

Associated Students Inc.
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

Bill #17-03

ASI Bylaws Amendment

Implementation of ASI Social Justice and Equity Committee

Article I. Origin

This bill is presented in accordance with the ASI Bylaws by *Rita Elfarissi*, College of Liberal Arts, *Chase Dean*, College of Liberal Arts, *Hannah Poplack*, Orfalea College of Business, and *Gianna Ciaccio*, College of Science and Mathematics.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of Bill #17-03 is to establish an ASI committee dedicated to promoting and addressing all issues pertaining to diversity, inclusivity, equity, and social justice at Cal Poly.

Article III. Background

As of October 15, 2016, the racial demographics of total undergraduates (20,426 students), both degree- and non-degree- seeking, are as follows: 2.20% (450 students) are nonresident aliens; 16.05% (3,278) are Hispanic/Latino; 0.72% (147 students) are Black; 56.38% (11,517 students) are White; 0.14% are American Indian or Alaska Native, non-Hispanic (29 students); 0.14% (29 students) are Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic. In the 2014 Cal Poly Campus Climate Survey, it was found that 51% of People of Color respondents experienced exclusionary conduct based on their racial identity. It was also found that 58% of LGBTQ students experienced exclusionary conduct based on their sexual identity.

In June of 2012, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission stated in its evaluation of Cal Poly, "Whereas the campus has a long history of efforts to promote diversity learning and efforts aimed at closing the achievement gap, there is concern that issues around diversity and campus climate have continued to exist for a long time with little to no improvement despite the varied campus efforts to effect change. Knowledge of the continuing concern is widely known across campus and was voiced in meetings with students as well as those with staff." Furthermore, the commission stated in its recommendations section, "Although the campus is committed to improving the campus climate for minority students, there is concern that the issue of diversity as related to the campus climate has been allowed to exist for a long time. The institution needs to quickly and aggressively address these negative effects and actively increase the diversity of student, staff, and faculty as part of its responsibility to serve the citizens of California."

As currently outlined in the ASI Bylaws, the responsibilities of the ASI Outreach and Communications Committee is "to enhance ASI's public relations and outreach efforts to the student body. This committee is responsible for increasing awareness

and connection to the student body.” Promoting outreach to Cal Poly students of minority demographics is currently included within this committee’s jurisdiction; however, due to how large the University’s population is and how minimal of a presence individuals of minority demographics possess at Cal Poly, outreach to these demographics is difficult to accomplish and, consequently, has traditionally been minimal.

The issues facing Cal Poly’s underrepresented student communities are unique, and their needs are not being adequately addressed through ASI’s current committee structure. While all aspects of ASI should and must serve all students (which would include students of color, queer students, undocumented students, students with disabilities, etc.), creating a space where issues facing underrepresented students can be discussed is the only way that ASI will successfully advocate for institutional change within its own organization and across Cal Poly. For these reasons, the implementation of a committee dedicated to promoting social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusivity through outreach and engagement with members of these demographics will allow ASI to provide all Cal Poly students with “the ultimate college experience,” regardless of race, sex, gender, or socioeconomic standing.

Article IV. Implementation

Add Section 4.3.7 to the ASI Bylaws as follows:

4.3.7. The ASI Social Justice and Equity Committee shall be responsible for ensuring the access, retention, and quality of education and life for all underrepresented and/or historically marginalized communities at Cal Poly. This committee will maintain strong relationships with cultural and social justice focused student clubs and organizations and faculty, staff, and administrators doing social justice and equity work. This committee will advocate on behalf of all underrepresented student populations to create a socially just and equitable Cal Poly.

Add Section 4.3.7.1 into the ASI Bylaws:

4.3.7.1. Voting Members:

1. One co-chair of this committee shall be a member of the Board of Directors as appointed by the Chair of the Board and shall cast tie-breaking votes when required.
2. Two representatives from the Board of Directors as appointed by the Chair of the Board.
3. One representative from University Union Advisory Board (UUAB) as appointed by the Chair of UUAB.
4. One representative from Executive Cabinet as appointed by the ASI President.
5. One liaison from the Outreach and Communication Committee (OCC) as appointed by the Chair of OCC.

Add Section 4.3.7.2 as follows into the ASI Bylaws:

4.3.7.2. Non-Voting Members:

1. An additional co-Chair as appointed by the Director of the Cross Cultural Centers.
2. An Office of University Diversity & Inclusivity Representative.
3. A Cross Cultural Centers Representative.

4. A United Sorority and Fraternity Council Representative.
5. The ASI Executive Director or designee shall serve as a staff representative to this committee.

CERTIFIED As the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and seal of the Associated Students, Inc. this ____ day of _____, 2017.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors by **majority/**
unanimous vote on

2017.

ASI Secretary

ASI Chair of the Board

ASI Executive Director

Sponsored by: Gianna Ciaccio, College of Science & Mathematics
Rita Elfarissi, College of Liberal Arts
Chase Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Hannah Poplack, Orfalea College of Business