

**CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS  
OF  
CERRITOS COLLEGE**

**PREAMBLE**

The students of Cerritos College with the approval of the Board of Trustees hereby establish the Cerritos College Associated Student Body. The responsibilities herein stated are those which all of the College recognize as the privileges, rights, and responsibilities of students.

**ARTICLE I  
Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Associated Students of Cerritos College.

**Article II  
Membership**

All registered students of Cerritos College who hold Associated Student Body membership shall be entitled to the rights and privileges as set forth in the By-Laws of this Constitution.

**ARTICLE III  
Officers**

- Section 1** The executive officers of the Associated Students shall be a President and Vice President. They shall be elected together and shall serve a term not to exceed one (1) year.
- Section 2** The President and Vice President shall have attained the academic standing of a sophomore by the first full semester of office and shall have an overall 2.25 grade point average as indicated on his/her permanent report card at the time of election.
- Section 3** The President shall, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint advisors known as the Executive Cabinet.
- Section 4** The members of the Executive Cabinet shall serve no longer than the term of the President and shall have completed a minimum of twelve (12) units at Cerritos College. Members of the Executive Cabinet shall have an overall 2.25 grade point average at the time of their appointment.
- Section 5** Members of the Judiciary shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- a) The President shall have the Judiciary legally functioning within twenty (20) days (Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, and vacation days excluded) after the beginning of the Fall Semester.

- Section 6** Justices shall hold their office for the full duration as students at Cerritos College, although it shall be mandatory for any Justice to retire after the completion of six (6) semesters of college work.
- Section 7** Justices shall carry an overall 2.25 grade point average at the time of their appointment.
- Section 8** No officer shall continue serving in any capacity if that officer falls below a 2.0 grade point average in any semester during office.
- Section 9** Elections for appropriate offices shall be held each semester.
- Section 10** Dates and procedures for elections shall be set down in appropriate By-Laws.

#### **ARTICLE IV Legislative Powers**

- Section 1** The legislative power of the Associated Students shall be vested in a Senate presided over by the Vice President of the Associated Students.
- Section 2** The Senate shall have no less than thirty (30) members and shall make available no less than one-third (1/3) of its seats to candidates of freshman standing in each Fall Semester.
- Section 3** The Senate shall be expanded on the basis of the enrollment at Cerritos College, adding one (1) Senate seat to the minimum number for every five hundred (500) full-time registered students above four thousand (4,000) as determined at the beginning of the Fall Semester.
- Section 4** The Senate shall approve all appointments made by the President and by two-thirds (2/3) vote, determine such appointments.
- Section 5** The Senate shall choose their own officers and also a President Pro Tempore in the absence of the Vice President, who shall serve as presiding officer of the Senate without vote, unless the voting is equally divided.
- Section 6** The Senate shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its membership and a majority of its constitutional membership shall constitute a quorum to do business. The Senate may provide penalties to compel the attendance of absent members.
- Section 7** The Senate shall keep a journal of its meetings and shall publish these records within a reasonable length of time after each meeting. The Senate shall meet at least once a week throughout the regular college semester, except at time of vacations or legally established holidays.
- Section 8** All programs for raising revenue shall originate or be approved by the Senate. The Senate shall be responsible for approval of the budget.
- Section 9** All programs that initiate from the Senate shall go to the President for approval before they become law. If the President approves, the law shall be signed; but if not, the

President shall return the law to the Senate with the objections for reconsideration. The Senate may then, in reconsideration, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of its constitutional membership, pass the measure again and make it law.

- Section 10** The Senate shall have the power:
- a) To establish the Associated Student Body Fee.
  - b) To constitute tribunals inferior to the Court.
  - c) To make rules for the student government and regulations of the established budget.
  - d) To approve requests of the Associated Students from the College administration.
  - e) To promote the progress of useful arts for the general welfare of the Associated Students.
  - f) To enact impeachment proceedings against the President, Vice President, and all other elected and appointed officers of the Associated Students.
    - 1) The Chief Justice shall preside over impeachment proceedings of the President and/or Vice President of the Associated Students.

#### **ARTICLE V Executive Powers**

- Section 1** The President of the Associated Students shall preside at all meetings of this organization and shall be the official representative of the Associated Students. The President shall also perform such other duties as pertain to the office.
- Section 2** In case of the removal of the President from office, the duties of the office shall be vested in the hands of the Vice-President, who shall then become President.
- Section 3** The President shall, before the Senate, at an appropriate time each regular semester, give information relative to the state of the Associated Students and such measures as judged necessary and expedient.
- Section 4** The President shall, with the Executive Cabinet, be responsible for formulating and directing programs as established in the current budget.
- Section 5** The President may decline to return a bill to the Senate, holding it no more than five (5) days, (Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays and vacations excluded) at which time the Senate after appropriate procedures may treat it as a law, unless the Senate adjourns its session, then it will not be considered law.
- Section 6** The President shall appoint all vacancies that occur in any branch with the advice and the consent of the Senate.
- a) Any vacancy that occurs within the Judicial Branch that makes this branch inoperable shall be appointed within twenty (20) days (Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays and vacations excluded) after the occurrence of said vacancy.

**Section 7** The President shall have the power to conduct Associated Students business at any time, but is answerable to the Senate for action.

## **ARTICLE VI Judicial Powers**

**Section 1** The judicial power of the Associated Students shall be vested in one (1) court and in such inferior courts as the Senate may establish.

**Section 2** The Court shall have no more than one (1) Chief Justice and eight (8) Associate Justices, not less than four (4) Associate Justices shall meet when required to do so.

**Section 3** At no time shall any court have more than two (2) Justices who hold membership in the same organization on campus, excepting honorary scholastic organizations.

**Section 4** The Court shall have sole power to punish in all matters brought before the judiciary pertaining to the Associated Student Body, including expulsion from the Associated Student Body and any lesser measure.

**Section 5** The Court shall interpret and review those laws which are enacted.

**Section 6** The Chief Justice shall preside over impeachment proceedings of the President and/or Vice President of the Associated Students.

## **ARTICLE VII Amendments and By-Laws**

**Section 1** This constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting in all-campus election, providing:

- a) That the amendment was approved for the election by approval of the Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting, or;
- b) That fifteen percent (15%) of the regular full-time members of the Associated Students sign a petition requesting the amendment and present it to the Court. After the signatures have been verified, the Elections Board will make provisions to place the amendment on the ballot at the next election.

**Section 2** Initiative - Students may initiate legislation by filing a petition which would include the legislation and the signatures of five percent (5%) of the full-time members of the Associated Students, for an indirect initiative and ten percent (10%) for a direct initiative. After the signatures have been verified, the Elections Board will make provisions to place the measure on the ballot at the next election.

**Section 3** Referendum - There will be two (2) types of referenda. One type may be initiated by the students, the other by the Senate.

- a) The Senate, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its constitutional membership, may resolve to place proposed legislation on the ballot for approval by the majority of votes cast.

- b) Students may seek to have an act of Senate, with the exception of the approval of presidential appointments, placed on the ballot by filing a petition with the signatures of fifteen percent (15%) of the full-time members of the Associated Students. After the signatures have been verified, the Elections Board will make provisions to have the legislation placed on the ballot at the next election. Such a petition must be filed within two (2) weeks from the time a measure is acted upon.

**Section 4**

All proposals to be placed on the ballot must be submitted to the Court two (2) weeks prior to the next election.