

# CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PREAMBLE

We, the graduate and undergraduate students of Emporia State University, in order to establish a representative government, to encourage the development of leaders and participants for the campus, the community, and responsibilities of students in relation to the university, the community, and the general welfare of this institution, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution.

## ARTICLE I

Name

Membership

Purpose

Section 1. The name of the organization will be the Associated Students of Emporia State University.

1.1 The governing body of the Associated Students will be the Associated Student Government.

Section 2. All graduate and undergraduate students of Emporia State University will be members of the Associated Students and will be subject to this constitution and the enacted legislation of the Student Senate and its executive officers.

2.1 No person shall, on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, veteran status, or such other factors that cannot be considered lawfully be excluded from participation in the organization, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination by it under any program or activity within the organization.

Section 3. The purpose of the Associated Student Government will be:

3.1 To provide the means whereby the members of the student body may express themselves effectively through programs in areas which directly affect the general welfare of the student body in any aspect of the university experience in which they choose to participate.

3.2 To establish equitable representation and participation for the students in the governance of the university community.

3.3 To promote mutually beneficial cooperation among students, faculty, and administration in furthering the purposes for which the university was founded.

3.4 To promote democratic participation in the decisions of the university community.

- 3.5 To provide services of notable benefit to the Associated Students.

## **ARTICLE II**

### Officers

#### Section 1. Executive Branch of Associated Student Government

- 1.1 The executive branch of Associated Student Government will consist of the President and Vice-President who will hold office for the same term.
- 1.2 The executives will be elected during the latter half of the spring semester, with the exact date to be determined by the Senate, and hold office for a term of one (1) year beginning on the day following the school day of the academic year of their election and terminating the same date of the following year.
- 1.3 All candidates for the office of President or vice-president must:
- 1.31 Be enrolled as a full-time student at Emporia State University and, if elected, maintain full time enrollment status.
  - 1.32 Have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5.
  - 1.33 Submit a petition with signatures of fifteen percent (15%) of the Associated Students to the Senate.

#### Section 2. The President of Associated Student Government will:

- 2.1 Serve as the chief executive of the Associated Students.
- 2.2 Act as the official host and representative of the Associated Students.
- 2.3 Represent the concerns of the Associated Students to the Senate, the university administration, and the Kansas Board of Regents.
- 2.4 Have the power to sign Senate legislation or delete by veto such legislation or any part thereof provided that he/she acts within ten (10) school days of transmittal of the legislation by the vice-president.
- 2.5 Be responsible for implementing legislation enacted by the Senate.
- 2.6 Appoint and, if necessary, remove the chairpersons of the Senate, committees from within the Senate membership, with the approval of the Senate.
- 2.7 Preside over meetings of the cabinet and coordinate the performance of duties by the cabinet members.
- 2.8 Appoint and remove administrative assistants who will aid in the exercise of executive power.

- 2.9 Have the power to appoint students to vacant senate seats and staff positions as detailed in Article III, Section 3.2 of the Constitution of the Associated Students.
- 2.10 Have the power to nominate student representatives to all student/faculty boards, councils, and committees with the approval of the Senate, provided that these appointments are made no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> general meeting of the Associated Student Government.
- 2.11 Approve the annual students' services budget and a monthly account of all expenditures.
- 2.12 Have the power to call the Senate into emergency meetings upon proper notification of all senators within 24 hours of the meeting time, provided that a quorum is present.

Section 3. The Vice-President of Associated Student Government will:

- 3.1 Serve as President of the Senate.
- 3.2 Prepare the agenda for the Senate.
- 3.3 Forward all acts of the Senate to the office of the President of Associated Student Government within twenty-four (24) hours of their passage.
- 3.4 Assist the president in the performance of his/her duties.
- 3.5 Serve as a member of the cabinet.
- 3.6 Call Senate into emergency sessions upon proper notification of all senators within 24 hours of the meeting time.
- 3.7 Aid in the preparation of the Legislative Summary along with the Senate Operations Committee.

Section 4. The President Pro-Tempore of the Senate will:

- 4.1 Be elected by the Senators from among themselves by the third meeting of the fall semester.
  - 4.11 The term of office of the President Pro-Tempore will be from the date of election until the end of the academic term.
- 4.2 Preside over the Senate if the vice-president is unable to do so.
- 4.3 Serve as the parliamentarian of the Senate.
- 4.4 Be a member of the cabinet.

4.5 Maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher.

Section 5. The cabinet of the Senate will:

5.1 Be composed of the President, Vice-President, President Pro-Tempore, chairpersons of the Senate standing committees, Legislative Director, Executive Assistant, Recycling Director, and Treasurer. Its members shall include the President, Vice-President, President Pro-Tempore, and the chairpersons of the Senate standing committees.

5.2 The duties of the cabinet are to coordinate the activities and operations of student government, to assist the president in implementing legislation enacted by the Senate, and to communicate the progress of each committee.

Section 6. Succession

6.1 The insure continuous and orderly leadership for Associated Student Government, the following order and rule for succession will be followed.

6.11 If the President is unable to perform his or her duties for whatever reason, the Vice-President shall assume the office of the President.

6.12 If the Vice-President is unable to perform his or her duties, the senate President Pro-Tempore will then assume the duties of the Vice-President and face immediate senate confirmation.

6.13 If the senate President Pro-Tempore is unable to perform the duties of the Vice-President nominations will be made from the floor of the senate and the full senate will vote on the nominations.

6.131 The nominee must have two thirds (2/3) of the total vote.

6.14 If no nominee receives two thirds (2/3) of the first ballot, the nominees who placed first and second in the balloting will be placed on a ballot for a second vote.

6.141 The nominee receiving the most votes will be sworn in as Vice-President.

6.2 If the office of President Pro-Tempore becomes vacant, the Senate will elect a new President Pro-Tempore.

Section 7. Removal from Office

7.1 Any executive may be removed from office by impeachment that may be initiated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a regular meeting of the Senate.

7.2 A three-quarters (3/4) vote of the Senate at the next regular meeting will result in the removal of the impeached.

7.3 Any executive may be removed from office by a popular recall election that may be initiated by petitions bearing the signatures of twenty percent (20%) of the student body which have been certified by the Senate Operations Committee.

- 7.31 Upon certification, the Senate will conduct an election of the Associated Students within three (3) weeks of the certification of the petitions.
- 7.4 Any executive may be subject to immediate removal by a two thirds vote of the cabinet. Just cause for immediate removal will be:
  - 7.42 Failure to comply fully with the Student Code of Conduct by decision of the Judicial Committee members.
  - 7.43 Failure to maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher.

**ARTICLE III**  
Student Senate

Section 1. Composition of the Student Senate

- 1.1 The Associated Students will be represented by senators from their respective academic schools or colleges, and will include those students who have not declared an academic major.
- 1.2 The recognized academic areas are School of Business, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, School of Library & Information Management, The Teacher's College, Graduate Studies, and Undeclared Majors.
- 1.3 The membership of the Student Senate will not exceed twenty-seven (27).
  - 1.31 This membership will be comprised of two (2) undeclared students, two (2) graduate students, and twenty-one (23) academic schools and colleges will be as follows:
    - 1.311 School of Business (7)
    - 1.312 The Teacher's College (7)
    - 1.313 College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (7)
    - 1.314 School of Library and Information Management (2)

Section 2. Qualifications and Responsibilities of a Senator

- 2.1 At the time of election or appointment and throughout the term of office, a senator must be a degree seeking student and will have and maintain a grade point average of at least 2.0, with the exception of first semester freshman, who have not yet established a grade point average.
- 2.2 A senator will be responsible for maintaining effective communication between the Student Senate and his/her constituency.

Section 3. Election & Appointment of Senators

- 3.1 All candidates for election to the office of senator must submit a petition of fifty (50) signatures of the members of their academic school or college.
- 3.2 The President of Associated Student Government shall have the power to appoint students to vacant positions.

- 3.21 These appointments will be received and be subject to approval by the Senate Operations Committee, who will then present the appointments to the Senate for confirmation, accompanied by a recommendation to accept or not to accept.
- 3.22 No vacancies by appointment may be filled until after the spring general election with the exception of Presidential or Vice-Presidential positions.

Section 4. Term of Office

- 4.1 The Senate will provide for an election in the latter half of each spring semester to determine the senators representative of each academic school or college.
  - 4.11 For the election, an election commissioner will be selected by the Senate and will be charged with the execution of the election in accordance with the current election regulations and under the supervision of the Senate Operations Committee.
- 4.2 The term of office of the Senators will begin on June 1 of the year of their election and terminate on the day following the termination of the academic year.
  - 4.21 Senators appointed will take office immediately upon appointment and terminate on the day following the termination of the academic year.

Section 5. The Student Senate will:

- 5.1 Be the legislative body of Associated Student Government
- 5.2 Enact, by majority vote, by-laws of the constitution to be known as the Rules of Procedure for Student Senate.
- 5.3 Have the power to recognize, rescind recognition and monitor student organizations in accordance with the current recognition policies.
  - 5.31 The Student Senate will not have the power to intercede in internal affairs of a recognized organization unless:
    - 5.311 The organization or a situation in that organization presents a threat to the well being of a student, students, Emporia State University, or the university's relationship with the community.
    - 5.312 The organization requests such intercession.
- 5.4 Have the power to regulate on-campus activities, official off campus assembly, and individuals in the interests of the university community.
- 5.5 Have the power to make rules and regulations necessary for proper administration of elections and installations of elected officials.
- 5.6 Have the ability to confirm or reject, by majority vote, the appointments of the president.

- 5.7 Have the power to propose amendments to the Constitution of the Associated Students.
- 5.8 Have the power to create committees which will investigate and report in any appropriate area of student life, and to carry out the legislative and student service programs of the Associated Students.
- 5.9 The committees will be responsible to the Student Senate and will be composed of and chaired by senators appointed by the President and Associated Student Government and will be confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student members present. The heads of student service agencies will be appointed and confirmed in the same manner.
- 5.10 Formulate and review budget policy as it applies to all Senate appropriations.
- 5.11 Appropriate monies from the student activities fee to organizations and activities according to the current finance policy.
- 5.12 Provide for the compilation and publication of legislation at the close of the spring semester, in order that the Associated Students be informed of the Senate members present.
- 5.13 Submit referenda to the Associated Students by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate members present.
- 5.14 Have the power to petition the president of Associated Student Government or the president of the Student Senate to call a special meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate members present.

Section 6. Committee Structure

- 6.1 The committee structure of the Student Senate shall be in accordance with the structure set forth in the committee policy of the Student Senate.

Section 7. Legislative Process

- 7.1 Legislation shall proceed with and transact in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Rules of Procedure for Student Senate.
- 7.2 All members of the Senate will have one vote; the President of the Senate is required to vote in case of a tie and will vote in only such a case.

Section 8. Meetings of Student Senate

- 8.1 The Student Senate will meet twice monthly during the months of September, October, November, February, and April.
  - 8.11 One meeting will be scheduled for the months of December, January, May, and August.

- 8.2 The meetings may be called by either executive officer preceding the fall legislative sessions.
- 8.4 The Rules of Procedure for Student Senate will govern the procedures of Senate meetings.
  - 8.41 *Robert's Rules of Order* will be consulted should the Senate's rules fail to address a specific situation.
- 8.5 The Standing Committees of the Senate will meet at least once a week while the Senate is in Session.
- 8.6 Absences during a legislative session will cause a senator to vacate his/her seat according to the current attendance policy of the Senate.
- 8.7 A quorum will be two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate roll.
- 8.8 The Senate will have at least two (2) advisors from the faculty or administration.
  - 8.81 One of these advisors should be present at all meetings of the Senate.
  - 8.82 These advisors will be appointed by the Senate with the approval of the president of the university.

Section 9. Executive Assistant

- 9.1 The Senate will have an Executive Assistant who will call the roll and record the minutes of the meetings and in conjunction with the President of the Senate count and record the official senate vote.

Section 10. Removal from Office

- 10.1 Any senator may be removed from office by impeachment that may be initiated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote as a regular meeting of the Senate or by a petition of ten percent (10%) of that Senator's constituents.
- 10.2 A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Senate at the next regular meeting will result in the removal of the impeached.
- 10.3 Any violation of Article III, Section 2.1 will result in automatic removal of a Senator.
- 10.4 Just cause for removal will be:
  - 10.41 Violation of or disregard for any part of the constitution or Associated Student Government.
  - 10.42 Failure to comply fully with the Student Code of Conduct by decision of the Judicial Committee members.

**ARTICLE IV**

Initiative  
Referendum

Section 1. The Associated Students may initiate a referendum by submitting petition of ten percent (10%) of the Associated Students.

**ARTICLE V**  
Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate or by initiation of the Associated Students as provided in Article V.

1.1 In either procedure, the amendment(s) must obtain a majority of votes cast in a campus-wide election. An amendment so passed will take effect the semester or summer session following its ratification.

**ARTICLE VI**  
Ratification

Section 1. This constitution will be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate and be ratified by a majority vote of those voting in a general campus election.

1.1 This constitution will take effect at the beginning of the next legislative session following ratification.

1.11 The Student Senate of this legislative year will be responsible for implementing this constitution.