



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

**Constitution (Effective May 20, 2024) of the
Associated Students of Southern Oregon University**

Articles

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| I. Bill of Rights | VII. ASSOU Hearing Boards |
| II. Mission Statement | VIII. Removal of Officials |
| III. Distribution of Power | IX. Initiatives & Referendum |
| IV. ASSOU Executive Branch | X. Elections |
| V. ASSOU Legislative Branch | XI. Amendments |
| VI. ASSOU Judicial Branch | XII. Enabling Clause |

Preamble

We, the Associated Students of Southern Oregon University (ASSOU), in order to promote academic excellence, encourage the development of the student body, and support the varied interests of students as members of the academic community through democratic representation, hereby establish an association and adopt this Constitution.

ARTICLE 1 – BILL OF RIGHTS

Section I. Name

This organization shall be known as the Associated Students of Southern Oregon University (ASSOU)

Section II. Membership

Any student enrolled at Southern Oregon University who pays the Student Incidental Fee may run or apply to be a member of ASSOU.

Clause I. Qualification for Office

Officers must be in good academic standing, abide by the student code of conduct, and be currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate students at Southern Oregon University.

Clause II.

If an officer fails to meet the above requirements, their eligibility for office will be determined by the Heads of Governments committee in conjunction with the ASSOU Advisor(s). They will determine a course of action to either assist the student or remove them from office at their discretion.

Section III. Equality of Privileges and Immunities

No rule shall be passed granting to a student privileges or immunities which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all students attending this institution.

Clause I. Conflict of Interest

Conscientious management of potential conflicts of interest is essential to upholding the trust and credibility of our decision-making processes entitled to ASSOU. Therefore, no ASSOU officer shall be a voting member of the Southern Oregon University Board of Trustees and hold a position in ASSOU.

Section IV. Guidelines

All members shall adhere to guidelines set forth by Oregon State Statutes, The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Southern Oregon University, and the ASSOU Constitution. If any grievance is to be filed, it shall be in accordance with the guidelines of the organization in question.

ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT

Section I:

ASSOU shall work to provide students with resources that enrich the collegiate experience, encourage the exchange of ideas, and foster a positive campus environment through the funds collected from the student fee.

Section II:

ASSOU shall represent the interests and voice of the Associated Students of Southern Oregon University regarding University, State, and National level issues.

Section III:

ASSOU shall always strive to steer Southern Oregon University toward a path of longevity and success.

ARTICLE III – DISTRIBUTION OF POWER

Section I.

This constitution shall have jurisdiction in all representational matters pertaining to the students of Southern Oregon University. The power to execute, legislate, and interpret this Constitution shall be distributed among the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of the Student Association.

Section II. Executive Power

All Executive power of the Student Association shall be vested in the President, Vice-President, and the ASSOU Executive Cabinet.

Section III. Legislative Power

All Legislative power of the Student Association, except for the initiative and referendum powers reserved for members of the Association, is vested in the ASSOU Senate.

Section IV. Judicial Power

All Judicial power of the ASSOU shall be vested in the ASSOU Judicial Branch .

ARTICLE IV – ASSOU EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section I. Composition Of The Cabinet

The Cabinet shall consist of the ASSOU President, the Vice-President, and the following appointed members: Director of Governmental Affairs, Director of Finance & Administration, Director of Public Relations, and the Director of Sustainability & Civic Engagement

Clause I.

The full-seated ASSOU Senate will determine all additions or removals of ASSOU officer's positions and must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

Section II. Term Of Office

The ASSOU President and Vice-President shall be elected during the Spring term and sworn in by the Chief Justice by the fourth week of May or by the next meeting of the ASSOU Senate thereafter. They will serve until the swearing-in of their successors, unless they are removed or resign from their offices. The appointed members of the cabinet shall assume office immediately upon their selection by the ASSOU President and shall serve subject to confirmation by the full-seated Senate at the first possible meeting of the ASSOU Senate.

Section III. ASSOU President

The ASSOU President is the chief executive officer of ASSOU, and the presiding officer of the Cabinet.

Clause I.

The ASSOU President shall be responsible for the administration of this Constitution and its various appendices, except for the By-Laws, which shall be administered by the Chief Justice.

Clause II.

The ASSOU President shall have the power to veto all bills passed by the ASSOU Senate, except as otherwise provided by the ASSOU Senate veto override.

Clause III.

The ASSOU President may call special sessions of the Senate with the concurrence of the Speaker of the Senate.

Clause IV.

The ASSOU President shall be responsible for coordinating the appointment of all ASSOU officers to Faculty, Staff and Administrative committees, and other campus standing committees with consent of the Head of Governments.

Section IV. ASSOU Vice-President

The ASSOU Vice-President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the ASSOU President in case of illness or prolonged absence.

Clause I.

The ASSOU vice-president shall have the power to break a tie vote in the Senate.

Section V. Executive Succession

The order of succession shall be in descending order as follows: ASSOU Vice-President, Speaker of the Senate, Director of Governmental Affairs, and Director of Finance and Administration. With the successor's consent, the ASSOU Senate must be confirmed by a 2/3 majority of a full-seated Senate and consent from successor(s).

ARTICLE V - ASSOU LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section I. Composition of The Senate

The Senate shall be composed of nine (9) members

Clause I. Membership

The nine (9) Senators elected in the spring term shall be:

- Speaker of the Senate
- Academic Advocacy Senator
- Accessibility Senator
- Campus Life and Housing Senator
- Clubs & Organization Senator
- Gender, Equity, and Sexual Diversity Senator
- Multicultural Affairs Senator
- Non-Traditional, Military Affairs, and Higher Education Senator
- ROAP Senator

Clause II. Timeline

Officers elected in the Spring term shall be sworn in at the first Senate meeting after the Presidential transition, which must occur in the Spring term.

Clause III. Vacancy

Any vacancy in the ASSOU Senate shall be filled by an interview process conducted by the Senate and shall be sworn into office at the first ASSOU Senate meeting afterward.

Clause IV.

The full-seated ASSOU Senate will determine all additions or removals of ASSOU officer's positions and must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

Section II. Term Of Office

ASSOU Senators shall serve until replaced by rightfully elected officers, unless they resign or are removed from their seats or their seated term ends.

Section III. Approval Of Executive Appointments

The ASSOU Senate shall have the power to confirm or deny all Executive Appointments.

Section IV. By-Laws

The ASSOU Senate shall have the power to approve amendments the By-Laws by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full seated Senate.

Section V. Veto Override

The ASSOU senate has the power to override the veto of the ASSOU President by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full-seated Senate.

Section VI. Legislative Succession

The order of succession shall be in descending order as follows: Vice-Speaker of the Senate, an appointment of any applicant from the ASSOU Senate membership. The ASSOU Senate must be confirmed by a 2/3 majority of a full-seated Senate and consent from successor(s).

ARTICLES VI – ASSOU JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section I.

The Judicial Branch shall resolve ambiguities on matters relating to the interpretation of applicable rules and procedures under the purview of the ASSOU Student Government.

Section II.

ASSOU Judicial Branch may consider any case or controversy brought before it by any member of the ASSOU Student Body pertaining to any parties or institutions or the actions thereof under the jurisdiction of this Constitution.

Clause I.

The ASSOU Judicial Branch shall notify both the filer(s) of acceptance or rejection of any case brought before them within two weeks of receipt of the case. In the case of a rejection, the Judicial Council shall also provide a justification for the rejection

Section III. Judicial Power

The ASSOU Judicial Branch may provide a decision on the interpretation of the Constitution or other acts of the ASSOU Student Government, upon request by a member of the student body. The Judicial Branch may decide whether or not to accept such cases on the basis of relevance.

Clause I.

The ASSOU Judicial Branch shall be the final authority on questions of interpretation of the ASSOU Constitution and Statutes.

Section II. Judicial Review

The ASSOU Judicial Branch may conduct a non-binding review of the Constitutionality of any legislation following passage by the Senate. The ASSOU Student Government may compel or invite the Judicial Branch to provide review, but may not limit the review.

Clause I.

As part of this review, the ASSOU Judicial Branch may provide a nonbinding advisory to the President on any areas of judicial interest prior to signature or veto.

Clause II.

In cases of clear and present violation of the Constitution, the ASSOU Judicial Branch may rule against the constitutionality of acts of the Senate, but no later than two weeks following passage by the Senate, and only with the concurrence of two-thirds of the Judicial Branch.

Section III. Membership

The Judicial Branch shall consist of the following members: the Chief Justice and two Associate Justices. The ASSOU President shall appoint the ASSOU Chief Justice with the advice and consent of the ASSOU Senate. The Associate justices shall be appointed by the ASSOU Chief Justice and confirmed by the ASSOU Senate.

Clause I

The full-seated ASSOU Senate will determine all additions or removals of ASSOU officer's positions and must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

Section IV. Judicial Succession

The order of succession shall be in descending order as follows: an appointment of any applicant from the ASSOU Judicial Branch membership. The ASSOU Senate must be confirmed by a 2/3 majority of a full-seated Senate and consent from successor(s).

ARTICLE VII – ASSOU HEARING BOARDS

Section I. Purpose of ASSOU Hearing Boards

The purpose of the ASSOU Hearing Boards is to review appeals from an outcome of a Judicial Review.

Clause I.

An appeal request must be submitted to the Judicial Ad-Hoc Appeals Committee within 14 business days from the date of the decision outcome.

Section II. Composition and Term of Office

ASSOU Hearing Board shall be Chaired by the Judicial Branch Head (non-voting) and composed of three (3) voting members: two (2) representatives of the ASSOU Senate and one (1) representative of the ASSOU cabinet.

Clause I.

Representatives from both the Executive and Legislative branches will vote to select a member for the ASSOU Hearing Board each term.

Section III. Appeals Criteria

An appeal must meet one or more of the following criteria to be considered:

- The Judicial Review process was not conducted fairly.
- The sanctions were not appropriate or proportionate to the violations.
- The preponderance of evidence was not met where findings of responsibility were made.
- New relevant information was uncovered which would be sufficient to alter a decision.

Clause I.

The ASSOU Hearing Board shall not hear any case pertaining to the Student Code of Conduct. The Dean of Students' office shall handle such cases.

Section IV. Qualifications for Office

Any officer assigned to the ASSOU Hearing Board must receive additional Student Conduct training through the Office of the Dean of Students before participating in the appeals process.

Clause I.

This training shall be completed within 14 business days of the officer being seated on the Judicial Appeals Committee.

ARTICLE VIII – REMOVAL OF OFFICIALS

Section I. Recall

Any ASSOU Officer may be recalled from office.

Clause I.

A petition must be received by the ASSOU Judicial Branch with the signatures of five percent (5%) of the Student Body indicating their request for a recall election. The petition must state the name of the officer, the office, and the reasons for the recall.

Clause II.

The ASSOU Judicial Branch must instruct the Elections Committee to hold an election within two (2) weeks of verification of the signatures on the petition.

Clause III.

The ASSOU officer will be removed from office if fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of the valid votes cast are affirmative of the recall.

Section II. Impeachment & Removal

Any elected or appointed official of ASSOU may be impeached or removed from office for a just cause. Impeachment shall be acknowledged by a vote of five-eighths (5/8) of the seated Senators, and removal from office shall occur by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the fully seated Senate.

ARTICLES IX – INITIATIVES AND REFERENDUMS

Section I. Initiative

Students may initiate action by presenting a petition to the By-Laws committee.

Clause I.

The petition must contain the signatures of five percent (5%) of the student body and must state the nature, intent, and impact of the requested action.

Clause II.

The By-Laws Committee must instruct the Elections Committee to hold an election within two (2) weeks of the verification of the signatures on the petition.

Clause III.

If two-thirds (2/3) of the members of ASSOU voting in the election favor the requested action, it will become effective at the next scheduled ASSOU Senate meeting when the results are announced by the chairperson of the By-Laws Committee.

Section II. Referendum

The ASSOU Senate may refer to the Student Body any matter it deems necessary. On a vote of two-thirds (2/3) votes of the full-seated Senate, the Speaker of the Senate shall instruct the chairperson of the Elections Committee to hold an election within two (2) weeks of the date of the vote. If two thirds (2/3) of the student body voting in the election favor the proposal, it will become effective at the next Senate meeting when the chairperson of the Elections Committee announces the results.

ARTICLE X – ELECTIONS

Section I.

All ASSOU elections shall be administered by the Elections Committee. Elections shall include votes on initiative referendums, elections of officers, or amendments to this Constitution.

Section II.

All elections shall be conducted in accordance with the Election Rules and Guidelines.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

Section I.

Amendments to this Constitution may be made by means of an initiative petition or by submission to the full membership of ASSOU by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. Amendments must be approved by 66% of the members of ASSOU voting in an election.

The ASSOU Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of five percent (5%) of the Student body.

Amendments may be written directly into the Constitution.

ARTICLE XII – ENABLING CLAUSE

Section I.

This Constitution becomes effective and supersedes any and all other previous ASSOU Constitutions as approved by members of ASSOU.