ASUCD CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #99

Bill Information:

Authored by: SCHWARTZ
Co-authored by: GARCIA, PAMINTUAN, RUBIN, PAREKH, MAHMODI
Co-sponsored by:
Introduced by: Academic Affairs Commission

A Constitutional Amendment to change how the ASUCD Student Advocate is selected.

ACTIONS

Date	Action
05/07/2026	Submitted [Legislation Submission Form].
05/13/2026	Considered by AAC with a recommendation of "Do Pass, as Amended," [9-0-0] YES: Pamintuan, Zamudio, Tinsman, Tripathi, Kavipurapu, Cernas, Derla, Tran, Garcia." NO: N/A, ABSTAIN: N/A.
05/14/2026	Introduced to the Senate Floor.
05/14/2026	Considered by the Senate. 13-0-1 DO PASS AS AMENDED YES: DHILLON, DILL-CRUZ, GARCIA, HETH, KAHJORNCHAIKUL, LITTLE, LIST, MARTINEZ, OSCANOA, PAYNE, RUBIN, YOUNES, CASTANEDA. ABSTAIN: NUR
05/27/2026	SENT FOR SIGNATURE.

The ASUCD Senate hereby places the following Constitutional Amendment on the Fall 2026 ballot:

ASUCD Student Advocate Appointment Amendment

Voting "YES" on the Amendment would:

(1) Transition the ASUCD Student Advocate selection process to an interview-based committee, prioritizing the retention of institutional knowledge on student conduct policies which require several months of training to master.

Voting "NO" on the Amendment would:

(1) Keep the ASUCD Student Advocate as an elected official, but risk losing institutional knowledge and expertise

Please vote for one of the following options:

_____ Yes, I approve of this Constitutional Amendment.

_____ No, I do not approve of this Constitutional Amendment.

BACKGROUND:
The Student Advocate Office requires a quarter of training for all members to ensure high-quality and accurate advising services. Much like Unit Directors, Commission Chairs, and Committee Chairs, this position would benefit from continuity of institutional knowledge of both ASUCD and the Student Conduct and Integrity process and policies, which are constantly changing. For example, on January 1st 2026, the interim PACAOS 100 policy was enacted, which resulted in the reduction of students' rights to a formal hearing, except in cases of suspension or dismissal. Leaving the Student Advocate position up for election risks losing years of expertise and knowledge integral to the functions of the Student Advocate Office's mission of providing free, private, and accurate advising services to students regarding student rights and the social and academic conduct processes.

Section 1. The Associated Students, UC Davis hereby amends Article III, Section 7(1)(5) of the ASUCD Constitution as follows:

Section 7.

(1) There shall exist an ASUCD Student Advocate (hereafter referred to as the Student Advocate) whose term shall last no longer than one (1) year, but may be re-appointed ~~run for re-election~~ at the end of their term.

(2) Any undergraduate member of ASUCD in good academic standing, based on Grade Point Average (GPA), who has been a registered full-time or part-time student for at least two (2) entire academic quarters, shall be eligible to hold the office of the Student Advocate.

(3) The Student Advocate shall have the following responsibilities:

i. Offering aid at the request of any UC Davis students charged with University or campus violations, experiencing Financial Aid difficulties, disputing grades, and/or filing grievances against members of the campus community.

ii. Representing ASUCD in discussions with the University or campus administration regarding student rights, campus rules, and/or other areas of student conduct.

iii. Educating the UC Davis student body regarding student rights, University and Campus policies, laws, regulations, and procedures.

(4) The Student Advocate Office and its members thereof shall remain non-partisan with regard to ASUCD at all times. ~~while executing the duties of, or running for the office of Student Advocate.~~

~~The Student Advocate shall be elected annually during the spring quarter general election. The Student Advocate elections shall be conducted using an Instant Runoff Voting system. The method of voting and counting shall be described in the ASUCD Elections Regulations. To permit an independent count of the ballots, the rankings cast shall be made available to the public upon~~

~~request. The eligible candidates for the ASUCD Student Advocate receiving a simple majority of the votes cast for their offices in any round of the instant runoff shall be issued a Certificate of Election from the outgoing ASUCD Internal Vice President at the beginning of the final Senate meeting of spring quarter. Upon receipt of the Certificates of Election, the newly elected ASUCD Student Advocate shall immediately assume office.~~

(5) The Student Advocate shall be appointed by majority approval of an interviewing committee by the sixth (6th) week of Spring Quarter, consisting of the current or outgoing Student Advocate, two (2) of the Student Advocate's Academic Case Directors, the Student Advocate's Vice Student Advocate, the Student Advocate's Head of Staff, the Internal Vice President, the Academic Affairs Commission Chairperson or their designee, and the ASUCD Senate President Pro Tempore.

i. If the outgoing Student Advocate is reapplying or are otherwise unable or unwilling to perform their duties or if one of the current Case Directors, current Vice Student Advocate or current Head of Staff are applying for the position of Student Advocate or are otherwise unable or unwilling to perform their duties, then the interviewing committee shall consist of the same membership, aside from those members.

ii. In the event that one (1) member of the Student Advocate Office hiring board is applying for Student Advocate, that interviewing member's spot on the hiring committee will consist of the Internal Affairs Commission Chairperson or their designee.

iii. In the event that two (2) members of the Student Advocate Office hiring board are applying for Student Advocate, those interviewing spots on the hiring committee will consist of the Internal Affairs Commission Chairperson or their designee, in addition to the External Affairs Commission Chairperson or their designee

iv. In the event that more than two (2) members of the Student Advocate Office hiring board are applying for the Student Advocate, the interviewing member's spots on the hiring committee will consist of those mentioned above, in addition to the International Student Representative or their designee, the Transfer Student Representative, and a Senator, in no particular order and as needed.

v. The vacancy for the Student Advocate must be posted on the ASUCD vacancies website on the first day of week 4 (Spring Quarter) and closed within a week of being posted.

(6) The ASUCD Student Advocate~~, before obtaining a Certificate of Election,~~ shall recite the ASUCD Oath of Office, which will be administered by the outgoing ASUCD President:

> "I, _____, student of the University of California, Davis, in good academic standing, promise to abide by the ASUCD Guidelines of Conduct and Code of Ethics; and promote the welfare and interests of the members of ASUCD; and in consistency with the ASUCD Constitution, enact rules and procedures necessary and proper for the efficient operation of ASUCD; and carry out and faithfully execute the duties enumerated in the ASUCD Constitution and ASUCD Bylaws at all times during my term in office."

i. If the ASUCD President is unable or unwilling to administer the oath of office, then any senator may administer the oath of office.

Finance: No | Appropriation: None | Vote: Majority



Amrita Julka

05/28/26
Date