

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

In order to provide an organized forum for the discussion of student concerns, champion the interest of students to the faculty and administration, support the traditions of academic excellence and freedom, and foster citizenship and involvement within the university community, we, the undergraduate students of Northwestern University, do ordain and establish the Constitution of the Associated Student Government of Northwestern University.

ARTICLE I

Section 1. All legislative powers shall be vested in the Senate.

Section 2. The Senate shall be composed of forty-nine Senators from each constituent state and each Senator shall have one vote. The apportionment of such Senators shall be as follows: the constituent state of the Residence Hall Association shall have ten, the Residential College Board five, the Interfraternity Council five, the Panhellenic Association five, the Student Athletic Advisory Committee one, the Off-Campus Students eight, and the Student Groups fifteen.

When vacancies happen in the representation from any constituent state, the executive authority thereof shall fill such vacancies in the manner prescribed by the legislature of the state, but the Senate may at any time by law make or alter such regulations.

Only undergraduate students of Northwestern University shall be Senators.

The Senate shall choose their speaker, treasurer and other officers and shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of all Senators.

Judgments in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office, and disqualification to hold any office of honor or trust under the Associated Student Government.

Section 3. The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators shall be prescribed in each constituent state by the legislature of the state; but the Senate may at any time by law make or alter such regulations.

Section 4. The Senate shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members; a majority shall constitute a quorum to do business and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as the Senate shall provide.

The Senate may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two thirds, expel members.

The Senate shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require privacy; and the ayes and nos of the members of the Senate on any question, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

Section 5. The Senate shall have the power to conduct all business in the interest of the undergraduate students of Northwestern University;

To distribute the Student Activities Fee to Student Groups recognized by the Associated Student Government;

To regulate all Student Groups recognized by the Associated Student Government;

To appoint the Financial Vice President;

To appoint justices to the Judicial Board;

To constitute courts inferior to the Judicial Board;

To make all policies of the undergraduate students of Northwestern University;

To, with the concurrence of two-thirds, declare any campus-wide election invalid and call for a new campus-wide election in the following week;

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Associated Student Government, or in any department or officer thereof.

ARTICLE II

Section 1. The executive power shall be vested in the President of the Associated Student Government. The President shall hold office during the term of one year, and, together with the Executive Vice President, Academic Vice President, Student Services Vice President, and Financial Vice President, comprise the Executive Office.

The President and Vice Presidents, excepting the Financial Vice President, shall be elected in an annual campus-wide election during the third week of Spring Quarter. The election shall be conducted by a secret ballot vote of Northwestern University undergraduate students. The Senate shall determine the day of the election. The Financial Vice President shall be selected by a special Financial Vice President selection committee and confirmed by the Senate.

In case of the removal of the President from office, or of resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the office, the same shall devolve on the Executive Vice President, and the Senate may by law provide for the case of removal, resignation, or inability both of the President and Executive Vice President, declaring what officer shall then act as President.

Before entering on the execution of the office, the President and Vice Presidents shall take an oath to uphold the Constitution of the Associated Student Government. The term of office shall begin upon taking the oath.

Section 2. The Executive Office shall be responsible for articulating the policy of the Associated Student Government as determined by the Senate.

The President of the Associated Student Government shall serve as the chief ambassador of the Northwestern University undergraduate students;

Accept full responsibility for any activities of and functions of the Associated Student Government;

Have the authority to execute and enforce all laws and policies of the Associated Student Government;

Commission officers of the Associated Student Government;

Appoint undergraduate students of Northwestern University to the University Hearing and Appeals System, the Sexual Assault Hearing and Appeals System, and the Conciliation Board, according to the Northwestern University Student Handbook, and notify the Senate when such appointments have been made.

The President shall from time to time provide the Senate with information on the state of the Government, and recommend to their consideration such measures as the President shall judge necessary and expedient.

The Executive Vice President of the Associated Student Government shall serve as the chief liaison between the Associated Student Government and all Student Groups, and may, with the approval of the Senate, commission officers of the Department of Student Group Administration of the Associated Student Government.

The Financial Vice President of the Associated Student Government shall serve as the financial liaison between the Associated Student Government and all Student Groups, administer to the Student Activities Fee, and may, with the approval of the Senate, commission officers of the Department of Student Group Finance of the Associated Student Government.

The Academic Vice President of the Associated Student Government shall serve as the ambassador of the Associated Student Government to the Northwestern University faculty and administration on all matters of academic interest, and may, with the approval of the Senate, commission officers of the Academic Department of the Associated Student Government.

The Student Services Vice President of the Associated Student Government shall serve as the ambassador of the Associated Student Government to the Northwestern University administration on all non-academic matters of student life, and may, with the approval of the Senate, commission officers of the Student Services Department of the Associated Student Government.

Section 3. The President, Vice Presidents, and all commissioned officers of the Associated Student Government, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, bribery, vacancy, or the failure to perform those duties prescribed in this Constitution or by act of Senate.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The judicial power of the Associated Student Government, shall be vested in one Judicial Board, and in such inferior courts as the Senate may establish.

Section 2. The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution and all acts of the Senate and Executive Office; and the Judicial Board shall have the sole power of impeachment.

The Judicial Board shall act as a special hearing board, as defined by the Northwestern University Student Handbook in cases of ethical or legal violations for which punitive measures other than

removal from office or censure are sought; of appeals of financial misconduct decisions and non-financial sanctions brought by a student group that is recognized by Senate; or similar appeals brought by an individual.

Section 3. The Judicial Board shall be composed of seven justices who are undergraduate students of Northwestern University serving two-year terms of office; the Judicial Board shall elect from its members a chief justice who is sworn in by oath to chair all meetings, hearings, and trials of the Judicial Board.

Justices shall not be current members of any Northwestern University-sponsored legislative or judicial body; presidents or treasurers of any Student Group recognized by the Senate; and shall not have served in either the Legislative or Executive Branches of the Associated Student Government in the same academic year as their election.

Justices shall recuse themselves from any case in which they have a personal interest in the outcome, as determined either by the individual justice or by a majority vote of the Judicial Board.

Section 4. In case of the removal of a justice from office, or of resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the office, the Senate shall hold a new election and fill the vacancy within two weeks of the vacancy occurring.

ARTICLE IV

The Senate, whenever ten members deem it necessary or on the petition of one-hundred undergraduate students of Northwestern University, shall propose amendments to this Constitution which, in either case, shall be valid as part of this Constitution when ratified by two-thirds of the Senate or when at least one-third of undergraduate students vote in a referendum, and a majority of those voting vote in favor of the amendment. When amendments are proposed the Senate shall hold at least one public forum for the amendment one week before the vote on the amendment.