

Student Association Constitution

Adopted Sept 18th, 1962

Updated December 1, 2000

Preamble

Accepting the responsibility of citizenship, we, the students of Concordia College, do hereby establish the Concordia College Student 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 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. General Structure and Powers

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

Sec. 2. All students attending Concordia College and carrying at least three full courses per semester shall be members of the Student Association regardless of race, color, creed, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or religious affiliation.

Sec. 3. Any member of Student Association in an elected or appointed position within the executive, legislative, or judicial branch shall be referred to as a Student Association official.

Sec. 4. The Student Association shall provide the machinery for carrying out duties assigned to it under the Student Rights and Responsibilities Document and shall provide the means of advancing and effecting student concerns.

Sec. 5. No Student Association member shall hold more than one of the following offices simultaneously: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Commissioner, Senator, or Justice.

Sec. 6.

Cl. 1. The total membership shall be defined as all members presently in office.

Cl. 2. Voting membership shall be defined as all members present at the proceedings.

Article II. The Executive Branch

Sec. 1. The President of Student Association

Cl. 1. Must be a current member of Student Association and have completed at least one full semester as a member of Student Association prior to his/her election.

Cl. 2. Must be duly elected and shall have a term of office for one year starting from the first Tuesday in April of the spring semester.

Cl. 3. Shall be the official representative of Student Association in all matters with other estates of the college and shall be the spokesperson of the ideas and plans of Student Association to those bodies.

Cl. 4. Shall be responsible for enforcing and upholding the Student Association Constitution.

Cl. 5. Shall preside over the Council of Commissioners as a non-voting member, except in the case of ties.

Cl. 6. Shall be the only person authorized to discharge Student Association funds.

Cl. 7. Shall have the power to sign into effect all decisions passed by the Council of Commissioners, the Student Senate, and the Campus Ministry Commission.

Cl. 8. Shall have the power of item veto over any decisions or allocations passed by the Council of Commissioners, the Student Senate, the Campus Ministry Commission, or subcommittee thereof. A vetoed decision must be returned to all members of the appropriate body within seven days of its passage accompanied by a list of reasons for the veto.

Cl. 9. Shall have the power and responsibility to appoint the Student Business Office treasurer, the Executive Assistants, and administration members whose duties are deemed necessary (as specified in the bylaws). These appointments are to be approved by the Student Senate.

Cl. 10. Shall have the power of approval over those Commissioners appointed by college committees (as specified in the by-laws).

Cl. 11. Shall maintain communications with alumni, Board of Regents, and other friends of the college.

Cl. 12. Shall have all the responsibilities not assumed by other persons in the constitution or by-laws.

Sec. 2. The Vice-President of Student Association

Cl. 1. Must be a current member of Student Association and have completed at least one full semester as a member of Student Association prior to his/her election.

Cl. 2. Must be duly elected and shall have a term of office of one year starting the first Tuesday in April.

Cl. 3. Shall assume the duties of the president in the absence or incapacity of the president.

Cl. 4. Shall coordinate and supervise all public relations on behalf of all branches and agencies of Student Association.

Cl. 5. Shall administer all elections.

Cl. 6. Shall be a voting member of the Council of Commissioners unless assuming the duties of the president.

Sec. 3. The Council of Commissioners

Cl. 1. Must be current members of Student Association and have completed at least one full semester as members of Student Association prior to their appointment.

Cl. 2. Shall be appointed either by the president with the approval of the Student Senate or by the appropriate student-faculty-administration committees with the approval of the president.

Cl. 3. Shall be presided over by the Student Association President, who has voting power only in case of a tie.

Cl. 4. Shall provide a forum for discussion within Student Association.

Cl. 5. Shall have the power to vote on administration policy recommendations.

Cl. 6. Each commission shall have the power to appoint subcommittee members as they deem necessary.

Cl. 7. The Student Business Office Treasurer, Student Senate Chairperson, and the Chief Justice shall serve as non-voting members of the Council of Commissioners.

Article III. The Legislative Branch-Student Senate

Sec. 1. Membership: The Student Senate shall consist of sixteen elected members, four from the incoming students (first-year students including transfer students) at large, four from the sophomore class at large, four from the junior class at large, and four from the senior class at large.

Sec. 2. Term of Office:

Cl. 1. Four members shall be elected from and by the freshmen class at large, four from and by the sophomore class at large, and four from and by the junior class at large. They shall serve a 12-month term from the first Sunday in April through the last Sunday in March.

Cl. 2. Four Senate members representing the incoming students at large shall be elected in September and shall serve through the last Sunday in March.

Sec. 3. Shall be responsible for the allocation of student activity fee funds less Campus Ministry Commission funds.

Sec. 4. Shall have the power and responsibility for formulation and approval of the final budget of Student Association.

Sec. 5. Shall have the power to pass all legislation necessary and proper for the orderly conduct of Student Association government.

Sec. 6. Shall have the power to override an executive veto by a 2/3 majority of the voting membership for all financial and legislative matters.

Sec. 7. Shall have the power and authority to set up those subcommittees as deemed necessary and to specify their function and membership.

Sec. 8. Shall have the power to recall an official appointed by the executive branch and approved by the Student Senate by a majority of the total membership and to override any executive veto to remove a commissioner or justice by a 2/3 vote of total membership.

Sec. 9. Shall have the power to enact such by-laws as it deems necessary to facilitate the operation of Student Association by a 2/3 vote of the total voting membership.

Sec. 10. Shall have the power to amend the By-laws of the Constitution by a 2/3 vote of the total membership.

Article IV. The Campus Ministry Commission (CMC)

Sec. 1. The Campus Ministry Commissioners shall preside over the Campus Ministry Commission.

Sec. 2. The Campus Ministry Commission shall consist of several organizations as determined by the Campus Pastors, Campus Ministry Commissioners, and the organization leaders.

Sec. 3. The Campus Ministry Commissioners shall be selected by the Campus Pastors, the Student Association President and Vice President, the previous CMC Commissioners, and with the approval of the Student Senate.

Sec. 4. The Campus Ministry Commissioners shall have a term of office of one year starting from the first Tuesday of April.

Sec. 5. The Campus Ministry Commission will have the power and authority to set up subcommittees as deemed necessary.

Sec. 6. The Campus Ministry Commission Budget Advisory Board (CMCBAB) shall consist of nine members. Four will be appointed by the Student Association President and the Student Senate Chair from the Student Senate members. One appointment will be made to represent each class. Three appointments will be made by the Campus Ministry Commission from the student body at large. The two Campus Ministry Commissioners will also serve on the CMCBAB.

Sec. 7. The members of the CMCBAB will have a term of office for one academic year starting on the first day of the academic year.

Sec. 8. The Campus Ministry Commission shall receive their funds from the CMCBAB. The CMCBAB draws 10% of the Student Activity Fee revenue less the budgets for The Concordian and The Cobber yearbook.

Article V. The Judicial Council

Sec. 1. Membership: There shall be five members of the council chosen by the Student Association President and approved by the Student Senate. One of these five members shall be designated Chief Justice by the President with approval of the senate. Justices shall be appointed one week after the inauguration of the Student Association President and shall serve a one-year term.

Sec. 2. Shall dictate binding decisions and be the final authority in Student Association judicial matters.

Sec. 3. Shall establish an official interpretation of the Student Association Constitution and By-laws through ruling on any cases pertaining to these documents.

Sec. 4. Shall hear all cases pertaining to Student Association elections.

Sec. 5. Shall rule on any case affecting Student Association, the Council of Commissioners, the Student Senate, and any subcommittees thereof.

Sec. 6. Shall rule on all cases in which a student challenges Student Association government and its officials.

Sec. 7. Shall hear all cases within two weeks of their submission to the Chief Justice.

Sec. 8. Only Concordia College personnel, students, or persons with prior approval of the judicial branch shall be present at hearings.

Sec. 9. Shall have the power to make revisions to the Student Association Constitution based on a four-fifths majority vote by the Judicial Council with all five justices voting, provided the revision(s);

Cl. 1. Make(s) editorial changes in style, punctuation, and/or grammar;

Cl. 2. Makes the text of the Constitution gender neutral by removing masculine and feminine personal pronouns;

Cl. 3. Removes present constitutional provisions made obsolete by changes in the Articles of Incorporation and/or the Student Rights and Responsibilities Document;

Cl. 4. Is directly related to a constitutional amendment which has been adopted through the means provided by the Student Association Constitution in Article IX; or

Cl. 5. Embodies the text of all past amendments to various sections of the Constitution.

Article VI. The Removal of Student Association Officials

Sec. 1. Any official may be removed from office for just cause - not fulfilling the duties of office, violating the Constitution, dismissal from the college, or conduct unbecoming of an official of the Student Association.

Sec. 2. Removal of Elected Officials-Recall

Cl. 1. Recall procedures may be initiated by a petition of the Student Association members containing no less than 15 percent of the elected official's constituency.

Cl. 2. Petitions must be taken before the Judicial Council for verification of the signatures.

Cl. 3. The Judicial Council will send the recall petition to the constituency of the elected person for a vote.

Cl. 4. If a majority of the constituents voting in the election favor the official's removal from office, the elected official shall be removed from office immediately and the position filled within two weeks by special election.

Sec. 3. Removal of Appointed Officials.

Cl. 1. Recall procedures may be initiated by a petition of the Student Association members containing no less than fifteen (15) percent of the Student Association membership.

Cl. 2. Petitions must be taken before the Student Senate for verification of the signatures.

Cl. 3. Removal of these officials will occur if a majority of the total membership of the senate votes for recall, effective immediately.

Cl. 4. This vacancy can be filled by a new appointment and approval of the appropriate officials.

Cl. 5. The Student Senate shall have the power to remove the treasurer, secretary, a commissioner, or a justice from office by a majority vote of the total membership and to override any executive veto to remove a commissioner or a justice by a 2/3 vote of the total membership.

Article VII. Activity Fee Policy

Sec. 1. Admission Requirements

Cl. 1. No form of admission fee shall be required of students attending an event or film sponsored in part or in whole through activity fee funding, with the exception of the spring festival in which a reasonable admission fee deemed appropriate by a majority of both the Council of Commissioners and the Student Senate may be implemented.

Cl. 2. Senate loans shall not constitute activity fee funding. Therefore, an event which only receives loans as sponsorship from Senate may require an admission charge.

Sec. 2. Student Association Reserve Fund

Cl. 1. The Student Association Reserve Fund (SARF) will consist of all previously allocated but unspent activity fee funds from the previous fiscal year and the previous SARF balance.

Cl. 2. A contribution will be made to the SARF only after the cash journals for that year have been closed.

Cl. 3. In order for funds to be removed from the SARF, the president must make a proposal to the Student Senate which must be ratified by the Senate with a 2/3 majority vote of the voting membership.

Cl. 4. In the event that a bill is received from the previous fiscal year after the cash journals have been closed, the Student Business Office (SBO) Treasurer has the authority to remove funds from the SARF to pay the bill.

Cl. 5. The SBO Treasurer will be responsible for reflecting the amount of money in the SARF each month and, upon the event of a change in the balance, in a report to the President and Vice President

Sec. 3. Emergency Reserve Fund

Cl. 1. The Emergency Reserve Fund (ERF) will consist of all carry forward dollars from the previous fiscal year and the continuing ERF balance.

Cl. 2. In order for the funds to be removed from the ERF, the Student Senate may request a transfer of funds, which must be approved by the President and Vice President.

Cl. 3. The SBO Treasurer will be responsible for reflecting the amount of money in the ERF each week in a separate section of the revenue and allocation report.

Sec. 4. Senate Loans and Charitable Donations

Cl. 1. Senate may make loans to any registered organization with the understanding that the full amount will be repaid to the Senate regardless of the specific event's success.

Cl. 2. If the organization is unable to repay the full amount of the loan, remaining funds of the organization controlled by Concordia College will be seized to cover the loan.

Cl. 3. The use of activity fee funds for the purpose of making a direct donation to a charitable organization is prohibited.

Sec. 5. The Student Stipend Committee (The S.S.C)

Cl. 1. Shall be a standing committee under the Legislative Branch of the Student Association leadership.

Cl. 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.

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

Cl. 4. The S.S.C. will not take part in setting the stipend levels for the positions within and The Concordian and The Cobber yearbook.

Cl. 5. The Student Affairs Committee shall submit a stipend proposal to the senate for ratification.

Cl. 6. A simple majority vote is required for ratification of the Student Affairs Committee's proposal.

Cl. 7. Lacking ratification, the proposal shall be referred back to the Student Affairs Committee for further consideration.

Cl. 8. Lacking ratification, after each proposal, the Student Affairs Committee shall return to Senate with a revised proposal within two Senate meetings.

Cl. 9. The stipend levels set by the Student Affairs Committee will be for the positions to be filled during the general spring election of the current academic year.

Cl. 10. The Student Affairs Committee's ratified budget shall be binding for the following academic year and distributed in equal proportions once each semester during the following academic year.

Article VIII. Initiative, Referendum, Amendment

Sec. 1. Initiative

Cl. 1. Any Student Association member may propose legislation by presenting a petition to the President signed by no less than ten percent of the members of the Student Association.

Cl. 2. An initiated measure must be published in The Concordian at least once before the student body votes upon it.

Cl. 3. Such an initiative must be submitted to a vote of the members of Student Association within no more that twenty business days after a petition has been presented to the President.

Cl. 4. The measure must receive a two-thirds majority of those electors voting in the special election to become binding.

Sec. 2. Referendum

Cl. 1. Any measure passed by the Council of Commissioners, the Student Senate, or a subcommittee thereof, may, by a majority of the total membership of any of the above, be referred to the members of Student Association for their approval or disapproval.

Cl. 2. The Student Association may call for a referendum against any measure passed by the Council, the Senate, or a subcommittee thereof by presenting a petition to the President, which is signed by no less than ten percent of the members of the Student Association.

Cl. 3. A referred measure must be published at least once in The Concordian prior to the vote of the members of Student Association.

Cl. 4. Such a referendum must be submitted to a vote of the members of the Student Association within no more than twenty business days after a referred measure has passed or a petition has been presented to the President.

Cl. 5. The measure must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes in the special election and becomes binding immediately upon passage.

Sec. 3. Amendment

Cl. 1. This Constitution may be amended either by methods of initiative or referendum.

Cl. 2. Amendments will become effective at the time when the election results are presented

Article IX. Ratification of the Constitution

Sec. 1. The Student Association Constitution shall become effective immediately upon its ratification by a 2/3 majority of the members of Student Association voting in the special election.

Sec. 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.