



# **Constitution of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri**

Adopted by affirmation of campus ASUM advisors, UM System ASUM advisors, campus student leaders and ASUM Executive Director: May 9, 2012.

## **Preamble**

The purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri shall be to educate students about the political process; to increase political awareness, concern, and participation among students; to provide the public with information concerning student interests; and to channel student energy and interest in the governmental decision-making process.

## **Article I. Name and Description**

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM).
- B. The Associated Students of the University of Missouri is a nonpartisan University of Missouri system-wide organization.

## **Article II. Affiliation**

ASUM is a student organization that is supported through student fees, and as such, it is subject to the rules and regulations that apply to all student organizations. However, the organization is the voice of students in matters related to their concerns and interests, and thus has the right to determine its own legislative agenda even if that agenda puts the organization in opposition with the university administration.

## **Article III. Membership**

- A. Eligibility
  - 1. All students of the University of Missouri System shall be members of ASUM.
  - 2. Students who will graduate within four months will only be eligible for election or selection for selected positions, as specified in the ASUM Bylaws.
  - 3. No person shall serve as an intern or paid staff member of ASUM if currently seeking or filing for any paid public elected position, at any level of local, state or federal government.
- B. Campus Membership

1. Each campus of the University of Missouri that commits to financially support the ASUM internship program and a campus ASUM chapter shall hold campus membership.
2. A member campus shall be entitled to full representation on the ASUM Board of Directors and students of the campus shall be eligible for the ASUM Legislative Internship program. The member campus shall be committed to the pursuit of the betterment and advancement of ASUM in the full range of programming established by this organization. The main office of ASUM shall reside at the University of Missouri-System office located in Columbia, Missouri.
3. Funding of the internship program and campus chapter activities shall be through student fees. Student fees may be generated by passage of a student-initiated referendum by a majority of students or through an appropriation of student activities fees determined by standard campus procedures.
4. Referendum.
  - a. If a referendum is initiated by students, the suggested wording is as follows: “Shall the student body of the University of Missouri at (insert location) [continue to] assess themselves in the amount of (insert amount in dollars and cents) per semester to support the Associated Students of the University of Missouri?”
  - b. The referendum shall be submitted to the students on each campus once every four years. Further, the Board of Directors of ASUM shall have the power to place the referendum before the students of any campus at any additional time for reasons of convenience or any other reason upon a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Referendum result shall be submitted to the Executive Director for appropriate record keeping within 10 days of decision.

#### **Article IV. Board of Directors**

- A. ASUM Board of Directors Mission Statement:

The mission of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri Board of Directors shall be to collect student issues and concerns and to relay them to the Capitol through programs such as the legislative internship program. The board shall also provide support and advise the campuses through the Board members in their activities to educate the university community about political policies and issues on their respective campuses.
- B. Voting Board Members
  1. Each campus will have three voting members of Board. Effort should be made to have at least one undergraduate student and at least one graduate student from each campus. Preferred composition is as follows:

- a. The president of the campus undergraduate student government association or a designee from that organization. The primary role of this member will be as liaison between ASUM and the respective campus undergraduate student body.
  - b. The president of the graduate student government association or a designee from that organization. The primary role of this member will be as liaison between the central ASUM organization and the respective campus graduate student body.
  - c. The president of the campus ASUM chapter, if the campus has an active ASUM chapter. The role of this member is to lead the campus ASUM chapter and to coordinate activities of the campus chapter with the central ASUM organization, as appropriate.
  - d. If one or more of the above is unable to serve, substitute members may be designated or selected. Substitute members must be confirmed or selected using the process described in the Bylaws.
  - e. All members must complete an orientation conducted by the Executive Director.
2. Substitute members will be selected through the collaboration of the Executive Director and the ASUM campus advisor on the respective campus as described in the Bylaws.
  3. The Legislative Director and Assistant Legislative Director shall be voting members on the Board of Directors and neither shall be counted as one of the three members from a campus.
  4. The voting members of the Board of Directors are expected to participate in Board of Director meetings and abide by any and all standards set forth in the ASUM bylaws.
- C. Non-Voting Board Members
1. The Executive Director of ASUM (unless to serve as a tie breaker)
  2. ASUM advisors from each campus
  3. Student Curator as selected and approved though RSMO 172.035
- D. Officers
1. Chair of the Board of Directors: The Executive Director of ASUM shall serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors.

## **Article V. Campus Chapters**

- A. ASUM campus chapters shall be led by the campus president and a slate of officers.
- B. The chapters will be expected to carry out designated activities in the Fall and Spring semesters as described in the Bylaws.
- C. Campus chapters shall submit two reports to the Executive Director annually.

- D. If there is no active campus chapter, the campus Board members, in collaboration with the campus advisor, are responsible for a reduced number of campus activities, as described in the Bylaws.

#### **Article VI. Emergency Governance**

In the event of an emergency as declared by either the Executive Director or the advisor in the Office of Academic Affairs; the Executive Director and the advisor from the Office of Academic Affairs, in consultation with the campus advisors and the advisor in the Office of Government Relations, shall make decisions for the program.

#### **Article VII. Legislative Intern Program**

- A. This association hereby establishes an internship program to allow for active student participation in shaping government policy by providing a structure for students to serve as registered lobbyists at the capitol at Jefferson City under the direction of the Executive Director, Legislative Director and Assistant Legislative Director.
- B. This association will strive to have at least one intern from each campus.
- C. The overhead expenses of the Legislative Intern Program will be financially supported by the Central Budget as funded by each campus. See full description in Article VIII.

#### **Article VIII. Finances**

The following budgets shall be set in place:

- A. Central Budget. Contributions shall be made by each campus into a central budget as described in the Bylaws.
- B. Chapter Budget. Each member campus shall be responsible for its own campus budget. The chapter budget and expenses shall be approved by the campus advisor.

#### **Article IX. Constitution and Bylaws**

- A. Constitution
  - 1. The ASUM constitution shall be adopted by two-thirds of the voting members of the ASUM Board of Directors. In the event that a Board is not available, the constitution will be confirmed through a conference with all ASUM campus advisors, Executive Director, and the ASUM advisors in the UM System Offices of Academic Affairs and Government Relations
  - 2. Amendments to this Constitution must be approved by two-thirds of the voting members of the Board of Directors. Amendments must be written and submitted in advance to all voting members at least ten days prior to the vote. In the event that a Board is not available, the amendments will be confirmed through a conference with all ASUM campus advisors, the Executive Director, and the ASUM advisors in the UM System Offices of Academic Affairs and Government Relations.
- B. Bylaws

1. To ensure all aspects of the organization are established for future Board members and to maintain order, the attached bylaws shall be set in place.
2. Adoption of bylaws will be done through a majority vote of the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors is unavailable the implementation of the bylaws will be voted upon by all ASUM campus advisors, Executive Director, and the ASUM advisors in the UM System Offices of Academic Affairs and Government Relations.
3. Amendments to bylaws will be adopted in the same fashion outlined in Article IX.2.

**Articles X. Non-Discrimination**

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, age, gender, national origin, disability, Vietnam Veteran Era status, or sexual orientation.