

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

(Revised April 2003)

PREAMBLE

We the students of Wichita State University believe that having certain collective authority, we are charged with the accompanying inescapable responsibility to further a democratic community marked by mature citizenship habits, attitudes, and skills; and recognizing that this degree of responsibility will be manifested in the total community when we, as individuals, take our places there; do herein define and organize this collective authority into a student association and, by this constitution, guarantee that our use of it will always be in harmony with our trust.

ARTICLE I THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Name

The name of the student association shall be Wichita State University Student Government Association (hereafter referred to as the Association).

Section 2. Membership

All students at Wichita State University (hereafter referred to as the University) from whom the Association derives income through established University policy, shall automatically be members of the Association.

Section 3. Duties

The duties of the Association shall be:

- A. To promote and stimulate student participation in the University's activities, which will serve to enhance the educational, social, and cultural experiences of the members of the Association;
- B. To provide a channel of communication between the students, faculty, staff, and administration;
- C. To foster loyalty to the University;
- D. To promote the extracurricular efforts of the University community;
- E. To establish jointly with the University administration rules to govern the conduct of members of the Association in their actions as students of the University;
- F. To finance, with funds authorized by the University administration, the activities necessary and incidental to carrying out the purposes of the Association; and
- G. To insure that all students are afforded free and equal access to all opportunities the Association has to offer.

Section 4. Authority

The authority granted to the Association in this section is derived from and shall be subject to the authority of the Board of Regents, and the President of the University.

The authority granted to student organizations, through a grant of official recognition, is derived from and shall be subject to the authority of the Association and its representative bodies.

The Association in order that it might perform its duties effectively, shall have the authority to delegate its legislative, executive, and judicial authority to representative bodies. These bodies shall have the authority to:

- A. Prescribe procedure for the election and/or appointments of the membership of the said bodies of the Association;
- B. Extend official recognition to groups of students seeking privileges of an official student organization (hereafter referred to as organizations);
- C. Establish criteria and conduct a review for the granting and removal of said recognition;
- D. Levy reasonable penalties for Statutes;
- E. Recommend to the Dean of Students reasonable penalties for students who violate the Association's Statutes, or University rules and policies;
- F. Reasonably provide for the execution of the Association's duties as prescribed in Article 1, Section 2, through the establishment of Statutes and the appointment of special or regular committees with a specific grant of authority.

ARTICLE II DIVISION OF AUTHORITY

The executive authority of the Association shall be vested in the executive officers.

The legislative authority of the Association shall be vested in Student Senate representatives (hereafter referred to as the Senate).

The judicial authority of the Association shall be vested in the Supreme Court (hereafter referred to as the Court).

ARTICLE III THE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Section 1. Composition

The officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer.

Section 2. The Association's Officers and Hired Secretaries

The President and Vice-President shall be elected on the same ballot, as a team, from the Association at an election held during the month of April. The term of office for the President and the Vice-President shall be for one year and shall commence on the first day of June immediately following the annual Association elections.

The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President, said appointment subject to two-thirds (2/3) ratification of the entire Senate, excluding vacant seats. This appointment shall take a term of thirteen and one half (13 ½) months starting June 1st and concluding on the 15th of July.

Providing that he/she has and maintains a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, Secretaries shall take office upon nomination by the appropriate officer holder, subject to the consent of the majority of the Student Senators present and voting, and shall retain his/her office until he/she

chooses to resign, or loses student status, or is judged remiss or incompetent in the discharge of his/her duties by the current holder of the office which passed on his/her Senate, excluding vacated seats.

The tenure granted by these provisions shall not apply to Secretaries hired on a temporary or emergency basis during the months when the Senate is not in session.

Section 3. Qualifications of Officers

To be eligible to be an officer of the Association, an Association member must have and maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average and be at least a junior by the beginning of the fall term following the election or appointment. An Association officer shall not hold the same office more than twice.

Section 4. Administrative Authority

All administrative powers granted herein shall be vested in the officers of the Association with the President of the Association being the Chief executive officer.

Section 5. The President

The President of the Association shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To enforce the Statutes and administer the Resolutions of the Association;
- B. To execute the policies of the Senate and the decisions of the Court;
- C. To act as the official spokesperson for the Association;
- D. To appoint the Court Justices as provided for in Article V, Section 1;
- E. To appoint Association members to positions in pursuit of purposes of the Association, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Senate, unless otherwise specified;
- F. To recommend to the Senate any policy, which he/she considers in pursuit of the purposes of the Association;
- G. To veto and invalidate any action of the Senate prior to the next Senate meeting, which he/she considers not in the interest of the Association. The Senate has seven (7) days in which to act upon the President's veto. Said veto must be accompanied with a statement of explanation;
- H. Other duties as specified in the Association's Bylaws.

Section 6. The Vice-President

The Vice-President of the Association shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To assume all duties of the President in his/her absence;
- B. To preside over all meetings of the Senate unless otherwise specified by the Senate. In the event that the Vice-President is absent a temporary chairperson, a senator, will be designated by the Vice-President to preside;
- C. Other duties as specified in the Association's Bylaws.

Section 7. The Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Association shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To serve as Chief Financial Officer of the Association's funds;
- B. To present to the Senate a report of the Association's spending upon one week's request;
- C. To be responsible for organizational budget procedure; and
- D. Other duties as specified in the Association's Bylaws.

Section 8. Recall of Association Officers

- A. The following will be grounds for removal of an Association officer:
 - 1. The failure to maintain a 2.00 cumulative grade point average;
 - 2. The failure to execute prescribed duties.
 - 3. Others as established by the Code of Conduct and outlined in the Bylaws.
- B. If an Association officer is charged with one or more of the grounds for removal, the Senate shall review his/her case, and may expel the officer by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire Senate, excluding vacant seats.
- C. Recall Election
The Senate must call a special election of the Association within thirty (30) days if presented with a petition to recall an Association officer signed by a number of the Association members equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of those voting in the last Senate election. Such petition must be validated by the Association's Executive Secretary prior to public exposure and presentation. If the requisite number of signatures has not been obtained within thirty (30) days of said validation and dating, the petition shall be null and void. If the requisite number of signatures is obtained within thirty (30) days, the Association Executive Secretary must validate the signatures as those of members of the Association.

Section 9. Succession of Power

The following will be the succession procedure for the offices of President and Vice-President:

- A. Should the position of President become vacant, for reasons of death, removal from office, or prolonged absence, the Vice-President of the Association shall become the President of the Association, with all rights and responsibilities thereof, for the remainder of the term of the vacated position.
- B. Should the position of Vice-President become vacant, for reasons of death, removal from office, prolonged absence, or succession to the Presidency, the President shall nominate an eligible Senator, excluding appointees but not excluding Holdovers, to be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire Senate excluding vacant seats, to the position of the Vice-President of the Association, with all the rights and responsibilities thereof, for the remainder of the term of the vacated position.

**ARTICLE IV
THE SENATE**

Section 1. Composition

The Senate shall consist of seats filled by Senators elected from the membership of the Association. Certain seats shall be reserved according to the following criteria:

- A. Seats shall be reserved for three (3) persons designated by the Senate as Holdover Senators.
- B. One (1) seat shall be reserved for each of the officers of the Association, with the President and Treasurer being non-voting members.
- C. Seats shall be reserved for Senators elected from and by the Association membership

enrolled in each of the six (6) colleges of the University. Each college shall have at least one (1) representative with one (1) additional representative being allocated for every 1,000 students over and above 2,000 students enrolled in the college.

- D. Seats shall be reserved for Senators elected at-large from the Association membership. The seats shall be apportioned with one (1) representative for each 1,000 students enrolled at the University (1-1,000: 1 representative; 1,001-2,000: 2 representatives; 2,001-3000: 3 representatives; etc)
- E. One (1) seat shall be reserved for students continuing their education in a graduate school of the University with one (1) additional representative allocated for every 1,000 students over and above 2,000 students enrolled in a graduate program.
- F. One (1) seat shall be set aside for students entering into their freshmen year with one (1) additional representative allocated for every 1,000 students over and above 2,000 students enrolled as a freshman. "Freshman" shall be defined as any student with less than thirty (30) credit hours. These seats shall be appointed by the President of the Association. Appointees shall conform to rules as delineated in Section 2 of this Article. Said appointments are subject to two-thirds (2/3) ratification of the entire Senate, excluding vacant seats.

Section 2. Senatorial Candidates Qualifications

To be a candidate for Senator, an Association member must be a currently enrolled student as defined by the College or School in which he/she is enrolled, and must have and maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or have and maintain good standing in graduate school as defined by the Graduate School Catalog, except in cases when the candidate is an incoming student and does not have a college grade point average. In such case it shall be necessary for the incoming student to be admitted in good standing as defined by the University.

Section 3. Election of Senators

All elective seats in the Senate shall be filled at an election held at the same time as the election for Association officers. That number of candidates for at-large senatorial seats who receive the largest totals of votes shall be declared elected. The terms of office for elected Senators shall be for one year and shall commence on the first regularly scheduled meeting of the Fall semester or on the first special session of the summer semester (if any) immediately following the annual Association elections.

Section 4. Responsibilities of Senators

Student Senators of the Association shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To attend all meetings of the Senate;
- B. To perform the committee work to which they are assigned; and
- C. To have an understanding of the Association's Constitution, Statutes, and Bylaws.

Section 5. Powers and Duties of the Senate

The Senate shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To take action, which is in harmony and pursuant to the duties of the Association as, prescribed in this Constitution and its Preamble;
- B. To call a special meeting of the Senate upon a written petition signed by fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Senate with not less than twenty-four (24) hours notice of said meeting;

- C. To recognize organizations;
- D. To approve all allocations of Association and Student Fee monies; and
- E. To reverse any action taken by an officer of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire Senate excluding vacant seats. The authority of the Senate granted herein shall be binding upon the membership of the Association, the officers, the Court, and upon organizations.

Section 6. Recall Senators

- A. The following will be grounds for removal of a Senator:
 - 1. The failure to maintain a 2.00 cumulative grade point average;
 - 2. The failure to fulfill prescribed.
 - 3. Others as specified in the Code of Conduct and outlined in the Bylaws.
- B. If a Senator is charged with one or more of the grounds for removal, the Senate shall review his/her case, and may expel the Senator by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire Senate, excluding vacant seats.

Section 7. Filling Vacant Seats

If for any reason a seat in the Senate is vacated, it shall be filled with an Association member appointed by the President of the Association. Appointees shall conform to rules as delineated in Section 2 of this Article. Said appointment is subject to two-thirds (2/3) ratification of the entire Senate, excluding vacant seats.

Section 8. Provision for Holdover Senators

At the last regular meeting of February, the Senate itself shall elect three (3) persons by a majority vote to be designated as Holdover Senators. These persons shall serve on the Senate as Senators-at-large and are elected from Senate membership for the purpose of adding continuity. Those persons, once having accepted the nomination and having been elected, may not have the opportunity under any conditions, to seek election to another position on the Senate in the same year in which they were elected as Holdover Senators. Only those Senators elected by the student body in the previous Senate election and who served the entire year shall be eligible for election by the Senate as Holdover Senator.

Section 9. Session of the Senate

The Senate shall automatically convene in regular weekly session during the official academic year (excluding periods of official recess). The sessions shall be at a regular time and place, the selection of which shall be considered a procedural matter. A senatorial quorum shall be defined as a simple majority of the total Senate.

If a senatorial quorum is not present at a regular session, the President may in good faith call a special session of the Senate after the convening of which the duties and authority of the Senate shall be vested in the President and those present until a senatorial quorum is present at a regular or special session of the Senate.

The President may call a special session of the Senate if he/she attempts in good faith to notify all Senators more than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time set for the session.

**ARTICLE V
THE SUPREME COURT**

Section 1. Composition

The Court shall be composed of three (3) full-time teaching faculty members appointed by the President of the University and four (4) student members appointed by the President of the Association and confirmed by two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Senate excluding vacant seats. The court shall elect annually a chairperson by a majority vote of the entire court.

Section 2. Qualifications for Appointment

Any faculty member shall be eligible for appointment to the Court. A student shall be eligible for appointment if he/she is a currently enrolled student as defined by the College or School in which he/she is enrolled and has a cumulative grade point average of 2.00. A student member shall be ineligible to serve or seek election or appointment to any other Association position while a member of the Court.

Section 3. Term of Appointment and Vacancies

The term of appointment shall be for three (3) years for faculty and two (2) years for student members. Terms shall be staggered so that one (1) faculty position and two (2) student positions will be filled each year. The appointive authority for the balance of the unexpired term shall fill any vacancy occurring before expiration of a term. A student member may be recalled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire Senate excluding vacancies.

No person shall serve on the court for more than two (2) consecutive terms. Members of the court who are serving a third or more consecutive term shall be allowed to complete that term but then become ineligible for an immediate further consecutive term.

Section 4. Jurisdiction

The Court shall have jurisdiction in cases arising from the Constitution, Statutes, and Bylaws of the Association. The Court shall hear appeals from Traffic Court and Library Court of Appeals and shall render decisions in these cases.

The Court shall have the authority to render advisory opinions at the written request of the President of the Association, the Senate, or the Student Advocate of the Association. This Court is the final appeal court and all decisions are final.

Section 5. Court Rules and Procedures

The Court shall adopt appropriate rules and procedures for the hearing of cases within its jurisdiction, including rules respecting pleadings, trial procedures, and rights of parties and witnesses. Such rules and procedures shall be filed in the office of the Dean of Students and the Association's office and copies made available to students.

All minutes and written opinions involving the Association must be taken and filed with the Association office before the decision can take effect.

The right of parties before the court to have a spokesperson (example: family member or member of campus community) communicate directly with the court verbally, in writing, or in other manner on the parties' behalf shall not be infringed.

Section 6. Quorum

Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum, a majority of whom must be students, in any

case before the Court; provided a case may be assigned to a single member for pre-trial conference for the purpose of identifying the issues and facts of law involved in the case. Any disposition based on a pre-trial conference shall be made a quorum of the Court.

ARTICLE VI THE ASSOCIATION'S STATUTES

The Association's Statutes are laws, which are specific in their terminology. They shall carry over from one Senate to the next, enduring until they are repealed.

The Senate shall have the authority to make Statutes pursuant to this Constitution, which shall be binding as prescribed in Article IV, Section 5.

A Statute may be passed only at a regular session of the Senate and may not be passed at the same session it is proposed. Providing that they have been accorded a first reading at a previous regular meeting of the Senate, Statutes and statutory amendments shall be deemed passed if they receive a simple majority of the vote at a regular Student session.

Statutes may be repealed only at a regular session of the Senate, by a majority of the entire Senate, or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, if no notice has been given at a prior regular session, or by a majority of Senators present if such notice has been given. When a Statute is passed, amended, or repealed, by a majority vote of the Senate, the President of the Association shall deliver, within three (3) days, a written copy of the change in the Statute to the President of the University. The President of the University shall, within the next thirty (30) days review the proposed change in the Statute and pass or veto the change. If the President of the University does not notify the President of the Association of his/her decision, in writing, within the thirty (30) day period the Statute, amendment, or repeal shall officially take effect. If all provisions of this article are met for a particular Statute, that Statute shall constitute a binding agreement between the University and the Association.

The Senate Bylaws shall decide procedural matters of the Association's bodies not provided for herein.

ARTICLE VII THE ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions are formal expressions of the opinion, will or intent of the Senate. They shall remain in effect only during the term in which they are passed. The Senate shall have the authority to make resolutions pursuant to this Constitution.

A resolution shall be deemed passed if it receives a simple majority of the vote at any session of the Senate and if there is compliance with the other provisions of the Article.

ARTICLE VIII CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

This Constitution shall be deemed amended if any proposed amendment receives a simple majority of the votes cast at special election of the Association called for that purpose.

Said election may only be called by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the entire Senate. The motion to call a special election may be proposed only at a regular session of the Senate and may not be passed at the same session.

The Senate must call said special election if it is presented with a petition signed by seven percent (7%) of the Association's members proposing a specific amendment.

An amendment to the Constitution submitted in a referendum shall become effective only upon receiving a positive vote in a referendum participated in by at least seven percent (7%) of the Association's membership.

ARTICLE IX BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

This Constitution shall be expanded by a body of Bylaws that relate to the operation of the Senate and are approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all Senators.

A Bylaw may be passed only at a regular session of the Senate and may not be passed at the same session it is proposed.

No Bylaw may have the effect of altering or suspending the nature of the Constitution. All such measures are contradictory to the purposes of the Association and thereby void.

ARTICLE X ASSOCIATION FUNDING BILLS

Funding Bills are formal expressions of the will of the Senate in regard to financial expenditures. No funds may be appropriated without a Funding Bill, unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution of the Association. Funding Bills may be passed only at a regular session of the Senate, and may not be passed at the same session at which it was proposed, unless it is deemed to be of a timely nature. A funding bill shall be deemed passed if it receives a simple majority vote of those Senators present and voting, unless otherwise specified by Statute.