



Student Government Association Constitution

Last Amended March 31, 2015

Re-Adopted April 2006

Originally Adopted September 18, 1962

Preamble

Accepting the responsibility of citizenship, we, the students of Concordia College, do hereby establish the Concordia College Student Government Association and the following Constitution, which shall govern our organization. The power and the provisions of the Constitution have been derived from and are consistent with the Concordia College Corporation Charter.

Mission

To develop strong, viable relations and a strong sense of community between the faculty, the administration, and the students of the college community, to further enhance the quality of life, civic engagement, and education of the college, and to act as the official representatives of the student body subject to the will of the students at large.

Article I. Name

Section 1.

The name of this organization shall be the Concordia College Student Government Association.

Clause 1. All full time members of the Concordia College Student Body have the right to seek office within the Student Government Association, regardless of race, color, creed, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or religious affiliation.

Article II. General Powers and Responsibilities

Section 1.

The Student Government Association shall respect the college's mission, policies and actions, doing all in its power to uphold and promote student life at Concordia College as follows:

Clause 1. The right to participate in the government of the college.

Clause 2. The right to participate in the formulation of policy affecting the education and welfare of the college community.

Clause 3. The right to be eligible to vote in any election or referendum conducted in accordance with this Constitution.

Clause 4. The right to form organizations and associations.

Clause 5. The right of expression and inquiry in matters concerning the campus community.

Clause 6. The right to participate fully in the student community without being subject to discrimination or bias.

Section 2.

The Student Government Association shall be the main liaison between the student body, faculty, staff and administration by serving on faculty and college committees.

Section 3.

The Student Government Association shall be responsible for the formulation and maintenance of relations with student governments from other colleges and universities.

Section 4.

The Student Government Association shall provide the means for carrying out duties assigned to it under the Student Rights and Responsibilities Document and of advancing and effecting student concerns.

Article III. Student Government Association Membership and Structure

Section 1. Membership:

Participation in the Student Government Association is open to all full time students maintaining a Concordia College cumulative grade point average of 2.5. Failure to meet these guidelines will result in consequences as laid out in the By-laws.

Section 2. Structure:

The following members shall be either Elected or Appointed as representatives of the Concordia College community. The Student Government Association shall be comprised of five offices: the Executive Office, the Student Involvement Council, the Elections and Credentials Council, Council of Commissioners, and the Office of Class Representatives. In addition to the members of the offices, a Civic Engagement Advocate shall be included in the structure of the Student Government Association.

Clause 1. Executive Office

Within this office, there shall be two elected positions as well as appointed positions as are established in the By-laws and approved by the Elections and Credentials Council.

A. President (Elected):

- Shall be the official representative of the Student Body in all matters within the college and shall be the spokesperson of the ideas and plans of the Student Government Association.
- Shall be responsible for upholding the Student Government Association Constitution.
- Shall have the power to create necessary committees and task forces with the approval of the Elections and Credentials Council

B. Vice President (Elected):

- Shall assume the duties of the President in the instance of an absence or incapacitation of the President. In the instance of a permanent absence, incapacitation, or resignation of the President, the Vice President shall assume the office of President.
- Shall have the power to convene the Student Government Senate and serve as the Presiding Official during proceedings, setting and managing the agenda.

Clause 2. Council of Commissioners

Within this Council there shall be offices determined by the by-laws to serve the needs and interests of the Student Body.

- Shall be appointed by the Elections and Credentials Council after receiving recommendations from the Executive Team to serve a term from April 1st to April 30th the following year (with the final month serving as a transitory period); this process shall not apply to the ECC and SIC Commissioners. These limits do not apply to the ECC or SIC Commissioner.
- Shall be responsible for carrying out duties relevant to the Commission, as established in the By-laws.
- In the instance of absence, incapacitation, or resignation of a Commissioner, the Executive Team shall recommend a replacement, following the process outlined above.

Clause 3. Student Involvement Council

The Student Involvement Commissioner will serve as Chair and the Council will consist of four Class Representatives, one Representative from Intercultural Affairs, one Representative from Residence Life, one Representative from Off Campus, and either the Civic Engagement Advocate or the Sustainability Representative.

- Shall serve the student body by actively pursuing the interests and concerns of students in order to involve them fully in college life as articulated in the By-laws.
- Shall be responsible for appropriating funds from the Student Activity Fee to designated bodies as established in the By-laws.

Clause 4. Elections and Credentials Council

The Elections and Credentials Commissioner will serve as Chair and be appointed by members of the exiting Executive Team and Council of Commissioners. In addition, there shall also be four Class Representatives, one Representative from Intercultural Affairs, and either the Civic Engagement Advocate or the Sustainability Representative.

- Shall have sole authority to conduct elections according to the procedures defined in the By-laws
- Shall serve as an objective body to evaluate the necessary credentials needed for significant student leadership positions as defined in the By-laws.
- Shall have the power to select students to fill significant student leadership positions.
- Shall serve as the sole interpreter of the By-laws as determined by the Student Government Senate.
- Shall serve as an objective body to ascertain a breach of conduct or accusations thereof concerning elected Student Government Officials.
- Shall have the power to approve or disapprove committees or task forces as proposed by the President.

Clause 5. Office of Representatives

The Office of Class Representatives shall consist of two elected members from each class: First Year, Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes. A member from each class shall serve on the Student Involvement Council and the Elections and Credentials Council. Also included in the Office of Representatives shall be: two representative from the Office of Intercultural Affairs, one Off-Campus Representative, one Residence Life Representative, and one Sustainability Representative.

- Representatives shall serve a 12 month term from April 1st until April 1st of the following year.
- Representatives of First Year students shall serve from the Sunday following their election through April 1st.

Clause 6. Student Business Office Treasurer

- Shall be selected by the Parke Student Leadership Center staff and the Chair of the Elections and Credentials Council and serve a term of office from April 1st of the year of election to April 30th of the following year.
- Shall be responsible for the accounting of all Student Government Association funds and providing accurate reports.

Clause 7. Civic Engagement Advocate

- Shall be appointed by the SIC and ECC commissioners and serve a 12 month term from April 1 until April 1 the following year.
- Shall be responsible for coordinating civic engagement events on campus and collaborating with appropriate organizations on and off campus to promote citizenship.

Clause 8. Student Government Senate

The Student Government Senate shall serve as the legislative body of the Student Government Association. Its members shall include all five offices of SGA. The Student Government Association Vice President shall sacrifice his/her vote in the Senate and serve as the Presiding Official. The SGA Senate shall have sole power to approve additions or revisions of the By-laws.

- Shall have sole power to remove Elected Officials as defined in Article VI.
- Shall act on general resolutions on behalf of the Student Government Association.
- In instances when ECC offers a recommendation to the Student Government Senate regarding a proposed issue requiring a vote, the members of the ECC shall not be included in the final vote.
- The Executive Office shall have the power to convene the Student Government Senate.

Article IV. Activity Fee Policy

Section 1. Student Activity Fee

Clause 1. The Student Activity Fee (SAF) shall include the payment of each member of the Concordia College Student Body set in conjunction with the Budget Planning Committee and approved by the Board of Regents.

Clause 2. The General Allocation Fund used by the Student Involvement Council will be a portion of the SAF unallocated to major organization budgets and auto-disbursements.

Clause 3. Shall be used to fund for capital expenditures and yearly operating budgets.

Section 2. Student Government Association Funds

Clause 1. The Student Government Association Emergency Reserve Fund (ERF) shall be determined in the By-laws.

Clause 2. The Student Government Association Special Projects and Initiatives Fund (SPIF) will consist of all unspent Student Activity Fee allocations from the previous fiscal year and the previous SPIF balance.

Section 3. Student Stipends

Clause 1. The President and the Chair of the Elections and Credentials Council shall jointly examine the need for student stipend adjustments.

Clause 2. Adjustments shall be presented to the Elections and Credentials Council for consideration and recommendation to the Student Affairs Committee.

Clause 3. Approved adjustments shall be presented to the Student Affairs Committee for ratification.

Clause 4. The Budget Planning Committee's ratified budget (as outlined in the By-laws) shall be binding for the following academic year.

Article V. The Election and Appointments of Student Government Association Officials

Section 1. Election Jurisdiction and Procedures

Clause 1. The Elections and Credentials Commissioner, if not a candidate or potential candidate, shall serve as the Marshall for all elections.

Clause 2. In the event the Elections and Credentials Commissioner plans to run for Office, the Election and Credentials Council shall select the Elections Marshall.

Clause 3. The General Elections shall take place prior to spring break each year.

Clause 4. Elections for First Year Students and any vacant positions shall take place in September of each year.

Clause 5. All elections shall follow the policies and procedures laid out in the By-laws.

Section 2. Campaigning

Clause 1. Candidates shall meet all requirements as determined by the Elections and Credentials Council in accordance with the By-Laws.

Clause 2. Campaigns must be conducted in an ethical manner and in accordance with the Elections Rules as stated in the By-Laws.

Clause 3. Failure to conduct ethical elections, in accordance with the Elections Rules may result in disqualification.

Section 3. Appointment of Student Government Officials

Clause 1. All appointments to Office within the Student Government Association must be made by the Elections and Credentials Council or special assembly sanctioned by the Elections and Credentials Commissioner in accordance with their term of office.

Clause 2. Appointment of the Chair of the Elections and Credentials Council shall be made by three exiting members of the Executive Team, one serving as ex-officio, and the exiting Council of Commissioners. They shall serve a term from February 15 of the year of appointment to April 1 of the following year, barring extenuating circumstances.

Clause 3. Appointment of the Chair of the Student Involvement Council shall coincide with the selection of Commissioners and shall serve a term from April 1st of the year of appointment to April 30th of the following year

Article VI. Removal of Student Government Officials

Section 1. Removal Criteria

Clause 1. Any official may be removed from office for just cause – not fulfilling the duties of office, violating the Constitution, dismissal from the college, conduct unbecoming of a Student Government Official, or failure to maintain a Concordia College cumulative grade point average of 2.5.

Section 2. Removal of Elected Student Government Association Officials

Clause 1. Elected Officials of the Concordia College Student Government Association may be impeached and/or removed by a 4/5 vote of the members of the Student Government Senate.

Clause 2. Student Government Senate shall be responsible for determining the culpability of elected officials under scrutiny.

Section 3. Removal of Appointed Student Government Association Officials

Clause 1. Appointed Officials may be removed from office by a majority decision determined by the Elections and Credentials Council according to procedure defined in the By-laws.

Section 4. Appeals

Clause 1. Impeachment and/or removal of either Elected or Appointed Officials may be appealed to the Student Affairs Committee within seven academic days of the determining body's decision.

Clause 2. The Appeals process shall be further defined in the By-laws.

Clause 3. The decision of the Student Affairs Committee shall be final and binding.

Article VII. Ratification of the Constitution

Section 1.

The Student Government Association Constitution shall become effective immediately upon its ratification by a 2/3 majority of the members of the Student Body voting in the Special Election.

Section 2.

This constitution shall render null and void any preceding similar document intended for the purpose of governing Student Government Association and shall take precedence over any conflicting or contradictory By-laws.

Section 3.

This document supersedes the authority of all Constitutions of student organizations on campus.

Article VIII. Amending the Constitution

Section 1.

The Elections and Credentials Council shall review the Constitution and recommend any changes to the Student Government Senate. Any proposed changes shall be brought before the student body through proper procedures as defined in the By-laws.

Section 2.

The Constitution shall be evaluated in its entirety every year by a committee consisting of five members: the Vice President, a member of the Student Involvement Council, a member of the Elections and Credentials Council, a Commissioner at large and an individual of the student body at large. Any proposed changes shall be brought before the Senate for approval before being subject to ratification by a majority of the Student Body.

Section 3.

The Constitution may receive inconsequential modifications that do not alter the meaning or intent of provisions previously ratified by the Student Body once a year by majority consent of the Elections and Credentials Council following the procedure described in the By-laws.

Section 4.

Any member of the Student Body may propose an amendment, requiring confirmation by the Student Government Senate to be placed on the spring ballot.

Article IX. By-laws

Section 1.

The Student Government Senate shall have the power to enact such By-laws, as it deems necessary to facilitate the operation of the Student Government Association by a 2/3 vote of the Senate.

Section 2.

The Student Government Senate shall have the power to amend such By-laws by a 2/3 vote of the Senate.