

Constitution of the
University of Michigan Ann Arbor Campus Student Body



Ratified: 28 March 2010

Amended: 3 April 2015, 23 March 2017, March 2018, March 2019, March 2020

Contents

- I. STUDENT GOVERNANCE
- II. THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
- III. THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE
- IV. THE CENTRAL STUDENT JUDICIARY
- V. RATIFICATION, TRANSITION, AND AMENDMENTS
- VI. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
- VII. INITIATIVES, REFERNDUMS, AND REFERRALS
- VIII. STUDENT RIGHTS

Constitution of the University of Michigan Ann Arbor Campus Student Body

Preamble

AN EDUCATED CITIZENRY being indispensable to the preservation of our civic rights and liberties; creating, securing, and applying knowledge and wisdom among the people being the chief mission of our university; and active participation in our own education being imperative to the success of these undertakings;

we, the students of the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus, hereby establish this Constitution to promote academic freedom and responsibility, foster fellowship and collaboration among the students, and guarantee a public forum for student expression.

Article I

Student Governance

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY. All authority under this Constitution is derived directly from the students

SECTION 2. GOVERNMENTS. All student governance powers granted herein shall vest in a Central Student Government. The Central Student Government shall be democratically constituted, and shall consist of legislative, executive, and judicial powers. All student governance powers not granted herein shall devolve to the additional governments for each school or college, University-owned and operated housing (and for each individual house and building therein), fraternities, sororities, and cooperatives; and for such jurisdictions as the smallest government containing the jurisdiction shall certify. The creation, structure, functions, and operations of these governments shall be determined by the government's student constituency.

Each student government or organization, each housing unit, and each federation of student governments, organizations, or housing units shall have governing documents approved by the students within the jurisdiction of the government, organization, housing unit, or federation providing for the democratic selection of its leadership and representative and democratic policy making within the government, organization, housing unit, or federation. Each such democratically constituted government shall be the governmental representative, legislative, and coordinating organization of the students of that jurisdiction, shall, upon a majority vote of its student constituents levy dues, and provide for their collection equally from each of the student constituents of the government; shall appropriate its own dues money and such other income as it shall receive; shall make appointments of student representatives to all student seats on committees whose purview is coextensive with the jurisdiction containing that committee; and shall conduct its elections so as to insure that its constituents are given ample opportunity to cast their ballots, that the election is free from fraud and that open campaigning can take place.

All general sessions of student government bodies recognized under this Constitution shall be open to students at large. Any body may enter closed session by a majority vote, but shall not take any votes of substance while in closed session.

SECTION 3. SUPREMACY. This Constitution and the Compiled Code which shall be made in pursuance thereof under the Central Student Government shall hold supremacy over any provision of another student code, and judges and justices of student courts shall be bound thereby.

SECTION 4. ELECTIONS. The Central Student Government shall have the power to hold elections for its offices and for referenda, coordinate with other governments elections for the offices of those governments, and regulate campaign practices on campus. Elections for Central Student Government offices shall be twice each year, once in November and once in March. Each term of office shall begin three days after the election in which the seat was filled has been certified. Elections shall be administered and certified by a University Elections Commission, which

41 will serve at the direction of the Student General Counsel. The Student General Counsel shall have the authority to
42 hire an elections administrator.

43

44 For bodies represented by a proportional count of students, including the Student Assembly, the Student
45 General Counsel shall present to the Assembly and the students the apportionment for each such body no less than
46 one month before each scheduled election.

47 SECTION 5. OFFICIALS. An official shall be defined as a person holding an elected or appointed position created
48 by this constitution.

49 No official of the Central Student Government shall concurrently hold more than one position in the
50 Central Student Government.

51 No official may run for election representing a constituency of which that person is not a member. Students
52 enrolled or actively working toward their degree shall be held to be members of the constituency of the school that
53 confers that degree. A representative who transfers into a different school or college following their election shall
54 serve until the next regularly scheduled election, at which time their seat shall be filled.

55 Any official of the Central Student Government may be removed from office for delinquency, corruption,
56 or other derelictions. Articles of impeachment must pass the Assembly by a simple majority, after which they shall
57 be presented to the Central Student Judiciary for a hearing. A quorum of no less than half the sitting Justices of the
58 Central Student Judiciary must be present to hear impeachment proceedings. When the Central Student Judiciary is
59 convened to hear impeachment charges, the Chief Justice of the Central Student Judiciary shall preside. If a sitting
60 justice is being impeached, they shall not sit for or preside over the hearing, nor count for purposes of quorum or
61 conviction. At the conclusion of the hearing, a two-thirds majority of sitting justices shall be required for conviction.
62 A convicted official shall be immediately removed from office, and may be disqualified from holding an official
63 position in the Central Student Government.

64

Article II

65

The Central Legislature

66 SECTION 1. THE LEGISLATURE. The central student legislature shall consist of a Student Assembly and a
67 University Council.

68 SECTION 2. THE ASSEMBLY. The Assembly shall be composed of 45 voting representatives elected from among
69 the students every year according to their degree-granting units, as defined by the Board of Regents. These seats
70 shall be apportioned between the degree-granting units using the Huntington-Hill method, with enrollments
71 determined by the average of the most recent Winter Term and Fall Term enrollments for each unit, and each unit
72 receiving at least one representative. Such apportionment shall be tabulated once each year. Each representative
73 shall have one vote in the Assembly.

74 There shall be six additional ex-officio representatives of the Assembly. These representatives shall be: one
75 first-year undergraduate students, one first-year graduate student, one non-traditional student, one international
76 student, one transfer student, and one student who is Pell-Grant-eligible or who would be eligible to receive one
77 based on the Expected Family Contribution listed on the FAFSA SAR. These representatives shall be selected by a
78 method determined by the Assembly.

79 Assembly Representatives shall be elected in the March election for a one year term. The method of voting
80 for Assembly representatives shall be a Borda count. Accordingly, each voter may vote for no more than n
81 candidates in their constituency, where n is the number of seats open in the constituency. The voter shall rank the

82 candidates from 1 to n on the basis of preference. A k th place vote shall count for $(n - k + 1)$ points, such that a first
83 place vote shall count for n points, a second place vote shall count for $(n - 1)$ points, et cetera, such that an n th place
84 vote shall count for one point. The n candidates with the most total points shall be declared the winners. In the event
85 of a tie, the newly elected Assembly shall choose amongst the tied candidates.

86 The Assembly shall meet at least weekly during the academic year.

87

88 The Assembly shall have the power to choose its own Speaker, Vice Speaker, and other officers as it shall
89 deem necessary from among its membership. The Speaker shall chair general sessions of the Assembly. Assembly
90 officers shall be responsible for accepting items for the Assembly's agenda and docket, and officers may be recalled
91 by a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly.

92 The Assembly shall have the power to levy dues and provide for their collection equitably among the
93 students. The Assembly shall not raise the level of the fee above a maximum limit approved by a vote of the student
94 body and the Regents. It shall appropriate all funds collected within the fee limit to student organizations and student
95 body programs and events as it shall deem expedient. All funds collected in excess of the fee limit shall be placed in
96 a University account created for the sole purpose of holding such funds, and shall only be appropriated upon a
97 referendum empowering the Central Student Government to appropriate such funds.

98 The Assembly shall produce, publish, and maintain Operating Procedures, which shall describe the
99 standing rules, procedures, and internal structures of the Assembly. The Operating Procedures shall provide for the
100 manner of officer selection, procedures for the formation and operation of committees, and any other rules of
101 Assembly proceedings necessary for the execution of Assembly duties under this Constitution and the Compiled
102 Code.

103 The Assembly shall produce, publish, and maintain an Assembly Register as an account of all Assembly
104 proceedings. The Register shall minimally include minutes, attendance, reports, recorded votes, and resolutions.

105 The Assembly shall produce, publish, and maintain a Compiled Code of legislation, which shall contain all
106 Central Student Government regulations currently and permanently affecting student government or the student
107 body, excluding provisions of the Operating Procedures.

108 The Assembly shall have the power to pass resolutions and amend the Operating Procedures and the
109 Compiled Code. All resolutions to amend the Compiled Code shall pass the Assembly by a simple majority vote.

110 The Assembly may require a student's presence at a hearing by clear and timely subpoena.

111 SECTION 3. THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL. The University Council shall be composed of the Central Student
112 Government Vice President, one Councilor from each school/college student government, and one Councilor from
113 the Residence Hall Association. A Councilor shall be the leader of their government or a person whom the leader
114 designates. The Council shall meet at least twice monthly during the academic year.

115 The University Council shall serve to facilitate open communication and collaboration between the various
116 organs of student government at all levels across the university.

117 The Central Student Government Vice President shall serve as chair of the Council. The Council shall elect
118 other officers as it shall deem necessary from among its membership. Officers of the Council, except for the Vice
119 President, may be recalled by a two-thirds majority vote of the Council.

120 The Council shall produce, publish, and maintain Operating Procedures, which shall describe the standing
121 rules, procedures, and internal structures of the Council. The Operating Procedures shall provide for the manner of
122 officer election, procedures for the formation and operation of committees, and any other rules of Council
123 proceedings necessary for the execution of Council duties under this Constitution and the Compiled Code.

124 The Council shall form such committees as it deems necessary to execute its duties.

125 The Council shall produce, publish, and maintain a Council Register as an account of all Council
126 proceedings. The Register shall minimally include minutes, attendance, reports, recorded votes, and resolutions.

127 Members of the Council shall be able to recommend to the Council such measures as it deems necessary
128 and expedient. After deliberation on such a measure, the Council may, by a simple majority, add the measure at
129 issue to the agenda of the next Assembly meeting.

130 Any student organization at the university may apply for a non-voting ex-officio seat on the Council. The
131 Council shall create, publish, and maintain requirements for review of such applications.

132 SECTION 4. PROCEEDINGS AND MEMBERSHIP. The Assembly and University Council shall each determine
133 rules of their own proceedings, including attendance, committee, and constituent service policies. The Speaker of the
134 Assembly shall have the power to recommend for removal from the Assembly any member who accrues excessive
135 absences as defined by the Assembly's Operating Procedures. This removal requires approval of a majority of the
136 Assembly.

137 A simple majority of the members duly elected or appointed to serve in the Assembly shall constitute a
138 quorum to do business.

139 If at any time a seat on the Assembly or University Council shall become vacant, the government of the
140 constituency controlling the seat shall appoint a new representative in such manner as it shall deem appropriate. At
141 the time a seat becomes vacant, the Assembly shall officially notify the student governing body representing its
142 constituency. That body shall have one week to respond to this notification. They shall have three weeks to fill the
143 seat from the time of initial notification. If they do not respond, or do not fill the seat, within the allotted time
144 periods, the President shall have the power to appoint a representative to fill it, with the advice and consent of the
145 Assembly. An appointed representative shall serve until the next scheduled election, at which time the voters of that
146 constituency shall fill the seat by election.

147 SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND VETO. If the Assembly passes a resolution, that resolution must
148 then be submitted to the President, unless it solely concerns the Operating Procedures of the Assembly. Upon receipt
149 of a resolution, the President shall sign it within one week or veto it. Vetoes shall return to the Assembly
150 for reconsideration. After such reconsideration, the President's veto may be overridden by a two-thirds majority of
151 the Assembly.

152 Article III

153 The Central Executive

154 SECTION 1. THE PRESIDENT. Executive power shall be vested in a President of the Central Student Government,
155 who shall serve as chief executive of and chief advocate for the student body. The President shall serve a one-year
156 term and shall be elected by the student body at large in the March election, together with a Vice President. The
157 method of voting for the Student Body President and Vice President is Instant-Runoff Voting. Each student will be
158 allowed to rank slates in order of preference. Tabulation proceeds in sequential rounds of elimination of the lowest-
159 preference slate with ties settled by random draw, and the slate with the most votes in the final round is elected. In
160 the event of a tie in the final round, the newly elected Assembly shall choose amongst the tied candidates.

161 The President shall appoint student representatives to University-wide committees. All Executive
162 appointments shall be made with the advice and consent of the Assembly, to be determined by a simple majority
163 vote. The President may likewise recall these officials with a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly.

164 The President may appoint Executive Commissions to study issues on campus, publish reports concerning
165 issues under such purview, and recommend to the Executive Branch such measures as they shall deem appropriate.
166 Commissions shall serve at the President's discretion or until the end of the academic term during which the
167 President's term of office is completed. The President shall, with the consent of a simple majority of the Assembly,
168 appoint Commission chairs, who shall be considered Central Student Government officials. Members of the
169 Commission may elect from among their number any other officers they deem expedient. Membership in a
170 Commission shall not confer status as an official. The President may remove a Commission chair with the written
171 concurrence of three other executive officials. The powers, functions, and composition of Executive Commissions
172 shall be defined in the Compiled Code.

173 The President may call into session the Assembly or the University Council at the President's discretion.
174 The President shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Assembly.

175 The President and Vice President may, jointly or separately, recommend to the Assembly for its
176 consideration such measures as they shall deem appropriate. The President shall, prior to the end of each academic
177 year, submit to the Assembly and the students at large, a report of the state of student government and of the student
178 body.

179 SECTION 2. OTHER EXECUTIVES. The Vice President shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the
180 Assembly.

181 The President shall appoint a Treasurer, who shall be the chief financial officer of the Central Student
182 Government. The Treasurer and all other officers authorized by the Assembly to disburse funds must be bonded.
183 The Treasurer shall disburse funds appropriated by the Assembly as provided for in this Constitution and in the
184 Compiled Code, and shall create, publish, and maintain a manual to guide student organizations in pursuing budget
185 allocations. The Treasurer shall, at the direction of the President, assist the legislature in drafting a proposed annual
186 budget for the Central Student Government and present it to the Assembly for a vote. The Treasurer may serve as a
187 non-voting ex-officio member of any Central Student Government legislative body.

188 All financial records of the Central Student Government shall be open to public inspection. There shall be
189 an annual audit of these finances, which shall be made promptly available for public inspection.

190 The President shall appoint a Student General Counsel. The Student General Counsel shall be the chief
191 representative of the Central Student Government in matters before student judiciaries. The Student General Counsel
192 shall advise the Executive and the Legislature on the interpretation of the Constitution and the Compiled Code, and
193 may serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of any Central Student Government legislative body.

194 The President shall have the power to appoint additional Executive Officers for the purposes of fulfilling
195 the needs of the Executive Branch. The Assembly may confer ex-officio status to these officials.

196 SECTION 3. PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION. If the office of Vice President, or of any Executive Office normally
197 appointed by the President, becomes vacant, the President shall name a replacement with the advice and consent of a
198 simple majority of the Assembly. Upon removal or incapacitation of the President, the Vice President shall assume
199 the presidency. If both the offices of President and Vice President shall be simultaneously vacant, the Speaker of the
200 Assembly shall become President.

201 Article IV

202 The Central Student Judiciary

203 SECTION 1. THE CENTRAL STUDENT JUDICIARY. Judicial authority shall be vested in one Central Student
204 Judiciary and in such inferior courts as the Assembly may create.

205 The governments for each school or college may create and dissolve their respective internal judicial
206 bodies. Neither the Central Student Judiciary nor any inferior court created by the Assembly may exercise original
207 jurisdiction over matters originating from the governments for each school or college when there is a competent
208 court created by that government. The Central Student Judiciary may exercise appellate jurisdiction that is consistent
209 with this Constitution over such cases.

210 The Central Student Judiciary consists of nine Justices selected from among the students. No more than
211 four Justices may be enrolled in any one degree-granting unit. An appointed Justice serves until they complete the
212 degree program(s) they are enrolled in at the time of their confirmation.

213 The judicial authority extends to all matters under this Constitution and the Compiled Code, matters
214 regarding Central Student Government elections, matters originating from the governments for each school or
215 college, matters originating from student organizations, and any other case regarding students it deems appropriate.
216 All courts or adjudicative bodies must maintain a public record of case opinions which must be available to all
217 students. Any court or adjudicative body will redact any information necessary to guarantee student privacy in
218 accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act or other relevant state or federal statute.

219 The Central Student Judiciary must write, publish, and maintain a Manual of Procedure for Appeal and
220 Original Jurisdiction consistent with the provisions of this Constitution. The manual must include provisions for
221 informing a student of their rights, and for ensuring the impartiality of the panel hearing the case.

222

223 The Central Student Judiciary may require an officer's presence at a hearing by clear and timely subpoena.
224 The Assembly may create additional subpoena powers for the Central Student Judiciary or any inferior courts
225 created by the Assembly, applicable only to students who explicitly consent to the jurisdiction of this court.

226 No court or adjudicative body may enforce any regulation inconsistent with this Constitution in content or
227 origin.

228 SECTION 2. INFERIOR COURTS. The Assembly has the power to create and dissolve all inferior courts within the
229 Central Student Government.

230 No court or adjudicative body exercising judicial power under this Constitution may have a majority of
231 students enrolled in the same degree-granting unit. The length of the term of a member of such a body shall not be
232 shortened during said term, unless the Assembly dissolves the whole body.

233 SECTION 3. SELECTION OF JUSTICES AND OTHER JUDICIAL OFFICIALS. Officials of the Central Student
234 Judiciary and any inferior courts created by the Assembly are nominated by a majority of the Judicial Appointment
235 Commission, which consists of the President, or their designee; the Vice-President, or their designee; two currently
236 sitting Justices of the Central Student Judiciary; and a member of the Assembly, who serves as an ex-officio
237 member. The Chief Justice serves as chair for all sessions of the Commission but must not vote, unless the
238 Commission be equally divided.

239 The Commission must produce a written report before the Assembly for each nominee to provide
240 representatives with the Commission's rationale for the nomination. A minority of the Commission may write a
241 report in dissent, which is presented before the Assembly with the majority report. The Assembly may require the
242 Commission to produce a report for an interviewee that was not nominated.

243 These appointments may only be confirmed with the advice and consent of the Assembly.

244 SECTION 4. OFFICERS AND ADVOCATES. Justices must select from among their number a Chief Justice with
245 the advice and consent of the Assembly. The Chief Justice serves a one-year term. The Chief Justice must have
246 served for at least one semester as a Justice before elevation to Chief Justice. The Chief Justice determines which

247 Justices will hear individual cases. In any legislative term, the Chief Justice presides over the Assembly until a
248 Speaker is selected.

249 Justices must select from among their number an Associate Chief Justice with the advice and consent of the
250 Assembly. The Associate Chief Justice serves a one-year term. The Associate Chief Justice assumes the role of
251 Acting Chief Justice if the Chief Justice is unable to carry out their duties due to recusal, resignation, incapacitation,
252 or removal; and serves as Acting Chief Justice until a new Chief Justice can be confirmed.

253 The Student General Counsel oversees the selection and activities of Student Advocates, who advise
254 students and student organizations of students' rights and responsibilities before the Central Student Judiciary and
255 inferior courts. Student Advocates are also available to represent organizations or students before the Central
256 Student Judiciary or other adjudicative bodies under this Constitution or the governments for each school or college.
257 Student Advocates must be justly compensated for their service. Any decision of the Student General Counsel under
258 this clause is subject to modification or rescission by the Chief Justice.

259 **Article V**

260 **Ratification, Transition, and Amendments**

261 SECTION 1. RATIFICATION. This Constitution shall be ratified immediately with the consent of three-fifths of
262 voting students. All officers filling any office by election or appointment at the time of ratification shall continue to
263 exercise their powers and duties until their successors are selected in accordance with this constitution or the
264 measures enacted pursuant thereto. All officers elected concurrently with ratification shall take office and complete
265 the term to which they were elected under the All-Campus Constitution of 1986 and existing codes and continue to
266 serve until their successors are elected pursuant to this constitution. The sitting student government at the time of
267 ratification shall adopt operating procedures, election regulations, and such changes as may be necessary to adapt
268 student government to this constitution by March 2011. Student government shall not adopt any amendments to the
269 All-Campus Constitution of 1986 and shall not amend this constitution before April 2011.

270 SECTION 2. AMENDMENTS. The Assembly may place proposed amendments to this Constitution to the students
271 by a two-thirds majority of the Assembly and a majority of all degree-granting unit delegations within the
272 Assembly, where all representatives from each unit shall comprise a delegation. The vote of the delegation shall be
273 determined by a simple majority vote of representatives in that delegation. After such passage, the University
274 Elections Commission shall arrange for a special election of the students. If, during such special election, three-fifths
275 of voting students shall vote to affirm the amendment, it will be enacted.

276 **Article VI**

277 **Student Organizations**

278 The Assembly shall provide minimum requirements for the establishment and operation of student organizations in
279 the Compiled Code. Any association of students meeting the minimum requirements for student organizations shall
280 be recognized by the Central Student Government as such and registered as a student organization.

281 No member of a student organization may benefit financially from membership in the organization.

282 **Article VII**

283 **Initiatives, Referendums, and Referrals**

322 SECTION 3. FAIR REGULATION. No student governing body or organization shall impose rules and regulations
323 that are unreasonable or not fully and clearly formulated, published, and made available to all students to which they
324 apply.

325 SECTION 4. PRIVACY. No student governing body or organization shall conduct unreasonable searches and
326 seizures of persons, their possessions, or their residences, and shall not infringe upon the privacy of their academic,
327 non-academic, and disciplinary records.

328 SECTION 5. DUE PROCESS. Students shall enjoy the right of due process before any student judiciary, including
329 the right to a speedy, fair and impartial hearing, the right to confront accusers and witnesses, the right to competent
330 counsel, a presumption of innocence in all disciplinary matters, freedom from cruel and unusual punishment, and the
331 right to an appeal. No student shall be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense, nor compelled to serve as a
332 witness against himself.

333 SECTION 6. EQUAL PROTECTION. Students shall enjoy equal opportunity and equal protection of laws without
334 regard to race, color, national origin, immigration status, age, marital status, pregnancy, sex, sexual orientation,
335 gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, veteran status, creed, genetic information, or
336 any other unreasonable or illegal consideration in all programs and activities.