



Student Body Constitution
Eastern Illinois University Student Government
Fall 2004
Revised Spring 2014

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Eastern Illinois University, desiring to maintain academic freedom, academic responsibility, student rights, and to foster the recognition of the rights and responsibilities of students to the University and Community, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the Student body of Eastern Illinois University. This Constitution shall supersede any Rules or Bylaws adopted by any student governing boards, except when in conflict with university, state, and federal policies.

ARTICLE I

A. Composition

1. The Student Government, which will consist of three branches, shall represent the student body: the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

ARTICLE II - Legislative Branch

A. Duties

1. The Legislative Branch shall consist of the Student Senate, hereafter referred to as the Senate.
2. The primary function of the Senate shall be to represent the Student Body of Eastern Illinois University and improve student life through the passage of bills and resolutions.
3. The Senate shall designate rules and bylaws that it deems appropriate for the administration of the Legislative Branch, in accordance with Article IX: Rules and Bylaws Adoption.

B. Composition

1. The Senate shall consist of thirty Student Senators, hereafter referred to as Senators, representing the full Student Body.
2. A Senator must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5, and be a full-time student in good disciplinary standing with the University.
3. The Student Senate Bylaws shall determine other eligibility requirements.

C. Meetings

1. Regular meetings of the Senate shall be held at least once per week during the fall and spring semesters, at the discretion of the Speaker of the Senate.
2. Special Meetings shall be convened by the Student Body President or the Speaker of the Senate in accordance with public law.
3. A quorum shall be defined as 50% plus one voting member as stated in the Student Senate bylaws.
4. All meetings shall be open to the public except when closed by two-thirds majority vote of the membership and in accordance with public law.
5. Meetings shall be presided over by the Speaker of the Senate and shall be governed by this Constitution and all Rules or Bylaws adopted by the Senate.

D. Responsibilities

1. The Senate shall act as the representative voice of the Student Body.
2. The Senate shall approve all student appointments, including appointments to Student/faculty boards, committees, councils, the Student Supreme Court, University and Housing Judicial Boards and University Board Chair and Vice Chair all by two-thirds majority vote of the membership of the Senate.
3. In addition, the Senate shall approve the Student Government Budget two-thirds majority vote.
4. The Senate shall recommend passage or failure of all tuition and fee increase proposals.
5. In the allocation of Student Activity Fees, the Senate shall determine the amount and usage of student fee money as well as approve or reject all budget recommendations made by the Apportionment Board by a two-thirds majority vote..
6. The Senate shall elect a Speaker a minimum of once per semester.
 - a. The Speaker may attend all Executive meetings.
 - b. The Speaker shall be a full-time student.
 - c. The eligibility requirements and duties of the Speaker shall be governed by
7. Rules or Bylaws adopted by the Student Senate.
8. d. The Speaker shall be responsible for maintaining the records of the Legislative Branch.

E. Removal

1. The Senate is empowered to remove any Student Body Executive Officer, Student Supreme Court Justice, University Judicial Board member for violating the Student Body Constitution, the Rules, or the Bylaws of said body.
2. Removal shall be by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership of the Senate.
3. The Senate is also empowered to remove from office any student member on student/faculty boards and councils and Student Government agencies after recommendations by the chairperson of the organization or by the Student Body President.
4. Procedure for removal shall be defined in Rules and Bylaws.
5. The removed party may appeal to the Student Supreme Court, who may overturn the decision of the Senate only when the removal process is conducted in violation of

ARTICLE III – Executive Branch

A. Duties

1. The Executive Branch shall exercise administrative and managerial power over the programs and policies created by the Student Government.
2. Executive Officers shall be required to attend all Student Government Meetings. An accumulation of three (3) absences per semester will be grounds for impeachment.
3. Executive Officers who fail to respond to the opening roll call or the Adjournment roll call will receive one(1) half absence per missed roll call.

B. Compensation

1. Executive Officers may be compensated by an amount that shall not exceed \$2,500 per semester or \$5,000 per year.
2. The Executive Officer scholarship shall be reviewed by the Senate every three years for evaluation.
3. The Senate shall develop Rules or Bylaws that shall indicate the amount of the compensation, the procedures for compensation, the type of compensation, and the procedures for compensation in the case that an executive officer is removed and/or resigns from office.

4. Changes in the amount of compensation shall not affect Student Body Executive Officers until the next regular election of student body executives.

C. Evaluation, Review, and Final Report

1. All Executive Officers shall be evaluated three (3)-weeks prior to the conclusion of the fall semester.
2. The evaluation of the Executive Officers shall be headed by the Student Supreme Court.
3. The purpose of this evaluation will be for administration, faculty, staff, and students to evaluate the performance of each Executive Officer and outline goals for the future.
4. These sessions and all related materials shall be made open and available to the public.
5. Each Executive Officer shall submit a final report to Student Government archives.

D. Executive Branch Meetings and Rules of the Executive Branch

1. The Executive Branch shall meet at least twice per month at the discretion of the Student Body President.
2. Meetings shall be presided over by the Student Body President. Executive Branch meetings shall be open in accordance with public law.
3. Agendas for this meeting must be made available at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the start of the meeting.
4. The Executive Branch may not adopt rules unless a quorum of three (3) executives is present.
5. The Executive Branch shall have the power to adopt rules deemed necessary or convenient for the execution of its business. Details for Executive Rules can be found in Article IX: Rules and Bylaws Adoption.

E. Composition

1. The Student Body President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Student Body.
2. The other Student Body Executive Officers shall be the Student Body Executive Vice President, Student Body Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Body Vice President for Student Affairs.

3. A Student Body Executive Officer must be a full-time student (12 semester hours for undergraduate students and 9 semester hours for graduate students for the entire spring and fall semester), have a cumulative GPA of 2.5, and be in good disciplinary standing with the University.
4. The line of succession to the Presidency shall be defined as the following: Executive Vice President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Student Affairs and Speaker of the Student Senate.
5. In the event that the Executive Vice President succeeds to the Office of Student Body President due to resignation or removal, the Executive Vice President shall retain the position of Student Trustee.
6. In the case of a vacancy in any Student Body Executive Office other than the Student Body President, the President shall fill said vacancy by appointment, subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote by the Senate. This appointment will be temporary.
7. The President's appointment shall remain in office until the *next* regular election.

F. Powers and Duties

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

- A. The Student Body President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Student Body and shall determine the general policy of the Executive Branch of Student Government by exercising administrative supervision of the branch's five areas: Office of the President, Public Affairs, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Business Affairs.
- B. The President shall, in person or through an appointed representative, officially represent the Student Body at any function within or outside of the University.
- C. The President shall be responsible for organizing and filing information pertaining to the University and bearing relevance to present or future Student Government activities and act to make such records public.
- D. The President shall appoint Justices to the Student Supreme Court, the University Judicial Board and the Student Elections Commissions.
- E. Further, the President may remove a Student Government appointed student Chairperson or member from a student/faculty board or council, subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.
- F. The President shall create an Executive Commission when deemed necessary, deliver the State of the University Address at least once per semester, deliver special addresses to the

Senate when deemed necessary, make appointments to committees as requested by external bodies, and may call special meetings of the Senate for a specific purpose.

- G. In the form of an Executive Opinion, the Student Body President may make comments and/or recommendations on issues affecting students.
- H. Executive Opinions shall be recognized as being authorized solely through the Office of Student Body President.
- I. The President may veto any action taken by the Senate within the jurisdiction of Student Government except parliamentary procedure.
- J. A veto must be delivered by the meeting following the meeting where the vetoed action was passed by the Senate and is subject to reversal by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senators present.
- K. The President shall convene at least two (2) Student Body Executive Officer meetings every thirty days.
- L. The public may attend these meetings.
- M. The President shall be responsible for meeting at least twice a month with the faculty advisor to Student Government.
- N. The President shall be responsible for meeting at least twice a month with the University Vice President for Student Affairs, and once a month with the University President.
- O. The Student Body President shall be an ex-officio member of committees, boards, councils, and task forces within the University President's area that function under shared governance policies.
- P. The President shall be responsible for meeting at least twice a month with the Chief Justice of the Student Supreme Court and once a month with the Student Supreme Court advisor and serve as a liaison between the three branches when necessary.
- Q. The Student Body President shall be charged with the task of overseeing the preparations and performance of First Night and Inauguration of the Senate.
- R. The Student Body President will be responsible for holding a review of the Speaker of Senate Election Process two week before the speaker election.

STUDENT BODY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

- A. The Student Body Executive Vice President shall be the Chief Public Affairs Officer of the Student Body and shall assist the President in determining the general policy of the Public Affairs Area.

- B. Moreover, these powers shall be supplemented with authority to assist the President in the formulation and execution of Executive Branch policies and ex-officio membership on all executive commissions.
- C. The Executive Vice President shall be the Student Trustee to the Eastern Illinois
- D. University Board of Trustees as defined by the State of Illinois, maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.5.
- E. He or she shall keep the President informed of the business of said Board and shall function in his or her capacity during the summer semester of his or her term regardless of enrollment status.
- F. The Executive Vice President shall serve as, or appoint, a Student Representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee and shall appoint an alternate voting member subject to a two thirds majority vote of the Senate as defined by the State of Illinois and Board of Higher Education.
- G. The Executive Vice President shall, at the first or second Senate meeting of the fall semester, appoint the Student Body City Council Representative with a seat on the Charleston, Illinois, and City Council with the right to debate as defined by city ordinance.
- H. This appointment shall be subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.
- I. City Council Representative shall report to the Executive Vice President within seven days of each meeting of the City Council.
- J. Such reports shall contain matters pertaining jointly to the city and the University and any legislation pending before the City Council.
- K. All such reports must also be submitted to the Senate.
- L. The Executive Vice President shall provide direction for the Student Action Team and appoint student members subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate as defined by the Student Lobbying Team Act.
- M. The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for meeting at least once a month with the faculty advisor to Student Government.
- N. The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for meeting with the University Director of Governmental Affairs.
- O. The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for maintaining the records of the Executive Branch.

STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- A. The Student Body Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be the Chief Academic Officer of the Student body and shall assist the President in determining the general policy of the Academic Affairs area.
- B. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall exercise administrative supervision of the University Grade appeals System and act as a counsel for students seeking such appeals and shall be an ex-officio member of committees, boards, councils and task forces within the University Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Area that function under shared governance policies.
- C. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall serve as a voting member of the Council on Academic Affairs.
- D. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall receive reports from those boards and councils under administrative supervision within the Student Government Academic Affairs Area and shall report on the activities of said boards and councils to the Senate as needed.
- E. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall exercise administrative supervision of the Council of Student Deans, meet with the council, on a regular basis, as defined by Executive Rules.
- F. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be responsible for coordinating a joint meeting between the Deans of the Colleges and the Council of Student Deans at least once a semester.
- G. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be responsible for meeting at least once a month with the faculty advisor to the Student Government.
- H. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall meet at least twice a month with the University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- I. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be charged with the task of overseeing the preparations and performance of the Students Distinguished Professor Award .

STUDENT BODY VICE-PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

- A. The Student Body Vice President for Student Affairs shall be the Chief Student
- B. Affairs Officer and the chief Fiscal Officer of the Student Body and shall assist the President in determining the general policy of the Student and Business Affairs Area
- C. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall exercise administrative supervision over, appoint student members to, and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees, boards,

councils, and task forces within the University Vice President for Student Affairs and University Vice President for Business Affairs area that function under shared governance policies.

- D. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall assist, advise, and promote all Recognized Student Organizations.
- E. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall consult with the leaders of the Legislative and Executive Branches and assist in drawing up their respective itemized budgets for the next fiscal year.
- F. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall serve as the Chairperson of the Apportionment Board, maintaining all records of the Board in accordance with the rules and bylaws of the Apportionment Board and public law.
- G. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall provide weekly budget updates of Student Activity Fee-funded boards to the Senate.
- H. Vice President for Student Affairs shall review all Student Government expenditures, requiring Senate approval, before being proposed.
- I. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall regularly review and audit any and all financial records and expenditures involving Student Activity Fee funded boards, and shall reserve the right to audit and review any and all financial records involving student fee funded budgets.
- J. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall serve as an ex-officio member of, and attend all meetings of, the Senate Tuition and Fee Review Committee.
- K. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall be responsible for meeting at least once a month with the faculty advisor to the Student Government.
- L. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall meet at least twice a month with the university Student Life Director and once a month with the University Vice President for Student Affairs and the University Vice President for Business Affairs and at least once a month with the advisor to the Apportionment Board.
- M. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall be charged with the task of overseeing the preparations and performance of Pantherpalooza and Panther Service Day.

ARTICLE IV – Judicial Branch

A. Powers

1. All Judicial powers herein granted shall be vested in the Student Supreme Court of Eastern Illinois University.
2. The Student Supreme Court shall be the court of original and final jurisdiction in cases of constitutionality, constitutional matters (both internal and external) regarding registered student organizations, and the approval of registered student organization constitutions.
3. The Student Supreme Court shall be the court of original and final jurisdiction in cases involving the Student Bill of Rights.
4. The Student Supreme Court shall be the court of final jurisdiction in all cases of contested elections/recalled elections, and “no confidence” votes for student government and constitutional referendums.

B. Composition

1. The Student Supreme Court shall be composed of four associate Justices and a Chief Justice.
2. When required, a new Chief Justice will be selected by a simple majority vote of the court at the first meeting of a newly seated Bench.
3. The Chief Justice shall be the presiding officer and shall reserve full voting privileges.
4. When appointed, Justices will retain her or his seat for a 2 year concurrent span as long as they abide by and meet the standards of a justice. After which they will have to reapply for the position.
5. They shall not be a member of another part of the disciplinary process in any capacity and shall not concurrently hold any other position within Student Government. They shall maintain a 2.50 cumulative grade point average and be in good disciplinary standing with the University.
6. Justices with a significant conflict of interest in a case shall not participate in the hearing.
7. A Justice may disqualify himself or herself, or a Justice may be disqualified by a vote of three Justices.
8. Appointment of Justices shall be the responsibility of the Student Body President, subject to confirmation by a two-thirds majority vote by the Senate.
9. The President shall not fill more than three vacancies during his or her term of office.

10. If more than three vacancies occur during a President's term, the President will establish a judicial selection committee. The procedure for establishment of a judicial selection committee shall be defined in the bylaws.

11. The term of office shall be as long as the appointed Justice remains a student at Eastern Illinois University, but not to exceed two years. A Justice must be an undergraduate student while they are seated. The procedure for removal shall be defined in the bylaws.

12. A Justice may resign by submitting a written resignation to the Student Body President who will approve it and forward it to the Court Advisor.

13. The quorum of the Court shall be a majority of the Justices and concurrence of the quorum shall be necessary to reach a decision.

C. Advisor

1. The University Vice President for Student Affairs shall appoint the Court Advisor.

2. The appointed individual shall not be a member of or advisor to any part of the University disciplinary process and shall be an ex-officio member of the Court.

3. All cases must be submitted to the Advisor who will then keep an accurate log and refer the cases to the Court.

4. The Advisor shall receive a copy of all correspondence pertaining to actions taken by the Court and shall be present or represented at all hearings.

5. The advisor shall be responsible for maintaining the records of the Judicial Branch.

D. Removal

1. Justices shall be removed if the Justice falls below the stated grade point average, is no longer in good disciplinary standing, fails to complete their mandatory judicial duties, acts against the best interest of the court or student government, or for any other extraordinary circumstances.

2. A Senate hearing for the removal of a justice can be initiated by a simple majority vote of the senate or by an 80% (4 out of 5) vote of the court, not a simple court quorum.

3. A Justice may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate after a hearing before that body.

4. The Chief Justice, Student Body President, and Speaker of the Senate shall set a time and place of said hearing and notify the Justice in question and Senators of the hearing at least forty-eight hours in advance of the hearing time.

5. The procedure for removal shall be defined in Rules or Bylaws.

ARTICLE V – Voter Classification

A. Eligibility

1. All Students enrolled in Eastern Illinois University shall be eligible to vote in the Student Government elections.

B. Voting

1. All students may vote in Student Body Executive Officer elections and all Senate Elections.

ARTICLE VI - General Powers

A. General Powers

1. The Student Government, through powers granted and procedures established by this Constitution, shall have authority over all areas previously listed herein plus the following areas, except where the exercise of such power would violate this Constitution and or the Eastern Illinois University Board of Trustees' administrative policies, state laws, or national laws.
2. The Student Government shall not be denied shared governance powers in the administration of student conduct on campus, in the allocation of all student activity fees, in recommending policy on use of all buildings paid for in any part by student fees, and in any monetary change of all student fees and tuition with the exception of course fees.

B. Continuity of Responsibility

1. Actions of the Student Government and all of its entities will be binding upon and assumed by the future Student Government and all of its entities, until or unless such actions are altered or repealed by normal parliamentary procedure. The only exception to this is resolutions, which are non-binding.

ARTICLE VII – Division of Powers

1. A Student Body Executive Officer, Student Senator, Student Supreme Court Justice, University Board Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, or University disciplinary member shall not hold more than one of the above stated offices concurrently.
2. Student Body Executive Officer may not serve as a member of University Board or as a Resident Assistant during their term in office.

3. A Student Body Executive Officer, Senator, Supreme Court Justice, or University disciplinary member shall not serve concurrently in any of the following capacities: Editor of the campus newspaper; station manager of the campus radio or television stations, or, in any way, the Chief Executive Officer of any regular news media supported by student fees excluding the campus yearbook and campus literacy publications.
4. A Student Body Executive Officer, Senator, or Supreme Court Justice may not serve concurrently as the Chief Executive Officer of any fee funded board with the exception of the Student Body Vice President for Student Affairs who shall function in such capacity over the Apportionment Board.

ARTICLE VIII – Amendments to the Constitution

Proposal

1. An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed by one of three methods: proposal submitted to the Senate or, proposal by initiative, or proposal by Constitutional Review Commission.
2. Proposal by initiative.
 - a. Constitutional revisions may be submitted for ratification by initiative by presenting a petition with signatures of 10% of the Student Body to the Elections Commission in accordance with The Elections Reform Act.
3. Proposal by submission to the Senate.
 - a. Constitutional revisions may be submitted for ratification by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership of the Senate.
 - b. Proposals must be tabled for at least one week before being voted upon by the Senate.
4. Proposal by Constitutional Revision.
 - a. A two-thirds majority vote of the membership of the Senate is required to convene a Constitutional Review Commission.
 - b. Once the Senate approves the establishment of a Constitutional Review Commission, it is the responsibility of the Student Body President to appoint a seven-person commission within fifteen days consisting of Senators, Student Government Executive Officers, and students who are neither Senators nor Student Government Executive Officers.
 - c. The Senate may then approve the President's appointments with a majority of the membership of the Senate.

A. Process

1. Copies of all proposed amendments and/or revisions shall be made available to the Student Body and the campus media.
2. The proposed amendments, regardless of method of initiation, shall be submitted to the Elections Commission in accordance with The Elections Reform Act.
3. After proposal by one of the three (3) methods above, proposed revisions shall be placed on the ballot for a student referendum.
4. Revisions shall be ratified after approval by a two-thirds majority of those students who cast votes on the proposed revision.

C. Clerical Revisions

1. The Senate shall be empowered to adopt linguistic and corrective changes in the event of errors and misspellings found in this document. Changes cannot alter or change the substance of any sentence. These changes shall be subject to a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate.

ARTICLE IX – Rules and Bylaws Adoption

A. Senate Bylaws

1. The Senate shall be empowered to adopt such rules, bylaws, and regulations deemed necessary and convenient for the execution of its functions through the procedures 12 established in this Constitution provided such rules, bylaws, and regulations do not conflict with this Constitution.
2. The bylaws shall govern only the Senate, except in cases specifically authorized by the Student Body Constitution.

B. Executive Rules

1. Executive Rules shall be adopted in a Senate bill form by a majority vote of the membership of the Executive Branch, pending approval by a majority of the membership of the Senate.
2. The Senate may not amend the proposed rule. These Rules shall govern only the Executive Branch of the Student Government, unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.
3. Rules adopted shall not conflict with the Student Body Constitution, University policy, or public law.

C. Supreme Court Rules

1. Supreme Court Rules shall be adopted by a majority vote of the membership of the Supreme Court, pending approval by a majority of the membership of the Senate in Senate bill form.
2. The Senate may not amend the proposed rule. These Rules shall govern only the Judicial Branch of the Student Government, unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.
3. Rules adopted shall not conflict with the Student Body Constitution, University policy, or public law.

D. Student Activity Fee-Funded Boards and Councils

1. Amendments to the Rules, Bylaws, and Regulations of Student Activity Fee-funded Boards shall be subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the membership of the Senate.
2. All Student Activity Fee- funded Board meetings shall include audience participation.
3. The organizations may make reasonable time restrictions on audience participation in accordance with parliamentary procedure.