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## Media Council Budgetary Protection and Alteration Bill

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## **Media Council Budgetary Protection and Alteration Bill**

Authors: Kat Garrison, Madison White, Destinee Moya, Jesus Delgado, Joe Donnaly, Chris Greenwood, Kole Joachim

Session: CCXXI OF THE ASWC SENATE

BILL I - 9/9/2019

WHEREAS in accordance with the Student Bill of Rights, students have, “The right to the freedom of a critical and informing press;”

WHEREAS the press can only be critical and informing if it does not depend on the governing body which it critiques and holds accountable for funding;

WHEREAS the right to a critical and informing press is compromised by media organizations receiving funding from ASWC Senate as opposed to directly from student body fees;

WHEREAS the media plays a unique role on Whittier College’s campus by creating auxiliary and supplementary educational and career opportunities, as well as by creating an environment of transparency and accountability on campus;

WHEREAS the press acting as a voting member of the ASWC Senate creates an inherent conflict of interest because of its unique role as a watchdog;

WHEREAS, the ASWC Senate has previously distributed student body fees directly to the Media Council prior to the “Budget Distribution Bill” of 2019;

LET IT BE RESOLVED that Media Council will receive 23.5 percent of the semesterly Student Body Fees collected by ASWC Senate,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that while the percentage Media Council receives from Student Body Fees may be subject to change based on the criteria detailed below, the Media

Council semesterly budget will come directly from Student Body Fees and not from an allocations account created and maintained by ASWC Senate as are other governing bodies,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Media Council shall be entitled to maintain a separate reserve account that may house any remaining funds not used during the fiscal year. This reserve account ought not to exceed \$20,000.00,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the ASWC treasurer will ensure that the journal entry necessary to make this transfer possible is carried out, and will engage in conversation with the treasurer of the media council to discuss any and all pending expenses not yet apparent on the budget reports.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Media Council semesterly budget may not be cut arbitrarily, and funds may only be deprived of Media Council in extreme circumstances that would result in the semesterly budget being frozen,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED Circumstances that could potentially warrant a reexamination of the Media Council allocation includes but is not limited to: a new organization forming, an existing organization dissolving, changes in methodology that may result in operational costs either rising or falling,

- At the time a revision of the allocated amount is proposed, there will be a period no longer than 6 weeks and no shorter than 3 weeks, wherein Media Council will have the ability to establish a baseline operational budget that allows all of the Media organizations to continue to function as they would normally;
  - In such cases, Media Council and any Senators drafting such a bill must meet at least twice to discuss this bill's efficacy and prepare language for any alternative solutions.
  - Meetings about changed allocation between the two organizations should include, but is not limited to: both organization's Presidents, Treasurers, and respective advisors for both organizations
  - Both organizations should consult with professional staff for technical expertise.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that Media Council is to be an independent governing body outside of the umbrella of ASWC Senate,

- ASWC Senate will have no control over Media Council's budget or spending.
- Budget reports will be provided twice a semester to the Table, and all budget requests will be public on Engage at all times for students to view. The Media Council treasurer will participate in all mandatory OSE trainings and meetings to ensure open and transparent communication. ASWC may come to any and all

Media Council meetings to discuss any budgetary questions or concerns. These standards of transparency are followed by all governing bodies, ASWC Senate included.

- Media Council will adhere to its current Funding Code, drafted while still under the leadership of ASWC Senate. Any revisions to the Media Council Funding Code will require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of all voting members,
- Media Council must remain in compliance with the Whittier College charter, the Student Bill of Rights, and all College rules and regulations applied to other governing bodies, clubs, and organizations,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that Media Council will relinquish its vote on the ASWC Senate Table,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that no bill with language affecting or erasing language stated throughout the entirety of this bill, or that will significantly affect the operation of Media Council itself shall be passed through the ASWC Senate without both bodies approving of such a measure, with the exception of allocated funding percentages which may be passed without Media Council approval only if all of the previous criteria for negotiations have been met

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that Article IX, Section B, Subsection 4 be changed to read:

"The Media Council Co-Chairs shall:

- a. Be one person;
- b. Be chosen by Media Council according to rules set forth by that constituency;
- c. Be advisory members to the Senate without possession of a vote;
- d. Be a liaison from the Senate to Media Council.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, this bill be revisited at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 academic year. Discussion must include but not be limited to:

1. The effects of Media Council operating as an advisory member to the ASWC Senate,
2. ASWC Senate and Media Council's efforts in upholding the bill,
3. Outcomes of changes presented in this bill.