

ASLCSC Constitution

Preamble

We the students of Lewis-Clark State College, in the belief that students have the right and duty to play a significant role in guiding their college, do hereby establish the ASLCSC Constitution to facilitate the following: the articulation of student opinions and interests both in governance of the college and to the community; the encouragement of the greatest level of cooperation and communication between students and their organizations; the assurance of full student access to quality education; the provision for programs and services to benefit students; and the encouragement of the highest level of excellence in education.

Article I

Name and Membership

Section I. Name

The name of the association under which this constitution is formed shall be the Associated Students of Lewis-Clark State College (ASLCSC).

Section II. Membership

Membership shall consist of all students who are enrolled for one (1) or more Lewis-Clark State College credits.

Section III. Declaration of Diversity

The ASLCSC shall not discriminate and shall strive to create a campus environment which understands, fosters, and embraces the expression of diversity among students, faculty, administration, and staff. Diversity encompasses differences in age, color, ethnicity, gender, national origin, political interests, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, or veteran status. This policy against discrimination shall include, but is not limited to, student representation, recruitment, membership, activities, or opportunities with respect to policy making. A violation of this clause by any member of ASLCSC Student Government shall constitute grounds for impeachment and removal from office.

Article II

Legislative Branch

Section I. ASLCSC Senate

The legislative powers of the ASLCSC shall be vested in the Legislative Branch whose purpose shall be to serve the members of the ASLCSC Student Body by appropriating expenditures, enacting ASLCSC Bylaws, Codes, Policies and Procedures.

Section II. Eligibility

All members of the ASLCSC Senate shall be in good standing with the college and maintain a collegiate cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 (on a 4.00 scale), one semester of which shall be from LCSC. ASLCSC Senators shall throughout their term carry at least eight (8) LCSC credits per semester.

Section III. Membership

The senate shall consist of ten (10) elected representatives. Each elected representative will represent a specific and clearly defined constituency.

1. The Academic School and Technology School shall be each represented by two (2) Senators.
2. There shall also be six (6) Senators whose representation shall be based on the number of students enrolled in the Academic and Technology Schools from the previous year.

Section IV. ASLCSC Senate Majority Leader, Powers and Responsibilities

The ASLCSC Senate Majority Leader shall be selected from within the Senate by a simple majority vote of the entire Legislature and will serve a one (1) year term unless removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire body. The ASLCSC Senate Majority Leader shall:

1. Conduct ASLCSC Senate meetings according to Parliamentary Procedures.
2. Supervise the ASLCSC Student Government Secretary.
3. Solicit appointments for open ASLCSC Senate seats.
4. Inform and lobby, in consultation with the ASLCSC President, Idaho State Legislators during their session about LCSC issues.
5. Faithfully adhere to the ASLCSC Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures of the ASLCSC.

Section V. ASLCSC Senate Pro-Tempore, Powers & Responsibilities

The ASLCSC Senate Pro-Tempore shall be elected from within the ASLCSC Senate by a simple majority vote of the ASLCSC Senate present and shall serve a one (1) year term unless removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire body. The ASLCSC Senate Pro-Tempore shall:

1. Assume the duties and responsibilities of the ASLCSC Senate Majority Leader in the event of that individual's inability to perform the duties of that office.
2. Serve as the official voice and representative of the ASLCSC Senate as authorized by the ASLCSC Senate Majority Leader.
3. Oversee the physical and operational aspects of the ASLCSC Senate office, along with ensuring proper office hours of all ASLCSC Senators.
4. Faithfully adhere to the ASLCSC Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures of the ASLCSC.
5. When the vacancy of the ASLCSC Vice-President occurs, the Senate Pro-Tempore of the ASLCSC Senate shall assume the duties of the Vice-President until a new Vice-President is appointed by the ASLCSC President.

Section VI. Legislative Process

The Parliamentary Procedures shall include:

1. A quorum shall consist of at least 51% of voting members and shall be necessary to conduct official business for the ASLCSC Senate.
2. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the ASLCSC Senate in cases where the ASLCSC Constitution and/or Bylaws of the ASLCSC Student Government are silent.
3. The ASLCSC Senate shall keep records of its proceedings which shall be documented and made available to the public.
4. Open meetings of the ASLCSC Senate shall be held no less than once a week during the Fall and Spring semesters when classes are in regular session.
5. Each ASLCSC Senator shall have one (1) vote. In the event of a tie, the ASLCSC Vice-President shall cast the deciding vote.
6. Legislative bills or expenditures shall require a simple majority vote subject to approval by the ASLCSC President.
7. Approve by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, any new Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures of the ASLCSC subject to approval by the ASLCSC President.

Section VII. ASLCSC Senate Powers and Responsibilities

The ASLCSC Senate shall have the power to:

1. Confirm presidential appointments to the ASLCSC Executive Cabinet and to the ASLCSC Judicial Branch by a majority vote.
2. Impeach any member of the ASLCSC Student Government by a two-thirds (2/3) vote for a serious violation of the public trust.
3. Override a presidential veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
4. Conduct hearings for and approve a balanced operating budget for the Summer, Fall and Spring Semesters.
5. Act on behalf of the ASLCSC Student Body in considering, developing, and enacting legislation.
6. Make sure that all appropriated funds are spent according to legislative intent.
7. Create any Standing and/or Internal Committees deemed necessary by the ASLCSC Senate.
8. Approve by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote a proposed Election Code by the ASLCSC Judicial Branch to govern all conduct during ASLCSC elections before the end of the Fall Semester.
9. Create and amend the ASLCSC Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures with a two-thirds (2/3) vote, subject to approval of the ASLCSC President.
10. Faithfully adhere to the ASLCSC Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures of the ASLCSC.

Section VIII. Term of Office

The term of office for ASLCSC Senators shall be one (1) year and there shall be no limits to the number of terms an ASLCSC Senator may serve.

Article III

Executive Branch

Section I. ASLCSC Executive Branch

The executive powers of the ASLCSC shall be vested in the ASLCSC Executive Branch whose purpose shall be to serve the members of ASLCSC Student Body by implementing policies and spending expenditures according to legislative intent.

Section II. Eligibility

All members of the ASLCSC Executive Cabinet shall be in good standing with the college and maintain a collegiate cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 (on a 4.00 scale), one semester of which shall be from LCSC. Executive members shall throughout their term carry at least eight (8) LCSC credits per semester.

Section III. Membership

The Executive Cabinet shall consist of the ASLCSC President, Vice-President, Committees Director, Media Relations Director, and the Chairperson of the ASLCSC *Coeur d'Alene*.

Section IV. ASLCSC President, Powers and Responsibilities

The ASLCSC President shall have the power to:

1. Serve as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the ASLCSC.
2. Nominate the Committees Director, Media Relations Director, Justices, and Campus Committee members subject to confirmation by the ASLCSC Senate.
3. Exercise approval or veto power over all proposed legislation by the ASLCSC Senate within ten (10) regular business days; otherwise the bill shall become policy.
4. Propose a balanced Summer, Fall, and Spring operating budget to the ASLCSC Senate.
5. Convene a special or emergency meeting of the members of the ASLCSC Senate.
6. Attend all regular meetings of the Idaho State Board of Education.
7. Conduct weekly Executive Cabinet meetings with the ASLCSC Vice-President, Committees Director and the Media Relations Director.
8. Upon resignation, removal from, or inability to perform duties of office, the order of succession of the ASLCSC President shall be the ASLCSC Vice-President, the ASLCSC Senate Majority Leader, and ASLCSC Senate Pro-Tempore, respectively.
9. Serve as liaison between the college community, ASLCSC Student Body, and all statewide student organizations.
10. Faithfully adhere to the ASLCSC Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures of the ASLCSC.

Section V. ASLCSC Vice-President, Powers and Responsibilities

The ASLCSC Vice-President shall have the power to:

1. Assume the duties and responsibilities of the ASLCSC President in the event of that individual's inability to perform the duties of that office.
2. Maintain complete and accurate financial data for the ASLCSC Student Government and make that information available to the public.
3. Oversee the ASLCSC Senate budgetary process.
4. Plan and implement a fund raiser and graduation banquet.
5. Serve as an ex-officio member of the ASLCSC Senate, voting only in case of a tie.
6. Faithfully adhere to the ASLCSC Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures of the ASLCSC.

Section VI. ASLCSC Committees Director, Powers & Responsibilities

The Committees Director shall have the power to:

1. Oversee all committees and ensure committees adhere to all Codes and Policies and Procedures.
2. Interact with committees and committee chairpersons and help coordinate committee related activities except for those related to the ASLCSC Standing Committees.
3. Faithfully adhere to the ASLCSC Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures of the ASLCSC.

Section VII. ASLCSC Media Relations Director, Powers & Responsibilities

The Media Relations Director shall have the power to:

1. Coordinate all matters of media relations for the ASLCSC Student Government.
2. Select staff members to assist in the implementation of media relations.
3. Faithfully adhere to the ASLCSC Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures of the ASLCSC.

Section VIII. ASLCSC *Coeur d'Alene* Chairperson, Powers & Responsibilities

The Chairperson of ASLCSC *Coeur d'Alene* shall have the power to:

1. Coordinate all internal matters of the ASLCSC *Coeur d'Alene*.
2. Be elected by newly nominated members of the ASLCSC *Coeur d'Alene*, appointed by the ASLCSC President, and confirmed by the ASLCSC Senate.
3. Faithfully adhere to the ASLCSC Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures of the ASLCSC.

Section IX. Term of Office

The term of office for the ASLCSC President, Vice-President, Committees Director, Media Relations Director, and Chairperson of ASLCSC *Coeur d'Alene* shall be one (1) year and there shall be no limit to the number of terms each of these officers may serve.

Article IV Judicial Branch

Section I. ASLCSC Judicial Branch

The judicial authority of the ASLCSC shall be vested in the ASLCSC Judicial Branch, whose purpose is to resolve controversies arising under the ASLCSC Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, or Policies and Procedures between adverse parties who have exhausted all other remedies.

Section II. Eligibility

All members of the ASLCSC Judicial Branch shall be in good standing with the college and maintain a collegiate cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 (on a 4.00 scale), one semester of which shall be from LCSC. Justices shall throughout their term carry at least eight (8) LCSC credits per semester.

Section III. Membership

The Judicial Branch shall consist of five appointed members. All appointments to the ASLCSC Judicial Branch shall be made through ASLCSC Presidential nomination and ASLCSC Senate confirmation by a majority vote. There shall be a Chief Justice and four (4) Associate Justices.

Section IV. ASLCSC Judicial Branch, Powers and Responsibilities

The ASLCSC Judicial Branch shall have the power to:

1. Interpret the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures of the ASLCSC.
2. Notify all individual and group defendants of any complaint filed against them within two (2) business days of the filed complaint. All accused shall have the right to know their accuser(s) and respond to the allegations.
3. Hold hearings with the parties conducting opening statements, direct examination, cross-examination, and closing arguments according to reasonable rules of evidence.
4. Rule on constitutionality of impeachment proceedings of the ASLCSC Senate.
5. Provide written majority and, when applicable, minority opinions on all case decisions within four (4) business days of a rendered decision. The decisions shall be made available to the public.
6. Title, number, and file all decisions in the annual ASLCSC Register according to the ASLCSC Constitutional, Bylaws, Codes, or Policy and Procedures issues raised.

7. Present a proposed Election Code, which governs all conduct during ASLCSC elections, to the ASLCSC Senate for approval on or before the last ASLCSC Senate meeting in October.
8. Coordinate and supervise all regular and special ASLCSC elections as determined by the Election Code.
9. Faithfully adhere to the ASLCSC Constitution, Bylaws, Codes, and Policies and Procedures of the ASLCSC.

Section V. Term of Office

The term of office for ASLCSC Justices shall be for as long as they are qualified to hold office and there shall be no limit to the number of terms an ASLCSC Justice may serve. Term of office expires upon receipt of Letter of Resignation or no Letter of Intent is received by Sine Die.

Article V

ASLCSC Constitutional Amendment and Revision Procedure

Section I. Proposal and Ratification

Amendments to the ASLCSC Constitution shall be proposed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the ASLCSC Senate members or by a petition signed by one-quarter (1/4) of the eligible electorate.

Section II. Announcement of ASLCSC Constitutional Change

An announcement of the proposed provisions shall be published in the student newspaper three (3) weeks before the designated election. Copies of the proposed changes shall also be made available in the office of the ASLCSC Student Government.

Section III. Election Process

Amendments and Revisions to the ASLCSC Constitution shall be placed on the ballot of a general or special election and shall be ratified by a majority of the votes cast in that election.

Article VI

Recall, Initiative, and Referendum

Section I. Recall Process

All members of the eligible electorate shall enjoy the right to recall elected officials before their terms are over. The following procedures shall apply:

1. A recall election shall be initiated by a petition signed by ten (10) percent of the eligible electorate. Such elections shall be conducted by the ASLCSC Judicial Branch and involve only those officials who are named in the petition.

2. An elected official shall be removed from office when two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast in the recall election are cast for the removal of the official.

Section II. Initiative and Referendum Process

All members of the eligible electorate shall enjoy the right to initiate and approve legislation. The following procedures shall apply:

1. Proposed legislation shall be placed on the ballot of a general or special election upon a petition signed by ten (10) percent of the eligible electorate.
2. Proposed legislation shall be placed on the ballot of a general or special election upon a referendum signed by a majority of the ASLCSC Senate members.
3. Proposed legislation by an initiative or referendum shall require a majority vote in a general election that shall be conducted by the ASLCSC Judicial Branch.

Article VII

Stipends

Section I. Eligibility

Members of the ASLCSC Student Government shall be eligible to receive stipends regardless of political interests or viewpoints. The following procedures shall apply:

1. Any new stipend or stipend change, for any ASLCSC member, shall be presented in the form of a Bill to the ASLCSC Senate.
2. This Bill must pass with a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the ASLCSC Senate.

Section II. Qualifications

Eligible members shall receive stipends by serving a complete semester. If eligible members resign or are removed from office they shall not receive any stipend whatsoever. Members who replace resigned or removed members shall receive a pro-rated stipend based on time they are in office.

Article VIII

Ratification

This Constitution shall be proposed by a majority vote of the ASLCSC Senate on August 30, 2005 and ratified thereafter by a majority vote of the students voting in an election to be held September 28 and 29, 2005. The election shall be conducted by the current ASLCSC Chief Justice. If the ASLCSC Constitution is proposed and ratified, all provisions shall take effect immediately. A copy of the ASLCSC Constitution shall be sent to the President of Lewis-Clark State College and the State Board of Education.