



## ASCWU Executive Board Public Meeting Minutes

April 29th, 2025 | SURC 236

### Call To Order

**President Cantu** called the meeting to order at 8:04pm

### Roll Call

President

EVP

Senate Speaker

Director of ESC

Director of Governmental Affairs

Director for Student Life and Facilities

### Reading and Approval of Minutes

**Speaker Hondo** motioned to approve the minutes for 4/28 with **EVP Villa** seconding.

5-0-0

### Reading and Approval of Agenda

**Speaker Hondo** motioned to approve the agenda for 4/28 with **Director Carrillo** seconding.

5-0-0

### NEW BUISNESS

#### Constitution Discussion

The majority of the meeting focused on serious concerns regarding ASCWU's Constitution and whether the organization has been operating under a valid governing document. Specifically, there was an amendment passed during the 2022–2023 school year that reduced the size of the Senate (from 22 senators to a model with one per college) and restructured representation. That version of the Constitution has been treated as official and is labeled “approved” in ASCWU's Teams folders—but **Speaker Hondo** pointed out that there's no verifiable record showing the amendment was ever ratified by the Board of Trustees (BOT), which is required for constitutional changes to take effect. Despite efforts to locate proof, including reviewing Teams and BOT records, no confirmation of a formal vote was found. If the BOT never approved that version, then ASCWU has likely been operating under an invalid structure for two years, which has big implications.

Because the Constitution and the bylaws are now in conflict—particularly around Senate size and structure—questions were raised about whether the current Senate is legitimate. If the old Constitution is still technically in effect, ASCWU may have seated too few senators and operated without proper quorum for decisions. This also affects the validity of any actions or decisions made by the Senate and its committees over the past two years. The board discussed the risk that



all committee appointments made this year could be invalid since, according to the Constitution, the Senate is required to confirm them. However, that step never happened. **President Cantu** acknowledged that he mistakenly submitted all committee appointments directly to the Board of Directors' agenda instead of routing them through the Senate via Speaker Hondo. This was professed by a motion made in Fall quarter by the VP Villa to have the VP sole appoint nominees to committees, although this was approved by the BOD it is and was in violation of the ASCWU constitution. This key oversight meant the Senate never had the opportunity to approve these appointments, which is a major procedural failure. No one realized the mistake until recently, and as a result, every committee decision made this year—including sensitive issues like academic appeals or student conduct decisions—could technically be challenged as illegitimate.

This situation presents both logistical and ethical challenges. Board members debated how to fix it without harming students who were impacted by those committees. For example, if a student's academic appeal was approved by a committee that wasn't properly confirmed, would they lose that appeal? What about students set to graduate who relied on those decisions? To address these concerns, several members suggested holding an emergency Senate meeting to retroactively approve all committee appointments and their decisions. This would allow ASCWU to move forward without upending the entire year's work. Another option discussed was placing a new amendment on the upcoming student election ballot that would formally clarify and confirm the current Senate structure, giving students the chance to approve it and resetting everything for next year. There was also interest in adjusting the bylaws to include a minimum requirement for seated senators or redefining quorum standards, as some were uncomfortable that only 3 or 4 senators could meet quorum and make decisions on behalf of the student body.

Throughout the conversation, responsibility and accountability were recurring themes. **President Cantu** took full responsibility for skipping the Senate's role in the appointment process and admitted he should have been more familiar with constitutional procedures. **EVP Villa** also expressed that this oversight that was created in Fall quarter contradicted the bypassing of the Senate in the process, the constitution and takes responsibility for the mistake. **Speaker Hondo** echoed this, stating that although the President made the initial error, the lack of communication and oversight between branches allowed the mistake to go unnoticed. Both stressed the need for the current board to take this seriously and ensure the next board receives a clear, documented transition to avoid similar problems in the future. Several members shared that they felt overwhelmed and unsure how to cleanly fix the issue without triggering a wave of consequences that would negatively affect students.

The ethical concerns were especially important. If the Senate only approves some committees and not others, it could create a perception of bias or selective governance. On the flip side, ignoring the mistake entirely could hurt ASCWU's credibility and trust with students. There was a shared understanding that moving forward without any corrective action would be wrong, and that doing the bare minimum wasn't acceptable.



**Speaker Hondo** Motioned to open public comment, with **EVP Villa** seconding.  
5-0-0

Members emphasized that this situation is a chance to reset how ASCWU operates and put better systems in place for governance and accountability. Some even noted that students were already confused about who had been approving decisions this year, and that failing to address this now could break trust further.

As the meeting ended, the takeaway was that the Senate now holds the power to decide how to move forward—whether that’s validating all committee work, calling an emergency session, or proposing constitutional updates. The executive board agreed that their role now is to pass on as much accurate and transparent information as possible to the next ASCWU board. They also recognized that they need to act not just as administrators but as student advocates, making decisions that reflect fairness, responsibility, and student representation. The meeting officially adjourned at 9:12 PM, with a clear understanding that this conversation is not over and will continue in both Senate and BOD spaces moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.