



**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
CONSTITUTION**

**Preamble**

We the students of The University of Arizona, in the belief that students have the right and the obligation to play a significant role in guiding their university, do hereby establish this Constitution to insure the following: the articulation of student opinions and interests both in the governance of the university and to the community at large; the encouragement of the greatest level of cooperation and communication between students and student organizations; the assurance that students have full access to quality higher education at The University of Arizona; the provision for programs and services of benefit to students; and the encouragement of the highest level of excellence in education at The University of Arizona.

**ARTICLE I- Name and Membership**

**Section I: Name**

The name of the association under which this constitution is formed shall be the "Associated Students of The University of Arizona", herein ASUA.

**Section II: Membership**

Membership shall consist of all students registered at The University of Arizona.

**Section III: Acceptance Clause**

The ASUA will not discriminate and will strive to create a campus environment which understands, fosters, and embraces the value of diversity among students, faculty, and staff. Diversity encompasses differences in age, color, ethnicity, gender, national origin, disability or handicap, race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background or veteran status. This organization is committed to the belief that all persons are valued for their individual characteristics, talents and contributions. This policy will include, but is not limited to recruiting, membership, organization activities, or opportunity to hold office.

## ARTICLE II-Legislative Branch

### **Section I: Membership**

The ASUA Senate shall consist of eighteen (16) elected members of the student body and one (1) faculty /staff member; appointed by the ASUA President and approved by the Senate. The composition of the Senate will include one (1) elected representative from their respective college.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
College of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture  
College of Education  
College of Engineering  
College of Fine Arts  
College of Humanities  
College of Medicine - Tucson  
College of Nursing  
College of Science  
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
The Eller College of Management  
The Mel & Enid College of Public Health

College of Letters Arts and Science

In addition, there will be Three (3) at large seats open to the student body.

If no one is elected from one of the colleges, the college's respective student leadership will fill any vacant positions according to the ASUA Elections Code. If the respective colleges student leadership is not recognized by the senate or there is none it will then become an interview process by the senate and confirmed by the ASUA President as stated in the ASUA Elections Code.

### **Section II: Duties of the Senate**

1. The Senate shall hold regular meetings as stipulated in the ASUA Bylaws.
2. All Senate Meetings shall comply with Arizona Revised Statutes, herein ARS, 38-431.01, regarding open meetings.
3. Any three (3) voting members of the Senate shall be able to call a special meeting in accordance with ARS.
4. The Senate shall keep records of its proceedings which shall be available to the students public.

5. The Senate must adopt Bylaws and Operating Guidelines before any legislative session. The Senate may act to change, add or delete any Operating Guideline or Bylaw at anytime during the legislative session. These Bylaws and Operating Guidelines shall be available to the students public.
6. All accounts and books shall be open for public inspection at all times during regular working hours, 8 AM to 5 PM, excluding University holidays and weekends.
7. The Senate shall elect from its student membership a Vice-Chair who will assume the chair in the case it is surrendered by the Executive Vice-President.
8. The Senate shall elect from its student membership an Appropriations Board Senator. The Vice President will conduct the internal Senate Election. The Appropriations Board Senator will serve as the chair of the Appropriations Board.
9. The Senate shall elect from its student membership an alternate to the Vice-Chair who will assume the chair in the case it is surrendered by the Executive Vice-President and the Vice-Chair. All meetings must be chaired by either the Executive Vice-President or one of the designated Senators.
10. The Senate shall approve a recorder and a parliamentarian, of which do not have to be Senators, appointed by the Executive Vice-President with a majority of the Senate's approval.
11. The Senate shall approve an Elections Code to govern all conduct during ASUA elections, prior to the last meeting of the Senate for the Fall semester.
12. A quorum of the Senate will be one half of the members plus one, excluding the Executive Vice President.
13. The Executive Vice-President shall appoint members of the Senate to the three Senate Standing Committees: Internal Affairs, Budget Oversight, and Senate Projects. Committee Assignments may be overturned by a majority vote of the entire Senate and Senators may not sit on more than one Standing Committee.
14. The Senate shall create any Senate Committees it deems necessary. The Executive Vice-President shall appoint the members of temporary committees.

### **Section III: Stipends**

1. Senate members shall receive stipends in the method and amount designated by the Senate of the previous year.
2. Faculty Members will not receive the Senate Stipend.

**Section IV: Power of the Senate**

1. The Senate shall propose and consider all legislation, including, but not limited to Senate polices and appropriations.
2. The Senate shall be responsible for approving a balanced operating budget to be submitted by the Student Body President in accordance with the Constitution.
3. The Senate may establish and be responsible for any official ASUA programs, services, committees, projects or task force to further the stated goals of Associated Students subject to Presidential approval, and to all rules and procedures as stated in this Constitution, its Bylaws and Operating guidelines.
4. The Senate shall approve all official ASUA programs, services, Judicial Rules of Procedure, committees, projects or task forces prior to their functioning.
5. No individual Senate project shall be considered an official ASUA project without ASUA senate approval.
6. The Senate shall approve all ASUA appointments.
7. All powers incidental to the proper functioning of the legislative branch shall be vested in the Senate unless otherwise stated herein.
8. All official ASUA policy must be approved by the Executive Branch and passed by the Senate.

**Section V: Legislation**

1. All legislation passed shall be presented to the ASUA President for Action.
2. If no action is taken on legislative within 5 (five) school days of its passing, the legislation shall be considered valid. If legislation is vetoed, a veto message shall be submitted to the Senate by the next scheduled meeting in written form to be acted upon. The Executive and Administrative Vice Presidents are able to vote on any Senate Override of a Presidential veto.
3. If legislation is vetoed, a veto message shall be submitted to the Senate by the next schedule meeting in written form. Any Senator and both Vice-Presidents may call for a veto override. The veto override committee will consist of the Senators, the Executive Vice-President, and the Administrative Vice-President (12 total members). All of these members will have the power to vote. The Executive Vice-President will chair the meeting. The two vice-presidents must be notified in writing of the meeting. Quorum for the meeting will be (9) nine people. The presidential veto can be overridden by (9) nine votes from this committee. If this body overrides the veto, the legislation shall be considered valid.

**Section VI: Recess Governance**

1. The Recess Governance shall consist of the (4) executive officers and three (3) Senate members elected by the Senate at the beginning of its term. To take action, four (4) of the members of the Recess Governance must be present.
2. With regards to the ASUA Operations the recess governance shall have the authority to act during summer and winter recess.

**Article III-Executive Branch****Section I: Officers**

The Executive Branch shall consist of a President, Executive Vice President, Administrative Vice President, and the Treasurer.

**Section II: Term of Office**

The Executive Branch officers are required to perform the functions of their offices on a year-round basis with a certain flexibility allowed for determining vacation time, that time not to exceed seven (7) weeks in a term excluding all official University holidays, winter recess, and spring break.

**Section III: Powers and Duties of the President**

1. The Student Body President shall serve as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Associated Students.
2. The Student Body President shall be the chief spokesperson for the Associated Students.
3. The Student Body President will appoint Supreme Court Justices, ASUA Treasurer Elections Commissioner(s), Arizona Students Association board members, the University Budget Review Committee Director, Academic Affairs Director, Federal Relations Director, other advocacy unit directors, and representatives to any university committees or community groups requiring student representation subject to the ASUA constitution.
4. The Student Body President shall have the power to create any ASUA committee, program, service or project deemed necessary subject to the ASUA constitution.
5. The Student Body President shall have the power to request reports of a general or specific nature of any branch, or Executive Officer of the Associated Students.
6. The Student Body President shall be responsible for submitting a balanced operating budget pursuant to ASUA Constitution Article XII, Section 2. The

Student Body President will be responsible for all of Associated Students funds, and shall be responsible for insuring that these

funds are spent according to legislative branch funding, the University of Arizona and Arizona Board of Regents current policies.

7. The Student Body President shall receive and be responsible for all revenue generated and appropriated for Associated Students, and shall be responsible for final determination of these funds in accordance with University and Board of Regents policies.
8. The Student Body President shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Senate.
9. The Student Body President will attend all regular meetings of the Arizona Board of Regents.
10. The Student Body President shall serve as one of the four Arizona Students' Association Directors, and will attend all regularly scheduled meetings.
11. In the absence of the President, the individual that will act on behalf of the President shall be: The Executive Vice-President and the Administrative Vice-President respectively. In the event that all two of the above individuals are absent, the Senate shall appoint one of the remaining members to represent the Student Body President.
12. The Student Body President shall have the power to veto any legislation passed by the senate within five (5) working days of senate approval.
13. All powers incidental to the proper functioning of the Presidency shall be vested in the Student Body President unless otherwise stated herein.

#### **Section IV: Powers and Duties of the Executive Vice President**

1. The Executive Vice President shall be the chief spokesperson of the Senate and will preside over and be President of the Senate at all regular and special sessions. The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for maintaining the legislative and business records of ASUA.
2. The Executive Vice President shall aid the President in carrying out the duties of that office and shall act in the President's behalf in his/her absence.
3. The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for coordinating committees under the jurisdiction of the Executive Vice President.
4. The Executive Vice President shall have the power to create any ASUA subcommittee subject to the ASUA constitution.

5. The Executive Vice President shall only vote in the Senate to break a tie and shall not be considered for quorum.
6. The Executive Vice President, as well as any three (3) senators, shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Senate.
7. All powers incidental to the proper functioning of the Executive Vice Presidency shall be vested in the Executive Vice President unless otherwise stated herein.
8. The Executive Vice President shall coordinate the ASUA Club Funding Process as related to the Bylaws of ASUA.
9. The Executive Vice President shall Appoint the members of the Appropriations Board and the three (3) Club Advocates with the consent of the Senate.
10. The Executive Vice President shall work with the ASUA Treasurer to ensure appropriate financial tracking of all club and organization accounts.
11. The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for coordinating the club recognition process with Student Programs and organizing the Club Assembly at the beginning of the fall semester.
12. The Executive Vice President shall be the ASUA officer whose charge is to unify and serve students involved in clubs and organizations by advocating for needs and concerns of clubs including directing the ASUA Club Advocates.

#### **Section V: Powers and Duties of the Administrative Vice President**

1. The Administrative Vice President shall have the power to initiate new programs, and services subject to the ASUA constitution.
2. The Administrative Vice President shall have the power to appoint the directors for all programs, services, and activities under his/her purview subject to the ASUA constitution.
3. The Administrative Vice President shall have the power to initiate new programs and services subject to the ASUA constitution.
4. The Administrative Vice President shall aid the President in carrying out the duties of that office.
5. All powers incidental to the proper functioning of the Administrative Vice Presidency shall be vested in the Administrative Vice President unless otherwise stated herein.

**Section VI: Treasurer**

1. The ASUA Treasurer shall, in conjunction with the ASUA Advisor, analyze reports and activities of the ASUA Accounting Office and make recommendations for changes and procedural improvements.
2. The ASUA Treasurer shall oversee the transfer and expenditures of budgeted ASUA funds.
3. The Treasurer shall provide monthly reports of ASUA expenditures to the Senate.
4. The ASUA Treasurer shall assist the ASUA President in preparing balanced ASUA Budget.
5. The ASUA Treasurer shall assist in the education of students and ASUA personnel on the ASUA budget and spending procedures.
6. The ASUA Treasurer shall provide a annual report of ASUA's fund balanced and expenditures by the 1st of September of the fiscal year following the year reported.
7. The ASUA Treasurer shall be selected through an open application process and then interviewed by a panel consisting of the ASUA President, ASUA Accountant, and at least one member of the ASUA Finance Committee.
8. The ASUA Treasurer shall report to the ASUA President directly, but can be called at any time to make reports, answer questions, or give testimony to the ASUA Legislative Branch.

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## **ARTICLE IV-Judicial Branch**

### **Section I: Jurisdiction**

The Judicial power for the Associated Students shall be vested with one Supreme Court, and in such lower courts as the President may from time to time ordain and establish. The Chief Justice shall remain in that position for the duration of his/her law school attendance. The Supreme Court's function is to decide any constitutional disputes of interpretations. The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction over any lower court created by the President in issues concerning the Constitution or the Bylaws.

### **Section II: Membership**

The Supreme Court shall be composed of five (5) University of Arizona law students. One member of the Supreme Court will be appointed Chief Justice. The Supreme Court shall have final decision on all judicial matters. All Justices shall be appointed for the duration of their law school attendance at the University of Arizona.

### **Section III: Appointment**

The Justices shall be appointed by the Student Body President and approved pursuant to the ASUA constitution. The Chief Justice shall also be appointed by the President pursuant to ASUA constitution.

### **Section IV: Vacancies**

All Supreme Court vacancies shall be filled by appointment within two (2) months.

### **Section V: Duties of the Supreme Court**

Upon request of an Executive Officer or the Senate, the Supreme Court shall issue advisory opinions on any case arising from an ASUA originated action or that of its membership.

### **Section VI: Rules of Procedure**

The Supreme Court shall establish and abide by Rules of Procedure which outline its Operational guidelines. The Rules of Procedure will be approved by the Senate and the President subject to Article II, Section IV-4. Rules for lower courts must be approved by the Supreme Court.

### **Section VII: Questions to the Supreme Court**

All members of the Associated Students, as defined in the ASUA constitution, shall have the ability to ask the ASUA Supreme Court for an opinion on any constitutional issue. The Supreme Court shall develop an appeals process outlining the procedures that will be taken to forward a question to the Court, and shall make those procedures public.

## ARTICLE V-Qualifications, Elections, Tenure, and Vacancies

### **Section I: Qualifications**

1. All persons holding ASUA elected or appointed positions under this Constitution must meet University of Arizona extracurricular activity eligibility requirements.
2. All candidates for election to office under this Constitution must meet University of Arizona extracurricular activity eligibility requirements and must have been enrolled at the University of Arizona the semester immediately prior to seeking office (except for special elections as allowed in the ASUA Elections Code) for the minimum number of units required by the University of Arizona for participation in extracurricular activities.
3. No student shall be a candidate for more than one office concurrently.
4. No student shall serve in more than one of the following capacities concurrently:
  - a. ASUA Executive Officer or Senator
  - b. ASUA Supreme Court Justice.
  - c. ASUA Elections Commissioner
  - d. ASUA Program or Service Chairman or Director

### **Section II: Election Procedure**

1. All elections shall be coordinated and supervised by the ASUA Elections Commissioner.
2. Elections shall be governed by the ASUA Elections Code.
3. All Elections Code revisions shall be made prior to the end of the fall semester, immediately preceding the semester in which the elections shall be held pursuant to Article II, Section II.
4. The Senate and the Student Body President may call a special election, pursuant to Article II, Section V.

### **Section III: Term Commencements**

Tenure of all ASUA offices, except as stated otherwise herein, shall be one (1) year beginning the first regular weekday of May.

**Section IV: Vacancies**

A vacancy in the elected positions of any office shall be filled for the remainder of the term in the following manner.

**Before November first (1):**

1. Senate vacancies shall be filled pursuant to Senate Bylaws.
2. A special election shall occur to fill vacancies in the positions of Student Body President, Executive Vice-President, Administrative Vice-President.

**After November first (1):**

3. Senate vacancies shall be filled pursuant to Senate Bylaws.
4. The position of Student Body President shall be filled pursuant to the ASUA constitution.
5. The positions of Executive Vice-President and Administrative Vice-President shall be filled by Student Body Presidential appointment and simple majority approval in the Senate pursuant to the ASUA constitution.

**Section V: Election dates for Executive Offices and Senate**

The ASUA election dates shall occur, at the same time, no earlier than the third week in February and no later than the second week in April.

**ARTICLE VI-Impeachment****Section I: Eligibility**

Articles of Impeachment may be brought against any elected member of ASUA or any Supreme Court Justice.

**Section II: Grounds for Impeachment**

Violations of the Constitution or Bylaws, nonfeasance and/or malfeasance in office shall constitute grounds for impeachment.

**Section III: Power of Impeachment**

Impeachment charges may be brought forward by the Senate.

**Section IV: Voting Requirement**

For impeachment charges to be brought forward by the Senate, a majority of the total voting membership of the Senate shall be necessary to bring the charge of impeachment.

**Section V: Due Process**

Any person impeached shall be tried within two (2) weeks.

**Section VI: Trials**

The Supreme Court shall try all impeachments except the impeachment of a Supreme Court Justice. If a Supreme Court Justice is impeached, he/she shall be tried by the Senate.

**Section VII: Vote Requirements**

A person must be convicted with the concurrence of a least four (4) of the five (5) Supreme Court Justices. A Supreme Court Justice must be convicted by at least three-fourths (3/4) of the total student voting membership of the Senate.

**Section VIII: Consequences**

All persons impeached shall be suspended from office and the rights and privileges thereof.

**Section IX: Subsequent Action**

Any person enumerated of impeachment charges shall have the full rights and privileges of the office restored. Any person convicted of impeachment charges shall be removed from office.

## **ARTICLE VII-Recall, Initiative and Referendum**

### **Section I: Right of Recall**

The right of recall belongs to all members of Associated Students of the University of Arizona, as defined in the ASUA constitution.

1. Upon petition of ten percent (10%) of the members of the Associated Students, the Legislative Branch shall hold a recall election. Elections called in this manner shall include only the elected official(s) named in the petition, and term(s) of the incumbent(s) of said office(s) shall terminate upon the election of successor(s).
2. Any elected officer may be replaced in office through defeat in the recall election, provided that the total ballots cast in the recall election amount to two-thirds ( $2/3$ ) of the total votes cast at the election in which the officer being recalled was originally elected.
3. Any act of the Legislative Branch, except as provided in Article IX, may be modified or rejected by a majority of the votes cast at a special election, provided that the matter upon which action is taken shall have been presented to the Legislative Branch by a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the qualified electorate. Upon receipt of the petition, the Legislative Branch shall call a special election.

### **Section II: Right of Legal Initiative**

1. The Right of Legal Initiative belongs to all members of the ASUA.
2. Criteria and procedure for the legal initiative:
  - a. When five percent (5%) of the qualified electorate shall sign a petition requesting the enactment of legislation concerning a question of student policy, the statement of the proposed legislation shall be placed on the ballot at the next general election.
  - b. When ten percent (10%) of the qualified electorate shall sign any such petition as described above, petitioners to request a special election to decide the disposition of the petition; and it shall be the duty of the Senate to grant this request.
  - c. These criteria and procedures do not in any way affect or change Article I.

### **Section III: Referendum Procedure**

1. The Legislative Branch may submit any proposed legislation, pursuant to the ASUA constitution, to the Associated Students of the University of Arizona for vote.
2. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for passage of the proposed legislation.

## **ARTICLE VIII-Constitutional Amendment Procedure**

### **Section I: Initiative and Referendum**

Any article or section of this Constitution may be amended by either of the following means:

- a. A passage by a majority of the votes cast at an election.

A constitutional amendment must have been approved by a majority of the voting membership of the Senate or be accompanied by a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the general electorate in order to be placed on the next election ballot.

- b. Passage by 2/3 of the membership of the Senate and 3500 signatures of the student body. In this case the amendment may be originated by either the Senate or an executive office.

### **Section II: Announcement of Constitutional Change**

In either method of passage, an announcement of the pending changes shall be displayed in the Arizona Daily Wildcat at least three (3) times during a two (2) week period ending five (5) days before the designated election or vote pursuant to the ASUA constitution to further clarify that the proposed amendments are available from the Associated Students office.

### **Section III: Special Elections for an Amendment**

A proposed amendment shall be voted on at a special election if so recommended by a majority of the voting membership of the Senate.

## ARTICLE IX-Guaranteed Funding

### **Guaranteed Funding**

The total budgets of the Senate shall be equal to 14% of the student fee allocation to ASUA, not to exceed \$50,000.00.

The annual lump sum allocation shall be divided into two separate budgets. One budget shall equal 10% of the student fee allocations to ASUA and may be allocated to other areas or projects by the internal budgeting process respective body of the Senate.

The other budget shall equal 4% of the student fee allocation to ASUA and shall be used only by senators to accomplish individual Senate projects. Senate Stipends shall come from the ASUA general budget.



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## ARTICLE X-ASUA Budget

### **Section I: Budget Origination**

The Student Body President shall propose a balanced ASUA budget to Senate, in consultation with the Executive Vice-President, the Administrative Vice-President, the ASUA Treasurer, the Senate Vice-Chair and Budget Committee Members.

The ASUA operating budget must be balanced. For this purpose, ASUA revenue is defined as revenues from student fees, the bookstore allocation, excess rollover from previous years, and programs and services. ASUA expenditures are defined as all ASUA budgets. ASUA expenditures cannot exceed ASUA revenues as defined above. This clause includes loans that ASUA may take out to run Spring Fling or other activities.

### **Section II: Budget Submission Deadline**

1. The ASUA President must prepare a year term budget by 1 July. Such a budget will provide for ASUA Operations, inclusive of summer, through June 30. It will be considered by a summer Senate meeting held on or before July 1.

### **Section III: Vote Requirements**

1. The budget may be passed by a simple majority vote in the Senate pursuant to the ASUA constitution.

### **Section IV: Failure of Passage**

Should the budget fail to pass the Student Body President shall submit a revised budget pursuant to the ASUA constitution within two weeks.

## **ARTICLE XI-Appointments**

### **Section I: Approval of Appointments**

Appointments for major internal and external bodies (as defined in the ASUA bylaws) shall be approved by a simple majority vote from the Senate except as allowed for by the voting process described in the ASUA constitution.

### **Section II: Selection Committee**

The selection process for each major internal or external appointment shall be conducted and chaired by the Student Body President, Executive Vice-President, or the Administrative Vice President as appropriate and defined in each officer's job description. A selection committee, chaired by the appropriate officer as described above, shall consist of a Senator selected by the Senate, and the immediate past appointee when deemed appropriate by the selection committee chair. The selection committee chair may appoint additional members to the committee as he or she deems appropriate. The Executive Officer has final approval from the selection committee's recommendation.

### **Section III: Final Appointments to Major Internal and External Positions**

The chair of the selection committee shall make final appointments in consultation with the selection committee. The name of each appointment is forwarded for approval to the Senate as described in Section 1 of this article.

### **Section IV: Acting Appointments**

All appointees to vacated or term-expired positions may function in their appointed capacity until such time as they are denied appointment by the legislative approval processes described in this article.

### **Section V: Transition Funding for the Student Body President, Executive Vice-President and Administrative Vice-President.**

1. Adequate and sufficient funding prescribed by the ASUA Bylaws shall be provided to the incoming Student Body President, Executive Vice-President, and the Administrative Vice President to help facilitate the selection and appointment process during the transition between election and inauguration.
2. The amount prescribed in the ASUA Bylaws shall be set by the end of the fall semester previous to the transition of the incoming officers.

**ARTICLE XII-Rules and Procedures**

1. The Associated Students shall conduct its business according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.
2. This constitution will be reviewed in its entirety by the elected members of ASUA in the Spring term of 2000.
3. This constitution will become effective on May 1, 1997. The 1997-1998 ASUA elected officers will be under the jurisdiction of this constitution.

