

# **Student Government Constitution**

## **Article I. Student Body**

### Section 1.

The Student Body shall consist of those persons who are registered as Coe students and who pay the Student Activity Fee.

### Section 2.

The constitutional rights and privileges of the Student Body are:

- A. The right to establish and amend the Constitution of the Student Government.
- B. The right to elect a President and Vice President of the Student Body.
- C. The right to elect Student Senators henceforth referred to as Senators.
- D. The right to vote in elections and on referenda.
- E. The right to recall members of the Student Government.
- F. The right to petition the Student Government.

### Section 3.

The Student Government shall hold as bylaws the Student Government Bylaws. The Senate may ratify, amend, or suspend these bylaws by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting.

### Section 4.

The Student Senate shall hold as standing rules the Student Government Standing Rules. The Senate may ratify, amend, or suspend these standing rules by a simple majority vote of those present and voting.

### Section 5.

The Student Senate shall hold as rules of order the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution, the Student Government Bylaws, or the Student Government Standing Rules. In accordance with Robert's Rules, these rules may be suspended for the current meeting by a simple majority vote of those present and voting.

## **Article II. Members of the Student Senate**

### Section 1.

The Student Senate shall be composed of the following:

- A. Four representatives from Armstrong Hall.
- B. Three representatives from Douglas Hall.
- C. Four representatives from Murray Hall.
- D. Five representatives from Greene Hall.

- E. Four representatives from Voorhees Hall.
- F. Eight representatives from the "Apartments District." This district shall consist of Kohawk Village, Morris House, Brandt House, Spivey House, Schlarbaum House, Hampton Court East (1263) Apartments, Hampton Court West (1261) Apartments, E-Avenue Apartments, 8-plex, 4-plex, Coe (A25 and A26) Apartments, Whipple Fire House, and Coe owned houses intended for student residence.
- G. Two representatives from off-campus housing.
- H. At-large seats as administered by Article IV, Section 5 of this Constitution.

### **Article III. The Committee on Elections**

#### Section 1.

There shall exist within the Student Senate a Committee on Elections

#### Section 2.

The Committee on Elections shall determine and implement fair election practices.

- A. Election practices determined and implemented by the Committee on Elections shall be subject to overrule by a two-thirds vote of Senators at the meeting immediately following the determination of the Committee on Elections.

#### Section 3.

It shall be the duty of the Committee on Elections to certify the legitimacy of all candidates to be put on a ballot and any candidate.

### **Article IV. Qualifications, Election to, and Removal from Office - Student Senate**

#### Section 1.

Candidates for the Student Senate seats must:

- A. Be members of the Student Body.
- B. Be residents of the districts they are elected to represent.
- C. Submit a petition bearing ten unique signatures from residents of the district, or receive at least ten votes, if a write-in candidate.

#### Section 2.

Elected Senators shall take office at the Senate meeting immediately following their election.

#### Section 3.

The Student Senate may expel any member of the Senate for the remainder of the academic year by a four-fifths vote.

#### Section 4.

Each Senator shall be elected from and be a member of the district from which he or she is elected. All Senators shall seek to accurately represent the constituents of their district, or the Student Body as a whole in the case of at-large Senators. Senators are expected to live in and represent that district for the remainder of their term. Should a Senator seek to move out of the district from which they were elected:

- A. The Hall Council for the district the Senator represents shall decide within seven days of being given notice of the move whether or not they wish to relinquish that Senate seat to the Senator's new district.
- B. If no action is taken after the allotted time or if the Hall Council decides to relinquish the seat, the Senator shall keep his or her Senate seat and represent his or her new district.
  - a. If the seat is relinquished this way, then the first at-large seat to open shall be given to the relinquishing district to fill as per Article IV, Section 5.
- C. If the Hall Council decides not to relinquish the seat, then the Senator shall forfeit the seat upon moving, and a new Senator shall be appointed as per Article IV, Section 5.

#### Section 5.

If any vacancies occur within the Senate, the underrepresented district's Hall Council will be contacted by the Recording Secretary and given the option of filling the vacant positions. The Hall Council shall hold a meeting where a new Senator is elected, after which results of the election shall be reported back to the Recording Secretary. If the Hall Council does not appoint a new Senator within seven days, or in the case of seats of Senators from off-campus, an at-large election will be held to fill the vacancy as an at-large seat.

#### Section 6.

If fewer candidates stand for election in a district than that district's allocated number of Senators, the extra seats shall be converted to at-large seats.

#### Section 7.

Members of the Student Body may legally simultaneously cast a vote in the election for Senators from their district and for at-large seats.

#### Section 8.

A petition bearing the signatures of one-fifth of the members of a Senator's district shall force a recall referendum on the Senator. The Senator shall be recalled if four-fifths of the Senator's voting constituents vote in favor of the recall.

### **Article V. Qualifications, Elections to, and Removal from Office - Student Government Executives**

#### Section 1.

The Executive Committee of the Student Government shall have the responsibility for the Student Government. This responsibility shall be defined by the provisions of this Constitution,

the Student Government Bylaws, the Student Senate Standing Rules, and legislation of the Senate.

#### Section 2.

The Executive Committee of the Student Government shall consist of the elected President and Vice President of the Student Body and the four appointed offices: Treasurer of the Student Body, Communications Officer of the Student Senate, and the Recording Secretary of the Student Senate, and the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion. The Executive Committee shall also include the elected Chairperson of the Student Senate.

#### Section 3.

The President and Vice President of the Student Body shall appoint the Treasurer of the Student Body, Communications Officer of the Student Senate, and Recording Secretary of the Student Senate, and the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion at the first meeting after taking office. These appointees are then confirmed by a two-thirds majority vote of all Senators present and voting and shall take office immediately thereafter.

#### Section 4.

Candidates for President and Vice President of the Student body must:

- A. Be members of the Student Body.
- B. Have at least 12 academic credits, of which 8 must be from Coe, prior to their election.
- C. Be in good standing with Coe College policy.
- D. Submit a petition bearing the unique signatures of at least one-tenth of the Student Body.
- E. No Presidential or Vice Presidential candidates may be registered for study abroad programs during the spring or fall terms of their tenure of office.

#### Section 5.

Members of the Student Body may cast a vote for a single pair of candidates for President and Vice President.

#### Section 6.

A majority of votes cast shall be required for the election of President and Vice President.

#### Section 7.

In the event of a tie between candidates or an election in which no candidate receives a majority of votes cast, a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the most votes will be held not later than three days after the initial election to determine which of the candidates shall be elected.

#### Section 8.

No member of the Executive Committee of the Student Government shall be a member of the Student Senate nor serve two roles on the Executive Committee. If a member of the Student Senate accepts an appointment to an Executive Office, he or she must immediately resign as a member of the Student Senate.

#### Section 9.

- A. The Student Senate may recall a member of the Executive Board by a four-fifths vote.
- B. Members of the Executive Committee may also be removed by a referendum.
- C. If the President or Vice President of the Student Body is removed or resigns, an interim President or Vice President shall be appointed by the remaining elected official, and confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate. The interim shall finish the term with the remaining originally elected official.
- D. Other vacancies in the Executive Board shall be filled by appointment and confirmation pursuant to Article V, Section 3.

### **Article VI. Chairperson of the Student Senate**

#### Section 1.

The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the entire Student Senate in accordance with this Constitution, the Student Government Bylaws, the Student Senate Standing Rules, and the current version of Robert's Rules of Order.

#### Section 2.

##### Election of the Chairperson:

- A. The Chairperson shall be elected by a majority vote of those Senators present. This election shall occur at the first meeting of the Senate in the spring and fall. Election of the chairperson is to take place after attendance and before approval of minutes and agenda.
- B. The Chairperson may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting. If the Chairperson is removed, a new Chairperson must be elected before any further business occurs.

#### Section 3.

##### Absence of Chairperson:

- A. In the event of the Chairperson's absence, the Recording Secretary shall begin the meeting with attendance, then call for the election of a temporary Chairperson.
- B. This temporary office may be filled by any member of the Student Senate, and is elected by a majority vote of Senators present.
- C. This temporary Chairperson shall fulfill the responsibilities of the office for the duration of the absence of the Chairperson.

## **Article VII. Finances**

### **Section 1.**

#### **Source of Funds:**

- A. The amount of the Student Activity Fee shall be determined by the Student Senate. The fee shall be collected by the college Business Office each semester.
- B. All Student activity fees shall be added to the General Treasury of the Student Senate.
- C. Students who will be participating in academic programs which require residence outside the Cedar Rapids metro area shall receive a refund of the Student Activity Fee for the term.
  - a. Cedar Rapids metro area shall be defined by the discretion of the Treasurer.

### **Section 2.**

#### **Reserve Fund:**

- A. At the end of each semester, the remaining balance of Student Senate's unspent funds in the General Treasury and Student Organizations' budgets shall be transferred into the Reserve Fund.
- B. The Living Environment Committee must propose at least one project (any sort of project that enhances the campus or students' experience) per academic year to utilize unspent budgeted funds (rollback funds) from the previous academic year. The Living Environment Committee will propose projects to senate at large. Proposals that draw from these rollback funds must be approved by a majority vote of the Student Senate.
- C. Proposals drawing funds from the Reserve Fund must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate.

## **Article VIII. Student Body Referenda**

### **Section 1.**

A Referendum shall consist of a vote of the Student Body on some measure submitted to them by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate or a petition bearing the signatures of one-fourth of the Student Body. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee on Elections to administer all Student Body Referenda and the results shall be obligatory on the Student Body and Student Senate. Referenda shall pass only with two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting Student Body.

## **Article IX. Amendments to the Constitution**

### **Section 1.**

- A. A motion to amend the Constitution may be presented at any meeting of the Student Senate.

- B. Should two-thirds of those members present and voting agree to the proposed amendment, it shall be presented to the Student Body consideration.
- C. A favorable vote of two-thirds of the voting Student Body shall be necessary for amendments to the Constitution.

#### Section 2.

Members of the Student Body may propose an amendment to the Constitution by submitting a petition bearing the signatures of one-fourth of the Student Body to the Recording Secretary. Two-thirds of the Senators present and voting must approve the adoption of the amendment. Such a vote must be held within two Senate meetings after petitions are received by the Recording Secretary.

#### Section 3.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Article, the Committee on Constitutional Review may, by a majority vote, make any non-substantive amendment to the Constitution.

### **Article X. Ratification of the Constitution**

#### Section 1.

The approval of two-thirds of the members of the Student Senate or a petition bearing the signatures of one-fourth of the Student Body shall be sufficient for presentation of this Constitution of the Student Body.

#### Section 2.

Upon favorable vote of three-fourths of Senators present and voting and two-thirds of the Student Body, this Constitution shall be considered ratified.

#### Section 3.

Upon ratification, this Constitution will supersede the provisions and authority of all other constitutions.