

ASI Student Government

Discussion of Structural Changes

Purpose of Discussion:

- Consider if the current representative structure adequately supports the various student groups on campus
- Consider the duties and responsibilities of the leadership roles in ASI to determine if they are well utilized
- Lastly, review the monthly hourly commitment required for each of the student leadership roles and consider the appropriateness of the GIA compensation for each position

Questions and Considerations

- Does the current Board represent all of the “groups” of students on campus or are there any who do not have representation?
- Do the current ASI leadership positions have a clear and necessary purpose that serves the students and/or the organization?
- Do the standing committees of ASI have a clear and necessary purpose that serves the students and/or the organization? Does the name of the committee represent that purpose?

Observations

- **Associate Justices –**
 - The function of a third branch of leadership, the Judiciary, has diminished in need in student governments in higher education as holding student groups accountable has been assumed by university departments
 - AJ’s are, by the nature of their positions, not knowledgeable enough to write policy for ASI nor are they engaged in meaningful ways to understand how committees and policies function for ASI
 - Other than policy review, AJ’s do not have a defined role other than to assist with Elections to hear grievances during campaigning. Even then, the punitive powers of the Judicial Review Committee are limited to removing a candidate, which would only be taken in an extreme case.
- **Representatives to the Board**
 - Housing Representative- the position has been vacant for the past year and a half. Consider sending an ASI leader to RHA instead of having an appointed representative?
 - ~~Honors college – Are the students in honors college currently represented by the other college reps?~~
 - Undeclared majors – are they sufficiently represented? How would a rep communicate with undeclared students to represent their needs?
 - Downtown campus – PAGE Representative, currently students are not represented at the Downtown campus. However, this is tricky as they do not pay student fees either.
- **Elections Commissioner** – It has been difficult to recruit for this position. The responsibility to run elections is too big for an individual student leader. The elections happen every year and the staff provide most of the oversight and organization due to the size of the marketing, programmatic, and human support needed. ASI needs an elections committee and a board to hear grievances during campaigning, but the position should be evaluated to refocus the responsibilities to support the outreach for elections,
- **Executive student leaders**

- Chief Justice – what is the role of the Chief Justice? Why appointed vs. elected? How can the CJ be more of a support to ASI and other student leaders? Have a stronger role in elections process and maybe oversee it and the elections committee? Does this title reflect what the position does?
- Secretary Treasurer – no longer serves a treasury function, should the title change to just Secretary or something else? The responsibilities need to be clarified and updated to serve the current needs of the organization.
- **Diversity and Inclusion Officer**- The D&I has a responsibility to help ASI serve the diverse student body through advocacy and programming. Recommend including in the D&I role to serve on the Cabinet of Commissioners, as the programming committee in ASI, to help ensure programs are inclusive and address the needs of the entire student body.
- **ASI Standing Committees**
 - Bylaws Committee – the committee is charged with the review of policies, but do not have the expertise to write policy nor are they engaged with committees and therefore do not have a context for updating the language. The responsibility for creating, upholding, and revising policies rests with the Executive Director. Legally and operationally, the University requires the ED to maintain policies. Approval of all policies goes through the BOD. Rather than sending policies to Bylaws, can't Exec Committee review the policies and recommend them to the BOD?
 - Legislative Affairs – Is this title appropriate to the work that the committee does? The charge and focus is not to pass legislation, but to advocate for Cal State LA student needs. Do we need to clarify the purpose and maybe consider a change in title?
 - Cabinet of Commissioners – The committee serves as ASI's programming board to create engaging programs for the student body. The title doesn't reflect this purpose for creating events and activities. There are too few students to support all of the programs and there is an opportunity to create volunteer positions.

Recommendations:

1. **Elections** – Strengthen the Elections Committee to replace the JRC and appoint 3-4 Elections or "Recruitment" Commissioners under the Chief Justice to run elections. Use the elections committee to interview and fill vacancies in ASI positions throughout the year. Committee could also help appoint students to campus committees, leaving the VPAG to focus on Senate committees and senators.
 - a. Convert AJ's to Elections Commissioners- paid with GIA and serving as neutral committee (may not run in the election) to oversee the elections process and grievances. Elections Committee will be chaired by the Chief Justice position. Commissioners will attend COC as they participate in programming and outreach and can collaborate with the other commissioners.
 - b. Actions required –
 - i. update the Elections Code, Policy 004 with changes to JRC, Chief Justice, and Elections Commissioners
 - ii. update the Bylaws on the elections process
2. **Retire the Judicial Review Committee** – This would come with the elimination of the Associate Justices. The Elections Committee will serve as the group to review any elections-related grievances, which was the primary responsibility of the JRC.
 - a. Actions Required:
 - i. Retire the JRC Code, Policy 301
 - ii. Update the Bylaws sections that discuss the JRC and Associate Justices
 - iii. Update the Elections Code to reflect new scope of the Elections Committee (in progress)
3. **Retire the Bylaws Committee** and transfer the responsibilities of reviewing policies to the Exec Committee. Due to the nature of their positions and responsibilities for chairing and running the standing committees, the members of the Exec Committee are more informed and able to make the

recommended changes to policies. The ED and ASI Staff are ultimately responsible for maintaining and enforcing ASI policies in the eyes of the CSU and Administration.

a. Actions Required:

- i. Update the Bylaws to eliminate the standing committee
- ii. Retire the Bylaws and Codes of Procedure Sub-committee Code, Policy 302

4. **Consider changing the titles for:**

- a. Legislative Affairs Committee – Changing name to Student Advocacy Committee (Change in Bylaws and the committee code)
 - b. Secretary Treasurer – update responsibilities and scope of the position and create a title reflective of their responsibilities (Chief of Staff maybe?) (Change in Bylaws and the committee code)
 - c. Chief Justice – change the name, no justice-related responsibilities or court to be held. Serves as the Parliamentarian for ASI. Consider making this a member of the Board and Exec. Could be responsible for working with staff to maintain and track the policies. (Change in Bylaws and the committee codes)
 - d. Cabinet of Commissioners - Consider changing the name to Community Engagement Committee or something similar to reflect the purpose and function of the committee, rather than who the membership is. Consider running the committee more like a traditional program board that would recruit and train student volunteers to help manage on events. (Change in Bylaws and the committee code)
5. Make the **Diversity and Inclusion Officer** a permanent appointment on the COC and Legislative Affairs Committee. The nature of this role would be beneficial to have on both committees. (Change in Bylaws and the committee code)
6. Consider the establishment of a new arm of ASI Student Government for the PAGE Downtown Campus. Work closely with PAGE and the staff of the Downtown campus to establish representatives and connect them back to ASI's structure on the main campus. This may involve a student body fee for the Downtown Campus. This may take some time to work through and no immediate action is required.