

Student Senate Constitution

Wayne State College

Wayne, Nebraska

We, the members of the Wayne State student body, desiring to provide a form of government for the supervision of the student activities: to provide a forum of the expression of student rights; to improve student cultural and social welfare; to develop better educational standards, facilities and teaching methods, and to foster the recognition of the rights and responsibilities of students to school and community; do hereby establish this constitution.

Article 1

Name

The name of this governing organization shall be the Student Senate of Wayne State College, Wayne, Nebraska.

Article 2

Powers and Responsibilities

Section 1

The legislative power of the Wayne State student body shall be vested in the Student Senate.

Section 2

Students desiring to form an organization will petition the Senate for recognition, accompany their petition with a proposed constitution and bylaws clearly setting forth the purpose of the new organization and its governing principles. The petition of the new organization must be signed by ten (10) students and one (1) faculty member of whom agrees to serve as the advisor. The Senate will judge the petition on the basis of constitution, and bylaws of the organization shall be sent to the Dean of Student Services for their approval/disapproval. If not approved the constitution is eligible for the appeal process.

Section 3

The executive power of the Senate shall be vested in the President who will preside over all Senate meetings and appoint all Senate Committees subject to the majority approval of the Senate. He/She shall also be held responsible for the funds allocated by the State of Nebraska and the \$.50 per student received from the Student Activities Fee. He/She shall submit a budget each semester to be approved by the Senate for the operation of the Student Senate Office.

Section 4

The Vice President will perform all duties regarding the structure and rules of the Senate and act as parliamentarian. He/She shall also be held responsible for the Student Activities Fund Budget and will be the overseer of the Student Activities Board Treasurer. In the absence of the President, he/she will preside over the Senate meetings.

Section 5

A secretary shall be chosen by the new President and approved by the Senate and shall assume duties upon approval. The Secretary will keep a complete file of the past proceedings. This officer shall make the record available to anyone wishing to review it. The secretary shall keep a separate record of attendance of Senators at meetings where absence is relevant to review for removal.

Section 6

Senators shall attend all regularly scheduled Senate meetings. If unable to attend, they must inform the President prior to the meeting. Each dormitory Senator shall meet with Hall Council between Senate meetings, if there is a council meeting, and shall report any action during the Committee reports.

Section 7

Term of office shall be from the 15th day of April following the election to the 14th day of April the following year. After being elected and prior to taking office, the President – elect and Vice President – elect shall be orientated by the current President and Vice President.

Section 8

In the event that a Senator leaves for military duty, that Senator will choose a proxy that will perform his/her duties until he/she returns. In event that a proxy is not named, the Senate will appoint a temporary proxy to fulfill the duties of the Senator leaving for duty. The Senator who has left for military duty will retain full – Senatorship upon his/her return.

Article III **Representation**

Section 1

There shall be at least one senator for each residential area. Each residence hall is considered a residential area, as is the entire off – campus area.

Section 2

There shall be one additional representative for each 150 full – time students in each residential area.

Section 3

Representation shall be apportioned every year according to the population of the constituency as of the fifteenth day of February, in order to adequately represent the student body.

Section 4

The student Board of Trustees Representative will be an ex – officio member of the Student Senate.

Article III Procedure

Section 1

The Student Senate shall determine the time and place of regularly scheduled meetings in the Bylaws.

Section 2

An agenda for each meeting, regular and special, shall be prepared by the President and posted at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any Senator may add to the agenda one hour prior to the meeting. Any WSC student shall not be allowed to address the full Senate unless called upon to do so by a simple majority of the Senate. Students wishing to address issues may do so in the appropriate committee.

Section 3

A quorum will consist of three – fifths of the elected Senate. Excused absences or vacant offices will not count in computing the quorum.

Section 4

At every meeting, each committee will report its progress since the last meeting. Chairpersons should have a written report prepared to be submitted to the secretary following the meeting.

Section 5

All Senate meetings will follow Robert’s Rules of Order.

Section 6

The Senate will be advised by two faculty members. The advisor will have no vote. The terms of the advisors will be two years each. Each will be appointed on alternate years by the newly elected senate.

Article V **Recall, Dismissal, Impeachment and Succession**

Section 1

Senators shall be subject to recall by a three – fourths majority of the Senate. Recall may be rejected by a petition signed by a majority of the Senate’s constituents.

Section 2

If a Senator’s cumulative grade point average falls below a 2.5, or if the President’s or Vice-President’s cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0, the member shall be dismissed. Immediately following each grading period, the Student Government Committee shall insure that the Senate member’s cumulative grade point average must meet the Constitutional requirements.

Section 3

Impeachment proceedings begin with the presentation to the Senate of a petition signed by 20% of the consistency or by a Senator who has presented to the President a list of grievances 48 hours prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. The President must include this in the agenda and present it to the Senate. A time and place for an open hearing will be established by the Senate. This hearing, presided over by the President when the Vice President is impeached or by their appointees, will be held for the purpose of evaluating the reason for impeachment.

The Senate will decide by majority vote if there is just a cause for impeachment proceedings. If the Senate decides the reasons for impeachment are valid, then it shall decide the question of dismissal. A two – thirds vote of the full Senate shall be required for impeachment.

Section 4

If the President vacates the office, the Vice President shall succeed the position. If the position of President and Vice President are vacant, a temporary chairperson will be elected by the Senate and will assume responsibilities until an election can be held and the new President and Vice President assumes office, after proper election procedures have been followed. If vacancies occur more than six (6) weeks after the first day of the fall semester classes, the Senate will nominate students who fulfill the requirements to be elected President. At the next Senate meeting, no later than one week from the day of nominations, a final selection will be made by the entire Senate. All Vice Presidential vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the President and approved by the Senate and shall assume duties upon approval. All persons assuming these offices shall meet all the qualifications as stated in Article VI, section 2.

Section 5

In the absence of the President and Vice President the President shall appoint 2 senators to preside over the next meeting 72 hours prior to being absent. Written notification shall be given to the senators appointed and advisors of the Senate. This change must also be posted outside the Student Senate Office.

Section 6

If any Student Senator while in office is convicted of a felony or a class 1 or class 2 misdemeanor, they shall be dismissed from the Senate. The above student shall be eligible to run upon completion of sentence from above conviction, except for felony convictions.

Article VI **Qualifications for Election**

Section 1

Candidates for the offices of President and Vice President must submit nomination papers signed by 50 students to the Student Secretary two weeks before the election. The President and Vice President shall run of the same ticket.

Section 2

Any students enrolled for 9 hours or more who will have completed at least 15 hours at Wayne State at the beginning of their term of office, whose cumulative grade point average is 3.0 or above, who is not on disciplinary probation, and who is going to be a student with 9 hours or more during the semester to follow is eligible to run for President. The same qualifications apply to candidates for Vice President. The Register shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Student Senate that the candidates are qualified under the aforementioned conditions before the candidate's name is place on the ballot.

Section 3

Any student may run for the election as Senator, provided the student is carrying 12 hours or more, has completed at least 12 hours at Wayne State College, and has a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 or above. He/she must obtain a nomination petition signed by one faculty member and at least 25 students from that constituency he/she would represent and present it to the senate secretary two weeks before election. The student must be a resident of the constituency during his / her term of office. Candidates must plan to enroll the following term and must not be block students during the term of office.

Before write in candidates may be sworn in as a senator they must first meet the grade and hour requirements outlined in section 3, obtain a petition signed by one faculty member and at least 25 students from the constituency he/she would represent, and present it to the senate secretary. If there are open spots for off campus senators, after elections off campus students may become senators by: 1) Meeting the grade and hour requirements outlined in section 3. 2) Submitting a petition signed by one faculty member and at least 25 students from their constituency to the senate secretary 3) Acquiring a 2/3 vote of the senate. Open senator spots will be filled on a first come first serve basis.

Section 4

The Registrar shall certify in writing to the Student Senate secretary that a candidate is qualified under the aforementioned conditions before the candidate's name is to be placed on the ballot. No elections shall be conducted until all approved petitions are returned to the Senate secretary by the Registrar. The secretary shall then issue the ballots of certified nominees to the constituencies.

Section 5

These qualifications also apply to special elections and to write-in candidates.

Section 6

No Student Senate Officer shall be a Student Senator. Ex-officio members can be a Student Senator if elected into the position. Ex-officio members can not be appointed to a senator position by the President.

Section 7

Any student enrolled in the graduate program may run for election as President or Vice-President provided the student is carrying 6 or more hours, has completed at least 9 or more hours at Wayne State College, and has a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above. They must submit a nomination petition signed by 50 Wayne State College students and one faculty member, and present it to the Student Senate Secretary two weeks before election. Candidates may not be a member of the faculty.

Section 8

Any student enrolled in the graduate program may run for election as Senator provided the student is carrying 9 or more hours, has completed 9 or more hours at Wayne State College, and has a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above. They must submit a nomination petition signed by one faculty member and 25 students from that constituency they wish to represent and present it to the Senate Secretary two weeks before election. They student must be a resident of the constituency during their term in office. Candidates must plan to enroll the following term and must not be block students during their term in office. Candidates may not be a member of the faculty.

Section 9

Any student running for election as President or Vice President must be present at least two Student Senate meetings the semester prior to term.

Article VII Elections

Section 1

Regular elections for the Student Senators and President and Vice President shall take place each March and February, respectively. The process of the elections will be determined by the Student Government Committee with approval of the Senate. Special elections will be held when vacancies occur during the first six weeks of the fall semester. After that date, dorm councils and remaining Senators will nominate a replacement, to be approved by a majority vote of the Senate.

Section 2

All students shall be eligible voters. "Student" shall mean any full or part-time students as determined by Wayne State College.

Section 3

Voting shall be secret ballot. The rank order of names must be rotated from ballot to ballot.

Section 4

A plurality of the votes cast within a constituency is required for election. Where there are multiple members to be chosen from a constituency, the rank order of the plurality will decide the election.

Section 5

In the event of a tie, a special election will be held on the following Monday. The re-vote will concern only those involved in the tie.

Article VIII Allocations of Funds

Allocations on the Student Activities money shall be carried out by the Student Senate Allocations Committee upon approval by the Student Senate, according to the procedures outlined in the Bylaws.

Article IX Amendment of the Constitution

Section 1

An amendment may be initiated upon receipt by the secretary or a petition signed by 50 students or by a 60% vote of the Senate

Section 2

Amendments may not be proposed during summer terms.

Section 3

Once each semester, amendments may be referred to the student body for ratification. A majority of the votes cast shall decide ratification.

Section 4

Amendments take effect upon ratification unless otherwise specified in the amendments.

Section 5

No change in the Constitution or bylaws will allow discrimination based on religion, race, national origin, sex, handicap, or age.

Article X **Implementation**

The constitution will take effect April 15, 1988, pending the ratification by the student body.

Article XI **Committees**

Section 1

The purpose of the Committees is to represent the student body and act upon the interest of their constituency at all meetings, decisions and campus functions.

Section 2

The Chairperson of each committee will be a student senator with the exception of the Allocations committee whereas the Vice President of Student Senate will be the chair.

Section 3

Each member of the committee will have one vote concerning Committee Decisions on the Committee level only.

Revised: January 19, 2006