



# Associated Students of Cosumnes River College Constitution

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## **ARTICLE I. PREAMBLE**

### **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT**

We, the students of Cosumnes River College, do hereby establish the Associated Students of Cosumnes River College (ASCRC), which includes the Cosumnes River College Student Senate, the Cosumnes River College Clubs and Events Board and the Cosumnes River College Joint Budget Committee, as a means to represent all of the students of Cosumnes River College. We, the students of Cosumnes River College, do hereby establish this Constitution and assume the powers and responsibilities of self-governance. Further, the Associated Students of Cosumnes River College is recognized as the representative ASCRC by the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees.

### **SECTION 2. MISSION**

It is the mission of the Cosumnes River College Associated Students to:

1. Provide the students of Cosumnes River College with a voice in the College's and the Los Rios Community College District's shared governance process.
2. Advocate for the common interests of students at the local, state, and federal levels by encouraging student responsibility.

## **ARTICLE II. NAME, MASCOT, COLORS**

### **SECTION 1. NAME**

The name of the student association shall be Associated Students of Cosumnes River College (ASCRC).

### **SECTION 2. MASCOT**

The mascot of the ASCRC shall be the Hawk.

### **SECTION 3. COLORS**

The colors of the ASCRC shall be navy and orange.

## **ARTICLE III. COMPONENTS OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS**

### **SECTION 1. COMPONENTS**

The Associated Students of Cosumnes River College shall consist of the following three components:

1. The Cosumnes River College Student Senate (SS).
2. The Cosumnes River College Club and Events Board (CAEB).
3. The Cosumnes River College Joint Budget Committee (JBC).

All rules of eligibility, including term of office, shall be the same for each component.

## **ARTICLE IV. PURPOSE**

### **SECTION 1. GENERAL PURPOSE**

The purpose of the ASCRC is to provide the students of the College with a representative entity that participates in the shared governance of the College and the District and to promote the intellectual and social life of students at the College through authorized clubs and college activities. The ASCRC further provides a conduit of information for communicating with, securing input, foster cultural awareness and acceptance; representing views and reporting back to the students.

### **SECTION 2. SHARED GOVERNANCE AND REPRESENTATION**

Through the Student Senate, the ASCRC participates in the College's shared governance process to inform decisions that have, or will have, a significant effect on students. The Student Senate also serves as the means through which students may be nominated to participate on College and/or District committees, task forces or other governance groups. The Student Senate is also charged with the responsibility to recommend expenditures of the College's Student Representation fees for authorized activities. The Student Senate is the only entity empowered to take positions on legislative issues within its purview under Los Rios Community College District Policies and Regulations.

### **SECTION 3. ACTIVITIES**

Through the Club and Events Board, the ASCRC promotes the intellectual and social life of students at the College through authorized club activities and promotes the intellectual, artistic, cultural, and social life of students by programming college-wide events and bringing artists and speakers to the college.

## **ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS**

### **SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP**

All enrolled students at Cosumnes River College shall be members of the Associated Students of Cosumnes River College.

## **ARTICLE VI. ASCRC STUDENT SENATE**

### **SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP**

The Student Senate shall include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Legislative Affairs and up to 11 Senators, each of which shall be elected to serve by the students of CRC. The Student Senate may include appointed members to fill vacancies.

### **SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE**

Any student enrolled at Cosumnes River College in a minimum of five semester units during the semester, with a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average and in good standing, shall be eligible to serve on the Student Senate as an officeholder. Students do not need to be enrolled in 5 units based on a documented disability per Los Rios policies. At any one time, a student may serve only on a single Student Senate for any of the Los Rios Community Colleges.

1. Student Senate and CAEB officeholders shall not concurrently hold more than one elected Student Senate office or CAEB office.
2. The Student Senate President, or Vice President, may not concurrently serve as the Commissioner, or Vice Commissioner, of the Clubs and Events Board.
3. The Los Rios Community College District Student Trustee may not serve as the President of any Student Senate while serving as Trustee.

### **SECTION 3. TERM**

The term of an executive council member and elected senators is for one academic year commencing July 1<sup>st</sup> and ending June 30<sup>th</sup>. Any person elected or appointed to a vacant position shall serve the remainder of the term.

### **SECTION 4. VOTING**

1. All members shall have one vote in any matter decided by the Senate, except for the President who may vote only in the case of a tie, or to affect the outcome of the vote.
2. Proxy votes are not permitted.

### **SECTION 5. POWERS AND BUDGET**

#### **1. POWERS**

The Student Senate shall have the following enumerated powers, and such powers as necessary to carry out these enumerated powers:

- i. Nominate or appoint students to College or District committees, task forces or other governance groups.
- ii. Pass resolutions on participatory governance and legislative matters within its purview as stated in District Policy.
- iii. Coordinate with the Clubs and Events Board of Cosumnes River College to conduct college-wide activities.
- iv. Recommend expenditures of Cosumnes River College's representation fees for lobbying activities and trips as authorized.
- v. Recommend the expenditure of its budgeted funds.
- vi. Engage in fund raising activities to pursue activities or matters within its purview as stated in LRCC District Policy.
- vii. Enact resolutions concerning matters that have a significant effect on students, including: 1) grading policies; 2) codes of student conduct; 3) academic disciplinary policies; 4) curriculum development; 5) initiation or discontinuation of courses or programs of study; 6) institutional planning and budget development; 7) standards and policies regarding student preparation and success; 8) any student fees within the authority of the district to adopt; and 9) any other District or College policy, procedure or related matter that the board of Trustees determines will have a significant effect on students, as guaranteed by the Educational Code.

#### **2. BUDGET**

The Student Senate shall receive an annual budget for general expenses and senate events determined by a formula set by the Joint Budget Committee. The Student Senate may petition the Joint Budget Committee for additional funds to support projects related to the purposes of the Student Senate. The Student Senate shall also receive as a separate portion of its budget the allotment of the student representation fees (California Education Code, § 70060.5).

## **ARTICLE VII. CLUBS AND EVENTS BOARD**

### **SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP**

The Clubs and Events Board (CAEB) shall include an Executive Council which consists of Commissioner, Vice Commissioner, Secretary, Director of Finance, and up to ten At-Large Representatives who include students from the general student body, and/or one club representative per chartered club. The Clubs and Events Board may choose to expand its membership to beyond these parameters through the ASCRC Bylaws, but only to students enrolled at Cosumnes River College.

1. The CAEB Executive Council shall be elected by the students of Cosumnes River College or appointed by the CAEB board if a position remains unfilled following the election.
2. The term of service shall be the same as the Senate Board.

### **SECTION 2. POWERS AND BUDGET**

#### **1. POWERS**

The Clubs and Events Board shall have the following powers:

- i. Develop general guidelines for approving student clubs consistent with Los Rios Community College District and Cosumnes River College policy.
- ii. Plan and coordinate yearly activities and celebrations for the entire College consistent with its mission and budget.
- iii. Plan and develop special one-time events consistent with its mission and budget.
- iv. Coordinate with the Student Senate to provide large scale events encouraging student lobbying and other activities related to student representation fee.
- v. Coordinate with the professional development committees at the Colleges to plan large scale events for students, faculty, and staff.
- vi. Coordinate with the Student Senate to conduct college-wide activities.
- vii. Recommend expenditures of its budgeted funds.
- viii. Approve, reject and coordinate club fundraising activities in consultation with the CAEB advisor.
- ix. Engage in fund raising activities to pursue activities or matters within its purview as stated in Los Rios Community College District Policy.

#### **2. BUDGET**

The Clubs and Events Board shall receive an annual budget for general expenses and club events determined by a formula set by the Joint Budget Committee. The CAEB may petition the Joint Budget Committee for additional funds to support projects related to the purposes of the Clubs and Events Board.

## **ARTICLE VIII. JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE**

### **SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP**

The Student Senate and the Clubs and Events Board shall each elect an equal number of voting members to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) by majority vote of each body. A single club shall compose no more than one half of the JBC membership. The ASCRC President, or designee, shall serve as the Chair of the Joint Budget Committee and is not counted in the equal number of voting members. The Club and Events Board Commissioner, or designee, shall serve as the Vice-Chair and is counted in the equal number of voting members.

## **SECTION 2. VOTING**

1. Each representative shall have one vote in any matter decided by the Joint Budget Committee. The Chair of the Committee may only vote in the case of a tie, or to affect the outcome of the vote.
2. Proxy votes are not permitted.

## **SECTION 3. POWERS**

### **1. POWERS**

The Joint Budget Committee shall have the following powers:

- i. In conjunction with Cosumnes River College's Student Development Office establish and/or amend an ongoing formula for the Associated Students of Cosumnes River College general fund dollars that provides regular funding for the operating expenses of the Student Senate and the Clubs and Events Board.
- ii. In conjunction with Cosumnes River College's Student Development Office hear and decide on individual funding request proposals from the Student Senate, the Clubs and Events Board and other student groups for support outside typical operating expenses.

## **ARTICLE IX. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1. LIST OF OFFICERS**

The Student Senate and the Clubs and Events Board shall each have officers elected as set forth in this Article. The Executive Officers of the Student Senate shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director of Legislative Affairs. The Executive Officers of the Clubs and Events Board shall be: Commissioner, Vice Commissioner, Secretary, and Director of Finance.

### **SECTION 2. ELECTION**

Each Executive Officer elected under this Article shall be elected by the members of the Associated Students of Cosumnes River College, or appointed as necessary.

### **SECTION 3. ORDER OF SUCCESSION**

1. The Student Senate order of succession of each Executive Officer elected under this Article shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director of Legislative Affairs.
2. The Clubs and Events Board order of succession of each Executive Officer elected under this Article shall be Commissioner, Vice-Commissioner, Secretary, and Director of Finance.

## **ARTICLE X. REMOVAL**

### **SECTION 1. EXCLUSIVE METHOD**

The exclusive method for the removal of an officer or member of the Student Senate or the Clubs and Events Board by the students is by recall due to illegal or unethical conduct.

### **SECTION 2. RECALL PETITION**

To recall an officer of the Student Senate or Clubs and Events Board, Cosumnes River College students must submit, to the CRC Student Development Office, a petition with the signatures of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the number of voters who voted in the last election. Those signatures shall be verified by College officials and only those signatures of currently enrolled Cosumnes River College students shall count towards the required number of signatures.

### **SECTION 3. RECALL ELECTION**

A recall election shall be set within fourteen (14) calendar days after the requirements to enact the recall have been fulfilled. A vote of not less than three-quarters (3/4) of the students who vote in the recall election is required to remove an officer or member from office.

### **SECTION 4. OTHER REMOVALS**

Members of the student government may also be removed following the procedures described in the bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 1. QUORUM**

A quorum to conduct business of any component of the Associated Students of Cosumnes River College shall consist of a majority of the currently elected or appointed members of that component. A majority is defined as anything more than half.

### **SECTION 2. MEETING SCHEDULE**

Regular meetings of the Student Senate, and of the Clubs and Events Board, shall be held a minimum of six times per semester unless otherwise ordered by their respective Executive Boards. Regular meetings of the Joint Budget Committee shall be held a minimum of two times per semester.

### **SECTION 3. RALPH BROWN ACT**

All meetings of each component of the Associated Student Body shall be conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act). All agendas shall be published in accordance with the Brown Act. The Secretary shall be responsible for posting the agenda, but any other officer is empowered to post the agenda. Special and emergency meetings may be called as provided for in the Brown Act.

## **ARTICLE XII. LIMITATIONS ON POWERS**

### **SECTION 1. SUPREMACY CLAUSE**

The ASCRC and its components are bound by the Policies and Regulations of the Los Rios Community College District, and all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

### **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS**

Only the Student Senate may adopt official positions on specific state or federal legislative issues. The Student Senate shall not adopt any official position on a legislative issue unless the outcome will have a significant impact on:

1. The students in their role as students,
2. College or District policies, regulations, or procedures, or
3. Shared governance of Cosumnes River College.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Student Senate may adopt resolutions in support of statewide and local education bonds. In no event shall ASCRC, or its components, endorse or oppose a candidate for political office.

### **SECTION 3. RESERVATION OF POWERS**

All powers not explicitly granted to the ASCRC remain with the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees or its designee(s).

## **ARTICLE XIII. ELECTIONS**

### **SECTION 1. DIRECTION AND DATE**

The elections for the ASCRC shall take place under the direction and supervision of the College Vice President of Student Services or designee. The elections shall be held in April. The election shall be held on the same days during the same hours at each college. The April election dates shall be scheduled one year in advance during the spring semester.

### **SECTION 2. SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

Special elections may be called as necessary. Special elections may be held only for: 1) changes in the constitution; 2) the creation of a new elective office in the ASCRC; or 3) after an election, all elective offices of the Student Senate or Clubs and Events Board remain vacant.

### **SECTION 3. VOTER ELIGIBILITY**

Students may vote in the student association elections at any and all colleges at which they are enrolled at the time of the election.

### **SECTION 4. ELECTION INTENT**

It is the intent of the ASCRC that the elections for the ASCRC shall be held in accordance with all of the following principles:

1. The elections shall be fundamentally fair.
2. The elections shall be a learning experience.
3. The elections shall uniformly enfranchise voters, with elections open to students from various locations on campus, at educational centers, and at all times of the day during which classes are offered.
4. The election shall be based on the universal suffrage principle of “one person-one vote.”
5. The election shall preserve the principal of confidentiality of the ballot.
6. The election process shall provide for the adequate distribution and display of comprehensive campaign information to all eligible voters.
7. The election process shall be subject to limitations on campaign expenditures.
8. The election counting processes shall be transparent.

### **SECTION 5. OVERSIGHT**

The President of Cosumnes River College, or his/her designee, retains oversight over these elections and may investigate any irregularities that may have affected the fundamental fairness of the elections.

### **SECTION 6. IRREGULARITIES**

In the event the President of Cosumnes River College, or his/her designee, concludes there was a material irregularity in the election, the President, or his or her designee may, pursuant to Los Rios Community College District Policies and Administrative Regulations:

1. Validate the election;
2. Invalidate the election and require a re-election;
3. Validate the election by excluding votes from a polling place where the irregularity occurred; or
4. Make any other determination that fairness requires.

## **SECTION 7. CAMPAIGNING**

1. For campaigning policies refer to the Los Rios Community College District Policy and Regulations 2311 section 5. Campaigning policies and regulations are subject to amendments by the District.
2. Updated campaigning policies shall be included in the petition packet for candidates seeking elected office.

## **ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS**

### **SECTION 1. PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT**

This Constitution may be amended by concurrent resolutions passed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Student Senate and two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Clubs and Events Board, and ratified by Cosumnes River College students in an election. The Constitution may also be amended by a petition signed by the students and ratified by the students in a student election.

### **SECTION 2. RATIFICATION**

Any amendment requires the ratification of 2/3 of the students enrolled and voting in the College on the date that the resolution was approved.

### **SECTION 3. REVIEW**

Any amendment of this constitution is subject to the review and approval of the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees or its designee(s).

## **ARTICLE XV. BY-LAWS**

### **SECTION 1. ENACTING BYLAWS**

Each component of the ASCRC shall enact bylaws, which govern the day-to-day operation of that component of the ASCRC. Those Bylaws are subject to the approval of appropriate college officials.

### **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT**

Bylaws may be adopted or amended by a 2/3 vote of the component of the ASCRC that seeks to enact them.

## **ARTICLE XVI. ENABLING/RATIFICATION**

### **SECTION 1. ENABLING**

This Constitution becomes effective upon adoption by 2/3 of the student body voting in a general or special election of the students of Cosumnes River College.

### **SECTION 2. PROCEDURES**

The date of ratification of this Constitution, and any subsequent amendment, must be listed as an appendix to this constitution.

### **SECTION 3. SUPERCEDED CONSTITUTIONS**

Upon ratification of this Constitution, followed by spring elections to fill the offices as described within this document, all prior constitutions and bylaws of Cosumnes River College are null and void and of no force or effect.



Ratified	11/9/11
Ratified	5/26/23