

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
FIFTY-SECOND SENATE  
SESSION - 13<sup>th</sup> Session  
DATE – November 09, 2022**

**LEX #5203  
RECTIFYING A FAILING OF ASCSU ACCESSIBILITY**

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NOTICE: A signature to sponsor means that you only wish for the legislation to be heard, a signature to endorse means that you support the contents and/or actions of this legislation.

WRITTEN BY: Ariadne Athey, Senator, Student Disability Center, Chair, Internal Affairs Committee.

COLLABORATED WITH:

SPONSORED BY: Evan Welch, Director, Governmental Affairs.

ENDORSED BY: Rory Low, Senator, Student Disability Center; Sammy Trout, Chair, University Affairs Committee, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Elijah Sandoval, ASCSU, Vice President; Jasen Wahler-Hohenzollern, ASCSU, Chief of State; Charlie Williamson, Director, Diversity and Inclusion; Alex Silverhart, Director, Health and Wellness.

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*Abstract: This Lex aims to rectify the failing of accessibility within the ASCSU Constitution and to clarify what currently exists.*

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**WHEREAS**

As per the ASCSU Constitution in Section 106 Diversity and Inclusion states that:

“(b) ASCSU must be accessible to all students.

(c) For official meetings of ASCSU the following accessibility measures must be followed:

- (i) All agendas for meetings must be sent out 48 hours in advance.
- (ii) All additional documents from all three branches and their constituents, including legislation, and presentations, must be sent out with the agenda 48 hours in advance.

1. In the rare instance, if the documents are not sent out 48 hours in advance, the Chair shall open five minutes of discussion and debate regarding hearing the document, legislation, and/or presentation.

2. All documentation, legislation, and/or presentations, and their edits, must be read out in their entirety if not sent out 48 hours in advance. Edits made during the meeting will be read out in their entirety.

(iii) When presenting, the font must be big enough for all meeting participants to read.

(iv) If the meeting takes place online or in the senate chambers, every speaking participant must use an adequate microphone so that every meeting participant can hear them. If there is no adequate microphone accessible, ASCSU will assist in the process of obtaining an adequate microphone.

(v) Accommodation requests from students can be sent to the Student Disability Center any time during the year and for employees, guests, and community members can be sent to Office of Equal Opportunity. Accommodation requests that have been filed through this process and have been deemed reasonable by the Student Disability Center and/or Office of Equal Opportunity must be observed during any official ASCSU meeting. Accommodation requests cannot be taken away once granted but must be renewed at the beginning of the year.”; and,

## WHEREAS

The above changes were made at the end of the 50<sup>th</sup> Senate after a year of fighting the inaccessibility of ASCSU, however this clause was added in lieu of a missing edit passed as the final Lex, Lex 4805, of the 48<sup>th</sup> Senate which stated:

“That the following be added to the ASCSU Constitution as Section 207(f):

(f) The Senate shall work to make itself accessible for all students.

(i) The weekly agenda will be sent out to all Senators and Associate Senators by 4:00PM on the Monday before a Legislative Session to allow for adequate time to read all the legislation before it is brought to the floor.

(ii) When legislation is presented to the Senate body during any reading and displayed on the monitors, the margins of the document and the font size of the legislation will be enlarged to allow for all members of the body to clearly read.

(iii) During questioning, discussion, or debate on any Senate matter, speakers must use the microphones provided in the chamber so that all members of the gallery can hear and understand speaking points.

1) IF A GALLERY MEMBER WOULD LIKE TO OFFER DISCUSSION, THEY WILL BE INVITED INTO THE BODY TO USE ONE OF THE PROVIDED MICROPHONES.

(iv) Any presenter (internal or external to ASCSU) that will showcase slides during their Senate presentation will need

to send their slides in advance (preferably at least 24 hours in advance of the Senate meeting) to the Speaker of the Senate.

- 1) THOSE SLIDES WILL THEN BE SENT TO SENATE MEMBERS OF THEIR REVIEW BEFORE THE PRESENTATION IS DISPLAYED AT THE WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SESSION.
- (v) Accommodation requests from members of the student body will be accepted throughout the year with a submission of an accommodation letter from the Student Disability Center to the Speaker of the Senate and the ASCSU Senate advisor.
- 1) ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS THAT HAVE BEEN FILED THROUGH THIS PROCESS AND HAVE BEEN DEEMED REASONABLE BY THE ADVISOR IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SUTDNET DISABILITY CENTER MUST BE OBSERVED BY THE BODY.
- 2) ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS CANNOT BE TAKEN AWAY ONCE GRANTED BUT MUST BE RENEWED AT THE FIRST SESSION OF EACH NEW SENATE TO REMAIN IN EFFECT.
- (vi) Senate leadership shall, as soon as available, work to digitalize an interactive agenda and content of the agenda using the existing technical structures.

And that all subsequent sections be re-numbered accordingly”; and,

**WHEREAS**

The accessibility section of Section 106 Diversity and Inclusion was added hastily and poorly with little room for input from the disabled community, while the original section from the 48<sup>th</sup> Senate, was written by the Senator of the Student Disability Center, a disabled member of the 48<sup>th</sup> Senate: and,

**WHEREAS**

A combination of the two accessibility sections is necessary to hold all ASCSU to the accessibility, community, and transparency standards of we have worked to implement over the years: and,

**WHEREAS**

These clauses may be amended at any time if the information is incorrect or misleading. Amendments to these sections will be debated and voted on just as any other piece of the legislation; if at any point the wording of the legislation is not the same as the original intent was believed to have been by sponsors or endorsements, amendments can be made to have those names removed; so,

**THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED**

That Section 106, Diversity and Inclusion, be amended to state:

1. The Land Acknowledgement will be read at the beginning of every official ASCSU meeting.
  - A. The speaker of the Land Acknowledgement will be designated 48 hours in advance by the Chair of the meeting. If no speaker is designated, the chair of the meeting shall read or present the land acknowledgement.
2. ASCSU must be accessible to everyone during all official meetings.
  - A. All agendas, documents, presentations, committee edits and combined documents, or anything otherwise expected to be presented for meetings must be sent out 48 hours in advance to all participants or potential participants. Additionally, supplemental emails of the exact same content are encouraged to ensure access.
    - i. For smaller, one-on-one meetings with members of ASCSU, only attending members must be sent all documents ahead of time.
    - ii. For larger, open meetings such as Executive Cabinet or Senate, all documents must be sent through, at a minimum the ASCSU weekly email emailing list that goes to all members as well as all constituents.
    - iii. Any failure to send documents through the appropriate outlet shall require the document or topic to be pushed to the next meeting in which the accessibility measures have been followed.
      - a. In the case of an emergency need to present a document that was not sent out ahead of time, the document or topic must both be presented to the body and read in its entirety.
    - iv. The rendering of an ASCSU Supreme Court Opinion is an exception to this rule.
      - a. All opinions shall be presented on the screen and read in their entirety on the first reading and shall be brought back up to one regularly scheduled Senate Session following the initial reading to allow for additional questions on the opinion.
      - b. All requests for briefs of an in-process hearing shall be sent to the ASCSU weekly email emailing list at least one (1) week prior to the conclusion of the briefing period.
    - v. The agenda as it is being built by the Legislative Cabinet does not need to be sent out ahead of time as it is being drawn up during the meeting.
  - B. When any document is presented to the Senate body during any reading and is displayed on the monitors, the margins of the document, the font size, and the color contrast of the document will be accessible to allow for all members of the body to clearly read.
  - C. All speakers in large open meetings must use provided microphones to allow adequate sound quality for all members and guests to participate.
    - i. Should someone be unable to access a microphone, they shall either be permitted to enter restricted areas to access one or shall be offered a handheld microphone.

- D. Accommodation requests from members of the student body will be accepted throughout the year with a submission of an accommodation letter from the Student Disability Center to the Speaker of the Senate, an ASCSU advisor, or another member of the Legislative Cabinet. That designer shall then be required to implement all accommodations within one (1) regularly scheduled Senate Session.
- i. Accommodation requests that have been filed through this process and have been deemed reasonable by the Student Disability Center must be observed by the entire body.
  - ii. Accommodation requests cannot be taken away once granted but must be renewed at the first session of each new Senate (or the first session a member participates in) to remain in effect.
- E. All open meetings of ASCSU shall be held in a hybrid format, allowing for in-person and virtual participation
- i. All microphones and speakers shall be placed near an in-room speaker to ensure all participants are able to hear the content of the meeting.
3. There shall be mandated inclusivity trainings and conferences which shall include Sexual Harassment training and Diversity and Inclusion training, as well as any other trainings the Speaker of the Senate, Chief Justice, or President deem necessary for their branch; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED**

That the 52<sup>nd</sup> Senate continue the advocacy work of increasing accessibility and accountability for our disabled members and constituents; and,

**THAT THIS LEGISLATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO**

Rick Miranda, Interim President of Colorado State University; Tony Frank, Chancellor of the Colostate System; Blanche Hughes, Vice President of Student Affairs; Justin Dove, Director of the Student Disability Center; Jessica Dyrdaahl, Advisor, ASCSU; Jessica Sholts, ASCSU, Accountant; Nick DeSalvo, Speaker of the Senate; Rob Long, ASCSU, President; Haydyn Deason, ASCSU, Chief of Staff; Marcus Zacharias, ASCSU, Chief Justice.

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PASSAGE

November 09, 2022  
DATE

  
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PRESIDENT ROBERT LONG

11/30/2022  
DATE