

Constitution of the Associated Students of Saint Martin's University

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Saint Martin's University (the University), in order to coordinate student activities, promote, provide and express student interests, supplement formal education, provide for the expression of student opinion on issues affecting student life, and to promote academic freedom in spirit and in fact, do affirm and establish this Constitution and these Bylaws.

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Associated Students of Saint Martin's University and shall also be known as ASSMU.

Article II. Powers

The powers of ASSMU shall be:

- (a) To aid, direct, manage, supervise, invoke policy, and coordinate student activities in conjunction with the Student Services Division.
- (b) To manage, supervise, and coordinate student appropriated funds.
- (c) To initiate and assist in the creation and maintenance of campus clubs.
- (d) To represent student interests in Saint Martin's Community.

Article III. Membership

Section 3.01 All students of Saint Martin's University who have paid an activity fee shall be members of ASSMU and receive the privilege of freely joining clubs and/or other activities. Only members of ASSMU shall be entitled to vote in elections or hold any ASSMU office.

Section 3.02 In accordance with its mission statement, ASSMU supports values that advocate open-mindedness, awareness, sensitivity, and respect for differences. The student government appreciates and promotes diversity as an essential foundation for a healthy learning community. The student government is committed to the creation of a tolerant learning and working environment free from discrimination, fear, hate, and exclusionary forms of conduct and harassment.

Section 3.03 ASSMU and its clubs shall not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, or mental, physical, or sensory disability when determining membership. Intolerable forms of discrimination will not be limited to these enumerated classifications.

Article IV. Offices

Section 4.01 The governing body of ASSMU shall be referred to as the Senate, which consists of two distinct branches: The Executive and Legislative. No member of the Senate shall serve concurrently in any other Senate office. No member of the Senate shall hold an executive position (appointed or elected) in any ASSMU sponsored club concurrent with their Senate term of office; however, they are free, and encouraged, to participate as active members in such clubs.

Section 4.02 The offices of the Executive Branch of the Senate, also known as Executives, shall consist of a President, Judicial Vice President, Financial Vice President, Activities Director, a Communications Director, and an Executive Secretary. Each members of the Executive Branch shall get one (1) vote on issues brought before the Senate, unless otherwise stated in their job description; votes are to be based on information received through their constituents or as directed by ASSMU's governing documents.

Section 4.03 The offices of the Legislative Branch of the Senate, also known as Senators, shall consist of a Senator of Academic Affairs, Senator of Campus Development, Senator of Clubs, Senator of Community Service, Senator of Cultural Diversity, Senator of Non-Traditional and Commuter Students, Senator of Recreational Affairs, Senator of Residence Life, and Senator of the Trautman Union Building. Each member of the Legislative Branch shall get one (1) vote on issues brought before the Senate; votes are to be based on information received through their constituents or as directed by ASSMU's governing documents.

Section 4.04 The Senate, with the exception of the Executive Secretary, shall be elected by any member of ASSMU at the annual spring election in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws (Article VII) and the Elections Code. The Executive Secretary is appointed by a majority vote of the incoming Senate. The Senate shall assume office no later than two weeks prior to the end of the spring semester

following their election and shall serve for a term of one (1) academic school year or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

- (a) A vacancy occurring in any Senate position between elections shall be filled in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws

Section 4.05 (Article IV).

Section 4.06 A quorum of any ASSMU meeting consists of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Senate's voting membership.

Section 4.07 The voting membership of the Senate shall be as follows:

- (a) Judicial Vice President
- (b) Financial Vice President
- (c) Activities Director
- (d) Communications Director
- (e) 9 ASSMU Senators (See Article IV, Section 3)

Section 4.08 After the general election of the new Senate, the outgoing senate shall serve in an advisory capacity until the end of their term of office.

Article V. Referendum and Initiative

Section 5.01 Members of ASSMU shall have the right of optional referendum and direct initiative.

Section 5.02 A referendum shall be defined as the principle of practicing referring legislative measures to the Senate for support or rejection. The proposal for the referendum requires a majority vote by the Senate to pass. If the proposal passes the Senate, the referendum will be voted on by ASSMU no later than two weeks after the referendum has been passed by the Senate. The Elections Committee will present the results of the vote to the Senate within one (1) week of the popular vote. If the referendum does not pass the Senate or ASSMU, it is considered dead and must be resubmitted for further approval.

Section 5.03 An initiative shall be defined as a procedure enabling ASSMU, by petitioning, to propose a law and secure its submission to the Senate for approval. Signatures of ten (10) percent of the members of ASSMU shall be required to place the initiative on the ballot. These signatures will be presented to the Senate, and the initiative will be voted upon by ASSMU no later than two weeks after the initiative has been presented. The measure requires a majority vote of the Senate to pass.

Article VI. Provisions for Removal from Office

Any Senate Member is subject to recall, disciplinary or automatic removal from office by members of ASSMU as outlined in the Bylaws (Article III Section 10 and Article IV).

Article VII. Amendments

Section 7.01 Amendments to this Constitution shall be made by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

Section 7.02 Proposed amendments may be submitted to the Senate by any member of ASSMU. Amendments must be submitted in written form and filed with the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall then provide a copy of all proposed amendments to the Senate within five (5) academic days of receipt of proposed amendments. Action must take place within one (1) week following the receipt of the proposed amendments from the Executive Secretary.