

PREFACE

The following document is the proposed Constitution for the Associated Students of North Seattle Community College (ASNSCC). The Constitution outlines the structure of the student leadership program, defining the different branches and giving an overview of the responsibilities of each.

In the 2007-2008 academic year, the number of student government officers dropped below the number required to operate, according to their own constitution. As a result, students asked the Board of Trustees of the Seattle Community College District to suspend the constitution in order to give them the flexibility to develop a new student government model and a new constitution.

The student government has since shifted to a selection model and been renamed “Student Administrative Council” (SAC). Since this shift, the student leadership program has experienced increased retention, more diverse student representation, and a higher level of productivity and accountability.

The election model was ineffective partly due to the lack of participation of the ASNSCC in the voting process (the largest voter turnout in NSCC’s history was 4% of the student body) and partly due to a lack of student advocacy on the part of the student government officers. The elected officers’ main responsibilities were to plan events for students and they were ill-equipped to truly advocate for the needs of their constituents, which should be the first priority for any government.

In the selection model, students are selected by a hiring committee, which is assembled by SAC, and consists of members of the ASNSCC, SAC, faculty, and staff. The hiring committee must also contain a two-thirds student majority. This ensures that the students selected for student leadership positions are selected by students (with some guidance from faculty and staff), and will be committed to and capable of fulfilling their responsibilities as advocates for the ASNSCC.

The student leadership program has expanded to include three other branches: the Arts and Lectures Activity Board (ALA Board), the Student Fee Board (SFB), and the Student Cabinet. The ALA Board is primarily responsible for planning student events and hiring lecturers and entertainers. The SFB is solely responsible for allocating student funds, ensuring that student interests are the principal concern in those allocations. The Student Cabinet members serve on various campus committees, widely representing student interests in many matters on campus and helping to develop and execute policy.

The distribution of these areas of representation creates more opportunities for students to have access to their student representatives, giving them a chance to relate their individual and collective concerns and issues, simply due to the expansion of the student leadership program from eight to twelve members, as with the election system, to approximately forty. It also allows the members of SAC to focus on advocating for students in important areas such as tuition costs and retention. It also allows for a larger number of students to be involved in the student leadership program.