

ASCSU Legislative Strategy Advisory Board Bylaws (LSAB)

Article I. Name and Affiliation

The name of this organization shall be the Legislative Strategy Advisory Board (LSAB). LSAB is an inter-branch board under the Associated Students of Colorado State University and shall hereby follow the ASCSU Constitution and Code of Ethics.

Article II. Mission

The mission of the Legislative Strategy Advisory Board shall be to create a cohesive governmental policy stance and agenda on behalf of the Associated Students of Colorado State University. The legislative stances and agendas this board decides upon will be used to guide the executive members who work to lobby at the local, state, and federal level on behalf of the Associated Students of Colorado State University. The goals of this board are as follows:

- i. To gain a wider student voice within ASCSU regarding local, state, and federal policies, programs, and legislation; and,
- ii. To eliminate political-ideological bias that does not directly benefit the wider community of Colorado State University students when taking a stance on local, state, and federal governmental affairs; and,
- iii. To promote productive dialogue and deliberation among the ASCSU branches and general members; and,
- iv. To create consistent and just standards by which ASCSU will determine the organization's strategic stance on local, state, and federal policies, programs, and legislation.

Article III. Membership

Section I. Voting Members

Voting members shall consist of the following:

- The ASCSU President or their designees
- The ASCSU Speaker of the Senate or their designees
- Three (3) members of the ASCSU Executive Branch via appointment

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- Three (3) ASCSU Legislative Branch appointments
- Four (4) students who are not officials of the three branches in ASCSU

Section II. Voting Member Selection and Eligibility

A voting member must be a member of ASCSU, as defined by Article I, Section 103 of the ASCSU Constitution. Member selection is determined by the outlined processes below:

- Executive Branch appointments shall be made by the ASCSU President and shall be ratified by the ASCSU Senate.
- Senate Branch appointments shall be made by the ASCSU Speaker of the Senate and shall be ratified by the ASCSU Senate.
- Non-ASCSU official appointments will be appointed by the ASCSU President with the consent and advice of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Legislative Strategy Advisory Board and shall be ratified by the ASCSU Senate

Section II. Membership Deadlines

All branches must have their representatives nominated and ratified by fall break of the Fall Semester.

Section III. Ex-Officio Members

Ex-officio members shall be non-voting members and will serve in a support capacity, including advising, administrative support, and other activities as directed by the Chair. Ex-officio members may be asked to remove themselves from portions of meetings, at the discretion of the Chair, in accordance with Article 5, Section 2 of the LSAB Bylaws.

Section IV. Removal and Attendance

If a member has missed more than two (2) unexcused meetings, as defined below, in an academic year, then the Board has the power to remove them by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. It is the responsibility of the respective branch to appoint and coordinate Senate ratification for the new member by the next meeting of the Board.

- Unexcused absence shall be defined as the lack of communication to the Chair of intended absence. This does not apply to unintended absences due to unexpected life events.

Article IV. Officers and Representatives

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Section I. Chair

The chair of the Legislative Strategy Advisory Board (LSAB) shall be the head director of the department within ASCSU that directly works with the local, state, and federal governments, i.e. the "State and Local Policy Department." The Chair shall not have a vote but has the power of refusal specified in Article IX.

The Chair shall:

- i. Act as an unbiased source of information to the Board
- ii. Advise the Board about the feasibility of an agenda or stance
- iii. Execute the decisions of the Board to the best of their ability
- iv. Schedule and preside over all meetings of the Board
- v. Supervise departmental officers responsible for or complete the duties of preparing agendas, maintaining correspondence of the Board, maintaining documentation and minutes of the activities of the Board.
- vi. Addressing all official motions of the Board regarding formal legislative stances.

Section II. Vice Chair

The Vice Chair will be the remaining team member of the department in which the Chair directs. In the case of multiple remaining team members, the Vice Chair will be the deputy director or assistant director that directly works with policy, i.e. the "Deputy Director of Policy Initiatives." The Vice Chair will not have voting rights.

Section III. Additional Departmental Officers

No member of the ASCSU department in which the Chair directs, i.e. the "State and Local Policy Department," shall have a vote on the Board. Each member, including, but not limited to, deputy directors, assistant directors, and interns, may not vote on the board; and, instead, will serve in an advisory role akin to the Chair. Additional departmental officers will be responsible for maintaining relations among branches and the general student body, including, but not limited to creating meeting agendas, notes, policy summaries, and general communications.

Article V. Meetings

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Section I. Frequency

The Board shall meet once per week during the academic semester or at the discretion of the Chair. All voting members shall be notified of the meeting time, date and location at minimum 48 hours prior to each meeting, or as otherwise noted in accordance with Section 106, Article IV of the ASCSU Constitution.

Section II. Publicity

All LSAB meetings shall be open to the public. Interested parties are welcome to attend.

- The Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, elect to go into an executive session where non-voting members, non-officers, as defined by Articles III and IV of the LSAB Bylaws, shall excuse themselves from attendance.
- All official actions of the Board shall be open for public inspection. The Chair shall be responsible for assuring that copies of the minutes and other materials presented to the members at the meetings are available to members and other parties requesting these materials.

Section III. Operations

- The Quorum shall consist of half (6/12) of the voting members.
- The Board will operate under casual discussion unless the Chair decides that Robert's Rules of Order must be implemented. All persons should raise their hands before speaking, and the Chair will call upon each person when it is their respective turn.

Section IV. Reporting

- An officer of the department responsible for the operations of the Board, i.e. "State and Local Policy Department," shall be responsible for delivering a report on the status and actions of the board during Executive Reports at the Senate session preceding the Board meeting.
- The Board shall be responsible for creating and publishing a report of all actions taken by the committee each semester. This report shall be presented in front of the ASCSU Senate no later than one (1) month following the conclusion of the Colorado General Assembly Regular Session.

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- The Chair shall be responsible for coordinating with the respective Senate official(s) to ensure that the report is approved for the “Guest Presentations” section of the Senate Agenda.
- The Chair shall be responsible for coordinating with and ASCSU Front Desk and will be sent out through the weekly report.
- At the discretion of the Chair, the Chair shall be responsible for coordinating and distributing presentation duties to members of the Board.

Article V. Responsibilities

Section I. Policy Agenda

The Board shall be responsible for creating a cohesive policy agenda on behalf of the Associated Students of Colorado State University in which the organization will lobby at the state, local, and/or federal level. At the first meeting of the Board, members shall determine and review expectations of advocacy and priorities. The Board shall review local, state, and federal policies or programs that relate to the cohesive agenda set by the Board and will impact the Associated Students of Colorado State University.

Section II. Member Responsibilities

Board members shall be responsible for reading, in completion, all materials sent out by the officers, as defined by Article IV of the LSAB Bylaws, regarding the next meeting before it occurs.

Article VII. Agenda-Setting and Legislative Stance Rules and Guidelines

The following criteria shall be evaluated by LSAB in consideration of the legitimacy of taking a political stance on behalf of the Associated Students of Colorado State University; the default stance of ASCSU is neutral unless the board, through these guidelines, produces a legislative stance on behalf of the student body.

- i. The stance or agenda must directly affect and benefit the Associated Students of Colorado State University and/ or CSU campus at large; and,

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- ii. The stance or agenda must be politically feasible by the ASCSU Department responsible for the advocacy of the action decided by the Board, i.e. the “State and Local Policy Department,” considering the current factors at play; and,
- iii. The degree to which the stance or agenda aligns with the stance or agenda of Colorado State University administration. This board may choose to not align with CSU administration about a stance on a piece of legislation, but for justifiable reasons that link to the other rules and guidelines specified in Article VII of the LSAB Bylaws; and,
- iv. The justification and clarity of the stance or agenda plan and presentation; and,
- v. The Board shall not move to a vote that merely advocates or raises awareness around a specific issue. The Legislative and Executive branches each possess mechanisms in the form of resolutions and executive declarations, as defined by Section 1004 of the ASCSU Constitution, respectively for that purpose. LSAB, may, instead, vote to sponsor a piece of legislation by a simple majority vote or endorse a piece of legislation with a 3/4th majority (9/12).
 - a. The existence of this Board shall not be construed to preclude either the Legislative or the Executive branch from having legislative priorities outside of the priorities set by the Legislative Strategy Advisory Board.
- vi. All formal ASCSU federal, state, and local policy stances with the call for ASCSU endorsement or advocacy at the federal, state, and local policy level must be voted on and approved by the board.

Article VIII. Voting

- All voting members, as specified in Article III, shall have one vote.
- The quorum, as described in Article V, must be present before a vote may be taken.
- Votes should be based on the rules and guidelines articulated in Article VII.
- A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the quorum must vote in the affirmative for an item to pass, or else it fails.

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- Votes are specified to be within a two-thirds majority to account for polarization. The goal of the Board is to represent a clear majority on behalf of the student body, reflected in the aforementioned vote threshold.

Article IX. Power of Refusal by the Officers and Representatives

Members of the Department responsible for lobbying, described in Article IV of the LSAB Bylaws, respectively, shall have the power to refuse to lobby in a manner consistent with the Board's priorities for any of the following reasons:

- i. Doing so would conflict with ASCSU's strategic legislative agenda.
- ii. Doing so would harm ASCSU's relationship or reputation with governmental agencies, at any level of government, or the Administration of Colorado State University to the extent of significant impact on potential future collaboration.
- iii. What is asked of them is politically infeasible or impossible.
- iv. Any other reason that hampers their ability to carry out their duty to represent the Associated Students of Colorado State University in a fair and consistent manner.
- v. These officials may not refuse to carry out legislative priorities because they personally disagree with the stance of the Board. The refusal must be grounded in the fact that lobbying in the manner requested would hamper the Officer's ability to do their job.
- vi. Upon request, Officers must articulate their reasons for refusal formally in writing.
- vii. No disciplinary action may be taken against an individual merely because they exercise this power.
- viii. In the event that the power of refusal is exercised, the official stance of the Associated Students of Colorado State University shall revert to and remain neutral on the issue in question for the duration of the academic year.

Article X. Entities Subordinate to LSAB

The City Council Action Committee and other entities of the Department that pertain to local, state, and national policies and their relation to ASCSU will be overseen by LSAB. These

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entities have the autonomy to create their own bylaws. These bylaws must be presented before the ASCSU Senate.

Article XI. Amendment

All amendments to these bylaws must be recommended by a 2/3rds vote of this Board and must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the ASCSU Senate. All amendments must follow the ASCSU Constitution or be presented in the form of a Lex to amend here forth.