

**The Constitution of the  
Academic Senate  
The California State University**

**Preamble**

The faculty of the California State University adopts this constitution in order to exercise its rights and fulfill its responsibilities in the shared governance of the University. As the official voice of the faculty in matters of systemwide concern, the Academic Senate of the California State University provides the means for the faculty to participate in the collegial form of governance which is based on historic academic traditions as recognized by California law.

**Article I**

**Section 1. Purposes**

- (a) It shall be the purpose of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) to promote academic excellence in the California State University; to advance the principles of academic freedom and freedom of inquiry as generally recognized in the American Association of University Professors 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments when faculty carry out their responsibilities; to serve as the official voice of the faculties of the California State University in matters of systemwide concern; to be the formal policy-recommending body on systemwide academic, professional and academic personnel matters; to ensure the joint responsibility of the Academic Senate and the Trustees in criteria and standards to be used for the appointment, promotion, evaluation, and tenure of academic employees; to be the primary consultative body on the academic implications of systemwide fiscal decisions; and to assume such other authority and other responsibilities and to perform such functions as may be delegated to it by the Chancellor or the Trustees of the California State University.
- (b) The Academic Senate shall be consulted on the creation of systemwide and intersegmental committees, conferences, or task forces designed to deal with educational, professional, or academically related fiscal matters, including the charge and composition of such bodies. The Academic Senate shall be responsible for the selection of representatives of the faculty to serve on or participate in such bodies.

**Section 2. Relation to Campus Senates**

- (a) The term campus senate shall mean the elected representative body established at each campus by its faculty.
- (b) The Academic Senate of the California State University shall have no authority over those matters delegated to the individual campuses by the Chancellor or the Trustees; and nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to impair the right of campus senates to communicate with the Chancellor and the Trustees.
- (c) The campus senates may suggest items for consideration by the Academic Senate and may make recommendations on matters before the Academic Senate, either through the campus representatives or directly to the Academic Senate.
- (d) To provide adequate communications with the faculties of the several campuses, the Academic Senate shall circulate to the senate and the president of each campus such materials as agendas for and minutes of its meetings, committee reports, and information on pending matters.

## **Article II**

### **Section 1. Membership**

- (a) The elected members of the Academic Senate shall consist of two senators per campus plus an additional senator from each of the seven largest campuses apportioned on the basis of FTEF.
- (b) The Academic Senate shall also include:
  - 1) the immediate past chair of the Academic Senate if not an elected member (who shall not be counted as a campus representative if not an elected member);
  - 2) the Chancellor or representative as an ex-officio non-voting member;
  - 3) one emerita/emeritus selected by the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association.
- (c) The Academic Senate shall have the power, through its by-laws, to resolve issues concerning the implementation of this section (Article II, Section 1.) of the Constitution (membership).

### **Section 2. Representation of New Campuses**

The faculty of each new campus shall elect its first voting representatives in the spring of the first year of instruction. At any time after the establishment of the campus and prior to the time voting representatives take office, the faculty of the campus may send a non-voting representative.

### **Section 3. Eligibility to Serve as a Campus Representative**

Only those persons eligible to vote for campus representatives shall be able to serve as campus representatives, provided that the faculty of the campus may, at its discretion, establish additional requirements for service as a campus representative.

### **Section 4. Eligibility to Vote for Campus Representatives**

All members of the faculty at each campus shall be eligible to vote for campus representatives to serve in the Academic Senate. Each campus shall determine which members of the campus community are considered to be faculty.

### **Section 5. Elections of Campus Representatives**

Campus representatives represent the entire faculty of a campus, and not the campus academic senate and shall be elected at each campus in a campus-wide election. In any year in which such an election is held, the election results shall be certified to a designated officer of the Academic Senate by the principal elected officer of the faculty of that campus on or before May 1; representatives so elected shall take office on or before June 15.

### **Section 6. Terms of Office**

Campus representatives shall serve a term of three years. The immediate past chair of the Academic Senate shall serve for one year.

### **Section 7. Substitute Members**

In the event that an elected member will be absent for one or more semesters or quarters, the faculty of the affected campus shall replace this member in such manner as may be determined by the faculty of that campus. In the event that an elected

representative is unable to attend a meeting of the Academic Senate, the senate of that campus may name a substitute who shall have the right to attend and vote at that meeting.

### **Section 8. Recall of Representatives**

A representative may be recalled by majority vote of those voting within the constituency, which elected this representative under procedures established by the constituency.

## **Article III**

### **Names and Duties of Officers**

There shall be a chair of the Academic Senate, and such other officers as shall be specified in the Bylaws; and the time and manner of election, the length of terms and the duties and responsibilities of officers shall be specified in the Bylaws.

## **Article IV**

### **Section 1. Meetings**

The Academic Senate shall meet at least twice during each academic year. Additional meetings as needed shall be convened by procedures specified in the Bylaws.

### **Section 2. Voting**

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the membership. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

## **Article V**

### **Referendum**

Any recommendation adopted by the Academic Senate shall be referred to the faculties of the California State University when resolutions requesting such a referendum are adopted by the senates of at least one-third of the campuses. Approval of recommendations so referred shall require a majority of the votes cast at a balloting held for the purposes.

## **Article VI**

### **Section 1. Bylaws**

The Academic Senate may adopt Bylaws not inconsistent with this Constitution, provide for committees, and establish its own rules of procedure.

### **Section 2. Rules of Order**

In the absence of any provision to the contrary in this Constitution, all meetings of the Academic Senate, its standing committees and their subcommittees, and other subsidiary bodies shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised)*.

## **Article VII**

### **Section 1. Amendments**

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a resolution adopted by majority vote of one-third of the campus senates or by a majority of those present and voting at a meeting of the Academic Senate.

### **Section 2. Ratification of Amendment**

Ratification shall require a majority of the total vote cast in a systemwide referendum and a majority of the votes cast at each of a majority of the campuses.

### **Section 3. Adoption of Amendments**

Amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the faculties of the campuses and approval of the Trustees.