

Student Senate for California Community Colleges
CONSTITUTION
(Ratified May 7, 2006)

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the California Community College System, do hereby establish the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, in conjunction with local associated student organizations, as a means to represent the students in all community colleges at the state level. Further the Student Senate for California Community Colleges is recognized as the representative community college-associated student government organization before the Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office in accordance with Title 5, Section 50002.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this student body organization shall be the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, here after referred to as SSCCC.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. Purpose. The SSCCC shall fulfill the following responsibilities:

- (a) Representation.**
To serve as the voice of the students in matters of statewide concern and before the Board of Governors, Consultation Council and all statewide boards, committees, and ad hoc groups.
- (b) Collaboration.**
Foster relationships with district student boards, local student senates, and other statewide agencies or organizations who have a vested interest in student affairs.
- (c) Accountability.**
Function as a democratically elected and empowered body remaining accountable to its constituency, expressing the general will of the students and following through with its responsibilities.
- (d) Communication.**
Provide ongoing and widespread dissemination of information to enhance awareness on statewide issues and maximize input from students.

ARTICLE III. STUDENT SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Section 1. Constituency

All community college students shall be represented by the SSCCC and may fully participate in accordance with the provisions set forth in the constitution and bylaws.

Section 2. General Assembly

(a) Meetings

The SSCCC shall meet in a general assembly at least once in the fall and once in the spring.

(b) Delegates

Each community college associated student body organization, pursuant to the Education Code, Section 76060-76067, shall have one voting delegate at a general assembly.

(c) Selection and Term

The voting delegate of each community college associated student body organization shall be selected in a manner determined by the local student body organization.

(d) Powers and Duties

The SSCCC general assembly shall adopt resolutions to provide direction, recommendations and guidance in formulating policy to the appropriate body. The SSCCC general assembly shall elect senate representatives each spring.

ARTICLE IV. STUDENT SENATE COUNCIL

Section 1. Representatives

The Student Senate Council shall be comprised of two regional senators from each established region and Senators-at-large, in a number equal to one-half of those elected regionally.

Section 2. Eligibility

Student Senate Council Representatives shall continuously meet the requirements specified in Education Code 76061 and as established by the local associated student organizations.

Section 3. Selection and Term

Two regional senators shall be elected by a majority of the colleges within a designated region in accordance with a voting process established by their respective region. This may occur prior to or during the spring general session.

Senators-at-large will be elected during the spring general session by one voting delegate per college.¹

¹ During the first year following ratification, the At-Large Senator elections will occur during the Fall 2006 General Assembly. [This footnote notation will sunset on June 30, 2007]

The Regional and At-Large Senators shall serve for a one-year term beginning July 1 through June 30th. No student may serve on the SSCCC Council for more than two (2) full terms.

Section 4. Vacancies

In the case of a vacancy from the Regional Representative, the respective region shall select a replacement in accordance with their local procedures.

In the case of At-Large Senator vacancies, the Student Senate Council shall appoint a replacement to be confirmed by 2/3 of the voting delegates as detailed in the bylaws.

Section 5. Meetings

The Student Senate Council shall have at least ten monthly meetings per year.

Section 6. Voting

- (a) All Student Senate Council members will have individual votes, with the exception of the President who may vote in the case of a tie.
- (b) Proxy votes are not permitted.

Section 7. Power and Duties

The Student Senate Council shall implement policies adopted by the SSCCC assembly, act on behalf of the SSCCC to transact business and perform other functions consistent with the intent, purpose and provisions of the governing documents.

The Student Senate Council has the authority to create bylaws to implement the articles of the constitution, establish uniform procedures for the conduct of elections and other necessary business of the Student Senate Council.

Student Senate Council shall reserve the fiscal powers and responsibilities on behalf of SSCCC as defined in the bylaws except as prohibited by law.

Section 8. Executive Officers

(a) List of Officers

The Executive Officers of the SSCCC shall include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications Officer.

(b) Selection

All officers shall be elected by the Student Senate Council and shall be chosen among the members of the Student Senate Council by 2/3 vote.

(c) Order of Succession

The order of succession shall be President, Vice-President, and Secretary. Further circumstances shall be referred to the By-Laws for procedures.

(d) Duties of Officers

i. President

The President shall act as a spokesperson for the SSCCC and preside over all administrative duties as outlined in the bylaws.

ii. Vice President

The Vice President shall assume tasks of the President in case of absence or vacancy.

iii. Secretary

Secretary shall be in charge of all record keeping.

iv. Treasurer

Treasurer shall keep track of and report all expenditures.

v. Communications Officer

Communications Officer shall be in charge of dissemination of information.

ARTICLE V. ACTION

Section 1. Power Clause

All regions shall be granted the authority to meet and conduct business for the SSCCC.

Section 2. Quorum

A quorum to conduct business of the Student Senate Council shall consist of a majority of the council members.

At the regional level, a quorum to conduct Student Senate business shall consist of a majority of at least one authorized representative from each college as designated for that region, notwithstanding those colleges who are certified as inactive in accordance with the bylaws.

Section 3. Referendum

A referendum on an action taken by the SSCCC assembly may be called by a resolution requesting such action by one-third of the assembly. Approval of the referendum shall require a majority vote.

ARTICLE VI. ADVISOR

Section 1. Role of Advisor

An advisor shall be identified by the SSCCC to provide guidance, support and continuity to the SSCCC at the state level. The advisor shall attend all SSCCC meetings.

Section 2. Selection and Removal

An advisor shall be identified or removed by the SSCCC in accordance with the procedures provided in the bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. SHARED GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committee Appointments

The President shall make recommendations to the Student Senate Council for appointments to Consultation Council, subcommittees, and other advisory committees or task forces established by the Chancellor's Office, including other agency/organizations requiring student representation. The students under consideration for any and all appointment shall be secured through an election or application process as established by the President in consultation with the Student Senate. The nominations will then be ratified by a majority vote by the Student Senate Council.

Section 2. Accountability

All students participating on various committees must provide regular reports to the SSCCC within one week of attending a meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. PROCEDURES

Section 1. Ratification

The constitution becomes effective upon adoption by a two-thirds vote of the SSCCC voting delegates.

Section 2. Constitution Amendments

- (a)** Constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the SSCCC voting delegates.
- (b)** Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be acted upon at the general session. Upon receipt by the President of a resolution from 1/3 of student senates or a petition signed by students in a number equivalent to 10% of the total number of full-time equivalent students of their college presented at any general session prior to the day of voting and signed by a majority of voting membership.

Section 3. Bylaws

Bylaws may be adopted or amended by a 2/3 vote of the Student Senate Council after two readings of the proposal. The proposal shall be read for the second time not less than two regularly scheduled meetings after the first reading.

ARTICLE IX: Rules Of Procedure

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority

All meetings of the SSSCC shall be conducted according to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. Brown Act

All meetings of the SSSCC shall abide by the provisions stated in the Brown Act.

ARTICLE X. INELIGIBILITY, IMPEACHMENT, AND RECALL

Section 1. Academic Ineligibility

The SSSCC shall declare any position vacant if the member becomes academically ineligible in accordance with requirements set forth in Article IV, Section 2 of this constitution.

Section 2. Attendance Ineligibility

A member will be declared ineligible if they accumulate two (2) unexcused absences from SSSCC-related meetings.

Section 3. Impeachment

Any SSSCC council member may be charged with misconduct or neglect of duty by an SSSCC member and removed from Executive Office but shall remain a Council member as defined in the bylaws. Misconduct is defined as those acts pertaining to mismanagement of position responsibilities and/or funds; improper behavior as defined under guidelines for Student Conduct in the Education Code and the policies stated by SSSCC. Neglect of Duty is defined as unwillingness to comply or fulfill with duties of elected position.

Section 4. Recall

Any council member of the SSSCC shall be subject to recall by any student attending a community college by a written petition containing at least 3,000 valid student signatures to be ratified by 2/3 of the general assembly subject to provisions stated in the bylaws.
