Associated Students of Santa Monica College
A.S. Constitution Committee Meeting
November 9th, 2026, 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.
Cayton Center Conference Room (2nd Floor),
Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405
The Public may join via: Zoom/Telephone: https://smc-edu.zoom.us/s/89893070926,
Associated Students Office Phone Number: (310) 434-4250
Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Roll Call**

Vice President/Chair, Gabriel Sánchez, **P**
President, Paula Cortes, **P**
Secretary, Zoë Linkins, **P**
Student Outreach, Daria Zharkova, **P**
External Affairs, Viktoriia Oberderfer, **P**
Activities, Gregory Hawthorne, **AE**

Student Justice, Lloyd Dawes, **P**
Dean of Community and Academic Relations, Dr. Kierston Elliott, **P**

III. **Public Comments** (2 Minutes Per Speaker)

- Motion to reopen public comment, Motioned by President, Seconded by Secretary
- Motion approved without objection
- President of the Literature and Letter Society: Requested more efficient club approval procedures, suggesting online submissions and fewer required meetings to reduce delays affecting club activities.

IV. **Approval of Minutes - None.**

V. **Informational items**

- Constitution Committee Purpose, Scope, and Recommendation Process (Vice President)
- The Vice President outlined the committee's purpose of reviewing the A.S. Constitution and By-Laws and developing potential recommendations for the Joint Council. A three-meeting review process was proposed, with additional meetings possible if necessary.
- Constitution and By-Laws Review Framework and Work Timeline (Vice President)
- The Vice President outlined a three-meeting framework consisting of an initial review to identify concerns, a second meeting to examine flagged provisions and potential revisions, and a final meeting to establish proposed language and recommendations for the Joint Council.

VI. **Discussion Items**

- Comprehensive Review of A.S. Constitution and By-Laws
- The committee conducted an initial review of the Constitution, examining provisions through Article III, Section 1. Members identified several provisions requiring clarification, further discussion, or potential revisions.

Article I – Structure

Section 3, Organization Authority: The President raised questions regarding advisor responsibilities and potential consultation concerning future leadership or advisor transitions.

Section 4, Membership: The President suggested clarifying registered clubs' obligations under A.S. and ICC governing documents and fiscal policy. External Affairs and the Secretary raised questions regarding membership eligibility, A.S. fee communication, and club membership requirements. Dean Elliott recommended maintaining broad constitutional language and addressing specific requirements through appropriate policies.

Article II – A.S. Board of Directors

Section 1, Eligibility: Members discussed potential revisions to academic and disciplinary eligibility requirements, consideration of background screening, clarification of first-semester eligibility, and the definition of previous A.S. organizational experience.

Section 2, Composition and Terms of Office: The President suggested considering an advisory or historical role for former A.S. directors.

Section 3, Purpose and Responsibilities: Members suggested clarifying the Board's responsibilities concerning fiscal policy, budget oversight, and general authority.

Section 4, Conflict of Interest: The President raised concerns regarding exceptions for directors temporarily assuming vacant positions and potential conflicts involving club leadership, founder status, and recusal.

Section 5, Elections: Members discussed candidate orientation requirements, campaign fairness and transparency, election scheduling, and language potentially requiring clarification.

Section 6, Vacancies and Appointments: Members discussed special election provisions, vacancy announcements, application deadlines, reconsideration of unsuccessful appointment candidates, and clarification of rules applicable to the Student Trustee.

Section 7, Impeachment and Removal from Office: The Vice President requested clarification regarding whether the three-unexcused-absence limit applies exclusively to regular Board meetings or includes required committee meetings.

Article III – Interclub Council

Section 1, Clubs: Members raised questions regarding eligibility requirements for primary and secondary club advisors, club meeting documentation, reimbursement procedures, and verification of financial approvals.

- Preliminary Issues and Areas for Constitutional and By-Law Review
  - Tabled until the next meeting.
- Continued Review Priorities and Preparation for Next Meeting
  - Tabled until the next meeting.

VII. **Action Items**

- Constitutional Review Assignments and Preparation for Next Meeting
  - The Vice President encouraged committee members to research previously identified concerns and potential revisions in preparation for the next meeting. The committee is expected to continue reviewing the Constitution before revisiting flagged provisions and developing proposed amendments.
- Motion to table **Items 6.2, 6.3, and 7.1,** until the next meeting, Motioned by Student Outreach, Seconded by President
  - Motion approved without objection

VIII. **Adjournment at 2:52 PM**