Constitution

We, as the Associated Students of Saint Mary’s College, aim, through our four branches, to implement positive change to create the best college experience for Saint Mary’s undergraduates. We strive to serve the student body through inclusivity, fair representation, and support in order to enhance undergraduate student life.

The Associated Students serves as a liaison on behalf of the entire undergraduate student body to create positive campus-wide change by tending to student needs, promoting clubs and organizations, and collaborating with the students and College Administration.

Article I The Association

Section 1.01 Name
The name of the traditional undergraduate government shall be the Associated Students of Saint Mary’s College of California, hereafter referred to as the Associated Students. The undergraduate population as a whole shall be hereafter referred to as the Association.

Section 1.02 Authority
The authority of this constitution is the basis for the conduct of all business in the Associated Students. The Associated Students’ Constitution, Bylaws, and Election Code, shall form the authoritative base for all governmental policies. The final authority of the Associated Students shall perpetually be vested in the members of the Association and enumerated by this constitution, superseding all other official documentation of the Associated Students.

Section 1.03 Membership & Organization
A. All registered undergraduate students of Saint Mary’s College of California shall be members of the Association.
B. All undergraduate student organizations may petition to be recognized by the Associated Students, upon completion of the new organization application process.
C. There are four branches of the Associated Students government: The Executive Council, The Senate, The Judicial Tribunal, and Campus Activities Board.

Section 1.04 Rights of Membership
A. Each member of the Association shall be entitled to all rights guaranteed in the Associated Students’ Constitution, Bylaws, and Election Code.
B. Each member of the Association shall be entitled to one vote in elections in which he or she is a constituent.

Section 1.05 Representation
The Associated Students shall be the primary representative of the undergraduate student body at Saint Mary's College of California.

Section 1.06 Discipline
A member of the Associated Students may be dismissed from office in the following ways:
  A. Any member in violation of the Governing Documents may be brought in front of the Judicial Tribunal, which has the right and responsibility to handle cases, in accordance with their interpretation of the Governing Documents.
  B. Any member in violation of the Student Code of Conduct shall be removed in a method consistent with the Bylaws.

Section 1.07 Freedom of Information
  A. All records of any Associated Students entity must be available for review by the College community with the exception of proprietary business information of the Associated Students, legal counsel records, and personnel records of employees. Every other Associated Students organization must allow open access to all records.
  B. All meetings of the Senate, with the exception of committee of the whole meetings, committees, and boards, shall be open for observation to all members of the Association. Committees and boards may be open to observation at the discretion of the body’s chair.
  C. All minutes of meetings of Associated Students must be made available as stated in the Bylaws.

Article II  The Executive Branch

Section 2.01 Executive Authority
The executive authority of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Council of the Associated Students.

Section 2.02 Composition
The Executive Council shall be composed of the Associated Students President, the Vice President for Administration, Vice President for Student Organizations, and the Vice President for Finance.

Section 2.03 Executive Council Meetings
The Executive Council shall meet at the discretion of the Associated Students President.
Section 2.04 Associated Students President
The Associated Students President shall be the head of the Saint Mary’s College Association and the Student Government.
   A. The President shall be granted all rights enumerated in the Bylaws.
   B. The President shall perform all duties prescribed in the Bylaws.
   C. The President shall be elected by the process outlined in the Bylaws and Election Code.

Section 2.05 Associated Students Vice President for Administration
The Associated Students Vice President for Administration shall be the chair of the Associated Students Senate.
   A. The Vice President for Administration shall be granted all rights enumerated in the Bylaws.
   B. The Vice President for Administration shall perform all duties prescribed in the Bylaws.
   C. The Vice President for Administration shall be elected by the process outlined in the Bylaws and Election Code.
   D. The Vice President for Administration shall assume the office of the President in the occurrence of Presidential vacancy.

Section 2.06 Associated Students Vice President for Student Organizations
The Associated Students Vice President for Student Organizations shall be the overseer of all organizations recognized by the Associated Students.
   A. The Vice President for Student Organizations shall be granted all rights enumerated in the Bylaws.
   B. The Vice President for Student Organizations shall perform all duties prescribed in the Bylaws.
   C. The Vice President for Student Organizations shall be elected by the process outlined in the Bylaws and Election Code.

Section 2.07 Associated Students Vice President for Finance
The Associated Students Vice President for Finance shall be the overseer of all financial processes.
   A. The Vice President for Finance shall be granted all rights enumerated in the Bylaws.
   B. The Vice President for Finance shall perform all duties prescribed in the Bylaws.
   C. The Vice President for Finance shall be elected by the process outlined in the Bylaws and Election Code.

Section 2.08 Terms of Office
   A. The Executive Council shall assume and hold office as outlined in the Bylaws.
   B. There are no term limits, provided the qualifications outlined in the Bylaws are met.
Article III  The Senate

Section 3.01 Representative Authority
The Legislative Authority of the Association shall be vested in the Associated Students Senate.

Section 3.02 Composition
The Associated Students Senate shall be composed of twenty members as outlined in Article Three of the Bylaws.

Section 3.03 Senate Resolutions
Resolutions are the official documentation of the will of the Association as approved by the elected Senate. General resolutions require an affirmative majority for passage, and do not take effect until approved by the Associated Students President.

Section 3.04 Speaker of the Senate
The Senate shall elect a Speaker amongst itself to serve as the chief representative of the Senate.
   A. The Speaker shall be granted all rights enumerated in the Bylaws.
   B. The Speaker shall perform all duties prescribed in the Bylaws.
   C. The Speaker shall be elected by the process outlined in the Bylaws.

Section 3.05 Rights and Responsibilities
   A. The Senate shall reserve the right to pass resolutions by affirmative majority vote.
   B. The Senate shall reserve the right of final review of any and all decisions of the Associated Students boards and committees.

Section 3.06 Senate Quorum
   A. Quorum shall be defined as two-thirds of the voting members of the Senate present and voting.
   B. No official business or official voting can take place if there is a lack of quorum at any time during the meeting.

Section 3.07 Senate Committees
Committees can be created, exist and function as stated in the Bylaws.
Section 3.08 Discipline
A member of the Senate may be dismissed from office only in the following ways:
C. Senators shall be placed on probation or expelled only through means expressed in the Bylaws and Election Code.
D. The Association may vote to expel a member of the Senate in accordance with the Bylaws and Election Code.

Article IV Elections

Section 4.01 Election Mandates
The Associated Students shall conduct at least three elections:
A. Two- general elections, and one Executive Council election per year.
B. One general election shall be in fall and one general election shall be in spring.
C. The Executive Council election shall be held in the spring.
D. Run-off elections may be held when a winner is not satisfactorily determined, in accordance with the Bylaws and Election Code.

Section 4.02 Election Commission
The Election Commission shall be responsible for ensuring the legitimacy of election candidates, procedures, and results, in accordance with the Bylaws and Election Code.

Section 4.03 Procedure
Elections shall be conducted in accordance with the Bylaws, Election Code, and Student Code of Conduct. If a situation arises where the previously stated documents are not applicable, the Election Commission may decide to grant the Executive Council full authority in conjunction of any election.

Article V Finance

Section 5.01 Policy
The Finance policies of the Associated Students shall adhere to generally accepted accounting principles (G.A.A.P.), Bylaws, and pertinent College business policies.

Section 5.02 Student Activity Fee
A. All members of the Association, as defined under Article I, shall pay a student body fee, which shall serve as the principal source of revenue for the Associated Students and be used for allocation.
B. The student body fee shall be determined by a majority vote of the Finance Committee, and subsequently, the Senate. This fee will then be recommended to the college board
of trustees by the Associated Students President.
C. Students who are enrolled on a per-credit basis shall be billed yearly according to a formula approved by the majority of the Senate, at the recommendation by the Finance Committee.

Section 5.03 Documentation
The Finance Board shall present the following documents for Senate confirmation:
A. The Finance Committee shall prepare a proposed budget allocation detailing the allocation of the Student Activity Fee for the following academic year. The Vice President for Finance shall present the proposed budget allocation to the Senate for voting at the last Senate meeting of the academic year.
B. Once the proposed budget allocation has been voted and approved by the Senate at the last Senate meeting of the academic year, it will be active the following academic year.

Article VI The Judicial Tribunal

Section 6.01 Judicial Authority
The Judicial Authority of the Association shall be vested in the Judicial Tribunal of the Associated Students.

Section 6.02 Purpose
The Judicial Tribunal shall have the judicial authority to hear any case of Associated Students misconduct arising under the Constitution, Bylaws, Election Code, and Saint Mary's College of California Student Code of Conduct.
A. The Judicial Tribunal shall be granted all rights enumerated in the Bylaws.
B. The Judicial Tribunal shall perform all duties prescribed in the Bylaws.

Section 6.03 Composition
The Judicial Tribunal shall be composed of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices as determined by the Bylaws. Justices shall be appointed as outlined in the Bylaws.

Article VII Campus Activity Board
Recognizing the Programming Branch of the Associated Students, Campus Activities Board, and the validity of their Constitution, outlining their purpose, composition, and procedure.

Article VIII Adoption
This constitution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Association, nullifying and superseding all previous constitutions.