



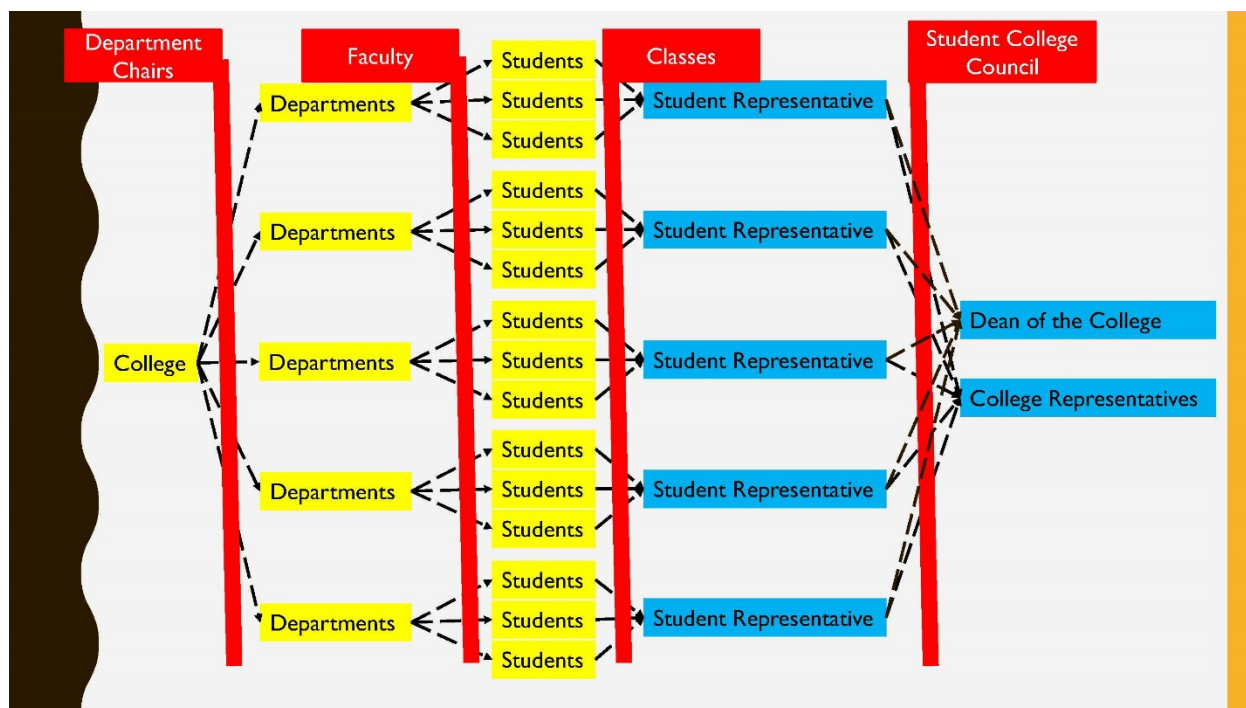
1

## Associated Students, Inc. Restructure

### 2 I. Overview

3 Associated Students, Inc. at Cal State LA is recognized as the single official voice of the 27,000+ students  
4 at Cal State LA. ASI leadership is either elected or appointed. We are governed by the 23-member Board  
5 of Directors, our Bylaws, and multiple policies. ASI was established in 1959 and since we have pride  
6 ourselves in representation, service, advocacy, and activism. From time to time, our organization needs  
7 to be evaluated and revamped. We are currently undergoing the second phase of strategic planning. In  
8 order to accomplish our vision and undergo our mission, the Executive Committee is recommending the  
9 following restructure to the organization. The restructure is organized by components. We have  
10 identified areas within the organization that need to be updated to fit the needs, wants, and rights of  
11 today's students. The components of this document are mutually exclusive, in order to move forward  
12 with the restructure of the organization, we recognize that we have to move in a timely manner and  
13 that we have to meet certain deadlines, as we begin to recruit for next year's leadership. The  
14 components of this document can be approved by the Board of Directors, at different times, because we  
15 recognize that some of these changes are easier to attain than others.

### 16 II. Components



17

18

### 19 Component 1: College representatives

20 The college representatives should establish student college councils. Student Councils are open  
21 to all students within that college, but the base membership consists of at least 1 student per  
22 department with all departments represented in the council. There will also be the College



1 Representatives and the Dean/ Dean's Designee on the committee to use the information that is  
2 gathered to benefit the students within that college.

3 Step 2:

4 Once the Council members are selected, they'll be asked to sit on various committees within and  
5 outside of the college and report what's happening back to the college representatives. Other  
6 Committee members will be assigned to college representatives based upon their college. The  
7 College reps will act as the connection between those students on University committees to ASI.

### 8 **Component 2: VP for Academic Governance and Academic Senators**

9 The VP for Academic Governance will no longer have to focus on administrative work that  
10 comes with appointing and maintaining students on university, academic senate, college specific  
11 and student life committees. The VPAG duties will be revised to ensure that the work of the  
12 VPAG is focused on recruiting students and training to be successful committee members. There  
13 is no doubt that sitting on committees with faculty, staff, and seasoned professionals can be an  
14 intimidating experience for many students. In order, to uphold genuine shared governance and  
15 empower the voice of students, the VPAG's effort shall now be focused on ensuring students  
16 have the appropriate tools and resources to be powerful committee members. In addition, the VP  
17 for Academic Governance shall screen all the committees out there and write formal  
18 recommendations, to either maintain or remove, committees that are available for students. Some  
19 committees are very outdated and have been enacted for a very long time; unfortunately, they  
20 have not accomplished their task or met required outcomes. Therefore, certain committees can be  
21 dismantled and can be replaced with other approaches.

22 The Academic Senate shall be encouraged to revised their Constitution, will be adjusted to  
23 reflect the merging of college reps and academic senators. Instead of having 12 College Reps and  
24 5 Academic Senators, the new structure would be 6 College Reps and 6 College senators where  
25 each college rep and senator would work directly with each other, the council, and the college.  
26 The College Senator would sit on the Academic Senate and work with committee members to  
27 know what's happening on committees while the College Rep would collect information on the  
28 status of the college and work with college administrators to help fix the college. Both College  
29 representatives and senators will aid each other in any way possible.

### 30 **Component 3: VP for Administration and Cabinet of Commissioners**

31 The VPA shall be redesigned to play a more important role in our day to day operations. The  
32 VPA shall chair the Personnel Committee and play a bigger role in personnel matters, as well as  
33 assisting the ASI President in managing staff.

34 In order to connect the Cabinet of Commissioners with the day to day operations of the  
35 organization, the Cabinet of Commissioners will include positions that are essential to the  
36 operation of the organization. The only commissioners that will remain active are: Spirit  
37 Commissioner, Public Relations and Marketing Commissioner, Elections and Orientation  
38 Commissioner, and Environmental Affairs Commissioner. The Veterans Affairs Commissioner



1 and the Housing Commissioner, were established during a time there was no RHA, nor Veterans  
2 Resource Center. Now, with these two in place, our commissioners have not been able to  
3 establish proper connection with RHA or the VRC. This is not say that we do not support RHA  
4 or VRC, but that we do no longer see for us to have the commissioner positions, representing  
5 those areas, within our organization structure. Instead, we hope to consolidate a relationship with  
6 the housing community through the VPA and his team. The VRC will now establish connection  
7 with our new Diversity and Inclusion Officer (discussed below).

8 In addition, the ASI Public Relations and Marketing Commissioner position needs to be defined  
9 clearly and differentiated from the two staff positions that exist and include “marketing” in their  
10 title. For a long time, ASI had not appointed a Public Relations and Marketing Commissioner,  
11 instead some of those duties have been consolidated into positions within the graphics and  
12 marketing team. In order to differentiate, we need to remove any marketing duties from this  
13 position. General marketing will be responsibility of the ASI Graphics and Marketing  
14 Coordinator and his team. Instead, we can clearly define duties of this commissioner to focus on  
15 our public relations efforts such as: press releases, newsletters, media inquiries, interview  
16 requests, and public relations campaigns. Now, this position will be more focused on intentional  
17 campaigns that create and maintain a favorable public image of ASI. This position will be  
18 renamed to the ASI Public Relations Commissioner.

19 **Component 4: VP for External Affairs and Advancement and Reps-at-Large**

20 The VPEAA shall undergo a name change to remove the advancement from the position title.  
21 Advancement usually defines areas responsible for fundraising and grant writing, which are not  
22 the intentions of the VP for External Affairs. Rather, the VP for External Affairs shall focus on  
23 both higher education policy, Cal State Student Association’s matters, and advocacy.

24 The Reps-at-Large positions are two positions that are outdated and very vague in what they do.  
25 Many students run for these positions, without any idea about what they are running for. In order  
26 to remove vagueness, and to better define the roles of the reps at large, the two positions should  
27 undergo a change to the position title and duties.

28 ASI believes that the first step to civic engagement, begins by being engaged with student  
29 government. We work very hard to turn out students to vote in student government elections  
30 because we see value to participating and to being involved. In addition, higher education  
31 institutions have a responsibility to graduate students who are civic-minded and are ready to  
32 engage in their communities. Education is essential to maintaining a healthy and participatory  
33 democracy. We want to take a proactive leadership and institutionalize our commitment to  
34 enhance civic engagement in our campus. Therefore, the community affairs representative will  
35 be changed to a Civic Engagement Officer. The Civic Engagement Officer will help students  
36 discover individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public  
37 concern. The officer will help students identify their personal and social responsibility. The  
38 officer is responsible for idea generation and discussion related to civic participation and public  
39 service. The current model, required for the Community Affairs Rep to identify opportunities to



1 serve our community. The Civic Engagement Officer does not differ too much. It actually  
2 broadens our scope. It does not only allow for community service and volunteer opportunities,  
3 but it expands student’s notions about what it is to give back to the community.

4 Civic Engagement is not the only area that is gaining national attention. Areas of diversity,  
5 equity, inclusion, and social justice are also picking up a lot of track across institutions of higher  
6 education. Under the current model, the Campus Affairs Rep is responsible to represent all  
7 students, with an emphasis of undeclared students, and to survey the student body. We do not  
8 believe this is feasible nor equitable. In order to better serve our students, the Campus Affairs  
9 Rep will be transformed into a Diversity and Inclusion Officer, within the organization. Diversity  
10 and Inclusion Officer requires an experienced and dynamic individual who has a deep  
11 understanding of the complexity and multiple dimensions of diversity, inclusion, and equity. The  
12 Diversity and Inclusion Officer shall ensure that all students’ needs are being met and have equal  
13 representation and visibility regardless of – but not limited to – age, class, culture, disability,  
14 ethnicity, gender, nationality, race, religion, sexual identity, sexual orientation and  
15 socioeconomic status. More specifically, the Diversity and Inclusion Officer will serve as an ASI  
16 Liaison to departments, centers, and officers within the university that serve marginalized  
17 communities.

18 **Component 5: ASI Secretary/Treasurer**

19 The Secretary/Treasurer is another position that needs to be revamped. The ASIST used to chair  
20 the Finance Committee, hence the Treasurer part of the title. The ASIST no longer works with  
21 the finances of our organization, since the creation of the VPF. This position oversees the  
22 biweekly process, but that process is currently being reevaluated. We still want the ASIST to be  
23 involved in ensuring that all student leaders are being held accountable and that everyone is  
24 fulfilling their duties. An option for the Secretary is to turn it into the ASI Chief of Staff. While  
25 the VPA focuses on personnel matters relating to staff and student staff, the Chief of Staff will  
26 assist the ASI President in personnel matters related to the student leadership. The Chief of Staff  
27 will directly assist the ASI President and will not be second in line to succession of the president.  
28 The Chief of Staff will help with conflict resolution between ASI members, and will also handle  
29 disputes submitted to the president’s office by Direct Reports. The ASI Chief of Staff will  
30 oversee a new write-up process that will replace the biweekly process. The ASI Chief of Staff  
31 will no longer be elected by the student body, but instead the ASI Chief of Staff will be hired by  
32 the ASI President. This means that the Administrative Assistant to the President and the ASIST  
33 will be merged. Even though, the main goal is not save money, merging the two positions will  
34 free up some money in the budget that can be used for other purposes. The ASI Chief of Staff  
35 will be part of the Executive Committee as a non-voting member. We recommend for there to be  
36 a standing agenda item, where the ASI Chief of Staff is able to report to the committee on the  
37 status of all ASI student leaders, as well as make recommendations for removal to the Executive  
38 Committee, based on the new write up process that will be developed to replace the biweeklies.