

Academic Senate Report

Formal Report: ASG Advisement Concerns and Student Governance Issues

Introduction:

- A collective group of ASG members and student leaders is raising concerns regarding the current advisement under Advisors, which has significantly impacted the functionality and effectiveness of the ASG at SAC.
 - This report highlights the key concerns raised by students and the broader impact on student governance, communication, collaboration, and leadership development.
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Key Concerns:

1. Hostile and Dismissive Environment

- **Passive-aggressive behavior** and **favoritism** have created an unsafe environment for ASG members.
- **Public belittling** has led to a lack of trust and open communication within ASG.
- ASG members no longer feel supported or empowered in their roles as student leaders.

2. Gatekeeping Information and Processes

- Students are often **denied access** to timely and accurate information necessary for fulfilling their ASG duties.
- Missteps are often blamed on students, while **communication breakdowns** are frequently overlooked.

3. Overreach of Authority

- Advisor Adi has been described as "**the leader of the student leaders**", which contradicts guidance from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.
- Advising should be **supportive and educational**, not hierarchical or controlling.

4. Suppression of Student Governance

- Students are discouraged from using their voices or forming cross-branch relationships.
- ASG members are required to **obtain permission** to speak with administrators, which can lead to a fear of retaliation and a lack of equity and transparency.

5. Communication Breakdown and Unprofessional Conduct

- Advisor Adi engages in **demeaning and aggressive** communication via Slack, while maintaining a professional tone in emails to administrators.
- Lack of transparency and oversight on Slack hinders accountability. **Propose using Canvas, Pronto, or campus email** for official communication.

6. Failure to Uplift Officers in Their Roles

- **Treasurer's duties are obstructed** due to withheld access to budget documents.
- **Commissioners and former ASG members** have faced similar obstacles, limiting their ability to serve.

7. Lack of Training and Consistent Support

- Inadequate training was provided to ASG members on governing documents, operational procedures, or event planning.
- Advisor Adi has failed to provide sufficient guidance and training for students in leadership roles.

8. Mental and Emotional Harm

- **Several ASG members** have experienced severe mental health challenges as a direct result of stress and unprofessional treatment.
- Multiple students have sought help from **SAC's Psychological Services**, indicating an urgent need for a change in the work environment.

9. General Assembly (GA) Failures and Responsibility Shift

- **GA delegate registration failure** was blamed on students due to advisement errors, creating unnecessary obstacles for student representation.
- Transparency on **travel and conference packet** completion is requested, as students were not informed of the packet's status.

10. Washington, D.C. Legislative Meetings

- Advisor Adi **undermined student voices** during a trip to Washington, D.C., by promoting an agenda that contradicted the collective student decision to advocate for specific issues, such as DACA and Pell Grants.
- This overreach violated the **student-led, advisor-supported** principle of ASG governance.

11. Committee Governance Issues

- Miscommunication occurred surrounding the **formation of the Constitutional Review Committee**, with Advisor Adi halting the process without informing the ASG.
- Violation of the ASG **constitution** when Advisor Adi overstepped in forming the **Budget Approval Committee without** proper consultation or approval.

12. Budget Approval Issues

- **Budget-related decisions** have been made hastily and under pressure without proper deliberation.
- The **Treasurer** has been denied access to necessary budget documents.
- **ASG constitution violations** regarding budget oversight and approval, with incoming officers denied participation in the process.
- Requests for answers regarding budget policies and procedures have gone unanswered, creating confusion and inequity.

13. Student Life Banquet

- Advisor Adi publicly stated that she is “**the leader of the students**”, which undermines the student-driven nature of ASG leadership.
- The role of an advisor is to **mentor and guide** rather than assume control over student-led initiatives.

Additional Issues:

1. Siloed Governance and Lack of Collaboration

- Advisors have created **silos within government branches**, which undermines collaboration and teamwork across ASG.
- This lack of cross-branch cooperation limits the effectiveness of ASG and harms student representation.

2. Presidential Vetoes and Lack of Communication

- President Velez originally supported two resolutions but **vetoed them** after discussing with the administration, without consulting the **VP** or **resolution writers**, continuing to solidify the lack of student-led government and equity.
- This **lack of transparency** and failure to communicate creates a barrier to **democratic decision-making** and silences the collective student voice.

3. Violations of ASG Policies and Constitution

- Policy is **only followed** when it suits the leadership, rather than being consistently upheld as a guiding principle.
- The **election process** raised concerns about questionable practices that need to be addressed to ensure fair and transparent student governance.

Conclusion:

- **Student leaders** are being intimidated and **fear retaliation**, resulting in a stifled and ineffective governance environment.
- Our **collective student voice is being silenced** due to advisor overreach, administrative interference, and a lack of support.
- ASG requires a **collaborative, student-centered approach** to leadership, where students are empowered to govern with the guidance of appropriate advisors.

Requested Actions:

1. **Immediate Review** of ASG advisement practices at SAC.
 2. **Establishment of Transparent Communication Guidelines** and formal tools for communication.
 3. **Commitment to Inclusive, Respectful, and Student-Centered Governance** across all branches of ASG.
 4. **Training for Advisors** is aligned with the CCC Chancellor's Office recommendations for supporting student leaders.
 5. **Protection for Students Who Speak Out**, ensuring no retaliation or punishment.
 6. **Accountability for Budget Violations** and clarification of budget processes to ensure constitutional compliance.
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Timeline Request:

- We kindly request a **timeline** outlining when action will be taken on the issues raised, with a commitment to ensuring transparency, fairness, and student empowerment moving forward.