



Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Associated Students Inc., California State University, Fullerton

1/22/2026 2:30 PM PST

@ ASI Boardroom, Titan Student Union

Meeting Details

Meeting Called By: Mahak Ahmad

Meeting Type: Regular

Meeting Attendees: Members, Staff, Public

CSU, Fullerton students, and members of the public may submit comments regarding any item posted on this agenda, or matters of importance to the student body through the [Public Comment Form](#). Comments will be reviewed by the Board Leadership, and submissions received prior to the meeting that are applicable to the governing body will be read during the meeting.

1. Call to Order (Ahmad)

Chai Ahmad called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Ahmad, Camarillo, Quock, Romero, ValdezMembers Absent: None

Liaisons Present: Hesgard, Morales, Syed

Liaisons Absent: None

According to the ASI Policy Concerning Board of Directors Operations, attendance is defined as being present prior to the announcement of Unfinished Business and remaining until the scheduled end of the meeting.

* Indicates that the member was in attendance prior to the start of Unfinished Business but left before the scheduled end of the meeting.

** Indicates that the member was in attendance for a portion of the meeting, but not in attendance prior to the announcement of Unfinished Business.

3. Approval of the Agenda

 [Item 3 - gov 2026 01 22 age.pdf](#)

Motion:

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Motion moved by Edwin Valdez and motion seconded by Luca Romero.

4. Approval of Minutes

None

5. Public Speakers

Members of the public may address Governance Committee members on any item appearing on this posted agenda.

There were no public speakers.

Minutes generated by [OnBoard](#).

6. Reports

A. Chair (Ahmad)

Chair Ahmad welcomed members to the first Governance Committee meeting of the Spring semester and expressed enthusiasm for beginning another semester of work together. She emphasized that there were no bad questions and encouraged members to ask for clarification, particularly during presentations, noting that active participation in discussions strengthened ideas before they were brought to the board for approval. She encouraged members to speak up if they were unsure and highlighted the value of their questions and insights in maintaining productive discussions. She concluded by offering her support throughout the semester and expressed her hope for a successful and engaging Spring term.

B. Student Government Director (Hesgard)

Chair Ahmad yielded to Rebecca Hesgard, ASI Director of the Student Government.

Hesgard expressed appreciation for attendees and thanked those who participated in the student leader trainings held prior to the start of classes. She noted that the Committee would later hold a dedicated discussion on policy reviews during the semester and indicated that further details would be shared by Susan. She highlighted several upcoming ASI initiatives, including the ASI 50th anniversary kickoff event scheduled for Tuesday the 27th at 11 a.m. at the Becker Amphitheater, and encouraged members to attend. She also shared updates on the ASI scholarships program, noting that the application was being reviewed to ensure functionality within the campus scholarships portal. Additionally, she announced that ASI elections were underway, with applications open for Board positions and the President and Vice President ticket until February 10 at 5 p.m. and confirmed that all candidacy application links on the ASI website were functioning correctly.

7. Time Certain

None

8. Unfinished Business

None

9. New Business

A. Discussion: Spring Policy Review Schedule (Ahmad)

The Committee will discuss the Spring Policy Review Schedule.

Chair Ahmad yielded to Susan Collins, ASI Director of Corporate Affairs.

Collins greeted the Committee and expressed enthusiasm about the discussion, acknowledging that some members had already heard the presentation in the Finance Committee. She explained that the policy review process was ongoing from the previous semester and that the focus for Spring would be on key reminders and upcoming work. She introduced Andrea Okoh, Assistant Director of Corporate Affairs, noting that Andrea would take the lead on policy development and guide policies through the review process moving forward. She emphasized the importance of maintaining current policies to ensure compliance, effective operations, and clear organizational practices. Collins reviewed the three-year rotating policy review schedule approved by the Board and noted the Committee's strong progress in the Fall, with only two policies carrying over into the Spring. She described the collaborative approach to policy development, which relied on subject matter experts and campus partners, and outlined the approval process involving senior leadership, potential legal review, Committee discussion, and final Board approval, followed by public posting.

Collins then summarized the Spring policy review schedule, noting that ten policies would be reviewed, eight by the Governance Committee, including two new policies. She highlighted the development of a new ASI Information Technology policy following a compliance review and a comprehensive Conflict of Interest policy to meet compliance requirements. She concluded by noting that the Elections Policy would be discussed at the meeting, led by Hesgard, and stressed its importance in guiding the elections process.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to questions.

- Camarillo asked for clarification regarding the scope of the proposed ASI Information Technology policy, specifically whether it would focus on the systems used by ASI or address security concerns such as data protection and phishing.

Collins replied responded that the policy would be broader in scope and driven by compliance requirements. She explained that it would address how systems and data were secured, who oversaw IT-related work, how access to systems and data was managed, and how systems were maintained and operated, rather than detailing specific platforms or tools used.

- Romero asked for clarification regarding why the Corporate Management policy had not been revised since its initial approval, questioning whether this was due to time constraints in completing the review process.

Collins explained that while timing was a factor, there were additional reasons, including unclear ownership of the policy due to its overlap across multiple departments. She noted that competing organizational priorities, such as staffing and wellness concerns, had also delayed the review. Collins clarified that the policy covered areas such as records retention and document destruction and stated that responsibility for the policy had now been identified. She indicated that the review would be managed by her area, with Fehrn overseeing the work and the policy falling under Okoh's purview, and confirmed that the policy would be reviewed during the current semester.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to discussion.

There were no points of discussion.

 [Item 9.A ASI Policy Review Schedule Spring 2026.pdf](#)

B. Discussion: Policy Concerning ASI Elections (Ahmad)

The Committee will discuss the ASI Policy Concerning ASI Elections.

Chair Ahmad yielded to Rebecca Hesgard, ASI Director of the Student Government.

Hesgard explained that the Elections Policy was carried over from the Fall to the Spring semester due to the need for a comprehensive legal review to ensure alignment with best practices and legal guidance. She noted that the proposed revisions were informed by recommendations from the elections team, prior ASI boards, and legal counsel. She provided background on the policy, explaining that it governed ASI and general student elections, including candidate eligibility, campaign rules, and the role of the Elections Judicial Council, and stated that recent elections highlighted the need for clearer guidance to address ambiguities. She summarized that the updates fell into three main areas. The first focused on clarification, including editorial updates, clearer definitions of instant runoff voting, formal identification of advisor roles, refined candidate eligibility language aligned with CSU guidelines, and clearer endorsement rules reinforcing ASI's impartiality while allowing personal free speech. The second area added timelines to codify existing practices related to complaints, appeals, and violations, clarifying review authority and cutoff points. The final area removed outdated practices, including write-in candidacies, unused expense reporting requirements, and obsolete violation language, while increasing flexibility for candidate orientation. She concluded that the

revisions were intended to improve clarity, consistency, and alignment with current elections practices.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to questions.

- Morales asked for clarification on the term “tabulation” in the context of the elections policy.
Hesgard explained that tabulation refers to the process of counting all votes from the ballots during the voting period to determine the election results.
- Syed asked whether the ranked voting system could disadvantage candidates if voters are not required to rank every option, noting that some candidates might only receive a first-place vote while others are left unranked.
Hesgard replied that while this is a valid concern, the current form does not require voters to rank all candidates, and this is a common practice allowing voters to choose only their preferred candidate. She noted that legal feedback would be needed to determine if ranking all candidates could be required. Hesgard emphasized that the proposed policy updates, including those related to tabulation, were primarily intended to codify existing practices rather than change how votes are counted.
- Syed noted that the ranked voting system might encourage students to abstain from voting for President and Vice President while still voting for their college representatives, potentially creating discrepancies in overall election turnout numbers. She suggested that this could be considered in future revisions of the election policy.
Hesgard acknowledged the point, agreeing it made sense, but emphasized the balance between improving turnout and allowing students to exercise their voting preferences within legal and procedural guidelines.
- Morales asked about the legality and implications of removing write-in candidacies, expressing concern that it could reduce election engagement since write-in candidates must work harder to gain votes.
Hesgard explained that the recommendation to remove write-in candidacies came from the previous elections team and campus IT partners, noting that separate tabulation of write-in votes can create discrepancies. She confirmed that legally, removing them was not flagged as problematic, and that many CSU campuses also do not offer write-in options. Hesgard acknowledged that write-ins can boost engagement and have allowed successful campaigns in the past, but she emphasized that requiring extra effort without being on the ballot could disadvantage students. The recommendation aimed to reduce election complications and stress for candidates while improving infrastructure to support student participation.
- Romero asked for more detail on how the elections process will work with the removal of write-in candidates, noting his personal experience as a write-in.
Hesgard explained that for candidates unable to attend the mandatory in-person orientation, the elections team will provide a recorded session and a virtual option. Candidates can participate as long as they sign in and confirm attendance. Excused absences will be granted for valid reasons such as academic conflicts or emergencies, consistent with policies for Board or other leadership duties.
- Ahmad asked about endorsements and whether the policy addresses states, noting concerns for students new to the election process.
Hesgard clarified that the policy neither prohibits nor encourages states. The only restriction is that Board of Directors members from the same college cannot campaign together as a slate. Candidates or President/Vice President teams can collaborate with

members from different colleges or form their own slate if they choose. Using slates is optional and considered more of a social/collaboration strategy to encourage engagement, not a requirement.

- Quock asked how candidates who were excused from the pre-election orientation due to illness or academic conflicts were being adequately informed about the elections process and whether additional session dates or alternatives to recorded content had been considered. Hesgard responded that the elections team had discussed offering additional dates but currently preferred virtual attendance options, acknowledged concerns about verifying full participation, and stated that the feedback would be shared with the elections team for consideration.

- Valdez asked whether personal social media rules for endorsements also apply to the elections team, since posts could appear biased. Hesgard explained that personal accounts are generally not considered official duty platforms for student leaders. However, the elections team must remain fully impartial both in official and personal capacities because their role is running the program. This guidance closes a long-standing loophole where posts by student leaders were sometimes questioned. Hesgard noted the policy does not currently address them in endorsements. If the Board wants, language could be added to clarify that endorsements apply to individual candidates, not entire slates. Feedback on this will be considered for future updates.

- Camarillo asked about the expenses section, wondering if students could challenge candidates for spending more on campaigning or if there were any guidelines on that. Hesgard explained that while other CSUs sometimes set limits or track expenses, their policy has historically just collected the data without using it. Students have run campaigns with merchandise or signage, but most now focus on connecting with constituents. She noted there's no current cap, but orientations advise candidates not to overspend or invest excessively in elections.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to discussion.

- Syed suggested not strictly regulating slates or expenses this election cycle to preserve candidate creativity, noting broader discussions could occur in future cycles. She also recommended clarifying policy language: extending social media rules to elections team members, specifying that inter-club councils are not individual clubs, moving the elections team's authority to remove posts to the personnel section, and clarifying how violations are posted, especially during appeals.
- Morales emphasized supporting students who work hard to run for office and cautioned against policies that might discourage participation due to unforeseen circumstances like illness or emergencies. He also praised the clarity of the endorsements section, commending Hesgard and the team for their work on the policy and expressing excitement for the upcoming elections.
- Quock agreed with Morales, noting the importance of flexibility for students to be eligible candidates. He emphasized that write-in options should remain available, allowing students who face unforeseen circumstances to still participate, similar to how presidential elections allow write-in candidates.

- Romero suggested clarifying the difference between an endorsement and a campaign theme, noting that creative themes should not be mistaken for endorsements. He emphasized that creativity in campaigns benefits both candidates and ASI by increasing student engagement. On the topic of write-in candidates, Romero shared that while he was a write-in candidate himself, he did not feel significantly disadvantaged and stressed that students committed to a position will work hard to succeed. He appreciated the added virtual orientation resources and supported keeping write-in candidacies alongside these resources to ensure fairness.
- Hesgard explained that including write-in candidacies can delay the certification of all election results, not just the specific race, because a close write-in vote could affect tabulation. She noted that the original purpose of allowing write-ins was to mirror federal elections, rather than to support students who missed deadlines, and questioned whether it fits the campus election process. She emphasized that removing write-ins would prevent delays in certifying results.
- Syed asked about giving the same flexibility to write-in candidates as is allowed for appeals or pending complaints that can delay election results. Hesgard agreed with the logic but explained that administratively, accommodating a write-in candidate would require creating and promoting a new ballot, which historically leads to significantly lower student turnout. She emphasized that delaying results for a write-in candidate affects the entire election process, not just the specific race.
- Quock asked if any alternatives were considered instead of completely removing the write-in candidate option, such as implementing a tiebreaker. Hesgard replied that the elections team had not discussed tiebreakers and was firmly in favor of removal, citing that the risks to the election process outweigh the benefits. She noted that write-in votes are often misused and not utilized as intended.
- Syed asked if requiring students to rank every candidate could prevent a tiebreaker. Hesgard explained that the instant runoff method already handles this: in each round, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated, and those votes are reallocated to the voters' next preferences. This process continues until a majority winner is determined, so additional ranking requirements wouldn't create a separate tiebreaker.
- Valdez noted that if students were required to rank every candidate, write-in candidates might be excluded unless voters could rank them as their first choice. He emphasized that for large colleges, this could significantly reduce votes for certain candidates, suggesting the ranking system may need to be revisited in future elections to maintain voter turnout.
- Hesgard expressed her appreciation for the feedback, noting the importance of elections to everyone present. She shared that some suggestions could be incorporated immediately and that further adjustments would be made before the next action item. She also mentioned she would review changes with the elections team, including the potential decision on write-in candidates, and would highlight updates at the next governance meeting. She emphasized that the feedback helps shape the election process for students.

10. Announcements & Member's Privilege

None

Minutes generated by [OnBoard](#).

11. Adjournment (Ahmad)

Chair Ahmad adjourned he meeting at 3:37 p.m.



Mahak Ahmad
2026-02-06 02:37 UTC
Governance Committee Chair



Erika Perret-Martinez
2026-02-05 23:43 UTC
Recording Secretary

Roll Call 2025-2026

01/22/2026 Governance Committee Roll Call

		Board Members	
Attendance		Present	Absent
CHAIR/EDU	AHMAD	1	
HHD	CAMARILLO	1	
CBE	QUOCK	1	
COMM	ROMERO	1	
HSS	VALDEZ	1	
		Present 5	Absent 0

		Liaisons	
Attendance		Present	Absent
COR. STU GOV.	HEGGARD	1	
ASI PRES.	SYED	1	
ASI CHAIR	MORALES	1	
		Present 3	Absent 0

*Recording Secretary: Erika Perret-Martinez

Pres Designee: Tyler Gibbs

Chair Designee: Cesar Mendoza

QUORUM 4
Majority 3

ASI POLICY REVIEW SCHEDULE SPRING 2026

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

JANUARY 2026

OVERVIEW

- Policy Statement Purpose
- Policy Review Schedule

POLICY STATEMENT PURPOSE

- Policy statements are written guidelines that outline regulatory requirements, company practices, and operational requirements of the corporation.
- How things get done!

REMINDER: PROCEDURES

- ASI policy statements are reviewed every 3 years or as needed subject to a change in bylaws, regulations, business practice.
- Procedures for the development, review, and implementation of ASI Policies:
 - ❖ Work with subject matter experts and primary departments/areas of responsibility to establish, review, and if applicable, amend policy documents.
 - ❖ All policy documents (new or amended) require management review, Committee review and approval, and final Board approval for implementation.
 - ❖ Approved policies are posted on the ASI website and made available to staff.

DRAFT SCHEDULE ~ SPRING 2026

Title ~ Policy Concerning	Approved	Last Revision	Next Review	Department	Committee Assignment	Committee Meeting
ASI Elections	02/12/19	12/03/24	F 2025	SG	Governance	01/22/26
Performance Management	10/17/17	12/03/19	F 2025	HR	Governance	02/05/26
Funding Provided to Students & Student Organizations	11/17/20	05/02/23	SP 2026	SG	Finance	02/19/26
ASI Information Technology	NEW		SP 2026	IT	Governance	02/19/26
ASI Programming	02/11/20	05/03/22	SP 2026	SPE	Governance	03/05/26
ASI Conflict of Interest	NEW		SP 2026	CA	Governance	03/19/26
Board of Directors Operations (Bylaws)	09/05/17	06/01/24	SP 2026	SG - CA	Governance	03/19/26
Executive Officers Operations	03/19/19	05/02/23	SP 2026	SG	Governance	03/19/26
Asset Management	05/08/18	04/20/21	SP 2026	FS	Finance	04/09/26
Corporate Management	09/12/17		SP 2026	CA	Governance	04/09/26

QUESTIONS?



POLICY CONCERNING ASI ELECTIONS

PURPOSE

The following policy has been established in order for the Associated Students Inc. (ASI) to facilitate the elections of the ASI President, Vice President, and Board of Directors. The policy includes an overview of ASI Elections, qualifications, candidacy, complaints, and enforcement.

Contents

POLICY CONCERNING ASI ELECTIONS	1
PURPOSE	1
WHO SHOULD KNOW THIS POLICY	1
DEFINITIONS	2
STANDARDS	2
1. ELECTIONS	2
2. VOTING PROCEDURES	4
3. DETERMINING WINNERS.....	4
4. ELECTIONS TEAM.....	5
5. CANDIDATE AND INCUMBENT ELIGIBILITY	6
6. SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ASI BOARD OF DIRECTORS	7
7. CANDIDACY	8
8. ENDORSEMENTS	8
9. EXPENSES	8
10. VIOLATIONS.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
11. COMPLAINTS	11
12. ELECTIONS JUDICIAL COUNCIL	11
13. PENALTIES.....	12
14. APPEALS.....	12
15. REFERENDUM, SPECIAL ELECTIONS, INITIATIVES, AND RECALL.....	12

WHO SHOULD KNOW THIS POLICY

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Area Administrators | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Management Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Recipients |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supervisors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elected/Appointed Officers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Students |

DEFINITIONS

For Purpose of this policy, the terms used are defined as follows:

Terms	Definitions
Automatic Disqualification	Occurs immediately due to the Elections Judicial Council's vote on violation(s).
Campaigning	Any effort by any individual or group to influence the decision of any potential voter in support or against any candidate or candidate team appearing on the ballot.
Candidate	One (1) student who has filed the "Petition for Candidacy" forms, attended the mandatory candidate orientation, and fulfilled the requirements to run for office as stated in ASI Policy.
Candidate team	Two (2) students who have filed the "Petition for Candidacy" forms with the intention of running for ASI President and Vice President, attended the mandatory candidate orientation, and fulfilled requirements to run for office as stated in ASI Policy.
Disqualification	This is a condition under which a person may not assume, continue in, or run for any elected or appointed ASI position. Can only be finalized by the Elections Judicial Council.
Instant Run-Off Method	The tabulation process for ranked choice voting where one or more eliminations occur to simulate multiple run-off elections until winner(s) are determined. This process involves voters ranking candidate(s) in order of preference on a single ballot. During tabulation, the candidate or team with the lowest number of first-choice votes is eliminated. Those votes are transferred to other candidates depending on each voter's next preference stated on their ballot. This process will repeat until a candidate or candidate team receives a majority of votes.
Matriculated Student	A matriculated student is a student who has, through normal procedures, been formally admitted to and enrolled at Cal State Fullerton to pursue an authorized degree, credential, or certificate.
Removal from the ballot	A candidate running for elected ASI office is removed from the ballot due to incomplete eligibility or disqualification. These candidates are prevented from running for ASI office as a write-in candidate.
Violation	A formal complaint that has been filed with and confirmed by the Elections Judicial Council.
Write-In Candidate	Any person who runs for office within ASI and does not have their name pre-printed on the ballot. Write-in candidates shall have the same rights and responsibilities as all other candidates, except they did not attend the Candidate Orientation.

STANDARDS

1. ELECTIONS

Each year, the Cal State Fullerton's Student Body shall elect the ASI President, ASI Vice President, and ASI Board of Directors for the upcoming academic year. The elections shall be held Tuesday through Wednesday three weeks prior to Spring Recess.

Public notice of an election must be given to the student body no later than ten (10) legal days prior to the election. The notice shall specify the place(s), the legal day(s), the hours of such elections, and the general nature of the issue(s) to be decided.

The ASI President and Vice President shall run as a candidate team. Individual candidates for either office shall not be allowed. An ASI Board of Director candidate must run in one academic college which they are enrolled.

No member of the ASI Executive Officers or ASI Board of Directors shall serve in any other position that receives a financial award or scholarship.

2. VOTING PROCEDURES

Voting will take place Tuesday through Wednesday three weeks prior to Spring Recess. Voting will open at 8:00 AM PST on the first day and close at 8:00 PM PST on the final day.

Candidates are required to use their name on record with Cal State Fullerton on the ballot. The order of candidates appearing on the ballot will be in alphabetical order.

Each student shall be required to authenticate their eligibility to vote by entering their Cal State Fullerton credentials on the voting website. A student will vote on a single ballot, in most to least preferred: ASI President and Vice President and ASI Board of Directors.

When voting for the ASI Board of Directors, the student will be voting in the academic college which they are enrolled. If a student is undeclared, they may choose which one academic college to vote in. If a student has multiple declared majors in different academic colleges, they shall choose one academic college that they are enrolled to vote in. If a student is voting for a write-in candidate their name must be spelled correctly, as Cal State Fullerton has on record, for the vote to count.

3. DETERMINING WINNERS

The Instant Run-Off Voting method will be used to count the votes. On the ballot, voters will rank candidate teams and Director candidates in order of most preferred to least preferred. The Instant Run-Off Voting method simulates an election with multiple run-off rounds until a candidate receives a majority.

The winners will be the candidate or candidate team who receives a majority of votes in the regular election. A majority shall be defined as 50% plus one individual vote of the total votes cast.

President and Vice President:

- The winners shall be one (1) team, consisting of an ASI President candidate and an ASI Vice President candidate, who receive the most votes via the Instant Run-Off Voting method.
- If no candidate team receives a majority of votes in the regular election, the candidate team with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and an Instant Run-Off will occur, as defined by the Instant Runoff Voting method.
- The eliminated candidate team's votes are transferred to the other candidate team(s), depending on each voter's preference as stated on their ballot. An Instant Run-Off election will be simulated with the new vote totals. This process will repeat until a candidate team receives a majority of votes.

ASI Board of Directors:

- The winners shall be the two (2) candidates from each academic college who receive the most votes via the Instant Run-Off Voting method.
- If two candidates tie for second place, the candidate(s) with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and an Instant Run-Off will occur, as defined by the Instant Runoff Voting method.
- The eliminated candidate(s) votes are transferred to the other candidates, excluding the candidate that received the highest vote total, depending on each individual voter's preference as stated on their ballot. The winner shall be determined by a simulated election based on the new voting totals.

If no candidate or candidate team receives a majority of votes in the regular election, the candidate or candidate team with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and an Instant Run-Off will occur. The eliminated candidate or candidate team's votes are transferred to the other depending on each voter's preference as stated on their ballot. A Run-Off election will be simulated with the new vote totals. This

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~~process will repeat until a candidate or candidate team receives a majority of votes.~~

At the close of the elections, the results will be counted. If there are no pending complaints or appeals, the Elections Director will submit the results to be certified within twenty-four (24) hours. The certification process will include review by the Elections Director, ASI Executive Director or designee, and the Vice President of Student Affairs, and *Strategic Enrollment Management* or designee. Results are only certified after any complaints have been heard by the Elections Judicial Council and appeals have been heard by the [ASI](#) Board of Directors. Once certified, the results shall be released to the public.

4. ELECTIONS TEAM

The Elections Team shall be composed of the Elections Director and two (2) Coordinators. They shall be responsible for promoting ASI Elections and encouraging participation and promotional events for ASI Elections. The Elections Team shall be advised by full-time advising staff within the ASI Student Government department, with the Director of Student Government serving as the Elections Advisor regarding Elections Judicial Council activities.

The Elections Team shall encourage students to run prior to the Petition for Candidacy form due date, promote voter participation prior to and throughout the election, plan and execute ASI Elections events, and have thorough knowledge and understanding of election rules and procedures.

The Elections Team shall maintain impartiality towards elections. The Elections Team will not campaign in any election nor publicly support any candidate or cause in any election they are overseeing. The Team will not have any other ASI student leadership position in a Major Student Government Office during their term and will sign an ASI Conflict of Interest Agreement in accordance with California Education Code. The Elections Team is prohibited from privately discussing elections except with the Elections Advisor.

The Elections Team reserves the right to remove any campaign materials in violation of the guidelines provided in this policy.

Additional Elections Director Duties

The Elections Director will be required to follow the responsibilities:

- Oversee ASI Elections.
- Accountable for ~~implementing~~ implementing and enforcing all provisions of the ASI Bylaws and ASI Policy that pertain to ASI Elections.
- Recruit, oversee, and train the Elections Coordinators.
- Chair the Elections Judicial Council.
- Submit a budget request for the next fiscal year to the ASI Board of Directors Treasurer in compliance with the established budget process and deadlines.
- Reassess and reevaluate current practices pertaining to ASI Elections.
- After the candidate certification, the Elections Director shall provide a report to the ASI Board of Directors summarizing the election and proposing any recommendations for the following year.
- Recommend the [ASI](#) Board of Directors to remove any member(s) from the ASI Elections Team for due cause.

If any interpretation or question of these Bylaws is required, the Elections Director shall consult the Elections Advisor first prior to announcing a decision.

a. *Appointment of Elections Team*

The Elections Director shall be appointed by the incumbent President and confirmed by a majority vote of the ASI Board of Directors. The Elections Coordinators shall be appointed by the incumbent President, upon recommendation of the incoming Elections Director, and confirmed by a majority vote of the ASI Board of Directors.

The Elections Director and/or Elections Coordinator(s) may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of

the ASI Board of Directors.

In the event of a vacancy in the position of the Elections Director and/or Elections Coordinator(s), the President shall appoint a new Elections Director and/or Elections Coordinator(s) confirmed by a majority vote of the ASI Board of Directors.

5. CANDIDATE AND INCUMBENT ELIGIBILITY

At the time of filing for candidacy and throughout their term, elected ASI student leaders must meet and maintain the requirements outlined below. All students must also be in good standing and must not be on academic or disciplinary probation. Once grades are finalized by the university at the end of a regular semester (fall and spring), eligibility is checked and certified by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management. Changes, corrections, or other modifications to grades or academic records must follow standard university process and do not reestablish eligibility. Eligibility can only be reestablished at the completion of the standard university process and after a recheck and certification of eligibility by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management.

These eligibility requirements are established by the CSU system as the Minimum Qualifications for Student Office Holders. The below criteria pertain to the CSU definition of Major Student Government Offices. Major student offices include students who are executive officers (ASI President and Vice President) or board members (ASI Board of Directors) on student government. These eligibility requirements are not able to be suspended by the ASI Board of Directors and ineligibility based on CSU established requirements are not appealable.

a. Candidate Residency

Undergraduate student candidates for office must ~~be matriculated and~~ have been enrolled at Cal State Fullerton for one semester preceding the election, earning a total of at least six (6) semester units during that semester. New graduate students who received a bachelor's degree or credential within the past three (3) years from Cal State Fullerton must have earned a total of twelve (12) units during their last year as an undergraduate to be eligible. Graduate student candidates for office must have earned at least six (6) semester units per term of continuous attendance as a new graduate student to be eligible.

b. Candidate Grade Point Average

All student candidates for, or current student officers serving in, an elected or appointed position within ASI must be in good standing, must not be on probation, must have earned a Cal State Fullerton semester grade point average of 2.0 and a Cal State Fullerton cumulative grade point average of 2.5 for all classes at Cal State Fullerton during the semester prior to their candidacy, and must maintain these standards.

c. Candidate Unit Load

Undergraduate student candidates must maintain at least six (6) semester units per ~~semester term~~ while running for office. Graduate student candidates must maintain at least three (3) semester units per ~~semester term~~ while running for office.

d. Faculty or Staff

A student candidate for office may not be a member of the faculty or staff at Cal State Fullerton or its auxiliaries, including prior or current ASI personnel. This does not apply to faculty or staff appointed positions. Graduate assistants shall not be considered faculty or staff.

e. Incumbent Grade Point Average

All student officers serving in an elected or appointed position within ASI must be in good standing, must

not be on probation, must have earned a Cal State Fullerton semester grade point average of 2.0 and a Cal State Fullerton cumulative grade point average of 2.5 for all classes at Cal State Fullerton during the semester prior to starting their term of office. Officers must maintain these standards for each semester during their term.

f. Incumbent Unit Load
Undergraduate student officers must earn six (6) semester units of credit per ~~term~~semester while holding office. Graduate student officers must earn three (3) semester units of credit per ~~semester~~term while holding office.

g. Incumbent Maximum Allowable Units
Undergraduate student officers are allowed to earn a maximum of 150 semester units or 125 percent of the units required for a specific baccalaureate degree objective, whichever is greater. Graduate student officers can earn a maximum of 50 semester units. Students holding over the maximum allowable units are no longer eligible for office.

h. Incumbent Training Attendance
Undergraduate and graduate student officers are required to attend all leadership development training dates throughout their elected term beginning June 1 through May 31 of the academic year. This includes Student Government Installation and the first ASI Board of Directors meeting on the first business day after June 1, all June and August summer training activities, and January winter training activities.

Excusals may be granted for unanticipated illness, emergency, or university business relating to the responsibilities of the student officer. Academic, employment, or other leadership involvement duties are the responsibility of the student officer to manage and maintain with their respective faculty, employer, or other supervisor.

To ensure all student officers are accountable for being adequately prepared to represent their constituents and uphold all responsibilities of their elected or appointed office, a reduction of financial leadership award by 10% may be instituted for cumulative unexcused absences from training during the duration of the leadership term.

6. SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ASI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

a. Students with Undeclared Majors

A student with an undeclared major may serve on the ASI Board of Directors representing any academic college of their choice. The candidate must declare an academic college for which they intend to run in their Petition for Candidacy.

b. Students with Multiple Majors

A student with multiple declared majors in different academic colleges may serve only one of their academic colleges in which they are enrolled.

c. Students with Minors

A student with a minor in an academic college different than their declared major may only be appointed to represent the academic college of their declared minor. An appointment of this nature would be due to a vacancy on the ASI Board of Directors as described in ASI Policy Concerning Board of Director Operations.

d. Students Interested in Representing the College of Education

A student interested in representing the College of Education has to either be enrolled in the academic college or be an active member of a club which is a member of the Education Inter-Club Council (EICC).

7. CANDIDACY

a. Filing for Candidacy

To be a candidate, a student must submit a "Petition of Candidacy" form declaring an intent to run during an election. Candidates may run for only one elected position during a single election. Candidates must be eligible to be elected or appointed to any ASI leadership position.

The "Petition of Candidacy" forms will open at least one month before and are due at 5 PM PST three business days before the Mandatory Candidate Orientation. All deadlines, meetings, and trainings and events will be listed on the candidacy form.

The Candidate Orientation time, date, and location shall be stated on the Petition for Candidacy forms. The ~~the~~ Mandatory Candidate Orientation must occur at least two weeks prior to the general election.

b. Write-in Candidates

~~Write-in candidates are responsible for complying with all provisions of ASI Bylaws and ASI Policy, including all candidate and incumbent eligibility requirements, except for attending the Candidate Orientation.~~

~~Write-in candidates may run for any one office of their choice for which an election is being held but will not have their name pre-printed on the ballot. Write-in candidates for the ASI President and Vice President positions must run~~

~~Write-in candidates must complete an ASI Conflict of Interest Agreement. Agreements must be submitted to the ASI Elections Director before the write-in candidate's campaigning activities begin.~~

~~e.b. Verification~~

~~The Vice President for Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management or designee will verify the qualifications of candidates running for office or those who have applied for an appointed position ahead of the Mandatory Candidate Orientation. They will report to the ASI Executive Director concerning the qualifications of all candidates or applicants. The ASI Executive Director will have the responsibility to report any ineligible candidate or applicant as set forth by the Chancellor's Office.~~

8. ENDORSEMENTS

Students may receive endorsements from clubs and/or organizations. If a candidate wants an endorsement, they must receive written consent from clubs and/or organizations.

Any club and/or organization receiving sponsorship or funding from ASI shall be prohibited from spending any ASI funds or using any ASI provided resources to promote or discourage a vote in favor or against any proposition, candidate, or candidate team in any election.

ASI personnel, offices, and leaders shall maintain impartiality towards elections in all official duties and capacities for the duration of any ASI election. Any unit, body, or office of ASI shall be prohibited from promoting or discouraging a vote in favor or against any proposition, candidate, or candidate team in any election. Personal social media accounts are not considered an official duty platform.

9. EXPENSES

~~All candidates must submit an Election Expense Report to the Elections Director. This report must list all expenses and donations; copies of all campaign materials; receipts for expenses; and donated material will be reported at fair market value for the items or services.~~

~~Election Expense Reports will be due by 5:00 PM PST on the Tuesday after the election unless otherwise arranged with the Elections Director.~~

~~Election Expense Reports will be considered public information.~~

10.9. VIOLATIONS

The purpose of the Campaign Violation System is to hold candidates and candidate teams responsible for threatening the democratic process, committing ethical breaches, interfering with the mission of the ASI, threatening the safety of the campus, and violating ASI and Cal State Fullerton protocols. Any candidate or candidate team found before the Elections Judicial Council to have~~who violated~~ these Bylaws or ASI Policy shall be subject to ~~sanctions~~disciplinary action.

a. Class A (Automatic Disqualification) Violations

Class A (Disqualifiable) Violations shall carry three (3) strikes. If a candidate or candidate team commits any of the following, the candidate(s) ~~are~~is automatically disqualified from the election:

- A violation of these Bylaws, ASI Policy, Cal State Fullerton Policy, State or Federal Law in connection to the election in a way which extensively affects the outcome or integrity of the electoral or judicial processes.
- Using Cal State Fullerton or ASI authority, facilities, funds, or resources that are not open to all students for campaign purposes to an extent which extensively affects the outcome or integrity of the election.
- Intimidating, impeding, threatening, or retaliating against voters, parties of ASI Board of Directors appeals case, Elections Team, Elections Judicial Council members, candidates, potential candidates, or other persons related to the election.
- Interfering with the polling, voting, or vote count mechanism. Including but not limited to: submitting multiple ballots; modifying any ballot other than one's own, or submitting a ballot for another person.
- Failing to appear at a formal hearing before the ASI Board of Directors.

b. Class B (Major) Violations

Class B (Major) Violations shall carry two (2) strikes. If a candidate commits any of the following, the candidate will acquire two (2) strikes against their campaign and the official ballot shall reflect the specific violation and circumstance. The official ballot shall be updated with any violation determined at or before the last Elections Judicial Council meeting preceding the voting dates:

- A violation of these Bylaws, ASI Policy, Cal State Fullerton Policy, State or Federal Law in connection to the election in a way which moderately affects the outcome or integrity of the electoral or judicial processes.
- Using Cal State Fullerton or ASI authority, facilities, funds, or resources that are not open to all students for campaign purposes to an extent which moderately affects the outcome or integrity of the election.
- Repeatedly destroying, defacing, covering, moving or removing from their places, posters, signs, banners, leaflets, or flyers representing student organizations and/or University departments in connection to the election.
- Disseminating information intended to mislead or deceive as to the mechanics of the election or intentionally disseminating information that is objectively and probably false on matters pertaining to ~~the~~ Cal State Fullerton or ~~the~~ ASI in connection to the election.
- Willfully violating an order from the Elections Judicial Council.
- Filing with the Elections Judicial Council any malicious, frivolous, misleading, or bad faith charges or complaints against any candidate, candidate team, proponent, or opponent, ~~in the Elections Judicial Council~~. If an individual engages a third party to file such charges, both individuals shall be held responsible.
- Actively campaigning or posting campaign materials before the mandatory Candidate Orientation.
- Any ASI Board of Directors candidates from the same college officially or unofficially

campaigning together.

- Claiming an endorsement of an individual, group, organization, party, etc. without prior written consent from that individual, group, organization, party, etc.
- Using the intellectual property of another person or organization to campaign, without the permission of the rightful owner. Candidates shall obtain permission in writing. Action for this violation can only be brought by or on the complaint of the rightful owner.
- ~~Purchasing paid campaign advertising or soliciting unpaid campaign advertising in Cal-State Fullerton or ASI affiliated publication.~~
- ~~Using internet-enabled devices to acquire votes during the voting period. This includes cell phones, tablets, laptops, and other devices that may access the elections ballot.~~
- Using any means of unsolicited electronic communication "spam" to campaign (electronic mail, phone, message, text, social media). The following are not "spam":
 - The recipient-initiated contact regarding campaign matters through the same communication medium with the author.

- o The recipient gave their contact information for the same communication medium to the author's campaign,
- o The communication is sent through a social network and the recipient has the author as a connection/friend/etc. on the same social network, or
- o The communication is sent through a listserv/group message mechanism run by some organization and the author has permission from the leadership of that organization or is a member in good standing of that organization and the communication clearly indicates the group/listserv through which it is sent. These criteria shall not be valid for group messages sent to an entire class, academic program, or other groups/listservs which students are required to be or automatically are members of.

c. Class C (Minor) Violations

Class C (Minor) Violations shall carry one (1) strike. If a candidate commits any of the following the candidate will acquire one (1) strike against their campaign, and the official ballot shall reflect the specific violation and circumstance. The official ballot shall be updated with any violations determined at or before the last Elections Judicial Council meeting preceding the voting dates:

- A violation of these Bylaws, ASI Policy, Cal State Fullerton Policy, State or Federal Law in connection to the election in a way which minimally affects the outcome or integrity of the electoral or judicial processes.
- Using Cal State Fullerton or ASI authority, facilities, funds, or resources that are not open to all students for campaign purposes to an extent which minimally affects the outcome or integrity of the election.
- Violating the Cal State Fullerton Posting Policy. Refer to Student Life and Leadership for more information.
- Distributing food and/or beverage, with the exception of unopened water bottles and prepackaged snacks.
- Falsely claiming a past or current position, title, membership, award, other affiliation, etc. with an individual, group, organization, party, etc. When applicable, membership deemed shall be defined as being a member in good standing. Past membership, affiliation, etc. must be noted as such.
- Using the name of any person without prior written consent of that individual. Any materials in violation will be seized and destroyed by the Elections Director.
 - ~~Leaving or posting campaign materials in any campus computer lab or classroom containing computers provided by Cal State Fullerton.~~

44.10. COMPLAINTS

Complaints regarding elections shall be filed electronically on the ASI Website and reviewed by the ASL Elections Director and Elections Advisor within twenty-four (24) business hours. The complaint must be submitted with a valid contact phone number or email. Incomplete or anonymous complaints will not be considered. Election complaints must be submitted within twenty-four (24) hours of the infraction. All formal complaints filed after twenty-four (24) hours of the infraction will not be considered unless the severity of the violation warrants consideration as determined by the ASI Elections Director.

Complainant or designee must appear at the Elections Judicial Council meeting, or the complaint will be dismissed; Complaints regarding candidate violations shall be heard by the Elections Judicial Council. Complaints regarding the elections process or Elections Team shall be heard by the ASI Board of Directors.

42.11. ELECTIONS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The purpose of the Elections Judicial Council exists to hear all complaints pertaining to the conduct of any candidate and/or candidate team alleged to have violated ASI Bylaws or Policy, Cal State Fullerton Policy, or State or Federal Law in connection to the election.

The Elections Judicial Council shall establish annually a schedule by the start of the spring semester. The Elections Judicial Council shall be chaired by the Elections Director and shall be comprised of the Elections Coordinators, a member of the ASI Board of Directors and a member of the Executive Team. The Elections Judicial Council is advised by the Elections Advisor. All members of the Elections Judicial Council must have ASI Board of Directors confirmation and declare impartiality throughout the elections cycle.

Members of the Elections Judicial Council shall be chosen by the last ASI Board of Directors meeting of the fall semester.

Complaints of a similar nature under the discretion of the Elections Director may be considered together. Once complaints are ruled on as a violation, there may be an associated penalty for the respective candidate or candidate team(s). All violations shall be thoroughly documented by the Elections Director as all violations are subject to appeal to the ASI Board of Directors.

43.12. PENALTIES

Any violation(s) of the ASI Bylaws or ASI Policy pertaining to an election may result in a penalty including suspension or revocation of any publicity, posting, campaigning privileges, posting electronic notice of candidate violations on the ballot; and/or automatic disqualification and shall be administered at the discretion of the Elections Judicial Council. Violations are appealable to the ASI Board of Directors.

The following will Result in automatic removal from the ballot:

- Failure to meet all deadlines listed on the Petition for Candidacy form, including attending the Mandatory Candidate Orientation
- Failure to each candidate shall sign an ASI Conflict of Interest Agreement before campaigning may begin
- Each candidate or candidate team who has accrued three strikes of any combination

44.13. APPEALS

When a formal complaint becomes a violation as determined by the Elections Judicial Council, ~~any~~ the party identified receiving ~~consequences~~ the penalty may appeal the decision by stating in writing to the ASI Board of Directors ~~Chair on the grounds for their appeal.~~

Once notified of the appeal, the ASI Board of Directors will conduct a formal hearing at the next regularly scheduled ASI Board of Directors meeting. All parties identified will be required to attend the hearing, including a member of the Elections Judicial Council.

An individual shall be exempt from appearing before the ASI Board of Directors if they can show:

- A valid health excuse, out of town commitment, death in the family, employment obligations.
- Exam/paper due twenty-four hours following the case, an academic commitment during the meeting time.
- Observance of a religious holy day or ceremony which prevents attendance.
- Jury duty or mandatory appearance for legal/administrative proceedings during the meeting time ^{or}
- A force majeure which prevents attendance (this shall be defined as a chance occurrence or unavoidable accident that is not the result of negligence or misfeasance by the individual).

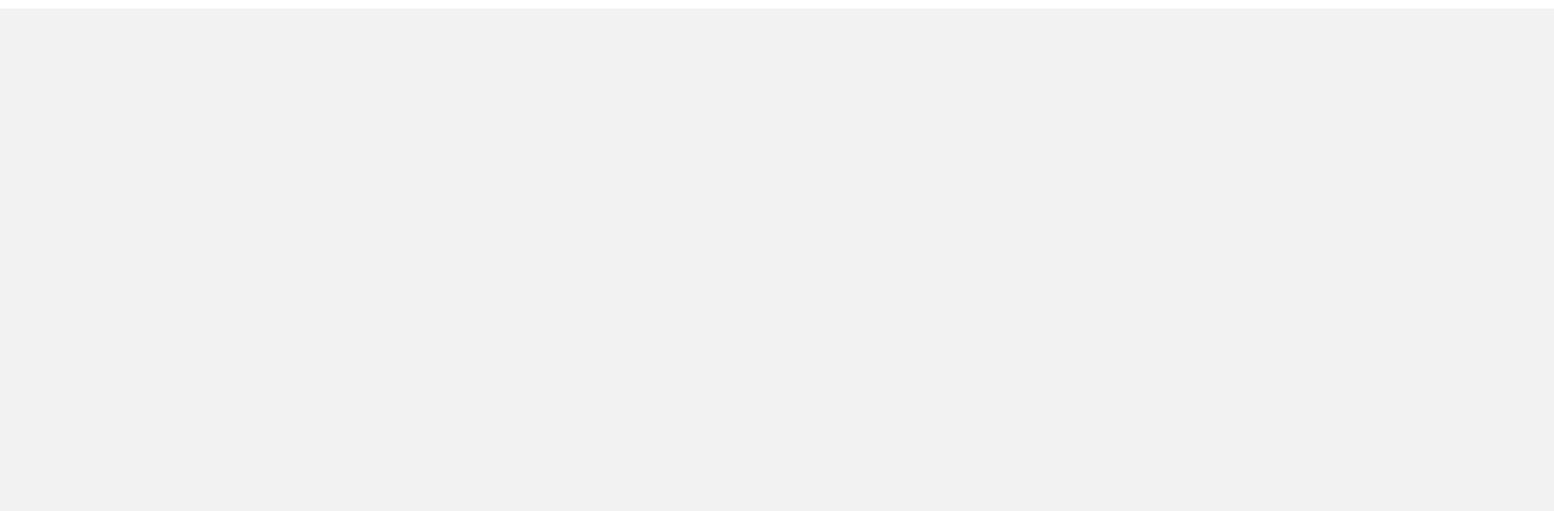
Candidate(s) shall remain on the ballot pending a decision on an appeal of disqualifying violation(s) by the ASI Board of Directors if the appeal is submitted between the posted voting dates and the next regular ASI Board of Directors meeting. If there is no regularly scheduled ASI Board of Directors meeting, the candidate(s) shall remain on the ballot and a special ASI Board of Directors meeting will be called within one business week to hear the appeal.

Once the ASI Board of Directors has reached a ~~verdict~~ decision on the appeal through a formal vote, there shall be no further course of action for all parties involved in the hearing.

45.14. REFERENDUM, SPECIAL ELECTIONS, INITIATIVES,

AND RECALL

All referenda, initiatives, and recalls shall be considered binding if done in coordination with the above processes unless they contradict Federal, State, or local law, the Articles of Incorporation, the ASI Bylaws, or the purpose of the Corporation.



a. Referendum

The [ASJ](#) Board of Directors will be empowered to direct the Elections Director to place certain matters, including constitutional changes or business, before the student body. A majority vote of the [ASJ](#) Board of Directors shall be sufficient to enact referenda. All referendums shall follow CSU Chancellors Office and Cal State Fullerton set guidelines.

b. Special Elections

Only determined by a majority vote of the [ASJ](#) Board of Directors. All special elections will be held during a general election whenever possible.

When a special election is held separate from a general election, the following conditions shall apply:

- The availability of the voting practices will be identical to that of the most recent previous general election.
- Eligibility requirements shall not change.
- Winners shall be determined by the same method as noted in ASJ Policy.
- Candidates shall have the seven (7) consecutive calendar days before voting to campaign.

c. Initiative Legislation

Initiative legislation from the student body may be submitted to the [ASJ](#) Board of Directors in the form of a petition signed by at least 10% of the total membership of the student body. An initiative can either enact new legislation or repeal existing legislation.

The Vice President for Student Affairs shall verify through the Dean of Students Office the enrollment status of all the students whose signature appears on the petition. After verification, a special election shall be called by the President within fifteen (15) legal days of certification of signatures.

A majority vote in favor of the proposed legislation shall be sufficient to adopt any initiative legislation.

d. Recall

The [ASJ](#) President, Vice President, or a member of the [ASJ](#) Board of Directors may be removed from the remaining term of office when the following conditions are met:

- A petition stating the desire to remove a Director must be signed by ten percent (10%) of the headcount of the Director's respective academic college. In the case of the President or Vice President, a petition stating the desire to remove that officer must be signed by five percent (5%) of the entire headcount of the University. The petitions must include each petitioner's printed name, Campus Wide ID number, and signature to be considered valid.
Before gathering signatures, the leader of the recall drive must state in a letter or in person at an [ASJ](#) Board of Directors meeting the intent to recall an officer. The petition drive has thirty (30) calendar days from announcement to gather the necessary signatures or the recall fails.
- If the correct number of signatures is gathered, they must be verified by the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs.
- If the appropriate number of signatures is verified, the President must call a special election within fifteen (15) legal days.
- The availability of the Voting Practices will be identical to that of the most recent previous general election.
- Two-thirds of students voting in a special election must vote to recall the officer for the officer to be removed.

DATE APPROVED:

DATE REVISED:

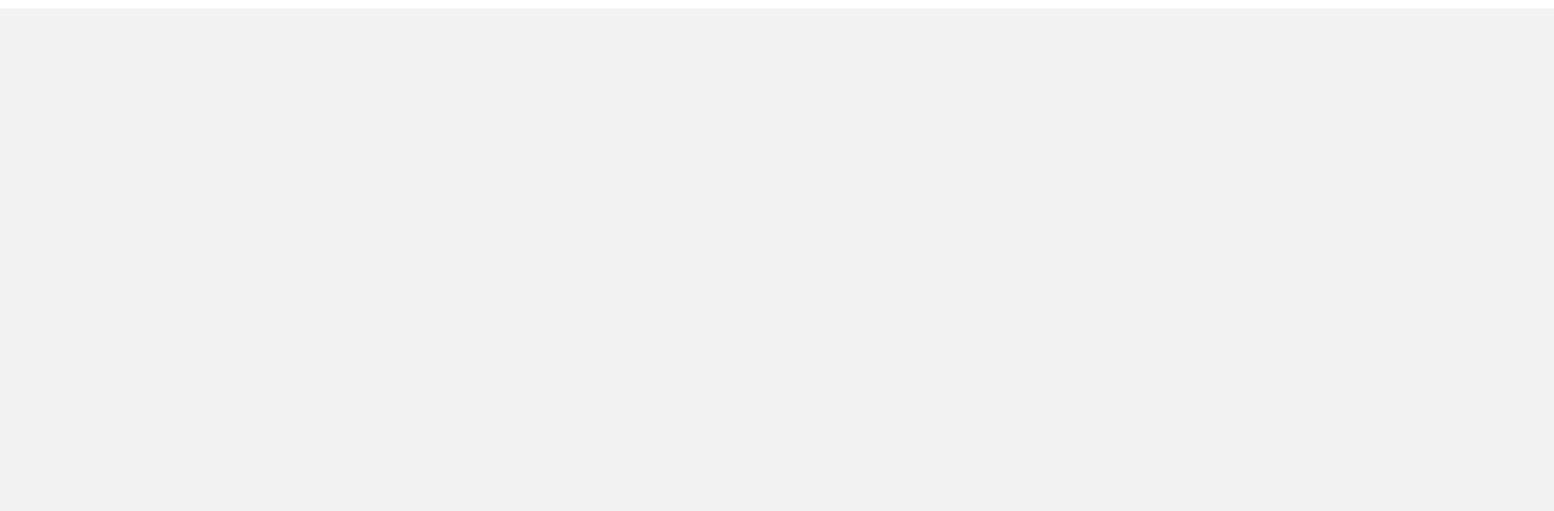
02/12/2019

12/03/2019

04/20/2021

12/03/2024

[02/17/2026](#)



Policy Concerning ASI Elections

January 22, 2026



Governance Committee



**ASSOCIATED
STUDENTS INC**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON®



Policy Background

Review Rationale

The Policy Concerning ASI Elections provides guidance for ASI student elections, primarily the annual spring election for ASI President and Vice President and the ASI Board of Directors.

The policy outlines the ASI Elections Team for the annual student body election, eligibility for candidates, campaign parameters, and the Elections Judicial Council. It was last updated in fall 2024 to reinforce eligibility requirements and training attendance for elected leaders.

Since then, student feedback from prior and current members of the ASI Elections Team, Executive Officers, and Board of Directors teams has informed key updates to further modernize the guidance of the ASI Elections program.



Overall Clarification

Policy

Recommendations

Determine Winners

- Defines instant run-off voting method to clarify the tabulation practice to determine results

Elections Team

- Includes how the Elections Team is advised and defines Elections Advisor as Student Government Director for the Elections Judicial Council

Candidate and Incumbent Eligibility

- Minor updates including definition and addition of “matriculated” student to match CSU guidelines, and clarity that faculty or staff also encompasses ASI personnel

Endorsements

- Reaffirming ASI’s commitment to remaining impartial towards all elections, while clarifying that personal activity outside the official duty scope is protected as free speech

Addition of Timelines

Policy

Recommendations

Complaints

- Addition of who reviews complaints, when they are reviewed, and who makes the determination on “severity” of a complaint submitted outside the 24-hour window

Appeals

- Addition of how appeals are submitted and when they are reviewed, including if an appeal is submitted and cannot immediately be heard in proximity to the posted voting dates

Violations

- Added cutoff language to violation info being added to ballots as any violation determined at or before the last Elections Judicial Council meeting preceding the posted voting dates

Policy

Recommendations

Write-in Candidates

- Removal of write-in candidacy as tabulation occurs separate from the ballot of listed candidates, creating likelihood for results to be delayed and a special election to occur

Expenses

- Collecting Expense Reports from candidates is a common practice among other CSUs, however, it is usually tied to expense limits or guidelines, which we have not introduced

Violations

- Removal of outdated violations as recommended by prior student leadership

Removal of Outdated Language



Summary of Changes

The recommended updates aim to improve the:

1. *Overall clarity of elections processes,*
2. *Defining terms and timelines, and*
3. *Removing outdated language and practices.*

Any Questions?

