



Wafa Abedin <wabedin@oxy.edu>

Concerns Regarding the Proposed Constitutional Amendments

5 messages

Wafa Abedin <wabedin@oxy.edu>

Fri, Apr 24, 2020 at 1:57 PM

To: ASOC - Associated Students of Occidental College <asoc@oxy.edu>

Cc: Nina Srdić Hadži-Nešić <nsrdichadzin@oxy.edu>, Marcus Rodriguez <mrodriguez6@oxy.edu>, Kyler Parris <kparris@oxy.edu>, deb@oxy.edu, ASOC Honor Board <honorboard@oxy.edu>, ASOC Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund <asocsustainability@oxy.edu>, ASOC Senate <asocsenate@oxy.edu>

Bcc: Jordan Walker <jwalker3@oxy.edu>, Linda Schraeder <schraeder@oxy.edu>

Dear everyone,

I just read the proposed constitutional amendments and I noticed something very concerning. It appears that the ASOC President and ASOC Finance Director would not have stated term limits in the new constitution, nor would there be a mechanism for involuntary removal/impeachment from the Executive Committee. As stated in Article 6 of the old constitution, the procedures for removal only pertain to branches not committees. And there is no amendment within the proposed Article 2 referring to terms for the Finance Director and ASOC President.

Hopefully, I am mistaken in my reading of the amendments. However, if I am correct, I recommend that the constitutional amendments be pulled from the ballot immediately. I understand that I am only one student and this requires approval from a plurality of the student body, but I think it is dangerous to encourage students to vote for something that they have not been made fully aware of and will have lasting repercussions on ASOC.

Also, Senate has not posted minutes from November, DEB has not posted minutes for the entire academic year, and there are no minutes from the All-Branch meetings (if they occurred). I would think that it would be of the utmost priority to publish those minutes, and minutes from the constitutional commission, so students have a full account of this process and the rationale behind each amendment.

Sincerely,
Wafa Abedin

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Wafa AbedinDiplomacy and World Affairs Major, Economics Major
Occidental College '21

Kyler Parris <kparris@oxy.edu>

Fri, Apr 24, 2020 at 2:03 PM

To: Wafa Abedin <wabedin@oxy.edu>

Cc: ASOC - Associated Students of Occidental College <asoc@oxy.edu>, Nina Srdić Hadži-Nešić <nsrdichadzin@oxy.edu>, Marcus Rodriguez <mrodriguez6@oxy.edu>, deb@oxy.edu, ASOC Honor Board <honorboard@oxy.edu>, ASOC Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund <asocsustainability@oxy.edu>, ASOC Senate <asocsenate@oxy.edu>

Hi Wafa,

Good to hear from you and thank you for your concern. The members of the Executive Committee are "representatives each from the membership of Senate, Honor Board, Diversity and Equity Board, and Renewable Energy & Sustainability Fund" so they are members of each of these branches already, and will report to their branches. Therefore, the All-Branch article, including impeachment procedures, are still in place for these members through their branch.

Please let me know if you have any other questions!

Best,
Kyler

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--

Kyler Parris '22 | Diplomacy & World Affairs

He / Him

ASOC VP of Policies

McKinnon Center for Global Affairs PA
Oxy Admissions Ambassador
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OXY Occidental College

Kyler Parris <kparris@oxy.edu>
To: Wafa Abedin <wabedin@oxy.edu>

Fri, Apr 24, 2020 at 2:09 PM

Oh, another note re: minutes... I agree that those should be updated more regularly. I assumed that they were public as we have been approving them each week and they are very comprehensive this year. Other branches and our liaisons had been providing Senate with frequent updates into the workings of other branches this semester, but you are correct that they should be publishing minutes online. I hope that this exec cmte. will provide for better transparency among branches and between ASOC and general student body by allowing for increased interbranch connection and a more clear structure.

Kyler

On Fri, Apr 24, 2020 at 1:57 PM Wafa Abedin <wabedin@oxy.edu> wrote:

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[Quoted text hidden]

Wafa Abedin <wabedin@oxy.edu>
To: Kyler Parris <kparris@oxy.edu>

Fri, Apr 24, 2020 at 2:13 PM

Cc: ASOC - Associated Students of Occidental College <asoc@oxy.edu>, Nina Srdić Hadži-Nešić <nsrdichadzin@oxy.edu>, Marcus Rodriguez <mrodriguez6@oxy.edu>, deb@oxy.edu, ASOC Honor Board <honorboard@oxy.edu>, ASOC Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund <asocsustainability@oxy.edu>, ASOC Senate <asocsenate@oxy.edu>

Hi Kyler,

My concern is in reference to ASOC President and Finance Director, not the other positions. Article 2. Section 2. I. A. states "ASOC President, who is elected by the student body and independent of all branches". The same conditions are noted for the ASOC Finance Director. If I understand correctly, the phrase "independent of all branches" implies that they do not belong to a branch. Therefore, Article 6 would not apply to them unless specifically stated. However, the only amendments to Article 6 to accommodate the Executive Committee are in reference to elections and voting.

Moreover, Article 6 and Article 2 do not mention term limits. Is this stated elsewhere?

Best,
Wafa

[Quoted text hidden]

Wafa Abedin

Diplomacy and World Affairs Major, Economics Minor
Occidental College '21

Kyler Parris <kparris@oxy.edu>
To: Wafa Abedin <wabedin@oxy.edu>

Fri, Apr 24, 2020 at 2:28 PM

Cc: ASOC - Associated Students of Occidental College <asoc@oxy.edu>, Nina Srdić Hadži-Nešić <nsrdichadzin@oxy.edu>, Marcus Rodriguez <mrodriguez6@oxy.edu>, deb@oxy.edu, ASOC Honor Board <honorboard@oxy.edu>, ASOC Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund <asocsustainability@oxy.edu>, ASOC Senate <asocsenate@oxy.edu>

Ah, I understand now. The Constitutional Commission and ASOC officers were certainly writing this with the intent that Article 6 applies to the ASOC President and Finance Director with the Executive Committee acting as their "branch". The wording you noted was to differentiate between our current situation, where the President resides in the Senate.

4/24/2020

Oxy Mail - Concerns Regarding the Proposed Constitutional Amendments

These changes will take effect for the 2021-22 election next spring for this purpose. I think these are valid points of confusion that will be clarified as we work next year on the Executive Committee bylaws and, if next year's Constitutional Commission so chooses, in further revisions.

Kyler

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