

Associated Students Inc.
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

Bill #21-06

ASI Bylaws Amendment- Implementation of An ASI Lobby Corps

Article I. Origin

This Bill is presented in accordance with the ASI Bylaws by Parker Swanson, College of Liberal Arts.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of Bill #21-06 is to establish the Lobby Corps as a recognized subcommittee of the ASI External Affairs Committee, chaired by a member appointed by the ASI Board of Directors and comprised of ASI Student Government Members, as well as organizational members of ASI on a voluntary basis. Establishing the Lobby Corps will open the door to further involvement within ASI Student Government and allow for passionate and concerned students to benefit from advocacy training, legislative research, and opportunities for legislative lobbying visits.

Article III. Background

In recent years, ASI has begun to take the steps to eliminate barriers that exist for students to become involved in ASI Student Government. Currently, to become involved in Student Government, students must either dedicate time and resources to campaigning for a finite number of elected positions on the ASI Board of Directors, interview for an appointed position within the Executive Cabinet or UUAB, or volunteer as a member of Executive Staff. It is reasonable to assume that these barriers have contributed to a great deal of student apathy with ASI Student Government.

There is a need for more opportunities for students to realize their position as stakeholders within ASI and within the affairs of the university and local, state, and federal governments. A 2016 study by UCLA's higher Education Research Institute¹ found that 1 in 10 college students expect they will participate in a protest or demonstration at least once during their academic career. To meet these needs and lessen the divide between ASI Student Government and the student body at large, The Board of Directors will establish a fully functioning Lobby Corps under the External Affairs committee, open to all enrolled Cal Poly students on a volunteer basis.

The Lobby Corps will be a body that ensures this opportunity to students who are interested in activism, lobbying, and participating more heavily in the organization that they pay fees into. The Lobby Corps will exist as a subcommittee of the External Affairs Committee and will help to undertake more effective civic engagement within this organization. The Lobby Corps will consist of a committee of voting members that will plan programming for volunteer students at large. Students will gain experience working directly within a committee of the ASI Board of Directors, and gain valuable advocacy tools through call-ins, letter writing campaigns, legislative research sessions, and lobbying visits.

There already exists a robust network of Lobby Corps at every UC and CSU campus except for California Maritime Academy and Cal Poly SLO. Lobby Corps is not a centralized organization with multiple university chapters. Instead, Lobby Corps

represents a rather popular cornerstone of the Associated Students organizations across the state. Despite differences in eligibility, procedures, and activities, the general mission of Lobby corps remains to recruit passionate and concerned students and provide advocacy training and opportunities for legislative lobbying visits. The reinstatement of a more permanent and sustainable Lobby Corps institution at our campus is long overdue and will allow students to partner with campus activism organizations, gain training and experience in lobbying and governmental affairs, and bring forth the change the wish to see in the world.

Article IV. Implementation

Current wording states:

4.3.1 The ASI External Affairs Committee. This committee shall be responsible for representing, serving, and addressing student concerns before any local, state, and federal legislature. This committee will recommend to the ASI Board of Directors whether to support or oppose any pending legislation concerning Cal Poly students or the California State University system. This committee will communicate lobbying efforts, research legislation, and will report all issues to the ASI Board of Directors. This committee will work to establish long-term relationships between ASI and city, county, and state representatives.

With the recommended changes it would now state:

4.3.1 The ASI External Affairs Committee. This committee shall be responsible for representing, serving, and addressing student concerns before any local, state, and federal legislature. This committee will recommend to the ASI Board of Directors whether to support or oppose any pending legislation concerning Cal Poly students or the California State University system. This committee will oversee the Lobby Corps which will be comprised of various ASI Student Government Members and students at large volunteers and will communicate lobbying efforts, conduct legislative research, and report all issues to the ASI External Affairs Committee and ASI Board of Directors. This committee will work to establish long-term relationships between ASI and city, county, and state representatives.

Insert after section **4.3.1.2.1**.

4.3.1.2.2. The Chair of the Lobby Corps shall be a voting member of the External Affairs Committee as appointed by the Chair of the ASI Board of Directors.

CERTIFIED as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and seal of the Associated Students, Inc. this 25th day of May, 2021.

ASI Secretary

ASI Executive Director

Sponsored By: Parker Swanson, College of Liberal Arts

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

ASI Chair of the Board