



THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY

**26th SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST SENATE
20 APRIL 2022**

**LEX #5102
Constitutional Amendment in the absence of a Senate Officer**

WRITTEN BY: Rob Long, Senator, College of Business; Stephen Laffey, Student, Colorado State University

SPONSORED BY: Merry Gebretsadik, ASCSU Vice President; Charlie Williamson, Senator, Pride Resource Center;

ENDORSED BY: Christian Dykson, ASCSU President; Noah Burge, Senator, College of Business; Elijah Sandoval, Senator, First Generation Student Collective Board; Bailey Shepherd, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Alex Silverhart, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Kimberly Carracedo, Senator, El Centro; Lizzy Osterhaut, Budgetary Affairs Chair; Benton Roesler, Director of Housing Security; Adam Vance, Director of Environmental Affairs; John Williamson, Director of Campus Engagement; Julia Dickey, Food Security Specialist; Emily Baller, Director of Finance; Mahamoud Ahmed, Director of Academics; Sanskar Vyas, Deputy Director of International Affairs; Isabel Weber Alatorre, Diversity and Inclusion Intern;

Abstract: The purpose of this Lex is to amend the constitution of the Associated Students of Colorado State University to provide specific guidelines for the elections of Senate Officers in the case of an abdication. These elections shall be held no later than three [3] regularly scheduled Senate sessions after the abdication of the previous holder.

WHEREAS

A business day shall be herein defined as a day when classes are in session, Monday through Friday, excluding cancellations and holidays; and,

WHEREAS

The Associated Students of Colorado State University shall be herein abbreviated to ASCSU; and,

WHEREAS

The prolonged absence of a Senate Officer’s position has the possibility of creating inefficiencies during Senate sessions. These inefficiencies are only further exacerbated in the absence of an additional Senate Officer and can create confusion as to who is responsible for what roles in the event of succession; and,

WHEREAS

Further, the potential for such inefficiency was also highlighted earlier in the term of the Fifty-first Senate, when the Speaker Pro Tempore position was left absent for an extended period of time. This absence resulted in palpable deficiencies within the Senate, and amplified many such deficiencies already present within the Senate; and,

WHEREAS

Such deficiencies included, but weren’t limited to: confusion with who held the responsibilities of an absent Senate Officer position, one individual possessing a significant amount of power while acting in multiple Senate Officer positions, and too much dependency on one individual to remain in the Senate Chambers in order for the Senate to properly function; and,

WHEREAS

The dependency on one such individual violates the important decentralization of powers and creates inequity within the legislative branch of our government; and,

WHEREAS

The absence of a Senate Officer also leads to centralization of power. Senate Leadership is, as a body, a powerful force within the Legislative Branch of the ASCSU, and has substantial power over the actions of the Senate. As such, it is important that the constitutionally assigned number of Officers control this power, in order to ensure that these Officers might reflect the heterogeneous nature of the student body; and,

WHEREAS

15 business days, as herein defined, constitutes roughly 3 business weeks; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED

That the Fifty-first Senate of the ASCSU shall hereby recognize that a complete Senate Leadership, comprising of all of the constitutionally-outlined Senate Officers, is essential to the efficiency and stability of the Senate; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That, in this event, it is the responsibility of the remaining Senate Officers to prioritize the creation of the necessary infrastructure to hold a special election, in the event of a vacancy within Senate Leadership, and that the Senate Officers also hold the power to request that any Senator, or the Elections Manager, directly assist in these duties; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That it is the responsibility of Senate Leadership to ensure that special elections for such a vacant position are within the stipulated 3 session time frame, while still allowing time for students to hear of this opportunity to become involved with the Senate, and while also providing time for candidates to adequately prepare for elections; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the processes of the Special Elections shall also be held to the standards established by the CSU Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO), especially with regards to those questions asked of potential candidates; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Fifty-first Senate of the ASCSU shall hereby recognize that three (3) regularly-scheduled Senate Sessions, is adequate time to both properly advertise and organize such Special Elections; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That a new section be added into Article II, Section 205, which shall read as:

“(III) In the event of the vacancy of a Senate Officer position, no more than three (3) regularly-scheduled Senate Sessions shall elapse before a special election shall be held for such a Senate Officer position. In the event that the third session of the time limit is cancelled due to extreme circumstances, the election shall be held as the first item of business in the very next session of the Senate.

- (A) The remaining Senate Officers shall take all necessary actions to advertise the nature of this special election to the members of the Associated Students of Colorado State University.*
- (B) In the event that the Senate fails to follow the herein defined requirement, no actions taken by the Senate shall be considered binding until the Senate holds this election.*
- (C) The processes of Special Elections shall be determined by Senate Leadership, in conjunction with the Senate Bylaws, or sooner if the Senate body, by a 2/3rds majority, recognizes greater urgency.”; and,*

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Speaker of the Senate Job Descriptions be amended to add a bullet point above the bullet point that states *“General administrative duties relating to maintaining functionality within the Senate.”* that states *“Promote any actions within the Senate regarding representation of the student body, especially in relation to internal elections.”; and,*

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Speaker Pro Tempore Job Descriptions be amended to add a bullet point below the bullet point that states *“Market the Senate via social media and other means”* that states *“Promote any actions within the Senate regarding representation of the student body, especially in relation to internal elections.”; and,*

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Recruitment and Retention Officer Job Descriptions be amended to add an additional bullet point that states *“Promote any actions within the Senate regarding representation of the student body, especially in relation to internal elections.”*

PASSAGE AND LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF LEX #5102

INTRODUCED — 20th SESSION **27 FEBURARY 2022**

SENATE PASSAGE SECOND READING — 16-0-1 **13 APRIL 2022**

SENATE PASSAGE THIRD READING — 14-3-4 **20 APRIL 2022**

ASCSU PRESIDENT CHRISTIAN DYKSON **DATE**

THAT A COPY OF THIS LEGISLATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO

Joyce McConnell, Colorado State University President
Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs
Tony Frank, Chancellor of Colorado State System
Christian Dykson, ASCSU President

COMMITTEES REVIEWED

Internal Affairs Committee
University Affairs Committee

TAGS

ASCSU Constitution
Senate Special Election