bill and in adjudications of this Bill by the Court;

Resolved (21): Until the Cerritos College Student Government Handbook is passed with the aforementioned law, any clause in the Bylaws or any other legislation referring to it should be considered void only and exclusively to the extent necessary to rectify the absence of the handbook.

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Appendix A: [Appendix A to the Direction Bill](#)

Appendix B: [Appendix B to the Direction Bill.pdf](#) (communications with Advisor Miller)

Appendix C: [Appendix C to the Direction Bill.pdf](#) (communications with Student Trustee Ramos)

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Amendment History

1. Senator Gomez moved to adopt the amendments proposed by Cabinet except for Resolved 20 (new Resolved 17), seconded by Senator Buckley. No Objections, motion passed.
2. Senator Trevino moved to strike “as well as,” and “the various branches”, and insert “and”, “that relate to the Associated Students governance”, and “Student Government” as shown highlighted below from Resolved 20 (new Resolved 17), seconded by Senator Cao. No objections, motion passed.
 - a. “, Board Policy, the Bylaws, *and* the Constitution *that relate to Associated Students governance*, and other laws enacted by the Senate to ensure compliance by members of *Student Government*;
3. Senator Gomez moved to insert “any” to Resolved 21 (new Resolved 18) between “on” and “Necessary”, seconded by Senator Francos. No objections, motion passed.
4. Senator Buckley moved to update the Resolved numbers to be consecutive and notate changes in minutes, seconded by Senator Cao. No objections, motion passed.

Final Senate Action

Date of final vote: May 4, 2022

Senators Voting Aye: Alamgir, Buckley, Cao, Cuevas, Francos, Gomez, Lin, Lola, Rocha, Trevino

Senators Voting Nay: None

Senators Abstaining: None

Vote Count: 9 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstain

Committee Referral

Referred to Committee? No

Committee Performing Review (if applicable): N/A

Committee Chairperson: N/A

Committee Action: (Report complete disposition, amendments, committee vote, or date of final action.)
N/A

Presidential Action

Presidential Action (Approved or Veto): _____

Presidential Signature:  _____ **Date:** _____

If vetoed, state reason: