

Student Association Constitution

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Preamble

Accepting the responsibility of citizenship, we, the students of Concordia College, do hereby establish the Concordia College Student Association, 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 and education of the college, and to act as the official representatives of the student body subject only to the will of the students at large.

Article I. Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Concordia College Student Association.

Clause 1. All members of the Concordia College Student Body carrying at least three full courses per semester are members of Concordia College Student Association and have the right to seek office within it, regardless of race, color, creed, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or religious affiliation.

Section 2. The elected and/or appointed student representative body shall be called the Concordia College Student Government Association (SGA).

Article II. General Powers and Responsibilities

Section 1. The Student Government Association shall respect the college's mission policies and actions, yet do 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 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 community and the faculty, staff and administration through the service of holding positions on faculty 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. Membership and Structure

Section 1. Membership: Participation in the Student Government Association is open to the student community. All students who wish to participate must be a current member of the Concordia College Student Body carrying three (3) full courses per semester and having completed at least one (1) full semester at Concordia College (exception first year Senators) prior to his/her service as well as 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 Constitution Bylaws.

Section 2. Structure: The following members shall be elected/appointed as representatives of the Concordia College community. The election shall be held in the spring proceeding the school year in which they will serve. The Student Government Association shall be comprised of three branches: the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial.

Clause 1. Executive Branch - Within this branch, there shall be two elected positions as well as numerous appointed positions as are established in the Bylaws, and approved by the Student Senate.

A. President (Elected):

- Shall be the official representative of the Student Government Association 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 Association Constitution.

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.

C. Council of Commissioners

- Shall be appointed by the President to serve a term from April 1st to March 31st.
- Shall be responsible for carrying out the duties as established in the platform of the administration.
- In the instance of absence, incapacitation, or resignation of a Commissioner, the President shall appoint a replacement.

D. Student Business Office Treasurer

- Shall be appointed by the President and serve a term of office from January 1st to December 31st.
- Shall be responsible for the accounting of all Student Association funds and providing current balances of all the Student Association funds.

E. Student Advocate

- Shall be appointed by the President to serve a term from April 1st to March 31st.
- Shall represent the Student Government Association in all cases brought against that body.
- Shall be responsible for educating and representing the Student Body in all matters related to college policy and other pertinent laws pertaining to conduct in the community at large.

Clause 2. Legislative Branch – The Student Senate shall consist of elected members from each class: first-year including transfer, sophomore, junior and senior classes. This branch shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from within.

A. Term of Office:

- Senators shall serve a 12-month term from the last Sunday in March through the last Sunday in March the following year.
 - Senators representing first year students at large shall serve from the Sunday following their election through the last Sunday in March.
 - In the instance of a permanent absence, incapacitation, or resignation of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair.
 - In the instance of a permanent absence, incapacitation, or resignation of the Vice Chair, a new Vice Chair shall be selected from within its body
- B.** Shall have oversight of Student Association Budgets.
- Shall have the sole power to allocate from the following funds:
 - A. Student Activity Fee by a majority vote of the total voting membership, less automatic disbursements as laid out in the Bylaws.
 - B. Student Association Reserve Fund by a 2/3 vote of the total voting membership.
- C.** Shall have the power to pass all legislation in the form of Bylaws, override an executive veto by a 2/3 majority of the voting membership, and the power to impeach and remove Student Government Association Officials.

Clause 3. Judicial Branch – This branch shall consist of an appointed Chief Justice as well as justice positions as are established in the Bylaws.

- A.** Shall establish an official interpretation of the Student Association Constitution and Bylaws through ruling on any cases pertaining to these documents.
- B.** Shall hear and rule on any case affecting Student Government Association Elections, Student Government Association, the Council of Commissioners, the Student Senate, and any subcommittees thereof, as well as any case in which a student challenges the Student Government Association and/or its officials.
- C.** Shall dictate binding decisions and be the final authority in Student Government Association judicial matters.
- D.** In the instance of a permanent absence, incapacitation, or resignation of the Chief Justice, the President shall appoint a replacement from within the current Judicial Council subject to the approval of the Student Senate.
- E.** In the instance of a permanent absence, incapacitation, or resignation of any Justice other than the Chief Justice, the President shall appoint a replacement subject to the approval of the Student Senate.

Section 3. Removal of Student Government Association Officials

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.

Clause 2. Officials of the Concordia College Student Association may be impeached and/or removed by the Student Senate by a 4/5 majority of the members of the Student Senate. This removal shall be final and binding.

Clause 3. Impeachment and/or removal by the Student Senate may be appealed to the Judicial Council within seven academic days of the Student Senate's decision, with the exception that the Judicial Council has been fully appointed by the Official who is making the appeal, in which instance they do not have the right to an appeal.

Clause 4. Other policies and procedures regarding the removal of Student Government Association Officials can be found in the Constitution Bylaws.

Article IV. The Election of Student Association Officials

Section 1. The Election Committee

Clause 1. The Political Affairs Commissioner, if not a candidate or potential candidate shall serve as the Marshall of all elections and formulate an independent committee, which will be responsible for coordinating and publicizing all Student Government Association Elections.

Section 2. Election Procedures

Clause 1. Candidates must meet all requirements as outlined in Article III.

Clause 2. Further, prior to the opening of petitioning for any election, the Marshall shall hold an Interest Forum as laid out in the Bylaws.

Clause 3. All prospective candidates must abide by the election rules, which are laid out in the Bylaws; failure to do so will result in disqualification from the election.

Section 3. Petitions

Clause 1. Petitions for the offices of President and Vice President shall require 300 signatures of current members of the Concordia College Student Body; petitions for the offices of Senator shall require 75 signatures of current members of the Concordia College Student Body from their graduating class. The Marshall must approve all petitions.

Section 4. Campaigning

Clause 1. Campaigns shall be conducted in an ethical manner and in accordance with all rules set out in the Bylaws.

Section 5. Elections

Clause 1. The General Election shall take place eight days prior to Spring Break, or the last Thursday in February, depending on which comes first.

Clause 2. All elections must follow the policies and procedures as laid out in the Bylaws.

Section 6. Campaign and Election Rules Violations and Punishments

Clause 1. Unethical conduct of a candidate in an election, violation of campaign and/or election rules, and multiple voting shall be considered violations of election procedures and are subject to consequences as laid out in the Bylaws.

Article V. Activity Fee Policy

Section 1. Student Activity Fee Policy

Clause 1. The Student Activity Fee Policy (SAF) shall include the payment of each member of the Concordia College Student Body set by the President of Concordia College.

Clause 2. Shall be the General Allocation Fund used by the Student Senate.

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

Section 2. Student Association Reserve Fund

Clause 1. The Student Association Reserve Fund (SARF) will consist of all unspent Student Activity Fee allocations from the previous fiscal year and the previous SARF balance.

Section 3. The Student Stipend Committee (The S.S.C.)

Clause 1. Shall be a standing committee under the Legislative Branch.

Clause 2. Shall consist of three members: the Senate Chair, who will serve as the chair of the S.S.C., and two other senators appointed by the Chair.

Clause 3. During the Student Affairs Committee's debate on stipend levels, the members of the S.S.C. will serve as nonvoting members.

Clause 4. The Student Affairs Committee's ratified budget (as outlined in the Bylaws) shall be binding for the following academic year and distributed in equal proportions once each semester during the following academic year.

Article VI. Amendments to the Constitution

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by initiative or referendum; these amendments will become binding at the time when the Special Election results are presented.

Clause 1. Any member of the Student Body may propose legislation.

Clause 2. Any measure passed by the Council of Commissioners, the Student Senate, or a subcommittee thereof by a majority of the total membership may be referred to the members of the Student Body for their approval or disapproval.

Article VII. Bylaws

Section 1. The Student Senate shall have the power to enact such Bylaws, 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 Senate shall have the power to amend such Bylaws by a 2/3 vote of the Student Senate.

Article VIII. Constitutional Review Board

Section 1. The Judicial Council shall review the Constitution and report any suggested changes to the Senate as a whole. Any proposed changes shall be brought before the student body through proper procedures as defined in Article V.

Section 2. The Constitution shall be reevaluated in its entirety every three years by a committee consisting of five members: the Vice President, Vice Chair of the Senate, Chief Justice, a Senator at large, and an individual from the executive branch at large. Any proposed changes shall be brought before the student body through proper procedures as defined in Article V.

Article VIII. Ratification of the Constitution

Section 1. The Student 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 Association and shall take precedence over any conflicting or contradictory Bylaws.

Section 3. This Constitution renders all previous Student Association Constitutions null and void and supercedes the authority of all constitutions of student organizations on campus.