



Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Associated Students Inc., California State University, Fullerton

2/5/2026 2:30 PMPST

@ 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)

Chair Ahmad called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Ahmad, Camarillo, Quock, Valdez, Romero

Members Absent: None

Liaisons Present: Hesgard, Mendoza, Montano, Gibbs

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 02 05 age.pdf](#)

Motion:

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Motion moved by Luisa Camarillo and motion seconded by Edwin Valdez.

4. Approval of Minutes

[Item 4 - gov 2026 01 22 min.pdf](#)

A. 01/22/2026 Governance Committee Minutes

Motion:

The 01/22/2026 Governance Committee meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Motion moved by Luca Romero and motion seconded by Luisa Camarillo.

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.

6. Reports

A. Chair (Ahmad)

Chair Ahmad welcomed everyone to the second Governance Committee meeting, thanked them for their engagement in the last meeting especially around ASI election policies and reminded the group that applications for the ECS vacancy are still open, with eight applicants so far. She noted interviews will be held on February 19th and asked members to come prepared with questions. She also emphasized that in upcoming check-in meetings with board pairs, members should bring their college goals and initiatives for the semester and discuss how she and Joe can support them, encouraging completion of initiatives by the end of April due to a busy May.

B. Student Government Director (Hesgard)

Chair Ahmad yielded to Rebecca Hesgard, ASI Director of Student Government. Hesgard reminded everyone that scholarship applications are open for the student body and close on March 1st. She highlighted upcoming programming through the Student Programs and Engagement team, including events for Black History Month like *Beyond the Conversation* and *Titan Talks*, and encouraged support for the Black Student Union and other campus events. She also thanked those participating in ASI wellness research trips, noting their work will inform the semester's feasibility study and be shared with committees and the board later this spring.

7. Time Certain

None

8. Unfinished Business

None

9. New Business

A. Action: A Resolution to Approve the Policy Concerning ASI Elections (Ahmad)

The Committee will consider approving amendments to the Policy Concerning ASI Elections.

GOV 009 25/26 (Romero-m/Camarillo-s) A motion was made and seconded to approve amendments to the Policy Concerning ASI Elections.

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

Hesgard recapped that the last meeting focused on proposed ASI elections policy changes and explained that today's discussion would focus on the resolution and policy edits. Updates based on Committee feedback included exempting elections team members from using personal social media during elections to maintain impartiality, giving the elections adviser authority to

remove posts violating rules or posted outside campaigning windows, and clarifying that ICS funding umbrella organizations should be distinguished from individual clubs. She noted that the candidacy write-in section had been discussed in depth previously and invited the Elections Coordinator, Colson Houck Teal, to provide further details and answer questions.

Teal summarized that the previous meeting discussed whether to keep the write-in candidate option, recognizing that while write-in candidates have occasionally won, special elections pose high operational and financial costs and can delay certification of executive or commission positions. A tie-breaker policy was proposed where a write-in candidate would automatically lose to an on-ballot candidate in the event of a tie to avoid costly runoff elections while still allowing write-ins. Although ties are historically rare, the potential high costs make addressing this scenario important.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to questions.

- Syed asked about the operational costs of a special election.
Teal explained that a special election would take several weeks after the regular election, delaying certification of the President and Vice President elect. This would prevent them from selecting their executive team or appointing commissions and elections team members, ultimately pushing back planning, events, and initiatives for the next year by about a month.
- Romero asked for clarification on the tiebreaker for write-in candidates, confirming that not attending the in-person orientation would result in losing the election.
Teal clarified that the tiebreaker would be based on in-person orientation attendance, allowing write-in candidates to run while assuming a small risk. He also mentioned an alternative idea of an online candidate orientation with knowledge checks, which could eliminate the need for the in-person tiebreaker and the write-in language entirely.
- Hesgard clarified that the proposed tiebreaker language was not yet in the policy document. She explained that if the Committee wanted to include it, an amendment would need to be made that day, and she could work with Chair Ahmad or others to adjust the language so it would be accurate and ready to move forward to the Board.
- Syed asked how many write-in candidates there had been in recent years.
Teal replied that he would need to confirm with Hesgard for the full record, but noted that at least one or two current board members had been successful write-in candidates. He emphasized that write-ins have had real success, so the option shouldn't be dismissed. Hesgard clarified that there had been two successful write-in candidates in the past five years.
- Camarillo asked whether the write-in candidacy could be kept while also implementing a more accessible online orientation for candidates.
Teal replied that while an online format would be ideal, it would take time to set up and likely could not be implemented for this or next year's election cycle. The current policy language serves as a temporary compromise. Hesgard added that implementing a virtual orientation would require further policy edits, including redefining the start of the campaigning period, and could potentially eliminate the write-in option because candidates could complete it at any point during the period.
- Chair Ahmad asked who the two successful write-in candidates were.
Hesgard shared that Luca Romero, who is a current board member, along with another student from the past five years.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to discussion.

- Syed suggested that completely removing write-in candidacies or funding a special election would both create negative outcomes. She recommended keeping write-in candidates in the system but with the risk of losing in a tiebreaker as the safest compromise. She also expressed concern that asynchronous training modules are not suitable for this year or possibly future years because live sessions, whether in-person or virtual, are necessary to maintain accountability given the high stakes and budget of ASI elections.
- Romero agreed with Syed, emphasizing the value of keeping write-in candidacies. He noted that the two extremes removing write-ins or funding a special election aren't feasible for the upcoming election and could disrupt the organization's operations. He strongly opposed the asynchronous Canvas training option, arguing that live participation is essential to prevent shortcuts and ensure candidates fully understand the responsibilities of these high-stakes positions.
- Hesgard clarified that while ideas about modifying the candidate orientation are interesting for future elections, they are not part of this round of policy edits. She emphasized that the current resolution includes removing write-in candidacies, and if members want to keep write-ins for this election cycle, a friendly amendment is required. She also noted that the current language does not incorporate the tiebreaker Coulson suggested, so adding that would require a separate amendment.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to questions.

- Syed asked how the write-in candidacy and tiebreaker policy would be included in candidate training and whether students would know about it in time to register. Hesgard replied that it would be covered in the upcoming orientation sessions for those choosing write-in candidacy, not broadly marketed, and all candidates must complete an eligibility check first.
- Romero asked for clarification on whether the detailed candidate information would be effectively communicated. Hesgard replied that candidates already receive a thorough email outlining all policies and procedures, so the information won't be lost, though it could be paired with broader elections marketing.

BOD 009.a 25/26 (Romero-m/Camarillo-s) A motion and second was made to amend the Policy Concerning ASI Elections to keep the write-in candidacy language for the current election cycle and to add tiebreaker language to the policy.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to discussion.

There were no points of discussion.

The Committee moved to a roll call vote on the amendment.

BOD 009.a 25/26 (Romero-m/Camarillo-s) The amendment to keep the write-in candidacy language for the current election cycle and adding the tiebreaker language to the policy was adopted.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to discussion on the amended policy.

- Camarillo agreed with others that an asynchronous Canvas-style orientation would not be ideal. She supported keeping orientations live either in person or virtually because live sessions allow for accountability and make it easier for candidates to ask questions and fully understand expectations.
- Hesgard noted that the feedback was helpful and clarified that the asynchronous option was only discussed as a possible future tool, mainly for write-in candidates, to

ensure they review orientation materials with knowledge checks. She noted that in past cases candidates were expected to orient themselves using provided materials, but agreed that live orientations either in person or virtual make more sense so everyone hears the same information.

- Ahmad asked if there were any further discussion points on the amended resolution and moved the meeting forward when there were none.

The Committee moved to a roll call vote.

 [Item 9.A A Resolution Amending Policy Concerning ASI Elections 2026 \(1\).pdf](#)

 [Item 9.A PC ASI Elections Presentation 01.22.26.pdf](#)

Motion:

GOV 009.a 25/26 Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0. The motion to amend the Policy Concerning ASI Elections to keep the write-in candidacy language for the current election cycle and adding the tiebreaker language to the policy was adopted.

Motion moved by Luca Romero and motion seconded by Luisa Camarillo.

Motion:

GOV 009 25/26 Roll Call Vote: The motion to approve amendments to the Policy Concerning ASI Elections was adopted.

Motion moved by Luca Romero and motion seconded by Luisa Camarillo.

10. Announcements & Member's Privilege

None

11. Adjournment (Ahmad)

Chair Ahmad adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.



Mahak Ahmad
2026-02-20 00:34 UTC
Governance Committee Chair



Erika Perret-Martinez
2026-02-26 02:03 UTC
Recording Secretary

Roll Call 2025-2026

02/05/2026 Governance Committee Roll Call

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

Attendance			Liaisons	
			Present	Absent
COR. STU GOV.	HESGARD	REBECCA	1	
ASI PRES.	SYED	HANEEFAH	1	
ASI CHAIR *	MENDOZA	CESAR	1	
			Present	Absent
			3	0

*Recording Secretary: Erika Perret-Martinez

Pres Designee: Tyler Gibbs

Chair Designee: Cesar Mendoza

QUORUM 4
Majority 3

Roll Call Votes			006a Action: Resolution to Approve the Policy Concerning Elections (Amendment)		
			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
HHD	CAMARILLO	LUISA	1		
CBE	QUOCK	SHAY	1		
COMM	ROMERO	LUCA	1		
HSS	VALDEZ	EDWIN	1		
CHAIR/NSM	AHMAD	MAHAK	1		
			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
			5	0	0

Roll Call Votes			006 Action: Resolution to Approve the Policy Concerning Elections		
			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
HHD	CAMARILLO	LUISA	1		
CBE	QUOCK	SHAY	1		
COMM	ROMERO	LUCA	1		
HSS	VALDEZ	EDWIN	1		
CHAIR/NSM	AHMAD	MAHAK	1		
			YES	NO	ABSTAIN
			5	0	0

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND ASI POLICY CONCERNING ASI ELECTIONS

Sponsor: Governance Committee

WHEREAS, The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates as an auxiliary organization of California State University, Fullerton; and

WHEREAS, ASI is governed by ASI Board of Directors, sets policy for the organization, approves all funding allocations to programs and services, and advocates on behalf of student interests on committees and boards; and

WHEREAS, ASI corporate policy provides guidance for how ASI works to achieve the mission and goals of the organization; and

WHEREAS, ASI Policy Concerning ASI Elections provides guidance for the process, qualifications, candidacy, complaints, and enforcement in facilitating the elections of the ASI President, Vice President, and Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the previous ASI Elections Director and Board of Directors recommended a review of the policy be conducted in the post-elections report to address redundancies, outdated information, and align processes; and

WHEREAS, a review of the policy identified changes to address overall clarification throughout the policy, including better defining the process of instant-runoff in the determination of winners, clarifying the Elections Team advising model, incorporating CSU guidelines for matriculated students to further define candidate and incumbent eligibility, and reaffirmation of ASI's commitment to remain impartial in elections while clarifying the protection of free speech in the Endorsements sections; and

WHEREAS, review of the policy identified changes to address further clarification regarding timelines, including evaluating complaints submitted outside of the 24-hour window in which the alleged action occurred, incorporating structure within the appeals submission and review process, and the timing of the review and consideration of violations in relation to the final Elections Judicial Council meeting; and

WHEREAS, review of the policy identified changes to address removal of inconsistent or redundant procedural language, including **[removal of write-in candidacy]**, removal of the candidate expense report requirements, and removal of outdated violations; and

WHEREAS, the overall policy amendments aim to improve the overall clarity of the elections process, define terms and timelines, and remove outdated language and practices; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, ASI approves the amendments to the Policy Concerning ASI Elections; and let it be finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to the ASI Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, and applicable ASI departments for appropriate action.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Associated Students Inc., California State University, Fullerton on the seventeenth day of February in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

Chair, Board of Directors

Secretary, Board of Directors

Policy Concerning ASI Elections

January 22, 2026



Governance Committee



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.

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

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

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?



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.

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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.
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 listed 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.

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.

At the close of voting 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 and Elections Advisor 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 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 while running for office. Graduate student candidates must maintain at least three (3) semester units per semester 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 semester while holding office. Graduate student officers must earn three (3) semester units of credit per semester 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 and trainings will be listed on the candidacy form.

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

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.

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 student club and/or organization, including umbrella council organizations, 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.

9. 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 will not be considered an official duty platform, except for members of either the Elections Team or Elections Judicial Council.

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 violated these Bylaws or ASI Policy shall be subject to 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 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 or tampering 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 Cal State Fullerton or 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. . If an individual engages a third party to file such charges, both individuals shall be held responsible. Any student or voting member of the Elections Judicial Council may submit a complaint concerning bad faith charges in line with the complaint guidelines in this policy.
- 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.
- 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,

- The recipient gave their contact information for the same communication medium to the author's campaign,
- 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
- 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 Team or Advisor.

10. COMPLAINTS

Complaints regarding elections shall be filed electronically on the ASI Website and reviewed by the ASI 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.

11. ELECTIONS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The purpose of the Elections Judicial Council exists to hear all complaints pertaining to 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.

12. PENALITES

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 sign an ASI Conflict of Interest Agreement before campaigning begins
- A candidate or candidate team who has accrued three strikes of any combination

13. APPEALS

When a formal complaint becomes a violation as determined by the Elections Judicial Council, the party identified receiving the penalty may appeal the decision by stating in writing to the ASI Board of Directors Chair 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
- 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 to hear the appeal within one business week of its submission.

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

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 ASI 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 ASI 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 ASI 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 ASI 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 ASI 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 ASI President, Vice President, or a member of the ASI 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 ASI 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:

02/12/2019

DATE REVISED:

12/03/2019

04/20/2021

12/03/2024

02/17/2026

