

ASL Club Constitution

Article I: What is ASL Club?

ASL Club is a group of people who want to learn, are learning, or are already fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). Members will meet as often as they'd like to engage in any activity that involves either watching or speaking ASL or interacting with the Deaf community.

The purpose of this organization is to give community members a place to practice or learn ASL.

Article II: Definitions

ASL: for simplicity's sake, this constitution will refer to Signed English, Pidgin, Tactile Sign, and American Sign Language as simply ASL.

D/deaf: when capitalized, Deaf indicates people who identify with Deaf culture. When lowercase, deaf indicates people who cannot hear.

Glossing: signed words in the constitution shall be indicated in all caps. For instance, EAT refers to the sign for *eat*. Signs will either be described or link to a video.

Member: a member of ASL club, including officers.

Speaking: used in the signed sense. When referring to non-signed languages, the constitution will specify that they are *spoken* languages.

Article III: Membership

Anyone is allowed to be a member, even if they do not currently speak any ASL. However, the majority of club meetings will be in ASL, and members will be expected to fingerspell their questions, or communicate confusion in a non-spoken manner. Using English or other spoken languages during designated ASL times is not a good use of ASL club time.

In future, ASL Club may decide to include other signed languages, such as British Signed Language. Speaking in non-ASL signed languages should *not* be seen as cause for removal from the club, although leadership may want to consider splitting into multiple branches if enough interest forms in another signed language.

Article IV: Non-Discrimination Clause

ASL Club does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class, marital status, or disability.

Article V: Officers

ASL club has 2 mandatory positions.

- 1) Captain ([CAPTAIN](#)) (See: President). The Captain of ASL club will be tapped each year by the previous Captain. The responsibilities of Captain include managing club funds, advertising membership, and maintaining contact with the club sponsor. If a new sponsor is required, the Captain should lead the charge in finding one. While not a Captain-only duty, the Captain should also assume leadership for planning events, times, and meeting locations.

- a) This is a 2 semester position. If the Captain abdicates, the Duke becomes Captain and taps a new Duke. In the rare case that there is no Captain or Duke, the Captain may be chosen by majority vote at a meeting with at least 4 members.
- 2) Duke (DUKE: D-shape pressed against back of opposite hand) (See: Vice President). The Duke will be chosen by the current Captain. The Duke will be responsible for advising the captain on budget management (such as by suggesting games or events) and for moderating the group chat (including adding people or taking them away as necessary). The Duke is also responsible for communication with Oldenburg and the FLRC, whenever necessary.

ASL Club also has optional positions, which may not need to be filled. Responsibilities from this positions can be shared amongst members, or covered by the Captain and Duke.

- 1) Ambassador (AMBASSADOR: A-shape tapped on non-dominant shoulder and then on the dominant hip). The Ambassador is a non-mandatory position. The Ambassador acts as a liaison between ASL Club and other Deaf organizations. For instance, if a club member wanted to facilitate volunteering at an elementary school for the Deaf, they could volunteer for the Ambassador position and, if accepted by the Captain or Duke, act in an official capacity for the club.
 - a) This is a volunteer position that requires permission from Duke or Captain. Ambassadors can be removed by the Captain at any time. This position lasts until graduation, abdication, or removal.
- 2) Contessa (CONTESSA: [PROTECT AGENT](#)). If it becomes too inconvenient to keep club supplies in multiple locations, the Contessa may volunteer to keep track of all club supplies, either storing them in a dorm room or another available space.
 - a) If deemed necessary, the Captain or Duke may nominate a Contessa to keep track of items, such as games, movies, and snacks. The Contessa may refuse the position. The position may also belong to multiple people at once, or switch between people throughout the semester. Contessas can be removed by the Captain at any time. This position lasts until graduation, abdication, or removal.

Note: if the club has Deaf members, they should be given special consideration for any roles they want to fulfill, unless some governing body determines that that counts as discrimination based on disability status, in which case, forget it.

Article VI: Advisor

The 2019-2020 ASL Club advisor is Catherine Calhoun. If a new Advisor is ever needed, the Captain or Duke should contact potential advisors and facilitate the transition.

Article VII: Meetings

ASL Club may meet as frequently or infrequently as is convenient for its members. For the 2019-2020 year, the plan is to meet once per week. General meetings can include

conversation in ASL, games, or other activities. Special events, such as ASL movie nights, should be planned in advance so members know what to expect when they show up.

In general, conversation and gameplay should occur in ASL. However, if necessary, game rules or other vital pieces of information may be conveyed through writing or spoken language.

Before asking a question in a spoken language, efforts should be made to ask in a signed language. If understanding is not possible that way, spoken or written languages should be used. The Captain should lead by example to indicate which club times are signed only and which allow spoken language.

Article VIII: Successor organizations

If ASL Club discontinues, the board games should go to Pomona's board game club and any other extra materials should return to ASPC.

Article IX: Removal of Officers

An officer may be removed only after every effort has been made by all parties involved to resolve the situation. If the situation cannot be resolved, then an officer can be removed from their position by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of all club members. Approval to hold such a vote must first be obtained from the Smith Campus Center Assistant Director in charge of student organizations.

The Smith Campus Center Assistant Director may, at their discretion, remove an officer from their role should circumstances require such action. Grounds for removal of an officer include, but are not limited to:

- Inappropriate behavior and/or language
- Behavior that violates College policy and/or procedure
- Direct knowledge of hazing incidents and/or failure to report such incidents
- Direct knowledge of, advocacy for, and participation in illegal activities and/or behavior
- Behavior resulting in unreasonable and/or unnecessary risk for students

In very rare cases, a student may be removed from membership for violating college policies or organization bylaws. A $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of all officers is required to remove a student from membership. All requests to remove a student from membership must be presented to and approved by the Smith Campus Center Assistant Director prior to removal. Grounds for removal from membership include, but are not limited to:

- Inappropriate behavior and/or language
- Behavior that violates College policy and/or procedure
- Direct knowledge of hazing incidents and/or failure to report such incidents
- Direct knowledge of, advocacy for, and participation in illegal activities and/or behavior
- Behavior resulting in unreasonable and/or unnecessary risk for students

Unless consent of *all people present* is given, voting should happen in a spoken language.

ASL Club Bylaws

ASL Club is free to any 5C community members. There are no dues or fees.

The executive board shall be composed of all active officers, including multiple Ambassadors or Contessas, if multiple exist. The executive board *must* include a Captain.

Amendment Procedures

An Amendment can be proposed by any member of ASL Club who has been to at least 3 meetings that academic year or by an officer. The member should propose the amendment during a meeting with at least 4 members and 1 officer present. A majority vote of all officers OR a majority vote of members can pass an amendment. If officers reject an amendment, but members approve it, $\frac{2}{3}$ of members can override the rejection and the amendment passes.