



CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF RIO HONDO COLLEGE

PREAMBLE

We, the Students of Rio Hondo College, to promote our intellectual and social development through student activities while fostering a spirit of unity among ourselves, our faculty, our staff and our administration; and to seek the continuous growth and development of the college within a framework of college-community relations, do hereby establish this Constitution and assume the powers and cooperative responsibility of self-government delegated to us by the President of the College and the Board of Trustees of Rio Hondo Community College District

ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Associated Students of Rio Hondo College, referred to as ASRHC.

Section 2: The mascot of the ASRHC shall be the Roadrunner.

Section 3: The official colors of this organization shall be black and gold.

Section 4: The ASRHC shall be composed of one governmental body: The Senate

ARTICLE II – SENATE

Section 1: The executive and legislative powers of the ASRHC shall be vested in the Senate.

Section 2: The elected officers of the Senate shall be the President, Vice President, ICC Executive Chair, Treasurer, and twenty-four (24) Senators.

Section 3: The Senate shall be chaired by the Associated Student's President. The President shall make appointments to form a working cabinet upon ratification of a simple majority by the Senate.

Section 4: The Senate shall meet regularly throughout the academic year. Regular attendance at Senate meetings is required of all voting officers.

Clause 1: Each elected or appointed ASRHC Senator shall have one (1) vote.

Clause 2: A quorum shall constitute a majority of the ASRHC officers in office at this time.

Clause 3: Meetings of all governmental bodies shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised.

Section 5: Terms of Office:

Clause 1: The term of office for those elected in the Spring shall begin the day after Commencement and end the last day of the following Spring semester.

Clause 2: The term of office for appointed officers shall begin immediately after Senate approval and end the last day of Spring semester.

Section 6: Specific duties and responsibilities of all elected and appointed officers shall be enumerated in the bylaws of this constitution.

Section 7: Qualifications for holding office:

Clause 1: The President of the Associated Students' shall:

a. Maintain continuous enrollment in nine (9) units of college work at Rio Hondo College during the Fall and Spring semesters, unless arrangements have been made with the DSPS Office and advisor

b. Have and maintain a minimum G.P.A. of **2.5** in all college units completed at Rio Hondo College

- c. Have made a payment towards the college student service fee each semester.
- d. Must complete Student Leadership Institute, unless alternative arrangements are made with ASRHC Advisor
- e. Have a minimum of twelve (12) units completed at Rio Hondo College at the time s/he takes office.

Clause 2: All other elected and appointed officers must meet the same qualifications as the President, with the exception that Senators at Large may have less than twelve (12) completed units at Rio Hondo College prior to taking office.

Clause 3: No student shall run for or hold more than one (1) elected or appointed office at a time.

Clause 4: Students currently on academic, progress, or disciplinary probation shall be ineligible to run for or hold any office provided for in this constitution.

Clause 5: The maximum amount of years that a student may participate in ASRHC is three (3) years. No student shall hold the position of Senator for more than two (2) years – whether appointed or elected. No student shall be elected to the same Executive Board position (President, Vice President, ICC Executive Chair, Treasurer, or Chief Justice) for more than one (1) year.

Clause 6: In the event, where an Executive Board position becomes vacant, due to unforeseen circumstances, this will not count against a student's right to run for the same position in the future, as long as it remains within the confines of the three (3) years maximum participation allotted for any student.

Section 8: In the case of permanent disability, ineligibility, or recall of the President, the Vice President shall ascend to the office of President.

Section 9: In the case of permanent disability, ineligibility, or recall of the President and Vice President, a special election shall be held in order to fill the vacancies.

ARTICLE III – THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 1: The Judicial power shall be vested in the Judicial Board.

Section 2: Eligibility requirements for Chief Justice shall be the same as those out-lined in Article III-Section 6.

Section 3: The Judicial Board has serve on an ad hoc basis as grievances arise to investigate, deliberate, and propose sanctions to the AS Senate.

Section 4: Membership:

Clause 1: There shall be one Judicial Board composed of one (1) Chief Justice and four (4) Senators at Large.

Clause 2: Any three (3) members present in addition to the Chief Justice shall constitute a quorum.

Clause 3: All Senator at Large identified to serve as members of the Judicial Board shall be appointed by the Advisor of the Associated Students' with majority approval of the ASRHC Senate via confirmation process.

Section 5: The Judicial Board shall:

Clause 1: Have the power of Judicial Review

Clause 2: Render decisions on all violation of constitution, bylaws, policies, and all documents recognized as legal by the ASRHC Senate cases referred by the Advisor.

Clause 3: Hear any or all cases regarding the violation of constitution, bylaws, policies, and all documents recognized as legal by the ASRHC Senate. Any decisions rendered by the Judicial Board may be appealed to the ASRHC Advisor by the parties involved. In the case of an appealed decision, the ASRHC Advisor may reverse, decrease, or uphold the decision of the Judicial Board. Procedures for Impeachment and Grievances can be found in the ASRHC Bylaws: *Article X*.

Section 6: Grievances may be presented to the Judicial Board by members of the ASRHC or its constituents of Rio Hondo College.

ARTICLE IV – ELECTIONS

Section 1: Any student running for an Associated Students office shall be elected by a majority vote cast by a secret ballot in the general election or a special election.

Section 2: A general election shall be held in the Spring to elect the President, Vice President, ICC Executive Chair, Treasurer, and up to twenty-four (24) Senators. Vacancies in other elected positions may be filled at this election or during the year.

Section 3: The office of Student Life and Leadership shall advertise that applications for elected offices are available at least four (4) school days prior to the deadline. Applications shall be filed with the Student Life and Leadership Office. Verification of the eligibility of the candidates will be the responsibility of the Student Life and Leadership Office.

Section 4: Campaigning shall be allowed for at least ten (10) school days including days of the election.

Section 5: The policies and procedures of ASRHC elections shall be enumerated in the ASRHC Elections Code bylaws of this constitution.

Section 6: Any vacancy which occurs among any elected or appointed office (except as outlined in Article II, Section 8 and 9) shall be filled by the Associated Students' Presidential appointment upon ratification of the Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

ARTICLE V – FINANCES

Section 1: The Finance Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice President, three (3) Senators, and the Advisor.

Section 2: The Finance Committee shall submit a budget for Senate approval no later than the fourth (4th) week of the fall semester.

Section 3: The ICC Executive Chair shall be included in the budget planning, and approval process for each fiscal year.

ARTICLE VI – INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, and RECALL

Section 1: Initiative: Any member of the student body shall have the right to initiate legislation by submitting to the Senate a petition signed by fifty percent (50%) of the total number of votes cast in the last general election. The Senate must call a special election of the student body to be held within twenty (20) days after receiving the petition. The text of the proposed law shall be published at least seven (7) days prior to the election. A majority of the votes cast shall be required to enact the proposed law.

Section 2: Referendum: Any member of the student body shall have the right to a referendum vote on any measure passed by the Senate. Request for a referendum vote must be made by submitting to the Senate a written petition signed by fifty percent (50%) of the total number of votes cast in the last general election. The Senate must call a special election of the student body to be held within twenty (20) days after receiving the petition. Approval of the referendum shall require a majority of the votes cast.

Section 3: Impeachment and Recall: Any elected officer may be removed from office by the formal impeachment process upon presentation of a petition stating the exact reason(s) for recall, signed by ten percent (10%) of the students enrolled at Rio Hondo College, as of the first (1st) census of the previous semester.

Clause 1: Any elected or appointed officer of the Senate may present a petition for impeachment to the Director of Student Life and Leadership.

Clause 2: A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Judicial Board shall be required in order to place the impeached member on a recall ballot.

Clause 3: The Senate must call a special recall election to be held within fifteen (15) school days and not before the seventh (7th) day after the affirmative impeachment decision. The officer shall be considered recalled by a plurality vote.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This constitution may be amended or revised by vote of those students voting at a general or special election. The proposed amendment(s) shall be posted in at least five (5) conspicuous places on campus at least ten (10) days prior to the election.

Section 2: An amendment(s) may be proposed by any voting member of the Senate or by a petition signed by five percent (5%) of the students enrolled at Rio Hondo College as of the first (1st) Census of the previous semester.

ARTICLE VIII – AUTHORIZED CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1: All student clubs and organizations of Rio Hondo College must be approved by the ICC Advisor.

Section 2: Policies and procedures for approval of such organizations shall be enumerated in the bylaws of this constitution.

Section 3: Inter-Club Council (ICC):

Clause 1: The ICC representative or alternate representative of each club or organization shall attend regular meetings of the ICC.

Clause 2: The ICC shall be recognized as the coordinating body between all organizations.

Clause 3: The ICC shall promote interest and desire among students to join clubs and participate actively in college governance.

Clause 4: The ICC Executive Chair of Clubs shall preside over ICC meetings.

ARTICLE IX – ADVISOR

Section 1: The ASRHC Senate shall have as their advisor a designee by the Vice President of Student Services.

Section 2: An advisor shall be in attendance of all meetings of the ASRHC Senate or its Committees, and the Inter-Club Council in order for official business to be transacted.

ARTICLE X – RATIFICATION

Section 1: This constitution becomes effective upon its adoption by two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of all votes cast by the Student Body of Rio Hondo College during the general election.