



# American River College Senate Resolution

Title: Governmental Stipends

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**WHEREAS,** American River College (ARC) depends on the Associated Student Body (ASB) to represent student voices in shared governance, plan campus events, support clubs, and advocate for student needs at the college and district levels; and

**WHEREAS,** ASB officers routinely dedicate at least 4 to 5 hours per week to their roles by attending weekly Senate and CAEB meetings, serving on college and district participatory governance committees, drafting and reviewing bills and resolutions, preparing agendas and reports, holding office hours to meet with students, responding to emails and constituent concerns, planning, marketing, and staffing events, supporting and training clubs, and coordinating with administrators, faculty, and classified professionals, all in addition to managing full course loads, completing demanding and time-consuming academic work, often working paid jobs, and handling family and personal responsibilities, work that collectively adds up to dozens of unpaid hours each semester and often forces low-income and working students to choose between paid employment and participating in student leadership; and

**WHEREAS,** this work is comparable in time and responsibility to other on-campus student employment (such as office assistants, peer mentors, and ambassadors) and should be recognized as legitimate work experience rather than purely “volunteer” activity, so that leadership opportunities are accessible regardless of students’ financial background; and

**WHEREAS,** the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office has explicitly confirmed that the Student Representation Fee (SRF) may be used to provide “stipends to participate in participatory governance meetings and activities,” establishing that compensating student leaders for governance work is consistent with state policy and the intended purpose of student representation funding;

**WHEREAS,** the attached ASB Officer Stipends Proposal outlines a modest districtwide “ASB Leadership Fee” of two dollars (\$2) per enrolled student, which would generate approximately \$140,000 annually for the four Los Rios colleges, providing at least \$35,000 per college, sufficient

to fund the full stipend schedule for all colleges and still leave a surplus for programming, contingencies, or future increases;

**WHEREAS**, under the proposed ARC stipend schedule, Student Senate positions would receive a total of \$16,750 annually and Clubs and Events Board (CAEB) positions would receive \$5,400 annually, for a combined annual cost of \$22,150 and an estimated surplus of \$12,850 from a \$35,000 allocation to support additional student programming and leadership development;

**WHEREAS**, the proposal includes a detailed accountability framework, requiring regular attendance, minimum office hours, completion of Brown Act and fiscal training by a set deadline, at least one bill, resolution, or project per semester per member, and a short end-of-semester report, so that stipends are tied directly to documented work, learning outcomes, and tangible contributions rather than titles alone;

**WHEREAS**, these ASB roles provide high-impact educational experiences in leadership, policy analysis, budgeting, event management, communication, collaboration, and time management, all of which strengthen students' transfer applications, résumés, and preparation for future careers; and

**WHEREAS**, any stipend or employment program must be designed in compliance with IRS regulations, financial aid rules, and Los Rios District policies, and can be implemented using a combination of existing student employment structures (such as Federal Work-Study or student assistant positions for eligible students) and stipends for those who do not qualify for financial aid;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the American River College Student Senate formally endorses the creation of a districtwide two-dollar (\$2) "ASB Leadership Fee," dedicated to funding ASB officer stipends and related student leadership programming, and recommends that the four District Associated Body Students, the Student Advisory Committee, and the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees adopt such a fee;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American River College Student Senate adopts in principle the stipend schedule described in the "ASB Officer Stipends Proposal and Accountability, Fall 2025" for Student Senate and Clubs and Events Board positions, and expresses its intent to implement this schedule at ARC once the ASB Leadership Fee (or an equivalent sustainable funding source) is approved;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American River College Student Senate adopts the accountability framework outlined in the proposal, including but not limited to minimum weekly office hours, attendance expectations, mandatory Brown Act and fiscal training, a legislative participation requirement, and an end-of-semester report requirement, and directs the appropriate ASB committee(s) to codify these standards into ASB bylaws and standing rules;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American River College Student Senate directs the ASB President, Director of Activities, and the Governance Stipends Committee to forward this resolution and the attached proposal to the ARC Academic Senate, College President, District

Associated Students, District Student Advisory Committee, and any other relevant shared-governance bodies, and to advocate for the adoption of the ASB Leadership Fee and stipend program at the district level;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American River College Student Senate requests that the ARC Administration, Business Services Office, Financial Aid Office, ASB advisor, and the ARC Associated Student Body collaboratively develop an implementation plan that (1) ensures compliance with IRS and financial aid regulations, (2) explores the use of Federal Work-Study or student employment classifications for eligible student leaders, and (3) provides an appropriate stipend mechanism for student leaders who are not work-study eligible;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American River College Student Senate supports the development of a hardship waiver or similar process for the ASB Leadership Fee so that the fee does not become a barrier for low-income students, while still maintaining a sustainable funding stream for equitable leadership compensation;

**LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED**, that the American River College Student Senate affirms that compensating student leaders for their time and labor is an equity measure that expands access to shared governance, recognizes ASB service as meaningful work experience, and strengthens student representation for all students at American River College.

Let it be known that this resolution is hereby  
APPROVED  
on the 5th day of December, 2025.

Signed,  
Soraya Amin

