



**Constitution of the Associated Students of
Eastern Oregon University Student Government**

(Ratified May 9, 2017)

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Eastern Oregon University EOU, acting within the authority delegated by the Eastern Oregon University Board of Trustees do establish this Constitution in order that we may fully employ the advantages of shared governance to achieve our core mission of advancing the educational, social, and cultural experience of students at Eastern Oregon University.

ARTICLE I

(Name)

Section 1: The students of EOU shall legally be known as the Associated Students of Eastern Oregon University (ASEOU).

Section 2: The governing body of the ASEOU shall be legally known as the Student Government of the Associated Students of Eastern Oregon University.

ARTICLE II

(Membership)

Section 1: All students of EOU paying the incidental fee¹ regardless of credit hours being taken or completed shall be members of the ASEOU.

¹ The incidental fee is assessed each term to all students taking “On-Campus” courses, and to all students living on campus or part of an athletic team. This fee supports institutional student programs that are beyond the academic mission of the institution. Funds generated by incidental fees are used to fund student union operations, educational, cultural, and student governmental activities, and athletics. Incidental Fees are governed by a committee, comprised of student body officers, students, faculty, staff, and advisors. Along with on campus fee, there is also an incidental fee of \$25 assessed to online students.

Section 2: Enrollment for the summer term is not necessary to maintain membership status.

ARTICLE III

(Organization)

Section 1: Where Powers Vested. Except as this constitution otherwise provides, all powers of the ASEOU Student Government shall be vested in its Senate. The Senate shall adhere to, create, or modify bylaws to carry out its core mission.

Section 2: Liaison. The ASEOU Student Government reports to and works with the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Director for Student Involvement.

Section 3: Senate. The Senate shall be composed of the ASEOU President and eight ASEOU Senators elected from the student body at large. The responsibilities of the Senate include, but are not limited to: creating and regulating the incidental fee structure, attending required training(s), and creating any legislation needed to carry out its core mission.

A. The Interim Senate shall be composed of the Interim Senators and the Interim President prior to their taking of office.

1. The Interim Senate shall have authority limited to the appointment of vacant Senate seats, appointment of vacant Judicial Board seats, appointment of vacant Executive Board positions, and any further authority as deemed necessary by the existing Senate.

Section 4: Senators. ASEOU Senators shall be elected via popular vote in a general election² in the winter of each academic year. ASEOU members who apply for vacant Senate seats after the general election may be appointed by the Interim Senate or ASEOU Senate via a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate. They will serve a term that begins on the last Friday of the spring term after the general election and ends on the last Thursday of the spring term in the following year. Between the end of the election and the last Friday of the winter term, all newly elected or appointed ASEOU Senators will be known as Interim Senators. Interim Senators shall attend training during this time to fulfill the training requirement associated with officially becoming an ASEOU Senator.

Section 5: ASEOU President. The ASEOU President shall be elected via popular vote in a general election in the winter term of each academic year. The ASEOU President-Elect shall serve a term that begins on the last Friday of the spring term after the general election and ends on the last Thursday of the spring term in the following year. The ASEOU President shall preside over Senate meetings. The

² *General Election: The General Election is in the Winter term where you may only run for one office during elections and each candidate is responsible for their own election. This General Election only lasts two weeks.

ASEOU President shall vote in the Senate only in cases when it is necessary to determine the passage of legislation. The ASEOU President cannot vote in cases that involve presidential veto override legislation.

- A. The ASEOU President shall have non-line-item veto power in the Senate. The ASEOU President must execute the veto power within seven academic days after the vote. The Senate may then override this veto with a two-thirds majority vote of the ASEOU Senate and must do so within seven academic days of the veto presentation.
- B. Between the end of the election and the last Friday of finals week of the winter term, the newly elected ASEOU President will be known as the Interim President with the sole responsibility of presiding over meetings of the Interim Senators. The Interim President is granted all powers defined within the constitution as belonging to the ASEOU President during this time, as pertaining to the Interim Senate. The Interim President may attend training during this time to fulfill the training requirement associated with officially becoming the ASEOU President.

Section 6: Judicial Board. The Judicial Board shall be composed of three justices. These justices shall apply to and be appointed by the Senate or the Interim Senate during the winter term after the general election. Each justice shall serve a term that begins on the last Friday of the spring term after the general election and ends on the last Thursday of the spring term in the following year. The Judicial Board shall resolve student government disputes and interpret this constitution. These justices may not be members of another part of the ASEOU Student Government.

Section 7: Recognized Officers. Recognized officers of the ASEOU Student Government shall include: the ASEOU President, all ASEOU Senators, all Judicial Board members, the Director for Political Affairs, the Director for Campus Affairs, Director for Diversity and Equity, and the Director for Financial Affairs, who is also the Student Fee Committee Chair.

- A. Office Assistants are recognized officers of the ASEOU Student Government. Office Assistants are appointed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Staff during a regular Senate meeting.
 - 1. The Executive Board shall include the ASEOU President and all ASEOU Directors.
- B. The non-elected officers during the general election shall apply to and be appointed by the Senate or the Interim Senate during the spring term after the general election.
- C. Interns are not recognized officers of the ASEOU Student Government, but are members and may fully participate in ASEOU Student Government activities. Interns are appointed by the officer under whom they serve.

ARTICLE IV

(Eligibility for all ASEOU Officers)

Section 1: To be eligible to apply to or run for an ASEOU Student Government office,

candidates shall:

- A. Be a member of ASEOU.
 - 1. Winter elections and appointments. Students which have been accepted to EOU and are not yet members of ASEOU may apply and/or run for ASEOU positions only during the annual winter term election and appointment process.
- B. Have a 2.5 cumulative GPA of the courses taken at EOU.
 - 1. Transfer credits shall solely be considered until a basis for GPA at EOU has been established.
 - a. After a basis for GPA has been established at EOU, the GPA from this institution shall receive sole consideration.
 - 2. A basis for GPA at EOU shall be considered established after two full-time quarters, or three part or half-time quarters at EOU.
 - 3. Members that do not meet the 2.5 cumulative GPA requirement may appeal to the Senate for two-thirds majority vote,
- C. Be in good academic and behavioral standing with EOU.
- D. Pay student incidental fees.

Section 2: To maintain office one shall:

- A. Attend required training(s) during one's term of office.
- B. Maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA at EOU.
 - 1. Transfer credits will not be considered for GPA to maintain office.
- C. Be enrolled in and complete at least twelve credit hours per quarter at EOU.
 - 1. Seniors may take fewer than twelve credit hours as long as graduation results no later than the end of spring term of the current academic year.
 - 2. EOU online and partner school credits may be included for the acquisition of this total.
- D. Be in good academic and behavioral standing with EOU.
- E. Perform all duties and responsibilities of the given office.

Section 3: Interns are not subject to the above requirements for eligibility.

Section 4: ASEOU officers not meeting eligibility guidelines shall immediately be considered by the Senate for resignation, impeachment, or other disciplinary action.

- A. Eligibility shall be checked during the fifth week of the academic term by the advisors of ASEOU
 - 1. GPA will be checked during the first week of each term.
- B. Summer term shall not be used for measuring eligibility regarding twelve credit minimums.

ARTICLE V

(Compensation)

Section 1: Executive and Office Assistant(s)

- A. The following ASEOU Executive and Office Assistant(s) shall receive compensation of hourly pay for their office which will be distributed according to EOU Payroll policies and procedures: President, Director for Financial Affairs, Director for Diversity and Equity, Director for Political Affairs, Director for Campus Affairs, and Office Assistant(s).
- B. To receive pay, Executive members and/or Office Assistant(s) must fulfill their duties as described in the Constitution and Bylaws. Each Executive member and Office Assistant will be evaluated for their work on a term basis.
- C. Executive members and/or Office Assistant(s) have the ability to accept or refuse pay.

Section 2: Senator and Justice

- A. Senators and Justice shall receive a scholarship for one academic year in which they serve. Scholarships will be distributed at the beginning of each term, excluding summer.
- B. To receive pay, Senators and Justice must fulfill their duties as described in the Constitution
- C. Senators and Justice have the ability to accept or refuse their scholarship.

ARTICLE VI

(Statement of Non-discrimination)

Section 1: The practices and policies of the ASEOU shall not:

- A. Exclude, expel, or limit membership because of an individual’s race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, socioeconomic status, disability, gender identity, expression, or status as a veteran.
- B. Exclude from being hired, elected, appointed, or otherwise discriminated against any individual with respect to their compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual’s race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, national origin, socioeconomic status, disability, or status as a veteran.

ARTICLE VII

(Impeachment)

Section 1: Impeachment.

- A. Impeachment shall be defined as the bringing of charges against an ASEOU officer regarding an act inappropriate to their office.
 - 1. Interns may not be impeached. The supervising officer has sole discretion for the removal of interns.
 - 2. Office Assistants may be impeached, the Senate will have full authority to determine such matters.
- B. Impeachable offenses include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Misappropriation of ASEOU funds.

2. Election fraud.
 3. Inappropriate acts as deemed by two-thirds majority vote with the ASEOU Senate.
 4. Failure to perform the duties and responsibilities of a given office.
- C. The ASEOU Senate shall have the sole power to initiate (through legislation) and try all impeachment.
1. Impeachment procedures shall be established in the bylaws.
 2. Impeachment is not subject to Presidential veto.
 3. Impeachment is not subject to action by the ASEOU Judicial Board, with exception for appeals dealing with Senate procedural errors.
- D. Once an ASEOU Student Government officer is removed from office as a result of an impeachment trial, for any reason, they will never be eligible to hold another office within the ASEOU Student Government unless future evidence proves else wise.

ARTICLE VIII

(ASEOU Official Records)

Section 1: All official documents of the ASEOU Student Government shall be maintained by the ASEOU President or their Designee

- A. ASEOU official documents include, but are not limited to:
1. ASEOU Senate Roll Call
 2. ASEOU Senate Voting Records
 3. ASEOU Judicial Board Opinions
 4. ASEOU Election Results
 5. ASEOU Presidential Vetoes
 6. ASEOU Bylaws
 7. ASEOU Constitution
 8. ASEOU Senate Meeting Minutes
 9. ASEOU Legislation
 10. ASEOU Motion Forms

Section 2: All official documents shall be considered public records.

ARTICLE IX

(Amendments)

Section 1: Amendments.

- A. Amendments shall be known as changes to the ASEOU Constitution.
- B. Amendments to the ASEOU Constitution shall adhere to the following process:
1. Must be initiated by a two-thirds majority vote of the ASEOU Senate.
 2. Once the Senate has approved an amendment it must be ratified by a popular vote of the ASEOU members.

- a. One percent of the ASEOU members must vote in this election.
- b. Two-thirds of those votes cast must be in the affirmative.
- C. Housekeeping items which do not alter or affect the policies, procedures, or rules identified within this Constitution may be made by a unanimous vote of the Senate.

ARTICLE X

(Bylaws)

Section 1: Bylaws of the ASEOU Constitution shall include, but not be limited to: rules, procedures, and job descriptions of the ASEOU Student Government Officers.

Section 2: The ASEOU Constitution shall take precedence over any ASEOU Bylaw, and in doing so, nullifies any conflict between the two documents.

Section 3: Amendments to the ASEOU Bylaws must be initiated by a two-thirds majority vote of the ASEOU Senate.

Section 4: Bylaws may not be suspended.

ARTICLE XI

(Enactment)

Section 1: This ASEOU Constitution shall be considered effective immediately following ratification by a majority of those voting in a campus-wide election. One percent of the ASEOU members must vote in this election. The previous ASEOU Executive Board shall administer elections to fill the positions established herein within thirty academic days.

Section 2: This ASEOU Constitution shall supersede all previous Constitutions and Bylaws of the Associated Students of Eastern Oregon University. The Constitution of Eastern Oregon University, the Constitution of the State of Oregon and the Constitution of the United States of America shall supersede the ASEOU Constitution where applicable and where contradictions arise.

Section 3: If, for any reason, a position should need to be filled in the year(s) following the ratification of this document, said position shall be filled in the manner prescribed herein.

Section 4: Those persons elected under the guidelines of the previous Constitution shall maintain their office(s), but fall under the jurisdiction of this Constitution.

Approval History

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