

Executive Summary: Associated Students of Gavilan College

Major Program Goals:

1. Lead by example by creating and maintaining an environment in which integrity, character, courage, and scholarship are of the utmost importance
2. Inform students of campus and community resources, and their rights and responsibilities as students of Gavilan College
3. Strive to meet the educational, multicultural, and socioeconomic needs of students
4. Make fair, ethical, and informed decisions at the college, district, and state levels
5. Recommend and appoint students to participatory governance and hiring committees
6. Voice the recommendations and concerns brought forth to the ASGC Senate.
7. Coordinate multiple student activities on campus during college hour
8. Award scholarships to qualified students

Concerns/Trends:

1. Transient student population results in difficulties with recruitment and retention.
2. Limited hours that the current advisor can devote to ASGC
3. Lack of a dedicated Student Life Coordinator
4. Less participation in shared governance committees
5. Fewer students meeting the requirements to qualify for textbook scholarship.
6. Decrease in sales of ASGC cards

Plans for Addressing Concerns:

1. Recruit and train new student leaders and members for ASGC, by increasing visibility
2. Advocate for institutionalized Student Life Coordinator, housed in the Student Success Center, who will act as a full time advisor for ASGC.
3. Continue revising and evaluating criteria for scholarships to maximize student awards.

IEC Recommendations

1. Develop strategy to recruit and retain students on an on-going basis
2. Continue revising and evaluating criteria for scholarships, and make current scholarship opportunities and guidelines more visible to general student population.
3. Explore strategies for implementing a full-time advisor for ASGC
4. Develop strategies for communicating with student body with the purpose of identifying issues, concerns and interests of the student body as a whole.
5. Continue to represent student concerns and interests by sponsoring events and activities on campus, by creating and advocating for policies and procedures endorsed by students, and by participating in shared governance committees
6. Develop strategies for increasing ASGC card sales.
7. Continue to identify and take advantage of opportunities for current ASGC members to receive leadership training

Self Study Summary: Associated Students of Gavilan College

The mission of the Associated Students of Gavilan College (ASGC) formerly known as the Associated Student Body (ASB) states: “The Associated Students of Gavilan College (ASGC) is dedicated to valiantly advocating for our diverse student population. We shall lead by example by creating and maintaining an environment in which integrity, character, courage, and scholarship are of the utmost importance. We shall inform students of campus and community resources, and their rights and responsibilities as students of Gavilan College. We consist of exemplary, academic, and diplomatic leaders who take initiative and strive to meet the educational, multicultural, and socioeconomic needs of our fellow students. We make fair, ethical, and informed decisions at the college, district, and state levels.”

The ASGC is the official student leadership organization on campus and provides the majority of student input and recommendations on critical campus issues. Through weekly senate meetings, elected ASGC student leaders plan, implement, and evaluate college activities and services. They also recommend and appoint students to participatory governance and hiring committees and facilitate many of the campus’ student events and activities.

The ASGC provides services and activities that meet the educational, political, cultural, and social needs of the Gavilan College student body. The ASGC:

- (a.) Represents students’ voice on campus committees and the Board of Trustees. On behalf of the Gavilan College student body, the ASGC voices the recommendations and concerns brought forth to the ASGC Senate.
- (b.) Offers an ASGC card which serves as a photo identification and proof of enrollment. Students can purchase their card at the time of enrollment for \$6. Each card is loaded with \$1 which students can use to print on campus using the goprint system. With their ASGC card, students can also benefit from: (a) student discounts at stores and restaurants through the Student Savings Club and GeoPerks; (b) computer hardware and software discounts through College Buys; (c) discounts at the movie theater and the Gavilan College Cosmetology Department; (d) free admission to all Gavilan College athletic events and (e) free scantrons and/or green books.
- (c.) Coordinates multiple student activities on campus during college hour (TR 12:50pm-1:50pm). All events are fully sponsored by the ASGC and completely free to the entire student body. Example of student activities and events include: (a) Welcome Events where students learn about student services and are provided with a school supply packet upon completing a student passport; (b) Club Day where students learn about and have the opportunity to join campus clubs; (c) March in March where students march to the state capitol for advocacy and change; (d) Autism Awareness; (e) Cinco de Mayo; (f) El Grito (Mexican Independence Day); (g) Black History month; (h) Halloween; (i) Finals week stress busters; (j) staff appreciation, and (k) graduation.
- (d.) Offers a \$200 Textbook Scholarship. The scholarship is posted on the ASGC website prior to the start of each semester and is awarded on a lottery basis. Completed applications are accepted during the first three days of each semester. Textbook scholarship vouchers must be submitted to the bookstore by the second Friday of the

semester.

- (e.) The ASGC annually awards scholarships to incoming students, current students and transferring students. The scholarships are awarded through the Financial Aid Office each spring semester.

Significant accomplishments since the last review period

- a. Implementation and continued support of College Hour. College Hour began operating in the Spring semester 2014 in its Tuesday and Thursday instructional slot from 12:50pm-1:50pm. In order to promote college hour, all ASGC related activities (see p.8) are scheduled at that time.
- b. Bought new patio furniture for the area outside of the Student Center.
- c. Collaborated with Health Services to make Gavilan College a smoke-free campus.
- d. Water hydration station was installed in the Gilroy campus Student Center
- e. Students have worked on various projects for the health and safety of students on campus (having picnic tables painted, bushes trimmed, bridge fixed for ease of students in wheel chair; pushed to have vending machine room open on weekends)
- f. Collaboration with MESA for student barbecues.
- g. Student voice projects which involve surveying students' opinions about various topics and about their needs have occurred over the years.

Objectives completed in 2014/2015:

- a. There was ASGC representation on two state Student Senate committees, four Region IV committees and nine Gavilan College committees/councils.
- b. Organized 14 student events and activities during college hour and held eight Inter Club Council (ICC) meetings.
- c. Revised the ASGC bylaws, ICC bylaws, created two new policies (pool table and helium use), and updated 15 frequently utilized documents.
- d. Attended three leadership conferences.
- e. Held elections electronically for the first time.
- f. Changed organization name from Associated Student Body (ASB) to Associated Students of Gavilan College (ASGC)
- g. Remodeled ASGC offices
- h. Supported the development of ASGC Computer Lab that is open to all students
- i. Posted ASGC Signage and recruitment posters
- j. Conducted classroom recruitment in 11 classrooms, posted flyers on campus, and bought promotional items to increase student participation in student government.

Impact on supporting and improving student achievement and student learning outcomes:

Numerous studies show that when students connect to the college in some way, they tend to stay in school. The ASGC strives to connect with students by providing activities and events appealing to the students as previously mentioned above. As stated in the mission statement, the ASGC is dedicated to the representation of the Gavilan College student body with a collective voice in participatory governance. Students have chosen to attend Gavilan College and many proactively bring issues and concerns to the ASGC in the

interest of improving the educational experience and environment. The ASGC and ICC continue to provide a “Club Day” each semester for students interested in connecting with a club on campus. The ASGC also honors cultural diversity with various days of celebration such as “El Grito” Mexican Independence Day, Black History Month, Multicultural Week, just to name a few on their calendar. Many students participate in the preparation and celebration of the social and cultural activities. Additionally, the ASGC calendar of events is developed with consideration to requests from students. The ASGC noted an increase in students inquiring about student involvement opportunities and the Inter Club Council reported an increase in membership for some clubs. These activities directly support strategy #6 and #7 on the strategic plan as they relate to fostering a culture of engagement and college life.

Resource and staffing changes since the last review and their effect on the program

Historically, the college has assigned Counseling faculty as the ASGC advisor with a 40% load to manage the responsibilities. As ASGC Advisor, the duties included student leadership and development, and organizing student activities and events. Every IEC report submitted from ASGC, had the recommendation to split leadership and student development from student activities and events. The opportunity to pilot splitting the faculty assignment became available in 2009. The position was restructured to a 20% faculty load as ASGC Advisor with the duty of providing student leadership and development. The remaining duties (events and activities) were reassigned to non-faculty personnel for four terms. Based on feedback from students, ASGC faculty advisor, Student Activities/Events Coordinator, Counseling Department, and Office of the Vice President of Student Services, the pilot was successful. Therefore there was a permanent reduction of the ASGC Advisor Counseling faculty reassignment from 40% load to a 20% load which increased the counseling load by 20%. With the 20% reassignment (7 hours per week), the ASGC advisor’s primary role is student leadership development while the student Activities/Events Coordinator organized events, activities, clubs, and the budget. The Activities/Events Coordinator position, however, has been vacant for 3.5 years. Therefore, all ASGC-related matters (leadership development, events, activities, clubs, budget, supervision) have fallen completely on the ASGC Advisor and the ASGC Senate. Over the last five years, there has not been consistent support for student life on campus nor for the replacement of the student life position which negates the GCFA negotiations from April 2011. The ASGC is in dire need of support. ASGC Senate members (currently only have eight members) and seven hours of the ASGC Advisor is not enough to have a strong student life on campus. Although the ASGC Senate volunteers their time to represent the student voice, their primary responsibility is to be students first in order to be able to graduate and transfer. Many things often go unaddressed because there is no system in place to train, oversee, and manage ASGC in general. Gavilan College cannot fulfill a campus culture of engagement and student life without intuitional support and additional assistance in the form of a student life coordinator as ASGC previously had.

Trends affecting the program

- a. The strength of the program is based on student dedication, creativity, and commitment, equally energized by institutional support for the ASGC.
- b. The ASGC has experienced difficulty with recruitment efforts. Community college

- students are transient and many have various responsibilities (school, work, family, etc.) that prevent them from becoming involved in student government and shared governance.
- c. The ASGC has also had a transition in advisors. The current advisor has been in the position for one and a half years and all ASGC-related matters are handled by her in the seven hours she is allotted. Out of the 7 hours, she spends 4 hours meeting with ASGC leaders on Thursdays leaving only three hours for leadership development and other necessary duties (e.g., assisting students with coordination of events, completing reimbursement forms for campus clubs, ordering supplies, etc.).
 - d. ASGC leaders are also often unsupervised given that the ASGC advisor is only physically present in the ASGC area on Thursdays. A lack of supervision coupled with minimal support for the ASGC Advisor and ASGC Senate hampers student activities, student engagement, and student life.
 - e. There has continued to be a need for a full time position of a Student Life Coordinator and a full time advisor that may or may not be a faculty member that can be housed in the Student Center to support the needs of our increasing student population.
 - f. Funding has remained steady.
 - g. Participatory governance representation and student events and activities have continued to occur but minimally. This has been due to the low number of students actively participating in the ASGC.
 - h. Textbook scholarships and other student scholarships have continued to be offered, but a lower number of students have met the textbook scholarship requirements over the last year.

Goals and objectives

- a. Remodel Student Center
- b. Provide students the ability to fax documents and print posters
- c. Install two additional hydration systems at the Gilroy campus
- d. Continue providing college hour events and activities
- e. Plan AB 540 Summit
- f. Continue attending General Assembly and Student Leadership Conferences
- g. Continue ASGC recruitment to increase the number of Senate members
- h. Continue student representation in Region IV and Gavilan College participatory governance committees
- i. Continue offering student scholarships
- j. Support the institutionalization of a full time Student Life Coordinator for the ASGC, with an office in the Student Center
- k. Increase visibility on campus and off sites by using available communication channels more efficiently and increasing the use of media and technology