

DRAFT  
STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS  
FOR THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

UPDATED: March 25th, 2018

PREAMBLE

We, the student leaders of the California State Student Association (CSSA) who serve as the official representatives of the Students of the California State University, hereby declare that this Student Bill of Rights is the authoritative stance on the enumerated rights which should be guaranteed for all Students of the California State University. These rights should be granted without reservation by all of the universities within the California State University System. CSSA will continually work to ensure these rights are preserved for all Students.

ARTICLE I. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Section 1. Right to Intellectual Property

Clause 1. Students who produce research or other products of intellectual work on any university campus utilizing resources of the campus will retain full ownership of their property.

Section 2. Right to Challenge Faculty Opinion

Clause 1. Students who respectfully challenge faculty opinion will be free from retaliatory measures of any kind.

Section 3. Right to Protection Against Academic Retaliation

Clause 1. No student will be subject to threats or actual imposition of academic penalty as retaliation from any member of the faculty or the academic community.

Section 4. Right to Review Past Syllabuses

Clause 1. Every student will have the right to review the previous year's syllabus of any member of the faculty before signing up for the respective class.

## Section 5. Right to Advance Notice of Curriculum Changes

Clause 1. No change to the curriculum may occur before the students in the respective major and their authorized representatives have been informed of the intent to change the curriculum.

## Section 6. Right to Accessible Course Materials

Clause 1. Every student will have the right to review costs associated with course materials required for a course prior to signing up for the respective class.

Clause 2. No additional course materials may be required for students to purchase for a given course that are not listed on syllabi prior to the onset of a given semester.

## ARTICLE II. SHARED GOVERNANCE

### Section 1. Right to Representation on Matters Which May Adversely Affect Students

Clause 1. Any matter of the university being actively considered by the administration or faculty which may have an adverse impact on students requires the presence of authorized representatives of the students.

### Section 2. Right to Elect a Rector to the University Cabinet

Clause 1. The students will be permitted to elect a representative who will be seated on the university cabinet and who will solely represent the interests of the students on high-level administrative matters.

### Section 3. Right to Have Substantive Input Over Policy Making in Student Affairs

Clause 1. The students will be granted the same type of privileges in the decision-making process of student affairs as the faculty have in the area of academic affairs.

## ARTICLE III. HEALTH SERVICES

### Section 1. Right to an Informed Opinion about Services Rendered

Clause 1. No service rendered for a student by a university health center may be commenced without the attending medical provider clearly articulating, both

verbally and in writing, the nature of the treatment and any risks involved with the course of treatment.

## Section 2. Right to Reproductive and Personal Hygiene Products

Clause 1. All students will have access to contraception of their choosing and any other reproductive products deemed necessary for their personal well-being.

Clause 2. Personal hygiene products will be readily available for students and will be provided at both health centers and restrooms across the campus.

## Section 3. Right to Timely Health Services

Clause 1. No student shall wait more than two weeks to be seen by a medical professional when making an appointment.

Clause 2. Students identified as non-priority cases by triage staff will receive an appointment after no more than two weeks if symptoms continue to persist and access to local health care providers cannot be accessed within a one-month timespan.

## ARTICLE IV. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

### Section 1. Right to Timely Mental Health Services

Clause 1. No student suffering from a severe mental health issue will wait more than 24 hours to gain access to proper mental health professionals at a university facility.

Clause 2. No student will wait more than two weeks if they are seeking a casual appointment with mental health professionals at their university.

### Section 2. Right to Access Trained Mental Health Experts

Clause 1. Every student will have the right to be seen by someone professionally trained in mental health with at least one psychologist being employed on campus.

### Section 3. Right to Protection from Academic Penalties

Clause 1. No student suffering from a verifiable mental health issue who is required to take time off from school shall suffer an academic penalty.

## ARTICLE V. LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE LAW MATTERS

### Section 1. Right to Legal Counsel or Authorized Representative

Clause 1. Every student proceeding through the student disciplinary process at their university will have the right to legal counsel or to have an authorized representative present to speak on their behalf and provide legal information relevant to their case.

### Section 2. Right to Understand Legal Consequences for Admissions of Guilt

Clause 1. A full listing of the legal consequences for any admission of guilt must be provided to students in plain language before any admission of guilt may be entered by a student.

### Section 3. Right to Access Dossier of Evidence in Student Judicial Affairs Cases

Clause 1. Every student will have the right to access any compiled information against them for matters of student disciplinary action within 72 hours of any disciplinary hearing.

### Section 4. Right to Access All Public Documents without Burden or Constraint

Clause 1. Any public document of the university will be easily and readily accessible to the students for their review during business hours without any undue burden or constraint in accessing the documents.

## ARTICLE VI. DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT

### Section 1. Right to Freedom from Discrimination

Clause 1. Students will be free from discrimination in all aspects of university life.

Clause 2. Students will not be discriminated against by members of the university community on the basis of political affiliation.

### Section 2. Right to Freedom from Harassment

Clause 1. Students will be free from harassment in all aspects of university life.

Clause 2. Students will be free to share political beliefs in the classroom and on campus without fear of harassment from faculty, staff, or administrators.

## ARTICLE VII. TUITION & FEES

### Section 1. Right to Advance Notice of Tuition Increase

Clause 1. The students of the system will be notified by the Chancellor's Office at the first moment when a tuition increase is to be considered.

Clause 2. The authorized representatives of the students will be given an opportunity to take part in the consideration of a tuition increase from the beginning of the process, including but not limited to the actual determination of the amount of the increase.

### Section 2. Right to Information Regarding Tuition Usage

Clause 1. Students will be given access to an accurate breakdown of where every dollar of tuition is spent.

### Section 3. Right to Access University Budget Information

Clause 1. Students will have access to a line item budget of revenue and expenditures for the entire university especially with regard to academic and student affairs.

### Section 4. Right to Information Regarding Fee Usage

Clause 1. Any money collected from students will have a publicly accessible record of how the money is spent on a line item basis.

## ARTICLE VIII. GRADUATE STUDENTS

### Section 1. Right to Governance Outside of Associated Students Organizations

Clause 1. Graduate students shall have the right to independently organize into their own association, with complete autonomy from the undergraduate student government.

### Section 2. Right to AS Fee Waiver During Time as a Teaching Associate

Clause 1. Graduate students serving as a Teaching Associate will have their AS fees waived for the semester they are employed.

### Section 3. Right to Research Funding from Associated Students Organizations

Clause 1. If an Associated Students organization collects fees from graduate students for general activities, they will partition a portion of that money out for extracurricular and/or co-curricular research opportunities.

### Section 4. Right to Dedicated Graduate Research/Study Space

Clause 1. Each campus will allocate a dedicated space for graduate students to conduct research and to study that is conducive to their schedules.

## ARTICLE IX. SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY, AND ASSOCIATION

### Section 1. Right to Speak Freely on University Campuses

Clause 1. All students will be free to speak openly on campus, without constraint placed on the time, place, or manner of such speaking.

### Section 2. Right to Freely Assemble on University Campuses

Clause 1. Students shall be free to peaceably assemble at any location on university campuses without intervention by university authorities.

### Section 3. Right to Produce a Student Newspaper Free from Censorship

Clause 1. Any student newspaper produced on a campus shall be completely free from any form of censorship by the university.

### Section 4. Right to Freely Associate with Peers and Colleagues

Clause 1. Students shall be able to freely associate with one another without constraint placed upon such associations by the university.

## ARTICLE X. RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENT PROCESSES

### Section 1. Ratification

Clause 1. This Bill of Rights will be ratified upon the signature of 3/4ths of the authorized representatives from the 23 Associated Students Organizations.

## Section 2. Amendments

Clause 1. This Bill of Rights may be amended upon the affirmative vote of 3/4ths of the authorized representatives from the 23 Associated Students.