

Newly Approved ASB Constitution Encourages Participation

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Copy Editor

With Associated Student Body (ASB) elections drawing close in mid-April, new changes to the ASB constitution will alter the voting process. The new constitution was approved with changes that included assistant positions designed for students who wish to gain experience in their pursued roles. In addition, this will be the first time that current freshmen will be able to run for certain ASB positions, such as a cabinet position.

"The goal was to create more of an inclusive environment at Alhambra High School, and this year's ASB hopes that it will encourage students to take more leadership positions and ultimately become more involved in their school community," Student Relations Chairperson Daniel Castaneda said.

Currently, ASB consists of a directorship and a cabinet, but there will also be commissioners in the future. Furthermore, aside from the president, class council officers cannot hold a position on ASB and vice versa.

"Both council and ASB require a lot of dedication, so it makes

sense for someone to not have too much on their plate [by being on both council and ASB]," Sophomore Council President Kristie Sham said. "I'm really looking forward to having more underclassmen participate in ASB."

"Once we brought [this issue] up, ASB explained it was to have the most direct relationship to make sure deadlines [...] would be met," Sham said.

For the upcoming election, the president of each class council

will be determined by that council. If that student does become president but had enough votes to be one of the eight officers for council, his or her spot will be dropped and the person with the

for applicants allows them to choose one elected position and up to three appointed positions for which to run. Each term is now one school year long, instead of one semester.

Though the new constitution was approved, it does have additions that may potentially generate conflict in the future.

"Although I am a huge proponent for this new constitution [...], I am not particularly thrilled about the fact that in order to run for the presidency during a student's senior year, [he or she] must have one year of ASB experience prior to declaring the position," Castaneda said. "I do understand the implications of knowing what you are getting yourself into, but it does make way for some tricky technicalities and [...] even limits the pool of future presidents."

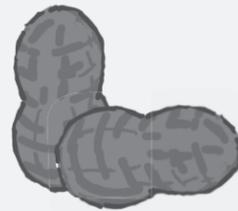
Ultimately, ASB continues to pursue its goal of reaching more of the student body and hearing the students voice their opinions.

"I hope [these changes] will have a positive impact because ASB should be more [...] inclusive," Director of Technology Anthony Le said.

MOOR graphic by SHARON XU

IN A NUTSHELL

- New assistant positions have been added to supplement the director positions, while other positions were merged into one.
- Class council officers cannot hold a position on ASB and vice versa.
- Each grade level will have two ASB representatives.
- In order to run for presidency, candidates must have at least one year of experience on ASB prior to running.
- The class council president is elected by the students, not the class council; the president must also be one of the representatives of their grade.
- Some director positions were renamed as commissioner positions.



While each class council previously had a member who was a representative on ASB, that member is now the council president. Additionally, another representative of each class will come from outside the council, meaning there will be two ASB representatives from each graduating class.

will be elected by the student body, as opposed to the old method of electing nine council members and allowing them to discuss amongst themselves which positions went to whom. A student who runs for class president but does not attain the position can still be elected as a council of-

next highest amount of votes will be bumped up.

In addition, changes were made to elected and appointed positions. Elected positions are won through a school-wide election, while appointed positions are attained through an interview process. The ASB declaration form

Steubenville Rape Exemplifies Bystander Apathy

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News Editor

The small town of Steubenville, Ohio garnered national attention last month during a widely publicized rape trial. A 16-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by two high school football players when she was heavily inebriated while her peers looked on, several of whom documented the acts on social media sites.

The defendants were convicted of rape on March 17, but there remains a question as to why onlookers allowed the attack to continue.

In a recent Washington Post article, Kathleen Parker explored

the potential reason for the witnesses' apparent apathy, saying that this case has "captured the 'bystander effect' in graphic and nauseating detail."

The bystander effect is a psychological term coined after the infamous case of Kitty Genovese, who was raped and murdered on the streets of Queens, N.Y. in 1964. Genovese's neighbors reportedly ignored her screams and did nothing to intervene.

While this rendition of events was later disputed, people were horrified by the apparent lack of interest from her neighbors during the crime. According to Psychology Today, the bulk of research evidence over the years has shown that the larger the crowd, the less likely anyone is to offer help.

"Individuals don't act upon these situations because they think [...] 'Oh, there's so many people here, someone else might help' or 'I'm so glad that's not happening to me,'" senior Raphael Solis said.

Two key factors contribute to the bystander effect. Firstly, because there are other observers, individuals feel that the responsibility to act is shared among all of those present. Secondly, when other observers fail to react, individuals view it as a signal that a response is unnecessary.

In Steubenville's rape case, not only were there witnesses to the assault, but

there were also other teen-

agers who learned of the incident through posts on social media outlets.

According to Parker, though social media has been credited with helping solve this crime, what has not been addressed is the role that social media plays in the event itself. The ease with which people can take pictures and record videos removes people from circumstances and thus responsibility. Nonetheless, people need to be aware of their own involvement in such situations, whether it is as a witness or an online viewer.

"Bystanders have a responsibility to act when they witness crimes," junior Felix Zhang said. "[They can] inform the police and tell others so people have a chance of stopping it."

Soda Consumption's Detrimental Effects

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There are many leading causes of death in the United States, but one would not expect soda to be a trigger for these deaths.

Soda is carbonated sugar water that has no nutritional value. It instead increases the buildup of fat around the skeletal muscles and liver, which causes both insulin resistance and diabetes. A study conducted by the Department of Medicine, Infection and Immunity at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine implies that excessive consumption can accelerate aging due to the high levels of phosphate in soda.

Most of the ingredients from soda are derived from corn; according to the website greenamerica.org, 88 percent of the corn grown in the U.S. is genetically modified to resist toxic pesticides or even made to create pesticides within themselves. While there have been no studies to prove or disprove that these corn crops are safe, pesticides have been found to be linked to cancer, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Alzheimer's disease and birth defects.

"Everything you eat or drink affects your diet, but I think its common knowledge that soda affects it negatively. Ingredients on any food packaging are labeled according to how much is in the food, and judging by the can of soda on my desk right now, high fructose corn syrup is the second most prevalent ingredient," sophomore David Tran said.

A postdoctoral researcher at Harvard

School of Public Health, Gitanjali Singh, and her co-researchers have compiled data from national health surveys around the world, linking up to 183,000 deaths worldwide each year to sugar-sweetened beverages. 25,000 of these deaths are within the U.S. They have tied sugar-sweetened beverages to 133,000 deaths from diabetes, 44,000 deaths from cardiovascular diseases and 6,000 deaths from cancer in 2010.

"I think our findings should really impel policymakers to make effective policies to reduce sugary beverage consumption since it causes a significant number of deaths," Singh said, according to Yahoo.

During late 2012, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg enacted a ban on the sale of sodas larger than 16 ounces and other sugary drinks at establishments that receive inspection grades from the health department. The ban was to be approved and made effective on March 12; however, on March 11, the ban was overturned by the Supreme Court in Manhattan. Supreme Court Judge Milton Tingling deemed that Bloomberg went beyond his authority by proposing the ban to NYC's Board of Health, whose members were all appointed by Bloomberg.

According to the New York Times, several school districts across the nation have banned the sale of soda in school. Even in face of setbacks, there are still movements across the nation striving to limit soda consumption.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO

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