CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Ratified December 9, 1969
As Amended through April 16, 2024

Realizing the necessity for student self-governance, understanding the importance of articulating the views of the student body, desiring to further the welfare of students, and believing that student government, or collective agency, is needed to carry out these actions, we the students of the University of Virginia do hereby establish the Constitution of the Student Council of the University of Virginia.

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ARTICLE I: GENERAL

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Council of the University of Virginia.

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of Student Council is to protect and improve the rights, opportunities, and quality of life of every student at the University of Virginia.

Section 3: Authority

The authority of Student Council is derived from the students of the University of Virginia and collectively recognized by the Board of Visitors, the University President and other University Administrators.

Section 4: Non-Discrimination

The University of Virginia Student Council does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, pregnancy (including childbirth and related conditions), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, and family medical or genetic information, in its programs and activities as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Governor's Executive Order Number One (2018), and other applicable statutes and University policies.

ARTICLE II: STRUCTURE

Section 1: Executive Officers

A. The Council shall be led by the following Executive Officers:

a. President: The President shall be responsible for representing the views and concerns of the Student Body to the University administration and the community, for leading efforts to improve student life and resolve student grievances, and for the provision of Council-run student services.

b. Vice-President for Administration: The Vice-President for Administration shall serve as Chief Operations Officer of the Council, and shall oversee the Council's internal management and operations, including its finances, property, information technology, communications, and publicity;

c. Vice-President for Organizations: The Vice-President for Organizations shall be responsible for the Council's oversight of Contracted Independent Organizations, as well as the distribution of Student Activity Fee funds and other Council resources to Contracted Independent Organizations.

d. Chair of the Representative Body: The Chair of the Representative Body shall act as liaison to the other Officers on behalf of the Representative Body.

B. Each Executive Officer shall have the power, with the majority approval of the Representative Body, to make appointments in their area of responsibility as follows:

a. No one but the President may appoint officers and staff whose purpose is to address issues and concerns affecting the Student Body at large. These appointees shall be known as the President's Cabinet, and shall be supervised by a Chief of Cabinet. Furthermore, no one but the President may appoint officers and staff whose purpose is to provide student services. These services shall be known as the Support and Access Services, and shall be supervised by a Chief of Support and Access Services.

b. No one but the Vice-President for Administration may appoint officers and staff whose purpose is to manage the Council's operations, including its finances, property, information technology, communications, and publicity. These appointees shall include a Director of Finance, who shall be responsible for managing the Council's budget.

c. No one but the Vice-President for Organizations may appoint officers and staff whose purpose is to oversee and allocate resources to Contracted Independent Organizations. These appointees shall include the chairs of an Appropriations Committee, which shall review all funding requests made by Contracted Independent Organizations.

d. No one but the Chair of the Representative Body may appoint officers and staff whose purpose is to manage the affairs of the Representative Body.

Section 2: Representative Body

A. The Representative Body shall act as the legislature of Student Council, and shall have the following powers:

a. To approve allocations of the Student Activity Fee.

b. To recognize, withdraw recognition, or impose conditions of recognition on all Contracted Independent Organizations.

c. To sponsor University-wide referenda on any student issue, except for the Honor Code or the Standards of Conduct.

d. To create and modify Bylaws governing the Council's structure and procedures, with a two-thirds majority; such Bylaws may not require the use of Council funds for specific purposes.

B. The Representative Body shall consist of Representatives from the various Schools of the University as follows:

a. Each School shall have at least one Representative.

b. Each School shall have an additional Representative for every one-thousand students enrolled in that School.

c. Schools with separate undergraduate and graduate governing Councils shall have separate Representatives allocated to their undergraduate and graduate students, as if each constituency were a separate School.

C. At least one Representative shall be an entering undergraduate first year student, at least one shall be an entering undergraduate transfer student, at least one shall be an undergraduate international student, and at least one shall be a graduate international student, as follows:

a. Each School may reserve one of its Representative seats for an entering undergraduate first year student, for every one-thousand such students enrolled in that School.

b. Each School may reserve one of its Representative seats for an entering undergraduate transfer student, for every one-thousand such students enrolled in that School.

c. Each School may reserve one of its Representative seats for an undergraduate international student, for every one-thousand such students enrolled in that School.

d. Each School may reserve one of its Representative seats for a graduate international student, for every one-thousand such students enrolled in that School.

e. If no School reserves at least one seat for an entering first year undergraduate, at least one seat for an entering transfer undergraduate, at least one seat for an undergraduate international student, and at least one seat for a graduate international student, then one or more special seats unaffiliated with any School shall be allocated to the group lacking representation, according to their total enrollment;

D. The following rules shall govern the apportionment of Representative seats:

a. Barring extraordinary circumstances, only students enrolled on-Grounds at the University or in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies shall be counted towards the apportionment of Representative seats.

b. All Representative seats, including first year, international student, and transfer seats, shall be apportioned using the enrollment figures from the previous fall semester.

c. Changes to the apportionment of seats shall not take effect until a new Representative Body is elected.

E. The President, Vice-President for Administration, and Vice-President for Organizations shall serve on the Representative Body in an ex officio capacity; to preserve the balance of representation between Schools, they shall have voice but no vote.The President also maintains the power of veto to be exercised over the Representative Body. A presidential veto may be overridden by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of the Representative Body.

F. The Representative Body shall elect a Chair from among its membership, who shall preside over the Representative Body and manage its affairs, but shall retain the same voting privileges as all other Representatives.

G. Quorum shall consist of two-thirds of all Representatives, including the Chair but excluding non-voting members.

Section 3: Rules and Ethics Board

A. The Rules and Ethics Board shall be responsible for the adjudication of alleged violations of the Constitution and Bylaws, as well as ensuring that all Officers and Representatives are familiar with the Constitution, Bylaws, and procedures of Student Council before taking office.

B. The Board shall consist of seven members, with one member serving as Chair, according to the following rules:

a. No School of the University may have a majority of members on the Board.

b. At least one member must be a graduate student.

c. No member of the Board may be an elected or appointed member of Student Council, or participate on the Council in any other capacity.

C. The Board's term of office shall commence at the beginning of the fall semester and last for one year.

D. Board members shall be nominated by the President, with the majority approval of the Representative Body.

E. The Representative Body shall have the power to regulate the Board's procedures, but not the Board's jurisdiction.

ARTICLE III: ELECTIONS

Section 1: Candidacy

A. Candidates shall only run for one position on Student Council.

B. Barring extraordinary circumstances, all candidates must be enrolled in an on-Grounds degree program at the University of Virginia or in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

C. Candidates for Representative seats must be elected by the School that they will represent for the coming term.

Section 2: Elections

A. The University Board of Elections or its successor body shall have the power to regulate Student Council elections.

B. Elections for Officers and School Representatives shall take place annually in the spring semester. Elections for first year, international student, and transfer seats shall take place annually in the fall semester.

C. During spring elections, the President, Vice-President for Administration, and Vice-President for Organizations shall be elected by the Student Body at large; School Representatives shall be elected by the students enrolled in each School; first year, international student, and transfer Representatives shall be elected by the respective body of such students.

D. Barring extraordinary circumstances, only students enrolled in classes on-Grounds at the University of Virginia or in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies shall be eligible to vote in elections.

Section 3: Term of Office

A. The term of office for Officers and Representatives shall begin between thirty and sixty days after the end of spring elections at the discretion of the outgoing executive board.

B. The Rules and Ethics Committee shall have the ability to approve alternative term transition timelines in the event of extraordinary circumstances.

C. The term of office for all Officers and Representatives shall end when their successors' term of office begins.

ARTICLE IV: IMPEACHMENT, RESIGNATION, AND REPLACEMENT

Section 1: Impeachment

A. Any elected or appointed member of Student Council may be impeached for malfeasance, violating the Council's Code of Ethics, inciting violence or threats of violence (from both within or outside the University community) that are not Constitutionally protected speech, gross incompetence, or for failing to fulfill the duties of their position.

B. The procedure for impeachment and removal from office shall be as follows:

a. The Representative Body shall have the power to impeach a member of Student Council by approving a written statement of charges by a majority vote.

b. The impeached member shall be supplied with the written statement of charges as soon as possible after the vote.

c. At the next regularly scheduled Student Council meeting, there shall be an impeachment trial with the Representative Body serving as the jury.

d. After a full hearing of the charges, a two-thirds vote of the Representative Body shall be necessary to vacate the office of the impeached member; impeached members shall have no vote in the removal proceedings.

Section 2: Resignation

A. A member of Student Council may resign from their position at any time by submitting a written letter of resignation.

B. Any member of Student Council whose enrollment at the University is terminated, or any Representative whose enrollment is terminated in the School that they represent, shall be considered to have resigned from their position.

Section 3: Replacement

A. A Presidential vacancy shall be filled by the Vice President for Administration, who shall then appoint a replacement Vice-President for Administration with the majority approval of the Representative Body.

B. A vacancy in the offices of Vice-President for Administration or Vice-President for Organizations shall be temporarily filled by the President, who shall then appoint a replacement Vice-President for Administration or Vice-President for Organizations with the majority approval of the Representative Body.

C. Representative vacancies shall be filled by the governing Council of the School whose seat is vacant.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS AND RATIFICATION

Section 1: Proposal of Amendments

A. Amendments to the Student Council Constitution may be proposed using any of the following methods:

a. By a written petition of five percent of the full-time student body submitted to the Representative Body.

b. By a written petition of twenty-five students, submitted to the Representative Body, and passed by a two-thirds vote of the Representative Body.

c. By a three-fourths vote of the Representative Body.

Section 2: Amendment Passage

A. Two-thirds of those voting must vote in favor of the amendment during elections.

B. Any changes to the method of apportioning Representative seats shall not take effect until after the next spring election, following approval of these changes by the Student Body.

Section 3: Ratification

A. For ratification of this Constitution, two-thirds of those voting must vote in favor of adopting this Constitution.

B. This Constitution shall take effect upon its ratification.

C. The ratification of this Constitution shall relinquish all previous Constitutions of the University of Virginia Student Council.