



Associated Students of Cerritos College Constitution

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1 We, the Students of Cerritos College, to form a more perfect union, establish justice,
2 ensure student opportunity, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our
3 posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Associated Students of
4 Cerritos College.

5 **ARTICLE I—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

6 **Section 1—Legislative Powers**

7 All Legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Senate.

8 **Section 2—Senatorial Oath**

9 Before a Senator-elect enters the execution of their office, they shall take the following Oath or
10 Affirmation: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the
11 Associated Students against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance
12 to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion;
13 and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter.”

14 **Section 3—Membership**

15 **Subsection 1**

16 Members shall not continue serving in any capacity if their cumulative GPA falls below a 2.00.

17 **Subsection 2**

18 Senators must run for reelection every fall semester.

19 **Section 4—Senate Seats**

20 The Senate shall have no less than twenty-six members as long as that many have run for the position
21 of Senator in the previous election. If there are not that many, the President’s appointments to the
22 Senate shall not cause the number of Senators to exceed twenty-six. The addition of Senate seats shall
23 be based on the overall growing student population as to be determined by a Joint Resolution with
24 explicitly enumerated formulae, as long as there are enough Senate candidates at the time of the
25 election for the expansion of membership.

26 **Section 5—Senate Positions**

27 The Senate shall have its own officers. Officers include the President Pro Tempore, Clerk of the
28 Senate, and the Sergeant-at-Arms.

29 **Section 6—Quorum**

30 To conduct business, the Senate must meet a majority membership quorum. The quorum tabulation
31 shall exclude the President of the Senate.

32 **Section 7—Compensation**

33 Members may receive compensation for their services to Cerritos College, presumed their attendance
34 does not exceed two unexcused absences.

35 **Section 8—Senate Authority**

36 The Senate shall serve as the authority of its elections, returns, and qualifications of its membership
37 under the Senate Rules.

38 **Section 9—Senate Record**

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

42 **Section 10—Budget**

43 **Subsection 1**

44 The Senate shall be responsible for constructing, auditing, and approving the Budget of the
45 Government.

46 **Subsection 2**

47 All legislation regarding revenue shall originate in the Senate.

48 **Section 11—Powers**

49 **Subsection 1**

50 The Senate shall have the enumerated powers.

51 **Subsection 2**

52 The Senate shall establish the Cerritos College Student Activities fee.

53 **Subsection 3**

54 The Senate shall issue subpoenas to further or gather knowledge for the Senate.

55 **Subsection 4**

56 The Senate shall create laws for the Government.

57 **Subsection 5**

58 The Senate shall establish regulations for the budget.

59 **Subsection 6**

60 The Senate may approve any legislative proposals of the Associated Students from the College.

61 **Subsection 7**

62 The Senate shall enact impeachment proceedings against the President, Vice President, and
63 members of the Court.

64 **Subsection 8**

65 The Senate shall approve any contracts with vendors or third-parties.

66 **Subsection 9**

67 The Senate shall make all laws, which shall be necessary and proper, for carrying into
68 execution the foregoing powers and all other powers vested by this Constitution.

69 **Subsection 10**

70 The Senate shall not do the following: 1) It cannot pass a bill of attainder—one that punishes a
71 Person or Group without a trial; and 2) Withdraw money from the Reserves, unless the Senate
72 unanimously votes to do so.

73 **Section 12—Presidential Appointments**

74 The Senate may approve any Presidential appointments with a majority vote.

75 **Section 13—Vetoing**

76 **Subsection 1**

77 Passed legislative proposals shall go to the President for approval before becoming law.

78 **Subsection 2**

79 If the President does not sign and approve the bill, the President shall return the bill to the
80 Senate with their objections. The Senate may reconsider the objections. If, after such
81 reconsideration, two-thirds of the Senate shall agree to pass the bill, it shall become a law. In all
82 cases, the votes of the Senate shall be determined by “yeas” and “nays,” and the names of the
83 Members voting for and against the bill shall be entered in the Record.

84 **Subsection 3**

85 If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten business days after it shall have been
86 presented to them, the same shall be a law, in the same manner as if they had signed it, unless
87 the Senate by their adjournment prevents its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

88 **ARTICLE II—EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

89 **Section 1—The President**

90 The Executive Power shall be vested in a President of the Associated Students of Cerritos College.

91 **Section 2—Vice President**

92 The Vice President shall serve as the President of the Senate while the Senate is in Session.

93 **Section 3—Election**

94 The President shall hold their office during the term of one year, and, together with the Vice President,
95 be elected.

96 **Section 4—President’s Oath**

97 Before the President enters the execution of their office, they shall take the following Oath or
98 Affirmation: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of
99 the Associated Students, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the
100 Constitution of the Associated Students.”

101 **Section 5—Vice President’s Oath**

102 Before the Vice President-Elect enters the execution their office, they shall take the following Oath or
103 Affirmation: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the
104 Associated Students against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance
105 to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion;
106 and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter.”

107 **Section 6—Presidency**

108 **Subsection 1**

109 No Person, who shall not have attained the academic standing of a sophomore by the first full
110 Semester of office and a cumulative 2.00 GPA as be eligible for the office of the President or
111 Vice President.

112 **Subsection 2**

113 Both the President and Vice President shall officially begin their term of office the first
114 Monday following the last day of the Spring Semester.

115 **Subsection 3**

116 In case of the removal of the President from office or of their death or resignation, the Vice
117 President shall become President.

118 **Subsection 4**

119 Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a
120 Vice President, who shall take office upon confirmation by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

121 **Subsection 5**

122 Whenever the President transmits to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate a written
123 declaration that they are unable to discharge the powers and duties of their office, and until they
124 transmit to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate a written declaration to the contrary, such
125 powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

126 **Subsection 6**

127 The Senate may, by law, provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both
128 of the President and Vice President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such
129 officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

130 **Section 7—Compensation**

131 **Subsection 1**

132 The President and Vice President shall receive compensation for their services to the College,
133 which shall neither be increased nor diminished during their term in office.

134 **Subsection 2**

135 Cabinet Members may receive compensation for their services to the College.

136 **Section 8—Appointment**

137 **Subsection 1**

138 The President shall have the Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to
139 appoint Ambassadors, Judges of the Court, and all other officers of the Associated Students,
140 whose Appointments are not otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law.

141 **Subsection 2**

142 The President shall have the power to fill any vacancies that may happen during the Senate
143 Session by granting commissions, which shall expire at the end of their next Session.

144 **Section 9—The Cabinet**

145 **Subsection 1**
146 The President shall, with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, appoint department heads,
147 known as the Cabinet.

148 **Subsection 2**
149 The Members of the Cabinet shall serve no longer than the term of the President.

150 **Section 10—State of the Students**

151 **Subsection 1**
152 The President shall, from time-to-time, give to the Senate Information on the State of the
153 Associated Students, and recommend to their consideration such measures as they shall judge
154 necessary and expedient.

155 **Subsection 2**
156 They may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both the Senate and Court. Concerning the
157 Time of Adjournment, they may adjourn them to such time as they shall deem proper.

158 **Subsection 3**
159 The State of the Students shall happen no less than once per academic year, with at minimum
160 one event in the Spring semester of the given academic year, and shall be attended by both the
161 President and Vice President during a time and date to be ratified via a Joint Law by both the
162 Cabinet and Senate, unless it must be postponed due to unforeseen and unavoidable
163 circumstances affecting the President, Vice President, or both, as to be accepted by a vote of
164 the Justices of the Associated Students Court.

165 **Section 11—Impeachment**

166 **Subsection 1**
167 The President, Vice President, and all Appointed officers of the Associated Students, shall be
168 removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high
169 crimes and misdemeanors.

170 **Subsection 2**
171 Articles of Impeachment shall be first drafted in the Senate by any member of the Legislative
172 branch.

173 **Subsection 3**
174 Thereafter, the Senate shall convict and remove the President from office, with the President
175 Pro Tempore being the Presiding Officer.

176 **ARTICLE III—JUDICIAL BRANCH**

177 **Section 1—Judicial Power**
178 The Judicial Power of the Associated Students, shall be vested in a Court. The Judicial Power shall
179 extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the Associated
180 Students.

181 **Section 2—Jurisdiction**
182 The Court shall have sole power to punish in all matters brought before the judiciary pertaining to the
183 Associated Students Body, including expulsion from the Associated Students Body and any lesser
184 measure.

185 **Section 3—Appointment**
186 Justices shall carry an accumulative GPA of 2.00 at the time of their appointment.

187 **Section 4—Term Limit**
188 Justices shall hold their offices during good behavior and while adhering to the laws of the Associated
189 Students.

190 **Section 5—Positions**
191 The Court shall have no more than one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices.

192 **Section 6—Compensation**

193 **Subsection 1**
194 The Chief Justice shall receive compensation for their services to the College, which shall not
195 be diminished during their continuance in office.

196 **Subsection 2**
197 Associate Justices may receive compensation for their services to the College.

198 **Section 7—Public**
199 The Court shall maintain a public docket.

200 **Section 8—Judicial Minutes**
201 The Court shall, within three days, publish minutes after every Session or Meeting.

202 **ARTICLE IV—AMENDMENTS**

203 **Section 1—Amendment Proposal**
204 Whenever any Member of the Senate deems it necessary, they can propose Amendments to the
205 Constitution via either a Senate Bill or Joint Law. The proposal can only be recommended to the
206 Associated Students membership with a two-thirds vote.

207 **Section 2—Ratification**
208 The proposed Amendment shall be ratified with a two-thirds vote of the dues paying members of the
209 Associated Students in an election concurrent with the election of the Senators, unless the Senate
210 unanimously votes to hold the election at a different time.

211 **AMENDMENT I (Ratified September 16, 2021)**

212 **Section I—Officer Oath**
213 Any officer of the Associated Students shall take the following Oath or Affirmation before beginning
214 their Service: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the
215 Associated Students against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance

216 to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion;
217 and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter.”

218 **Section II—Chief Justice Oath**

219 The Chief Justice of the Associated Students Court shall take the following Oath or Affirmation before
220 beginning their Service: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will administer justice without respect
221 to persons, and do equal right to the all diverse students, and that I will faithfully and impartially
222 discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as Chief Justice under the Constitution and
223 laws of the Associated Students of Cerritos College; and that I will support and defend the Constitution
224 of thereof against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the
225 same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; protect
226 the rights of the students; their welfare and special interest; and that I will well and faithfully discharge
227 the duties of the office on which I am about to enter.”

228 **Section III—Associate Justice Oath**

229 Associate Justices of the Associated Students Court shall take the following Oath of Affirmation
230 before beginning their service: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the
231 Constitution of the Associated Students against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true
232 faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or
233 purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am
234 about to enter.”

235 **Section IV—Words Denoting Gender**

236 Any masculine or feminine gendered language used in this document is hereby abrogated. Any
237 pronouns used in this document shall be substituted with gender-neutral pronouns.

238 **Section V—Post-Meeting Published Materials**

239 Any use of the word Journals, especially in regard to post-meeting published materials, shall be
240 referred to as “minutes”.

241 **Section VI—Repeal of Article I, Section 11, Subsection 4**

242 Subsection 4 of Section 11 of Article 1 of the Associated Students Constitution is hereby repealed:

243 ***Subsection 4***

244 *The Senate shall constitute tribunals inferior to the Court.*

245 **Section VII—Voting Procedure Regarding a Presidential Vice President Nomination**

246 Subsection 4 of Section 6 of Article 2 of the Associated Students Constitution is hereby repealed and
247 replaced with the following text: Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the
248 President shall nominate a Vice President, who shall take office upon confirmation by a two-thirds
249 vote of the Senate.

250 ***Subsection 4***

251 *Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a*
252 *Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of the Senate.*

253 **AMENDMENT II (Ratified September 15, 2022)**

254 Previous language prior to amendment shown below.

255 **Subsection 3 (no previous language, new section)**

256 The State of the Students shall happen no less than once per academic year, with at minimum
257 one event in the Spring semester of the given academic year, and shall be attended by both the
258 President and Vice President during a time and date to be ratified via a Joint Law by both the

259 Cabinet and Senate, unless it must be postponed due to unforeseen and unavoidable
260 circumstances affecting the President, Vice President, or both, as to be accepted by a vote of
261 the Justices of the Associated Students Court.

262 **Section 2—Ratification**

263 The proposed Amendment shall be ratified with a two-thirds vote of the Associated Students
264 membership in an election.

265 **Section 4—Senate Seats**

266 The Senate shall have no less than twenty-six members. The addition of Senate seats shall be
267 based on the overall growing student population.

268 **Section 1—Amendment Proposal**

269 Whenever any Member of the Senate deems it necessary, they can propose Amendments to the
270 Constitution. The proposal can only be recommended to the Associated Students membership
271 with a two-thirds vote.

272 **Section 9—Senate Record**

273 The Senate shall keep a record of its meetings and shall publish it no later than three days after
274 each Session.