

ASCSU Code of Ethics & Internal Discipline Process

The following code of ethics provides the expected conduct for Officials of the Associated Students of Colorado State University (ASCSU). As student leadership on campus, ASCSU officials are held to a higher standard of behavior in their roles as representatives of the university, its students, and role models. Therefore, all ASCSU Officials shall be held accountable to the following Code of Ethics, particularly while acting in their capacity as ASCSU officials. Candidates for ASCSU Office in the ASCSU General Election are also held to these same standards. This Code of Ethics may be supplemented by additional requirements specific to each branch as specified in each branch's bylaws. (Some of the following code has been modified from the Code of Ethics of the Executive Branch of the United States Government.)

Article I: Code of Ethics

A. ASCSU Officials shall understand their duty:

1. Public service is a public trust, requiring Officials to place loyalty to the Constitution, the laws, and ethical principles above private gain.
2. Officials shall not hold financial interests that conflict with the conscientious performance of duty.
3. Officials shall not engage in financial transactions using nonpublic Government information or allow the improper use of such information to further any private interest.
4. An Official shall not, except pursuant to such reasonable exceptions as are provided by regulation, solicit or accept any gift or other item of monetary value from any person or entity seeking official action from, doing business with, or conducting, activities regulated by the Official, or whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the Official's duties.
5. Officials shall not directly use public office for private financial gain.
6. Officials shall avoid any situation in which any outside employment or activities are in conflict with, or directly affected by, their actions as ASCSU Officials.

B. ASCSU Officials shall understand their role in the organization:

1. Officials shall put forth honest effort in the performance of their duties.
2. Officials shall adhere to the requirements of their job descriptions.
3. Officials shall adhere to the requirements of the ASCSU Constitution, the bylaws of their individual branches, any laws passed by ASCSU, and any other supplemental governing documents such as this Code of Ethics.
4. Officials shall protect and conserve ASCSU property and shall not use it for anything other than authorized activities
5. Officials shall disclose waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption to appropriate authorities.
6. Officials shall accurately represent the constituents of the office or college one is representing, to the best of their abilities.

C. ASCSU Officials shall understand their role as citizens:

1. Officials shall satisfy in good faith their obligations as students of Colorado State University (CSU), including remaining in good academic standing and adhering to the Student Conduct Code.
2. Officials shall adhere to all laws and regulations that provide equal opportunity for all as outlined in Amendment III of the Bill of Rights of the ASCSU Constitution.

3. Officials shall endeavor to avoid any actions creating the appearance that they are violating the law or the ethical standards put forth by this code.
4. Officials shall remain free of any criminal convictions in their term of office.

D. ASCSU Officials shall understand their role as Officials

1. Officials shall treat others with respect and act in a professional manner.
2. Officials shall not act to deny any member of ASCSU any of their rights as delineated in the ASCSU Bill of Rights.
3. Officials shall not act in a manner to damage the image of ASCSU with the Student Body, the Faculty, the Administration, or the Community.
4. Officials shall not provide false information to any students, faculty, other ASCSU Officials, any member of the press, or any other sources.
5. Officials shall not speak for all of ASCSU without formal approval.
6. Officials shall make no unauthorized commitments or promises of any kind purporting to bind ASCSU.

Article II: Violations

Violations of this Code of Ethics may be reported by any member of ASCSU to the ASCSU Supreme Court in the form of an internal complaint. These complaints are to include specific violations of this code (for example: charged with violation of A.3), how the code was violated, any who may have witnessed this violation, and any other evidence of the violation. At this point the Court shall follow the Internal Hearing Procedures as defined by the Bylaws of the Judicial Branch and determine if the charged Officials is in fact responsible for the charged violations.

Article III: Sanctions

Following a decision that finds the Official responsible and taking into consideration the severity of the violation, the Official's attitude about the violation, and any prior violation, the ASCSU Supreme Court shall have the right issue any of the following sanctions:

1. No Action – the charge is considered to be such a minor violation that it is acceptable.
2. Warning – the official is formally warned that these actions are in violation. The warning is added to the file of the Official.
3. Probation – the Official is formally on probation. Further violations while on probation can immediately push the Official father up the sanction scale.
4. Loss of Good Standing – the Official may not represent ASCSU while not in good standing with the organization. Officials who have lost good standing may not represent themselves as ASCSU Officials to anyone (including individuals, organizations, and the press) outside of the organization. This includes wearing anything marking them as ASCSU Officials (polo shirts with the organizations logo for example, or name tags designating their role). Any violation of this restriction is grounds for further charges and additional sanctions.
5. Suspension – the Official is removed from office for a period of time. During this period, the position may be filled with an interim Official, but unless fully removed through the proper procedures for removal, the Official will resume the position upon the end of the suspension.

Additionally, the Court may apply the following discretionary sanctions; the specifics of these sanctions are at the discretion of the Court:

1. Educational Sanctions – such sanctions are intended to demonstrate how the violation was wrong and means to improve the offending behavior.

2. Restitution – the Official is required to compensate for loss, damages, or injury. This may be either monetary or through service.
3. Restorative Justice – the Official is required to meet with the damaged party to discuss the harm.

Article IV: Appeals

Following a decision, if found responsible, the Official – or in the case of a situation with an obvious victim – or the victim has one month to appeal the decision on any of the following grounds:

1. The process was not followed properly.
2. New information or evidence.
3. Inappropriate or excessive sanctions.

The appeal will be considered by a panel of Supreme Court Justices who did not serve on the initial hearing. The panel then has the following options:

1. Reverse the decision – the panel disagrees with the decision of the hearing and in the case of the Official appealing, the Official is found Not Responsible. In the case of the victim appealing, the panel finds that the evidence points towards the Official being responsible and the case is handed back to the original hearing justices who may revise the sanctions.
2. Agree with the decision – the panel agrees with all aspects of the decision and the decision stands. The process ends.
3. Send the case back – the panel agrees and disagrees in part with the original hearings decision. The case is sent back to the original hearing Justices to reconsider sanctions with notes of the panel’s findings and recommendations.