



ARTICLE I

ASI Elections Committee

Section 1 – Authority and Function

- A. The Elections Committee of the Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) of California State University, Los Angeles, shall engage in the promotion, planning, and execution of ASI's annual general election and special elections.
- B. The Committee shall, in collaboration with the other departments electing student leaders in the election, establish the dates for the general election and any special elections.
- C. The ASI General and Special elections are a function delegated to ASI through its Bylaws and Title 5. As a result of the nature and importance of the elections, the Committee has the authority and responsibility to ensure a fair and equitable election; and as such, shall work with the University President or designee, as well as the ASI staff, to manage the elections process.
- D. The annual election of student leaders for Cal State LA includes the Student Senators and the University Student Union Board members. As such, the Elections Committee shall work with the leadership of the Academic Senate as well as the University Student Union staff in the coordination of the general election.

Section 2 – Committee Membership

- A. The Elections Committee shall be composed of the following:
 - ASI Chief Justice
 - 1-3 Elections Commissioners
 - ASI Staff (non-voting)
 - University Student Union– Staff Advisor (non-voting)
 - Academic Senate Advisor (non-voting)
 - University President or designee (non-voting)
- B. The Chief Justice shall serve as the chair of the Elections Committee.
- C. The Elections Commissioner(s) shall be members of the Student Body, who shall be interviewed and recommended by the Chief Justice to the ASI BOD, for approval by a 2/3 majority of the BOD.

Section 4 – Quorum

Quorum shall be defined as a simple majority of the seated voting membership of the Committee. - The chair shall be counted for the purpose of establishing quorum.

Section 5 – The Chair of the Elections Committee shall:

- A. The Chair of the Elections Committee shall be the Chief Justice
- B. Be responsible for coordinating the ASI General and Special elections in accordance with ASI, Cal State LA, CSU policies, and State laws.
- C. Work with the ASI staff to develop a strategic marketing and distribution plan for promoting all ASI election-related events to the Cal State LA community.
- D. Recommend the appointment of up to three (3) regular ASI members to the Elections Committee in accordance with these codes.
- E. Schedule regular meetings for the Elections Committee throughout the academic year.

Section 6 – Conflict of Interest

Once appointed to the Elections Committee, a Committee member shall be ineligible to run for elected office for the academic year. Committee members may apply and can be selected for appointed leadership positions. Elections Committee members shall not engage in activities that might influence the elections, beyond their privilege to vote (e.g. actively supporting a candidate on the ballot).

ARTICLE II

ASI Elections

Section 1 – Elected Student Leader Positions

ASI's elected student leader positions consist of the ASI Board of Directors (ASI Bylaws, Article III). The election of the ASI Board of Directors is set forth in the ASI Bylaws, Article IV and Article X.

The election of the ASI leadership shall coincide with the election of the Student Academic Senators as well as the students serving on the University Student Union Board. The planning and execution of the elections shall therefore be collaborative to make the annual general election efficient and encompassing of all the elected leadership roles on campus.

Section 2 – Election Days

It shall be the duty of the Elections Committee to establish the dates and times in an elections timetable for all ASI elections, in collaboration with the other departments involved in the election.

- A. No election shall be held prior to the sixth week of the semester.
- B. No election shall be held later than the thirteenth week of the semester.
- C. The Elections Committee, in a manner consistent with the ASI Bylaws Article X, shall publish the dates of all elections.
- D. Notice of the time of such election shall be given at least three (3) weeks in advance and must be placed in various public places on the campus of Cal State LA and published in the following ways:
 - Campus wide e-mails
 - The ASI website and/or the University Times

ARTICLE III

Candidate Application AND FILING

Section 1 – Application

All applications for office shall be handled by the ASI Executive Director/designee.

- A. The ASI Staff shall maintain the confidentiality of all applicants.
- B. The ASI staff shall issue a receipt delineating the date and time the application was filed.
- C. The ASI staff shall coordinate with the University for the purposes of determining eligibility.
- D. An application shall constitute a letter of intent to run for the purposes of all other applicable governing documents.

Clause 1 – Platforms

Candidate platforms are due with the application. Platform lengths are limited as follows:

1. President – 350 words.
2. Vice President – 250 words.
3. All other candidates – 150 words.

The following candidacy requirements must be met by an applicant to be an official candidate on the ballot:

- A. Submit a completed General Elections Application by the said deadline
- B. Eligibility is verified by the Registrar's Office
- C. Good standing as determined by the Office of the Dean of Students

A candidate shall be disqualified from running if they do not attend the following events:

- A. Attendance at a mandatory candidate briefing (see Article III, Section 6)
- B. Attendance at one of the debates sponsored by ASI (see Article III, Section 7)

Section 2 – Filing for Elected Positions

Elections Applications shall be made available online through the ASI website a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the application deadline. The date of availability of applications and filing deadline must be during the times classes are in session (i.e. not during a semester break).

No person shall file an application for more than one elected office for one election.

Section 3 – Extended Filing

The filing deadline may be extended at the discretion of the Elections Committee for offices in which candidates are unopposed or no one has filed.

Section 4 – Notice of Vacant Office

The Elections Committee shall publicize notices of filing dates and vacant offices with their descriptions and qualifications for each of the positions.

Section 5– Mandatory Candidate Briefing

A mandatory candidate briefing(s) shall be scheduled for the purpose of informing the candidates of the rules and expectations of running in the election. Candidates that fail to attend the mandatory candidate briefing shall not be allowed to campaign or participate in the election. The Elections Committee may, at their discretion, hold individual candidate briefings in addition to the group meetings to accommodate students' class and work schedules.

Section 6– Public Presentation of the Candidates

It is mandatory for all candidates to attend at least one (1) event planned by the Election Committee to promote themselves as a candidate in the election. Candidates must notify the Election and Outreach Commissioner one

(1) week prior to the event(s) they will attend. Failure to attend shall be sufficient cause for disqualification, unless excused by the Election and Outreach Commissioner:

Clause 1 – Excuses

Excuses must be submitted in writing to the Election and Outreach Commissioner one 24 hours prior to the event(s). The Commissioner will determine validity and reply in writing prior to the debate.

Section 7– Eligibility for Elected Office

The eligibility requirements for candidates intending to serve as elected student leaders are governed by California State University policy and the ASI Bylaws. Candidates' eligibility shall be verified by the University prior to the start of the campaign period. Candidates who are deemed ineligible may appeal the finding and request an exception to the eligibility requirements through the Vice President for Student Life, in accordance with [CSU Executive Order 1068-Student Activities](#).

ARTICLE IV

SLATES

Section 1 – Definition

A slate is defined as a group of candidates forming a voluntary coalition who may engage in campaign activities on behalf of the entire membership of the slate.

Section 2– Regarding Slates

If a slate is formed, the following information shall be published on all publicity of the slate: A.

- A. The candidate's name and the college he/she represents, if any.
- B. All the same information noted in Article 4, Section 5, Clause 4.
- C. Specification as to which student can vote for said candidate (i.e. a student can only vote for a representative in the college that the student is enrolled) unless he/she is running for another position).
- D. The name of any endorsing organization(s)/individuals.

Section 3- Establishment of Slates

If a slate is formed, an Intent to Establish a Slate form shall be registered with the Elections Committee prior to promoting the slate.

Section 5 Slate Grievances

Grievances against a slate may result in the disqualification of the entire slate depending of the decision of the Judicial Review Committee and Elections Committee

ARTICLE V

CAMPAIGNING

Section 1 – Declaration of Candidates

ASI shall publicly announce all approved candidates running in the election via social media, the website, and in an email to the Student Body. Candidates are prohibited from campaigning in any manner prior to the declaration of the candidates.

Section 2– Definition of Campaigning

Campaigning is defined as any of the following actions:

- A. The distribution, mailing, or strategic positioning of literature or materials designed to directly influence the electorate's choice.
- B. The posting of advertisements, in any media, designed to directly influence the electorate's choice.
- C. Public speaking or written publications designed to directly influence the electorate choice.

Section 3– Improper Use of ASI Property

The unauthorized utilization of ASI property/material by any candidate or their campaign workers is strictly prohibited.

All current student government officers' copying privileges will be limited from the 1st day of

campaigning until the polls close and current leaders may not use the ASI offices for any campaign-related purposes (meetings, storing of campaign related material, etc.)

Section 4 – Staff Participation in ASI Elections

Any ASI staff wishing to support a particular candidate may do so on their own time and away from ASI property and premises. Under no circumstances while on ASI time, will members of the ASI staff engage in activities which may be construed to have the effect of influencing the election.

Section 5 – Campaign Literature

All campaign literature that shall be posted on campus or be copied by ASI must be presented to and approved by the Elections Committee, through the Chief Justice. The posting of campaign literature or materials not registered or approved is strictly prohibited and may result in sanctions against the candidate.

Clause 1 – Copies

All candidates will be provided 250 black and white copies and 250 color copies on 8 ½ x 11 size paper free of charge by ASI for individual candidates' promotion (i.e. these resources cannot be used to promote a slate). This service will not be offered until candidate eligibility is verified by the Division of Student Life. Copies will be ready with 24 – 48 hours and will be available for pick up at the ASI Offices. Candidates must provide the copy in the exact format they desired copied. Noformatting or graphic design services will be provided.

Clause 2 – Website Linking Requirement

All online and telecommunications media must reference and link to the ASI Elections website at www.ASICalStateLA.org

Clause 2 - Submission of Materials

Campaign literature and materials may be submitted to the ASI office during ASIbusiness hours. The Chief Justice will approve or disapprove of the material within forty-eight (48) hours.

Two copies of any campaign literature that is to be posted on campus or is to be copied shall be submitted to the Elections Committee for approval prior to distribution. Receipts for purchased material must also be submitted with the expenditure report. If the material is approved, the Elections Committee will keep one of the copies to maintain a log of all submissions for its records.

Digital posts on social media should also be presented to the Elections Committee for approval prior to posting. This could be an image or showing the post to the Chief Justice prior to making the post live.

Clause 4 – Disclosure

It is required that all **posted** campaign literature, with the exception of physical material, (i.e. T-shirts, pens, pencils, etc.) has the following information: A.

Name of candidate.

A. Office for which the candidate is applying.

B. Dates of the Election.

C. How and where to vote on Golden Eagle Territory (GET): "<https://get.calstatela.edu/>"

D. Web address to the ASI Elections page: www.ASICalStateLA.org/elections

E. ASI General Elections Approval Stamp

Section 6 – Posting

Clause 1: Rules for using, posting and distributing on campus shall be as follows:

- A. No University-owned property shall be used in any manner, for any campaign purpose without prior approval.
- B. Candidates should take care to maintain the dignity and aesthetic integrity of the Cal State LA campus and community.
- C. Posting on trees, building walls, pillars or doors is prohibited.
- D. Posting on any cement walls or other textiles (posts, pillars, waste receptacles) on or around campus is prohibited.
- E. Notifications may not be placed on vehicles or left unattended anywhere.
- F. Notifications may not be placed on the grass/dirt areas, in planters nor posted in restrooms.
- G. No posting inside the University-Student Union, except in designated areas with the approval from the University-Student Union administration, Room 306.
- H. No notification may partially or completely cover another notification.
- I. The placement of table tents shall have prior approval from the jurisdiction in authority of that location.
- J. Flyers shall not be posted in any area that is not pre-approved.
- K. Any campaign literature posted up shall be supported in all corners by staples, tacks, painters tape or string only. Prior approval from the jurisdiction in authority of that location is required. Allcandidates are encouraged to secure written approval to post their material from the jurisdictionin authority.

Clause 2: The candidates may post posters on the campus kiosks with prior approval and stamp provided by the ASI Administrative Office, U-SU Room 203.

- A. Flyers must be no larger than 8" x 11"
- B. Posters must be no larger than 11" x 17".
- C. Posting is limited to one poster per kiosk.
- D. The Elections Committee may remove posters if there is a posting violation.
- E. Posters must not partially nor cover completely other campus notifications, department notifications, or other candidates' flyers.

Clause 3: Candidates are responsible for ensuring the removal of all campaign materials from all areas no later than 5:00 pm five business days after the last day of voting. All candidates/slates will be required to sign a binding agreement for a \$50.00 clean up fee. The individual candidate fee will be billed \$50 and each slate will be billed \$100 that will be divided equally between each slate member. If it is determined that any campaign material is not removed by the date above, all individual candidates and each slate member will be assessed the clean-up fee. An invoice will be generated and failure to pay can and will result in a potential academic hold.

Section 8 – Campaign Advocate Limitations

Only continuing or currently enrolled students at Cal State LA, student organizations or their representatives, and the candidate's immediate family may engage in campaigning.

Clause 1 – Applicability of Rules

All campaign workers (students and immediate family) and sponsors (individuals or student organizations and their representatives) are subject to the election rules set forth in this Code.

Clause 2 – Responsibility for Actions.

Candidates are responsible for any individual(s), organization(s), or organization representative(s) campaigning actions on the candidate's behalf. It is the responsibility of the candidate(s) to make sure all campaign advocates understand the binding expectations of these codes.

Section 9 – Nature of Campaigning

No campaigning shall be done that defames another's character or is libelous. (Refer to the university free speech policy)

Section 10 – Campaign-Free Zones

- A. In the case of on-line elections, all computer labs on campus shall be campaign-free zones.
- B. Candidates and campaign advocates cannot use any electronic devices (e.g. smartphones, laptops, etc.) to physically solicit votes on or off campus from the electorate.
- C. In all cases the Cal State LA Library shall be a campaign-free zone.
- D. In all cases the Residence Housing shall be a campaign-free zone unless an officially approved event organized by Housing or the ASI Elections Committee.
- E. During the voting period, there shall be no campaigning near the voting area. The Elections Committee shall determine a suitable distance prior to the voting period and shall inform all candidates.
- F. Campaigning is not allowed in any offices on campus.

Section 11 – Approval of Candidate for Endorsements

No individual, student organization, or their representatives, shall endorse a candidate without written permission from the candidate. A copy of this permission shall be filed with the Elections Committee on a form provided for this purpose by the Elections Committee. This filing shall occur before any type of campaign sponsoring can happen. All endorsements literature and materials shall be approved by the Elections Committee and shall be submitted in accordance with this code for approval.

ARTICLE VI

Campaign EXPENSES

Section 1 – Itemized Report

Itemized reports of all campaign expenditures shall be submitted to the Election Committee. The itemized report shall list all expenses and include receipts for all campaign materials. Failure to submit an itemized report can lead to disqualification and/or impact a candidate's option of holding an ASI elected/appointed position in the future.

General Information:

- A. The expense report shall include all expenditures made by the candidate, slate (if applicable), and the individual(s) or organization(s) supporting the candidate/slate.
- B. Materials donated to the candidate, shall be given a value by the Elections Committee, consistent with the current market rates.
- C. Expenses shall be defined as the candidate's moneys incurred in running for office,

donations of materials and expenditures of funds by individual(s), organization(s) making public their support for a candidate.

- D. Any materials or services must be documented with an original receipt attached to the candidate's Campaigning Expense Report or Slate Budget Report.
- E. The candidates' Campaign Expense Report shall include the following:
 - 1. List of expenses incurred by the candidate for the purchase of materials.
 - 2. List of expenses incurred by the candidate for the purchase of services.
 - 3. List of each expense incurred by all individuals or organizations (supporting the candidate) for purchase of materials.
 - 4. List of each expense incurred by all individuals or organizations (supporting the candidate) for purchase of services.
 - i. Total of 1, 2, 3, and 4, shall not exceed \$500 for Executive Office and \$300 for all other candidates.
- F. The Slate Budget Expense Report shall include the following:
 - 1. List names of all slate members and their positions.
 - 2. List of expenses incurred by the slate for the purchase of materials.
 - 3. List of expenses incurred by the slate for the purchase of services.
 - 4. List of each expense incurred by all individuals or organizations (supporting the slate) for purchase of materials.
 - 5. List of each expense incurred by all individuals or organizations (supporting the slate) for purchase of services.
 - i. Total of 1, 2, 3, and 4, shall not exceed \$1,500.
- G. Statements by the candidate to the effect that his/her Campaign Expense Report is a "true" statement of expenses incurred in running for an ASI Office.
- H. Signature of a witness supporting good character of candidate. Signature of the Election and Outreach Commissioner must also be on the Campaign Expense Report.
- I. All expense reports shall be reviewed by the Elections Committee for authenticity and a summary of expenses for all candidates will be filed with the ASI

Administrative Office Room U-SU 203 within seven (7) business days after the itemized report deadline.

Section 2 – Public Document

The itemized report shall be available to the public in the ASI Administrative Office Room 203 for one full calendar year.

Section 3 – Expenditure Maximum

The total expenses for an individual shall not exceed \$500 for executive officers and \$300 for all other candidates. The total expenses for a slate shall not total more than \$1,500. If an individual/slate exceeds the maximum allowance it may lead to disqualification of that individual/slate.

ARTICLE VII

Campaign Violations

Section 1 – Role of the Elections Committee

The Elections Committee of the Associated Students, Inc. has the power to issue warnings, levy fines, suspend campaigns, disqualify candidates, or debate the validity of an election.

Questions regarding rules and regulations shall be brought to the Elections Committee.

Campaign complaints and alleged violations shall be judged by the Elections Committee. The procedure in which complaints are to be handled shall be determined by the Committee. This procedure shall be explained to the candidates at the Candidate Briefing.

- A. All Pre-Campaigning complaints must be submitted to the ASI Administrative Office, U-SU 203.
- B. All campaign complaints must be submitted to the ASI Administrative Office, U-SU 203.

Section 2 – Complaints & Resolution of Grievances

The Elections Committee will make a decision granting or denying hearings related to Elections, within one business day after receiving the Hearing Request Form. If a hearing is granted, it will be scheduled on the next available hearing date. The procedure for filing a complaint will be explained at the Candidate's Briefing.

All complaints regarding alleged campaign violations and balloting discrepancies shall be heard and resolved by the Elections Committee prior to the announcement of election results.

Section 3 - Reporting General Election Violations

- 1. Minor violations of the Elections Code of Procedure by an individual/candidate/slate/campaign volunteers shall consist of one entire act, which must be corrected within the twenty-four hour time period from the time of written grievance of such violation. These minor violations may include, but not be limited to:
 - A. Posters partially or completely covering other campus notifications, department notifications, or other candidates' flyers.
 - B. Posting or campaigning in prohibited ways or areas on campus

- C. Posting campaign material prior to receiving approval from the Elections Committee
- D. Use of ASI equipment or supplies for campaign purposes, including phones, office machines, office space, and email accounts.
- E.
- F. Four minor violations will equal one major violation

2. Major violations of the campaign rules by an individual/candidate/slate/campaign volunteers may include but are not limited to:
 - A. Use of menace, force, threat or any unlawful means towards any voter to hinder or deter such voter from voting, or directly or indirectly offering any bribe, reward, or anything of value to a voter in exchange for the voter's vote for or against any candidate.
 - B. Tampering or alternation of any official election material or ballot without authorization.
 - C. Failure to attend and participate in required debates.
 - D. Failure to adhere to ASI campaign spending limits.
 - E. Submitting a false expenditure form. This includes submitting a expenditure form that does not include all expenditures up to the specified date
 - F. Non-compliance in submission of itemized reports on time with receipts attached.
 - G. Removal or defacement of appropriately placed political advertising without authorization.
 - H. Violating the Cal State LA IT Policy, Residence Hall Policy, or the Facility Services Policy as defined in the Candidate's Packet.
 - I. Interference with the academic instruction of University classes.
 - J. Violating state or federal phone solicitation laws.
 - K. Other gross or intentional misconduct as perceived by the Elections Committee of such violation.
3. In all instances, the actions of a candidate's authorized agents shall be constructed as the action of the authorizing candidate.

Section 3-- Penalties for Major and Minor Violations

The Elections Committee has the right to impose any or all of the following sanctions against an individual/candidate/slate/campaign volunteers who is found to have violated the Elections Committee of Procedure. In addition, any major or minor violations that break university policies or procedure concerning student behavior may be subject to student disciplinary action by the University.

1. Minor Violation
 - A. Given a warning and required to cease and desist.
 - B. Community Service within the campus.
 - C. Require an individual/candidate/slate/campaign volunteers to refrain from any/all types of campaigning for a period of at least one hour, not to exceed a period of two weeks, prior to or during the course of the election (including during the hours of voting).
2. Major Violation
 - A. Removal of a candidate/slate be disqualified from assuming office.
 - B. Restriction from participating for a period of up to one school year in ASI paid or volunteer positions.

Section 3—Hearings to Dispute Reported Violations

- A. The Elections Committee will make a decision granting or denying hearings related to Elections, within one business day after receiving the Hearing Request Form. If a hearing is granted, it will be scheduled on the next available hearing date. The procedure for filing a complaint will be explained at the Candidate's Briefing.

Section 4 – Reporting of Elections Committee Decisions and Actions

- B. All actions taken by the Committee are final .
- C. Candidates will be notified in writing and via text/phone of the decisions immediately following the decision.
- D. The actions taken by the Committee shall be reported to the BOD during the certification of the results of the election as an action item, and are not debatable.

ARTICLE VIII

BALLOTS AND Voting

Section 1 – Name on the Ballot

The names to be used on the ballot shall be the candidate's name as it appears on the Candidate Filing Application. Candidates may request a preferred name be listed on the ballot at the time of the Candidate Briefing so that it may be included in all campaign materials and the official

announcement of the candidates.

Section 2 – Order on the Ballot

The order that candidates' names appear on the ballot shall be determined by the Committee.

Section 3 - Write-In Candidate

There shall be no write-in candidates allowed due to required verification of eligibility and fairness for those who submitted the required applications and documents. A "write-in candidate" is defined as any person who failed to apply either during the regular filing or extended filing period and still wishes to run for an elective office by means of having his/her name written in on a ballot.

Section 5 – Voting

The following procedure shall be used for electronic ballots:

- A. Students shall register with their Student ID number, CIN, or another campus identification number as deemed appropriate, to ensure secure authentication of a student's identity. In addition, student's college or degree program will be determined.
- B. Students will use the digital format to vote for one of the candidates for each position on the ballot.
- C. If there is only one candidate for a given position, a vote must be cast in support of or against the individual candidate. A candidate must receive a majority vote in favor of the total votes cast to be installed in their position.

ARTICLE IX

Certification of Election Results

Section 1 - Student Life shall provide the election results at the close of the online polls. ITS shall confirm that there was no evidence of fraudulent ballots. The Dean of Students Office shall prepare a report of the elections results for the announcement event.

Section 1 – Certification of the Election Process

A meeting of the BOD for which the election is an action item, shall be called for the certification of the election process. A regular meeting of the BOD shall suffice to meet this requirement so long as "Elections" is on the agenda as an action item. The certification shall not include the results of the election itself, only a summary of the process and a report of any sanctions or violations that were addressed in the process by the Elections Committee.

Section 2- Disclosure

Results shall not be disclosed/announced prior to the event designated for that purpose.

Section 5 – Threshold for Election

In all elections, a plurality of votes shall elect to office.

Section 6 – Ties for Office

In the event of a tie, the Elections Committee may either choose to host a special election for these offices at the nearest practical date as determined by the Committee or vacate the position for appointment by the BOD. All recommendations must be approved by the BOD.

ARTICLE X

Contesting the Results

Any grievance disputing the official results shall be filed within one business day after disclosure of results with the Dean of Students Office.

Section 1 – Requirement for Contest

Within five (5) business days of public disclosure of the official results, the petitioner shall show just cause for a recount to the Dean of Students.

The Dean of Students may consult with other entities on campus engaged in the election process to discern the validity of the dispute.

The Dean of Students shall make a determination upon completion of the investigation, which shall take no longer than five (5) business days from the receipt of the petitioner's complaint. The determination of the Dean of Students shall be final.

ARTICLE XI

Special Elections

Special Elections (this is not addressed in the above)

- When and why call a special election – referendum (see CSU policies)
- Timelines for notification and preparation
- Budget constraints

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to these codes shall be submitted on an absolute majority of the Elections Committee to the BOD for approval and requires a 2/3 vote of the BOD.

Policy History

Approved:	12/15/91	Revised:	12/03/09
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