



Elections Code
Associated Students, Incorporated
California State University, Bakersfield

Section I: Requirements for Running and Holding Office

All student representatives must be matriculated at the University, maintaining an on-campus 2.5 grade point average (GPA) each term and not be on probation of any kind (California State University Minimum Academic Qualifications for Student Office Holders Policy; hereafter referred to as CSU Policy).

1.1 Incumbent Unit Load

Undergraduate incumbents must earn twelve (12) semester of credit per term while holding office.
Graduate and credential students must earn six (6) semester of credit per term while holding office.

1.2 Incumbent Maximum Allowable Units

Undergraduate students are allowed to earn a maximum of 150 semester or 125 percent of the units required for a specific baccalaureate degree objective, whichever is greater. Graduate and credential students are allowed to earn a maximum of 50 semester or 167 percent of the units required for the graduate or credential objective, whichever is greater. Students holding over that number of units will no longer be eligible for major student government office.

1.3 Candidate Unit Load

Undergraduate candidates must maintain twelve (12) semester of credit per term while running for office.
Graduate and credential students must maintain six (6) semester of credit per term while running for office.

1.4 Candidate Residency

Undergraduate candidates for office must have been enrolled on the campus and have completed at least one (1) semester prior to the election, earning a total of twelve (12) semester units during that year. Graduate and credential candidates for office must earn six (6) semester units per term of continuous attendance as a new graduate or credential student to be eligible. Graduate and credential students who received a bachelor's degree or credential within the past three years from the same campus must have earned a total of twelve (12) semester units during their last year as an undergraduate-to be eligible.

1.5 Additional Candidate Requirements

To run for an executive officer position, a candidate must have attended two Board of Directors meetings within the last academic year and two ASI committee meetings, or submitted no less than two professional letters of recommendation by any college or university faculty member or employer in addition to attending the Executive Officer Elections seminar administered by the ASI Elections Coordinator or ASI Executive Director.

1.6 Verification

The qualifications of the candidates shall be verified through the ASI Administrative Office.

1.7 Appeal Process

Under extraordinary circumstances, the Campus President and/or Vice President for Student Affairs may make an exception to the requirements for unit load, maximum allowable units, residency and GPA (CSU Policy). All written requests for extraordinary exceptions must be made by the close of the filing period to the ASI Executive Director. The ASI Executive Director will review the petition for accuracy and send to the Elections Coordinator, Campus President and/or to the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA). The Campus President and/or VPSA shall make a decision within 2 school days and inform the ASI Executive Director and process a letter of approval or rejection. The ASI Executive Director shall notify the candidate of the letter, which is to be picked up at the ASI Office.

1.8 Candidate Character Standard

Candidates hereby commit to campaign without prejudice to age, disability, gender, genetic information, gender identity or expression, nationality, marital status, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and veteran or military status. Candidates further commit abide by all applicable Terms of Membership as described by ASI Bylaws Article III, Section 2. Candidates further commit to abiding by all of the core

values and beliefs as articulated by the Guiding Principles of California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB). Any violations of this standard committed during campaigning will lead to immediate removal from the campaign, or in the case of a subsequent ASI Executive Board tenure, the immediate initiation of removal procedures as described in the ASI Bylaws: Article X.

Section II: Elected Officers and Term Limits

- 2.1 There will be one general election in each academic year, to be held during the Spring Semester.
- 2.2 The following positions shall be elected by the entire student body:
 - a. Executive Officers
 - i. President
 - ii. Executive Vice President
 - iii. Vice President Campus Life
 - iv. Vice President Finance
 - v. Vice President Legislative Affairs
 - vi. Vice President University Affairs
 - b. Position Specific Directors
 - i. Director of ASI Outreach
 - ii. Director of Athletic Engagement
 - iii. Director of Community Outreach
 - iv. Director of Clubs/Organizations Outreach
 - v. Director of Diversity and Inclusion
 - vi. Director of International Student Relations
 - vii. Director of Special Populations
 - viii. Director of Students with Disabilities
 - ix. Director of Student Support
 - x. Director of Sustainability
 - c. Academic School Directors
 - i. Director of Arts and Humanities
 - ii. Director of Business and Public Administration
 - iii. Director of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering
 - iv. Director of Social Sciences and Education
 - v. Director of Transfer Students
 - vi. Director of Graduate Students
- 2.3 The following positions shall be appointed by the relevant campus departments:
 - a. Director of CSUB-AV
 - b. Director of Greek Relations
 - c. Director of Student Housing Relations
 - d. Director of Veterans Affairs
- 2.4 Candidates shall not run for more than one office during an election.
- 2.5 No member shall hold more than one (1) elected or appointed position in ASI simultaneously. Membership on a committee is not considered holding office.
- 2.6 A majority of all votes cast for a position shall be necessary to elect Executive Officers.
- 2.7 Board members shall serve a one-year term beginning at noon on the first Monday after the Spring Semester final exams have concluded.
- 2.8 No member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in any single elected or single appointed position and no more than a total of six (6) years of elected or appointed service within CSUB ASI.

Section III: Elections Administration

- 3.1 The ASI Election shall be overseen by an Elections Coordinator.
 - a. The ASI Elections Coordinator shall be hired by ASI Executive Director. Once the ASI Elections Coordinator is approved, the ASI Executive Director will notify the Vice President of Student Affairs.

- 3.2 The Elections Coordinator shall:
 - a. Be hired before the end of Fall semester;
 - b. Not be a member of the CSUB ASI Board or a former CSUB ASI Board member within two years of leaving office;
 - c. Set the date of the annual Spring Election with advisement from the ASI Executive Director;
 - d. Review the election process with direction from the ASI Executive Director;
 - e. Enforce the ASI Election Code;
 - f. Notify all departments (specifically Housing, Athletics, Facilities) the dates of ASI Elections and get approval/disapproval of posting within the specific department;
 - g. Prepare the candidate nomination packet;
 - h. Certify through the ASI Executive Director the qualifications of all potential candidates;
 - i. Conduct the ASI Elections Orientation in conjunction with the ASI Executive Director (or designee);
 - j. Submit to the student newspaper a complete list of candidates, their perspective offices, and all candidate statements for publication;
 - k. Be responsible for all facets of advertising the filing period and election process through all available means of advertising;
 - l. Organize and coordinate all election events developed by the ASI Public Affairs Committee;
 - m. Work with and develop all necessary information to put the elections ballot on the appropriate election platform;
 - n. Act as the Chair of the Elections Grievance Committee to hear all complaints concerning election violations;
 - o. Be responsible for maintaining complete documentation and/or all written records pertaining to the election process.
 - p. Following the election process, submit all records to the ASI Executive Director;
 - q. Maintain public neutrality in regard to any candidate in the election;
 - r. Not run for an office or campaign for any candidate;
 - s. Have the right to discuss the election issues in privacy;
 - t. Be responsible for notification and promotion of the election process utilizing all available means of media. The notice shall set forth the dates of the election, the purpose of the election, and the hours during which voting will be open;
 - u. Collect and certify all income and expense records of candidates; and
 - v. Be compensated upon satisfactory completion of the entire election period.

- 3.3 Grievance Committee
 - a. In the event of a grievance, a grievance committee shall hear grievances.
 - b. The Grievance Committee shall be comprised of the following voting members:
 - i. ASI Elections Coordinator
 - ii. ASI Executive Director (or designee)
 - iii. Director of Student Involvement (or designee)
 - iv. Dean of Students (or designee)
 - v. Justices from the ASI Judicial Council not campaigning in ASI Elections
 - b. Five members of the Grievance Committee must be present in order to conduct business and a majority of those present must be students.
 - c. The Grievance Committee shall be called only by the ASI Elections Coordinator and they shall vote on all grievances that are submitted. The ASI Elections Coordinator shall notify both parties of the decision within one school day.

Section IV: Pre-Elections Regulations

4.1 Filing Procedure

- a. The filing period for ASI Elections shall be a minimum of thirty (30) school days during the Spring Semester.
- b. Prior to the close of the filing period, each candidate shall:
 - i. Complete an application to run for office and turn in all relevant supporting documentation for their respective candidacy, and
 - ii. Sign a statement confirming their intention to run and also certify that they have read and understood the ASI Elections Code.
- c. Each candidate must meet all requirements for running and holding office as stated in Section I of this Elections Code. Eligibility will be verified by the ASI Executive Director and will inform the ASI Elections Coordinator of eligible and non-eligible candidates.
- d. An applicant is declared a candidate upon receiving written notification of their eligibility and upon the conclusion of their attendance at the mandatory candidate-orientation meeting.

4.2 Mandatory Candidate-Orientation Meeting

- a. All candidates shall be required to be present at the orientation meeting immediately following the close of the filing period.
- b. If a candidate is unable to attend the mandatory candidate-orientation because of extenuating circumstances, a make-up meeting will be held by the ASI Elections Coordinator. The candidate must notify the ASI Elections Coordinator 48 hours in advance if unable to make the orientation. The candidate must request a make-up meeting 2 school days after the candidate orientation has passed to be eligible to campaign.
- c. Late arrival to, or early departure from, either meeting will result in the candidate's disqualification, unless a justified circumstance, as approved by the ASI Elections Coordinator, prevented full attendance. The candidate must make up the portion missed from the session after the candidate orientation within 2 school days.
- d. The agenda of the mandatory and make-up candidates meeting will be as follows:
 - Roll Call
 - Inclusivity Presentation
 - Elections Code Overview (with a question-and-answer period)
 - Ethical and Truthful Campaigning
 - Clean Campaign Pledge
 - Repeat of Roll Call
 - Formal Adjournment

4.3 Campaigning

Definition: Is an organized, planned action, verbal or written or digital medium, for the purpose of electing a particular candidate and is defined as anything that may be perceived by human senses in order to influence the vote of any student.

- a. Campaigning shall commence for nine (9) school days during the Spring Semester following the adjournment of the Candidate-Orientation meeting.
- b. No candidate may campaign until after an orientation meeting has been completed. All candidates shall conduct their campaign in accordance with the provisions of the entire ASI Elections Code and with regard for the principles of truthful and ethical campaign practices. All campaigning shall be the exclusive duty and responsibility of the candidate, and their campaign workers.
- c. The campaign period will be from the close of the mandatory Candidate-Orientation meeting until voting begins. If not in attendance at the mandatory candidate meeting, campaigning may begin once the candidate's orientation has been completed. Any campaigning before this time is grounds for disqualification.
- d. Candidates may discuss their opponent's relevant professional history/qualifications while campaigning, but they may not include any personal matters regarding their opponent nor may they make false or slanderous remarks. It will be left up to the discretion of the ASI Elections Coordinator

- and/or the Grievance Committee to decide what language and campaign etiquette is considered appropriate.
- e. Approval of campaign material is necessary. If the campaign advertisement is in violation of this Code, the ASI Elections Coordinator could rule to remove the material.
 - f. Once voting has started, candidates and campaign workers must switch from active campaigning to encouraging students to vote in the election.
 - g. The ASI Elections Coordinator and ASI Executive Director will host tables for students to vote along with non-campaigning Justices from the ASI Judicial Council and members of ASI not running for a position. Candidates should encourage students to use these polling locations but must stay 10 feet away from them.
 - h. All candidates must remove all of their posted campaign material by noon on the day following the last day of voting.
 - i. Permitted Campaign Activities
 - i. Candidates may use posters, flyers, banners, buttons, social media or any other form of advertising that is not otherwise prohibited by this Code.
 - ii. Every election sign, poster, banner, badge, t-shirt, flier, balloon, etc., must have a candidate's name on it.
 - j. Campaign Posting Policy
 - i. Only thumbtacks or staples may be used to post items on bulletin boards. If another method is used that results in damage to a bulletin board surface, the candidate will be subject to liability for any resulting expenses.
 - ii. Only "Blue" Painters Masking tape may be used for posting on non-bulletin board surfaces. Campaign material that does not utilize the blue painters masking tape is subject to immediate removal and the candidate(s) responsible will be liable for any resulting damage.
 - iii. Handbills/circulars may not be placed on parking vehicles on campus.
 - k. Approved Posting Areas:
 - i. Candidates must post materials in adherence to campus posting policies.
 - ii. Campus Buildings: To post within a specific building, each candidate must receive written approval by the appropriate administrative office.
 - iii. Housing and Residence Life Publicity Policy
 - a. No postings are allowed in the mailbox area or beyond.
 - b. No postings may be placed over existing advertisements or postings, on entrance doors, or at the Housing Office front desk;
 - c. Materials may NOT be distributed in the following manner:
 - Slid under doors
 - Placed in mail-boxes
 - Displayed on signs staked in the ground
 - Door-to-Door Solicitation
 - d. No postings are allowed in the Residence Halls (i.e., Pinyon and Juniper Hall)

4.4 Digital Campaigning

Digital campaigning is allowed. However, the following rules will apply:

- a. Candidates cannot send unsolicited emails/correspondence to individual students, student groups, or student organization members.
- b. Campus computing resources e.g. myCSUB, campus websites, CSUB Mobile App, CSUB networks, etc. cannot be used for campaigning regarding a specific candidate.
- c. Internet resources may be used if they do not impede the educational process of any students, or violate any California Educational Code, CSU Policy, and/or local, state or federal laws, ordinances or regulations.
- d. The use of social media is acceptable as long as the posting is related only with regard to the candidate and does not discuss another candidate negatively.
- e. Candidates must disclose to the Elections Coordinator which social media platforms they intend to use during campaigning and the username.
- f. Candidates cannot use giveaways or raffles during campaigning.

- g. If a candidate is a part of a CSUB campus department (excluding CSUB clubs and organizations), the campus department cannot promote the candidate on their social media platforms.

4.5 Campaign Events

- a. Candidates are encouraged to be creative with their campaigning, however, all campus procedures must be followed including, but not limited to: reservations, facilities, etc.;
- b. Approval for campaigning events must be given by the ASI Elections Coordinator and a copy of approved events must be kept on file. This includes events hosted by the candidate and/or clubs/organizations approved by the candidates.
- c. No campaigning may take place at a campus event unless it is an approved campaign event.
- d. A designated Runner Hour during the nine candidacy days will be provided for students to meet with all available candidates.

4.6 Prohibited Campaign Activities

- a. Nothing shall be posted as to obscure previously posted or properly placed materials.
- b. A candidate's name may not appear on a sign without their permission.
- c. ASI employees shall maintain public neutrality in regard to any candidate in the election.
- d. Advertising or campaigning which interferes with classes (unless with the instructor's permission) or usual University business or endangers persons on campus is prohibited.
- e. No physical campaigning is allowed in the library or in any Computer Lab.
- f. Candidates may not provide portable electronic devices (i.e. laptops, internet capable phones, PDAs, etc.) to solicit votes during the voting period.
- g. Any form of publicity defacing University property shall be prohibited. (e.g., the use of nails and thumbtacks, and paint on walls and buildings).
- h. For the purpose of regulating campus elections, campaigning shall not occur outside the limits of the Main and Antelope Valley campuses, except via Internet. The limits of the campus shall include all campus property, all parking lots, residential halls and roads through the campus.
- i. The use of any external audio devices (e.g., Bullhorns) for campaigning shall not be allowed.

4.7 Violations

The following actions shall also be considered as violations of this Code:

- a. Improper posting/advertising;
- b. Unsolicited emails or text messages;
- c. Failure by candidate or their volunteers to correct any violations by the specified time;
- d. Campaign workers list not updated;
- e. Removing or defacing other candidate's information;
- f. Falsifying or fraudulently reporting campaign receipts;
- g. Failure to submit the Campaign Income and Expense Form by the stated deadline;
- h. Harassing students, candidates or other campaign workers;
- i. Encouraging, aiding, or abetting any student to cast a fraudulent vote;
- j. Sending email or text message blasts using campus information resources;
- k. Making false or slanderous remarks/discussing personal matters of another candidate;
- l. Failure to remove campaign material following elections by the deadline; or
- m. Other violations deemed by the Elections Coordinator/Grievance Committee.

4.8 Sanctions

- a. The Elections Coordinator will review all violation petitions and make recommendations accordingly. If a hearing is deemed necessary, the Elections Coordinator will call a hearing of the Election Grievance Committee.
- b. Possible sanctions for proven minor violations could include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. Correction of violation, or
 - ii. Campaign restrictions such as removing all advertising for 2 school days.
 - iii. The discretion of what constitutes minor violations shall be made by the ASI Elections Coordinator.
- c. Possible sanctions for proven major violations could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- i. Campaign restrictions such as: removing all posters for 4 or more school days;
 - ii. Loss of campaigning privileges for 5 or more school days such as:
 - Passing out handbills,
 - Hanging posters/flyers, or
 - Participating in any Election event; or
 - iii. Dismissal of a candidate from the election.
 - iv. The discretion of what constitutes major violations shall be made by the ASI Elections Coordinator.
- d. Should the Grievance Committee find a candidate to be culpable of a violation of the ASI Elections Code and the candidate does not fulfill the sanction, the candidate may be referred to the Dean of Students for possible violation of the CSUB Student Code of Conduct.

4.9 Reporting Violations

- a. Allegations of any violations of the ASI Elections Code may be presented to the ASI Elections Coordinator by filing a “Violation Petition” at any time during the day, up to noon the day following the closing of the election polls.
- b. Petitions must be completely filled out, signed, and submitted to the Elections Coordinator.
- c. The ASI Elections Coordinator shall review the petition within 24 hours (one school day). Review by the Grievance Committee may be deemed necessary by the ASI Elections Coordinator.

4.10 Violation Resolution

- a. The respondent will be informed via telephone, text, and email of the alleged violation within 24 hours (one school day) by the ASI Elections Coordinator verifying that the petition is completed.
- b. For a violation allegation, respondent(s) will be provided with:
 - i. Details of the alleged violation;
 - ii. Suggested corrections of the violation;
 - iii. Potential sanctions for the violation;
 - iv. If a hearing is deemed necessary, the date, time, and place of hearing shall be given. Such hearing shall take place not less than 24 hours, or one school day from the date of the Notice of the Hearing; and/or
 - v. The complainant will be informed via telephone, text, and email of the upcoming hearing.

4.11 Hearing Procedures

- a. Hearings of the Grievance Committee will be open to the public;
- b. Deliberations of the Grievance Committee shall be conducted in closed session;
- c. The Committee will vote on the decision regarding complaints in public session.

4.12 Decisions

- a. The respondent and complainant will be notified of the Grievance Committee’s decision in person if time permits. However, both will be notified via phone call immediately following the meeting and then in writing, within 24 hours of the Committee’s decision. Written decisions will be emailed to the candidate.
- b. The decision of the Committee will be signed by the ASI Elections Coordinator. The ASI Elections Coordinator shall then send a copy of the decision to the Vice President of Student Affairs.
- c. After the respondent and the complainant have been notified of the Committee’s decision, the decision will be posted on the ASI bulletin board.

4.13 Campaign Expense Limits

- a. All candidates must turn in an Income and Expense Report to the Elections Coordinator listing all expenses and donations the day following the final day of the election.
- b. A \$300.00 limit shall be placed on campaign spending and donations combined for each candidate. Receipts or copies of receipts for each itemized expenditure must be attached to the Income and Expense Report Form;
- c. Any in-kind donation must be listed on the Income and Expense Report Form at the retail value of the in-kind donation;

- d. Failure to hand in the Income and Expense Form by the due date can result in disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, disqualification.

4.14 Campaign Election Forum

- a. The ASI Elections Coordinator shall set the date and time of the Election Forum to take place prior to the election and during the campaign period.
- b. The ASI Elections Coordinator shall organize the Election Forum and be present to mediate the forum.
- c. The Elections Forum shall be held so that all candidates have an opportunity to introduce themselves to the student body and to discuss/debate student-determined issues. All candidates shall have the same amount of time to answer questions.
- d. The candidates will answer and discuss questions presented by the ASI Elections Coordinator. Debate questions may be submitted by students via Internet or the ASI Office.
- e. Additional rules and regulations of the debate shall be determined by the ASI Elections Coordinator with assistance from the ASI Executive Director.

Section V: Voting

5.1 Election Dates/Times

- a. The annual election shall be held during the 8th and 9th days of the campaign period.
- b. Election dates for Run-Off Elections shall be for a minimum of two (2) consecutive school days the week following the general election.
- c. Polls shall be accessible online for 24 hours each day of the election, beginning at 8:00 AM on the first day continuing until 11:59 PM on the final day.
- d. If unforeseen circumstances require that the election be postponed, then the Grievance Committee shall choose the most appropriate dates for an alternate election.

5.2 Voter Eligibility

- a. Any tuition paying student duly registered, and currently attending, California State University, Bakersfield shall be eligible to vote.

5.3 Election Day

- a. Elections will be held online; students must check their preferred email which is on file with the University to vote;
- b. On election days, candidates and campaign workers must switch from active campaigning to encouraging students to vote in the election. Candidates may not provide portable electronic devices (i.e., laptops, internet capable phones, etc.) for the purpose of soliciting another student to vote on the candidate's device during the voting period.
- c. The Elections Coordinator and ASI Executive Director will have tables set up for voting;
- d. Any student who attempts to tamper with or defraud the voting process shall be reported to the Dean of Students office and will be subject to disciplinary action up to expulsion from the University.

5.4 Run-Off Elections

- a. In the event of a tie vote of two or more candidates for the same elected office, or if no candidate for an Executive Office receives a majority of the vote, the Elections Coordinator shall publish the date of a Runoff Election between the candidates who received an equal number of ballots or the two candidates who received the most votes;
- b. Run-off Elections shall:
 - i. Commence on the following Wednesday and Thursday after the General Election;
 - ii. Adhere to the same regulations as prescribed by this Code for General Elections;
 - iii. Allow campaigning as is approved for any General Election with an additional campaign expense allowance as is allowed for the General Election.

5.5 Referendum/Initiatives

- a. All Referendum or Initiatives to be placed before the student body that affects the Associated Students, Inc. fees, governing or legal structure, shall be approved first by the ASI Board of Directors with a majority affirmative vote of all eligible voting members of the Board.
- b. These elections shall be held as needed.
- c. They shall be held during a regular election whenever possible.
- d. These elections shall be for a yes/no vote unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors.
- e. A referendum shall be successful when approved by a majority of the members casting votes in a general or special election.
- f. Procedures for establishing or adjusting ASI fees by referenda must follow those procedures outlined by CSU Policy.

5.6 Special Elections

- a. Special Elections shall occur after ten (10) percent of the directors' constituency signs a petition requesting a Recall Election.
- b. Any Executive Officer may be subject to recall upon a petition signed by ten (10) percent of the total members of the Association.
- c. After the Grievance Committee verifies the names on the petition, the President or ASI Board shall call a special election within fifteen (15) legal days.

Section VI: Post Election Regulations

- 6.1 Ballots are recorded and counted electronically.
- 6.2 Ballots or sections of ballots shall be voided if voting instructions are violated.
- 6.3 Votes shall be tabulated and recorded at the close of the polling process.
- 6.4 The election results shall be recorded by the ASI Elections Coordinator.
- 6.5 The election results shall be confirmed with the Vice President of Student Affairs, or designee, for accuracy within 48 hours of the close of the election.
- 6.6 The results shall be posted and marked “unofficial” for 48 hours (two school days) or until such time as all election grievances have been resolved.
- 6.7 The names of the winners shall be posted on the ASI bulletin boards and outside the ASI office. The results will include:
 - a. Total votes for each candidate and their respective percentages of votes;
 - b. Designation of winners; and
 - c. Signature of the ASI Elections Coordinator, ASI Executive Director, and Vice President for Student Affairs
- 6.8 The ASI Elections Coordinator will release the official election results through a campus-wide administrator message within 48-72 hours (2-3 school days) of their approval.
- 6.9 All elections are final and require no Board of Directors’ approval.
- 6.10 Candidates are responsible for the removal of all posted campaign materials by noon the day following the last day of voting. If campaign material is not removed, sanctions will be imposed including but not limited to facilities management removal and charging the candidate an appropriate rate for removal.

Section VII: Approval and Amendments

- 7.1 This Code must be approved and amended by an approved two-third (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors before it can become effective.

7.2 Local, state and federal laws, CSUB policies, and the ASI Bylaws shall take precedence in the event of a conflict with this ASI Elections Code.

(rev. 3/00; 11/16/01; 4/12/02; 9/04; 3/05; 3/07/08; 4/11/2011; 4/18/14, 2/3/15, 3/11/16, 3/10/17, 2/16/18, 2/1/2019, 1/31/2020, 2/5/2021; 2/10/2023; 2/2/2024)