

Bill #21-05

ASI Bylaws Amendment - Implementation of ASI Secretary of Accessibility Executive Cabinet Position

Article I. Origin

This bill is presented in accordance with the ASI Bylaws by Jasmine Till, Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion, and Amanda Tejada, College of Liberal Arts.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of Bill #21-05 is to create an ASI Executive Cabinet position, Secretary of Accessibility, within the ASI Bylaws. This position is dedicated to promoting and addressing issues pertaining to accessibility at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly).

Article III. Background

As a university, Cal Poly and ASI need to take steps to ensure the campus as a whole promotes an inclusive and accessible environment for the students with permanent and temporary disabilities, and actively seek to implement national best practices.

On October 26, 2020, student members of the Disability Resource Center (DRC) Student Advisory Committee contacted the ASI Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion about the need for increased accessibility and disability awareness on our campus. The DRC Student Advisory Committee was formed in Fall 2020-21 in response to a formal Heard survey and informal requests from students with disabilities indicating that the disabled study body was not being fully supported. The Heard is a Student Affairs research program that facilitates focus group and surveys on campus with the goal of collecting data that can be used to improve campus services. Within their first meeting, the 17 DRC students comprising the DRC Student Advisory Committee found systemic inaccessibility and lack of disability knowledge to be prevalent at Cal Poly. After this committee provided two accessibility trainings to the 2020-21 ASI Executive Cabinet, it became apparent that this lack of knowledge also existed within ASI. 10%¹ of the Cal Poly student body is registered with the DRC, yet accessibility topics are rarely represented on campus or within ASI Student Government.

Accessibility is directly connected to both student success and student belonging, as lack of awareness regarding accommodations as well as lack of access to student centers and events can negatively impact physical health, mental health, and academic performance. Through listening to voices of students with disabilities, ASI Student Government found that implementing a Secretary of Accessibility position could increase the success and belonging of the disabled student body.

The ASI Secretary of Accessibility would be charged with forming, and maintaining, foundational relationships with Cal Poly's students with disabilities and the DRC and proactively advocating for the disability community. The results of conversations

¹ Cal Poly Disability Tapas - <https://drc.calpoly.edu/disability-tapas>

with the DRC Student Advisory Committee members, coupled with the lack of accessibility and disability awareness at Cal Poly, brings to light the need for a position of Secretary of Accessibility. This position will also serve to work on the goal of constructing trust and faith within ASI and serve to promote accessibility and disability awareness within ASI and across Cal Poly's campus. It is also preferred that the ASI Secretary of Accessibility position be held by a student who has worked with the Disability Resource Center or utilizes DRC services.

In summation, as the "Official voice of students" ASI needs to ensure that every individual voice on Cal Poly's campus is equally valued, considered and supported. The external research done by the DRC Student Advisory Committee and the trainings provided to ASI illustrates the external prevalence and internal need for this position. The maxim of this position is to build relationships with the disability community and the DRC to ensure advocating for students with disabilities through serving to promote accessibility and disability awareness across Cal Poly's campus.

Article IV. Implementation

Current wording states:

7.4.2.7.1. Composition of the ASI Executive Cabinet: The ASI Executive Cabinet shall be comprised of members appointed by the ASI President. The ASI Executive Cabinet shall include at least five and no more than nine students, with one member being the Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion. Other titles may be granted for remaining ASI Executive Cabinet positions, as determined by the ASI Chief of Staff and/or ASI President.

7.4.2.7.1.1. Selection of ASI Executive Cabinet: A campuswide application process open to all students will be conducted and the ASI President-elect shall hold interviews with select applicants. The interviewing committee will include, but is not limited to, the ASI President-elect, and the ASI Chief of Staff nominee. The ASI Executive Cabinet appointments will be shared with the ASI Board of Directors on or before the first regularly scheduled meeting of the ASI Board of Directors in fall quarter.

7.4.2.7.1.1.1. The interviewing committee of the Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion will include, but is not limited to, the ASI President-elect, the ASI Chief of Staff nominee, and the outgoing ASI Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion.

7.4.2.7.1.2. Duties of Executive Cabinet: The ASI Executive Cabinet members will be responsible for their respective subcommittees under the supervision of the ASI Chief of Staff in fulfilling the goals of the ASI President, by providing recommendations on relevant student issues and coordinating special events and projects. These ASI Executive Cabinet subcommittees will include diversity and inclusion and may include, but are not limited to: community, environmental, legislative, outreach, public relations, and university issues.

7.4.2.7.1.2.1. The Duties of the ASI Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion. The ASI Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion shall be responsible for building and maintaining relationships with underrepresented minority groups on campus and the Cross Cultural Centers. The Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion shall host group discussions to facilitate dialog on campus climate and tangible action steps with the leaders of all cultural clubs and organizations. Additionally, the position shall coordinate with ASI Leadership Team on any actions or statements after the occurrence of large scale discriminatory matters on campus.

With the recommended changes it would now state:

7.4.2.7.1. Composition of the ASI Executive Cabinet: The ASI Executive Cabinet shall be comprised of members appointed by the ASI President. The ASI Executive Cabinet shall include at least five and no more than nine students, with one member being the Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion and one member being the Secretary of Accessibility. Other titles may be granted for the remaining ASI Executive Cabinet positions, as determined by the ASI Chief of Staff and/or ASI President.

7.4.2.7.1.1. Selection of ASI Executive Cabinet: A campuswide application process open to all students will be conducted and the ASI President-elect shall hold interviews with select applicants. The interviewing committee will include, but is not limited to, the ASI President-elect, and the ASI Chief of Staff nominee. The ASI Executive Cabinet appointments will be shared with the ASI Board of Directors on or before the first regularly scheduled meeting of the ASI Board of Directors in fall quarter.

7.4.2.7.1.2. Duties of Executive Cabinet: The ASI Executive Cabinet members will be responsible for their respective subcommittees under the supervision of the ASI Chief of Staff in fulfilling the goals of the ASI President, by providing recommendations on relevant student issues and coordinating special events and projects. These ASI Executive Cabinet subcommittees will include diversity and inclusion, accessibility, and may include, but are not limited to: community, environmental, legislative, outreach, public relations, and university issues.

7.4.2.7.1.2.1. The Duties of the ASI Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion. The ASI Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion shall be responsible for building and maintaining relationships with underrepresented minority groups on campus and the Cross Cultural Centers. The Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion shall host group discussions to facilitate dialog on campus climate and tangible action steps with the

leaders of all cultural clubs and organizations. Additionally, the position shall coordinate with ASI Leadership Team on any actions or statements after the occurrence of large scale discriminatory matters on campus.

7.4.2.7.1.2.2. The Duties of the ASI Secretary of Accessibility. The ASI Secretary of Accessibility shall be responsible for building and maintaining relationships with students with disabilities on campus and serve as the liaison between ASI and the Disability Resource Center. The Secretary of Accessibility shall be a proactive advocate for students with disabilities as well as facilitate initiatives and tangible action steps to improve accessibility and disability awareness on campus and within ASI. Additionally, the position shall coordinate with ASI Leadership Team on any actions or statements after the occurrence of large scale discriminatory matters on campus.

CERTIFIED as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and seal of the Associated Students, Inc. this 20th day of May, 2021.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors by *unanimous vote* on May 19, 2021.

ASI Secretary

ASI Chair of the Board

ASI Executive Director

Sponsored by:

Amanda Tejada, College of Liberal Arts.

Jasmine Till, Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion