



2023/24

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the Associated Students of Portland Community College (ASPCC), in order to provide for an organization of representation, self-governance and campus life in a partnership with the campus community, establish this Constitution of the ASPCC.

Mission Statement

The mission of ASPCC is to uplift all Portland Community College Students.

Values

The values of the ASPCC are:

1. Equity; Promote Equity & Inclusion
2. Leadership; Build Leadership Capacity for students
3. Community; Facilitate Community on Campus
4. Growth; Foster the Growth of students
5. Sustainability; Nurture Environmental Stewardship and accountability to future generations

Equity Statement

The following statement is ASPCC's official commitment to equity.

ASPCC representatives recognize that many underrepresented students such as; Black students, Indigenous students, students of color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+ students, students with disabilities, military and veteran students, low income students, first-generation students, students with all height/weight ratios, previously incarcerated students, non-traditional aged

students, international students, students who are undocumented/DACAmented, students who are parents/caregivers, trauma survivors and students of all religious backgrounds, or beliefs—regardless of sex/sexual identity as well as many more student demographics not listed here who have historically been, and continue to be, underserved in higher education. ASPCC

wishes to provide unwavering support to these diverse populations and recognizes that student leadership programs—such as ASPCC—have not always been positioned to truly serve these communities equitably.

As an ever-developing and ever-evolving organization, ASPCC seeks to serve these groups in a fair and equitable manner—to elevate them to power, provide fair access, erase the disparity gaps they suffer and to highlight their voices wherever possible. We will be committed to advocating for the diverse needs of students by being available to students. ASPCC believes to do requires holding each other accountable, encouraging growth through sharing knowledge, lived experiences, and in a nonjudgmental and welcoming environment. To promote change by engaging in a culture unafraid of calling out hate speech involving gender inequities, racism, white supremacy, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, groups experiencing religious oppression like islamophobia and anti-semiticism, colorism, anti-blackness, anti-indigenous, sexism, ableism and other harms towards these and other diverse identities.

ARTICLE I NAME AND MEMBERSHIP

1. The name of this organization shall be the Associated Students of Portland Community College (ASPCC). Membership in the ASPCC shall be open to all enrolled students of PCC. All enrolled students shall be members of the ASPCC and represented by the ASPCC Senate.

ARTICLE II POWERS AND AUTHORITY

1. [Oregon law HB 2666](#) regarding student government authority to establish process and allocate mandatory student-initiated fee
2. [PCC Board Policy B503](#) stating that the board will collect mandatory student-initiated fees upon the request of the recognized student government to the college president using a process established by the student government in consultation with the board and the college president
3. The ASPCC Senate shall exercise the authority and powers of ASPCC except that the ASPCC President and Vice President which will have powers as described below.
4. The authority is vested in the ASPCC as a group, not in its individual members. No individual member of ASPCC may act on behalf of the ASPCC unless specifically instructed by the Senate.

Article III PURPOSE

- To represent all PCC Students.
- To facilitate communication between student government and college leadership .
- To provide data and testimony to support student needs and issues
- To create community among students.
- To assign student representatives to college-wide committees and appointments as necessary.
- To improve the student life and environment on each PCC campus and center.

ARTICLE IV LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

1. ASPCC Senate - up to 15 Senators representing student voices across Portland Community College
2. The ASPCC Senate, as the legislative branch of ASPCC, shall be the policy-making body of ASPCC and no Executive Branch act or omission shall contravene expressed or implied Senate policy. The representative body consists of a maximum of 15 total Senators.
3. The Senate shall have and exercise the general powers and duties usually vested in the governing board of a corporation, but specifically include the following powers and duties:
 - a. To adopt and amend an ASPCC constitution
 - b. Create a Member Handbook to further interpret the Constitution
 - c. To authorize entry into a contractual or financial relationships on behalf of ASPCC
 - d. To publish and approve an annual financial statement
 - e. To confirm by $\frac{2}{3}$ consent of seated membership ASPCC Presidential appointments and ASPCC committee chairs
 - f. To approve a Student Activity Fee budget for consideration by the PCC Administration, as proposed by the PCC Student Fee Committee.
 - g. To impeach (remove) ASPCC officials from office, per the constitutional process set forth in this document in Article XI.
 - h. To ensure that selected and appointed ASPCC officials faithfully execute and abide by ASPCC policies
 - i. To override a President's Veto by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of seated membership

For the purposes of this constitution and subsequent documents, seated membership refers to the number of Senators holding office at any given time.

4. Voting

- a. The ASPCC Senate uses Fist of Five to take straw polls and understand where students are standing on issues and engage in further discussion to find consensus
- b. The Senate can choose to use Fist of Five for all voting matters but majority voting can also be allowed (simple majority or 51%). A preference for voting should be designated within the ASPCC Member Handbook.
- c. Matters that require a minimum % of votes will be outlined in the constitution specifically

5. Meetings

- a. Meetings will be held every other Friday, starting from the first available date of each term (generally the 2nd week, but determined by each group independently) during the duration of the year from 9:00 am to 12:00pm. Meetings will be held at the Sylvania Campus unless otherwise scheduled.
- b. The ASPCC Student Senate shall meet at least twice a month.
- c. Recognized ASPCC Student Senate meeting times shall be publicized and open to all students. The Senate may hold a closed executive session in accordance with Oregon Open Meeting Laws. No official decisions shall be made during an executive session.

6. ASPCC Senate Pathway Creation Clause

1. As PCC continues to reorganize around the Academic and Career Pathways Model, the ASPCC is prepared to transition to a Pathway representation model to align with the institution and improve student representation. To establish this structure, the Senate must pass a bill enacting this clause (*ASPCC Senate Pathway Creation Clause*) with a timeline of transition and a plan for equal representation across each of the pathways listed below (example: 2 senators per pathway) that is realistic and in the best interests of PCC students and with consideration and approval from the staffing resources of PCC Student Life & Leadership Governance Operations who will supervise the program year to year.

The following pathways will represent student voices across Portland Community College:

- Arts, Humanities, Communication, and Design

- Healthcare and Emergency Professions
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Construction, Manufacturing Technology, and Transportation
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Public Service, Education, and Social Sciences
- At-large

Additional Pathways can be created/removed as needed by a constitutional amendment from the ASPCC Senate and a verification of the funding/resources to support the additional students by the Director of Student Life & Leadership.

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE BRANCH

1. The executive power of ASPCC is vested in the Executive Branch of the ASPCC. The Executive Branch shall be composed of the ASPCC President and ASPCC Vice President, and any cabinet officers the President and Vice President appoint and the Senate confirms.
2. The ASPCC President shall be the chief executive officer of the ASPCC and all other members of the executive branch shall be responsible to the President. The ASPCC President's powers and duties shall include the following:
 - a. Be the ex-officio student representative to the PCC Board of Directors
 - b. Preside over all meetings to the general membership of ASPCC
 - c. To make cabinet appointments, subject to the consent of the ASPCC Senate
 - d. To veto acts and confirmations of the Senate, except resolutions, senate vacancy appointments, and must provide written notice of a veto within 4 school days of the senate action
 - e. To post and maintain regular office hours as required by the ASPCC Member Handbook
 - f. The President may have other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the ASPCC Senate or in the ASPCC Member Handbook
3. The ASPCC Vice President shall have and exercise the following powers and duties:
 - a. To be the Chair of the ASPCC Senate
 - b. To have general control of ASPCC committee membership
 - c. To assume and execute all powers and duties of the President should the President be absent or unable to perform their obligations
 - d. To post and maintain regular office hours as required by the ASPCC Member Handbook
 - e. The Vice President may have other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the ASPCC Senate or in the ASPCC Member Handbook

ARTICLE VI

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE & RESIGNATION

1. Any officer can be removed from office with a 75% vote of the ASPCC Senate. A bill to remove a person from their position must be considered for a vote to occur.
2. To initiate the removal process, an official complaint must be written with evidence worthy of dismissal. This may include:
 - Attendance and missed meetings
 - Fall below the GPA requirements
 - Conduct unbecoming of ASPCC or violations of the student code of conduct
 - Violating any team rules or expectations repeatedly
 - Violating any items of this constitution or ASPCC Member Handbook, therein
 - Among other reasons, as necessary to consider
3. GPA checks will be done by the Advisor(s) to the ASPCC. In the case that a student falls below the minimum GPA requirement the Advisor can use discretion as to whether a personal development plan and probationary period will be extended to correct the GPA or if a bill recommending removal is appropriate. Any conversations about a senator and their GPA should happen in an executive session and not be held in public.
4. Bills requesting the removal of any officer will be sent to a special committee convened by the ASPCC Vice President (or, in the event of a conflict of interest, run by a Senate designated option) where a hearing of all sides will be completed. This committee will make a final decision as to whether or not the bill will proceed to vote before the ASPCC Senate.
5. Senators who wish to resign must submit a letter of resignation to the ASPCC Vice President. If a Senator resigns they forfeit their opportunity to participate in the next year's ASPCC selection processes. An appeal to be considered sooner can be made through the ASPCC Vice President which may require the student to submit information or respond to further questions.
6. Senators who choose not to continue in their second year are eligible to be considered in any selection process, if they otherwise meet the minimum requirements.

ARTICLE VII VACANCIES

1. The Senate may fill vacancies at the beginning of the Fall and Winter terms, as needed, via an open application process. Candidates submit an application and interview with the ASPCC Senate for consideration and selection during the determined recruitment dates.

2. If the ASPCC Presidency becomes vacant, the Vice President shall become President.
3. Should the Vice Presidency become vacant, the President can appoint a new Vice President for the remainder of the term. Preference should be given to a member of the ASPCC Senate but the President is not required to choose a Senator.
4. Should both offices become simultaneously vacant, the Senate shall elect, with $\frac{2}{3}$ consensus vote, from its membership a Chair who can preside over the ASPCC and decide how to recruit and select the next ASPCC President and/or Vice President. The Chair can accept either role upon being selected by the ASPCC Senate membership.

ARTICLE VIII SELECTION

1. ASPCC supports a selection based process for choosing student government representatives to support the involvement and engagement of all students, including those that are marginalized.
2. Selection of ASPCC President and Senators will be based on an application and interview process facilitated by PCC Student Life & Leadership. A selection committee made up of PCC students and staff will make decisions for extending invitations to students to join the ASPCC Executive or Legislative teams. Group and individual interviews may be conducted to determine who is invited to serve.
3. The ASPCC Vice President will be selected by the ASPCC Senate in an internal process outlined in the ASPCC Member Handbook.

ARTICLE IX TERMS OF OFFICE AND ELIGIBILITY

1. The terms for the ASPCC President and Vice President shall be from June to June of the corresponding years (2023-24, for example). The positions will be paid for work that will be scheduled to begin in August through June and will be coordinated through the Director of Student Life & Leadership. Summer work may be available but should not be expected. The Director will make final approval on summer hours.
2. Senators will be selected in the Spring Term and start in their service in September for training and Orientation. The term will end at the end of the Spring term each year.
3. Senators may be invited to continue for a second term if they have satisfied meeting requirements (limited unexcused absences), have been obviously involved and engaged in all aspects of the Senate roles and expectations, and are in good standing with

ASPCC and PCC. To be considered for continuation, Senators must apply via the Returning Google Form provided by the Director of Student Life & Leadership at the beginning of the Spring Term.

4. Minimum eligibility requirements to be apart of the ASPCC teams:
 - a. Currently attending PCC with a GPA of 2.5+;
 - b. Maintain enrollment in at least 6 credit hours at PCC each term to hold the position;
 - c. Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards each term;
 - d. Be in Good Standing with PCC; Free from academic probation;
5. All ASPCC positions may be held by a student member for a maximum of two consecutive terms of office (2 years). The student member may serve a maximum of three terms (3 years) in any combination of recognized student government positions, though cannot concurrently hold two positions at the same time.

ARTICLE X ADVISEMENT

1. The ASPCC is advised by staff within the Student Life & Leadership area, primarily the Director of Student Life & Leadership but can also include other PCC employees. Advisors are ex-officio members of the ASPCC.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed at an ASPCC Senate meeting and a $\frac{2}{3}$ consensus of the seated representation will move it forward.
2. A public forum or meeting must be held publicly, hosted by Senators, to get feedback from students about the proposed changes.
3. The ASPCC Senate may affirm their approval of the proposed amendment(s) by $\frac{2}{3}$ consensus vote of seated senate membership or through ratification.

ARTICLE XII ASPCC MEMBER HANDBOOK

1. An ASPCC Member Handbook shall be adopted by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the seated membership of the Senate.

ARTICLE XIII
RATIFICATION

1. This Constitution must be ratified by the PCC Board of Directors or its designee.
2. This Constitution should be reviewed as part of the training and development for ASPCC.
3. PCC policies and procedures which conflict with this Constitution will supersede this Constitution.

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