Weber State University Student Association

Constitution

Ratified March 9, 2012

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Weber State University Student Association, in order to form a more effective association, ensure a representative and orderly system of self-governance, establish internal justice, promote and defend those inalienable rights and pursuant responsibilities common to all persons, as well as those provided by Federal, State and Institutional authorities, and to pursue the fulfillment of the mission of this institution do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Article I

Organizational Purpose and Responsibility

The Weber State University Student Association (WSUSA) has been established to provide for the general welfare of the students of Weber State University (WSU) through principles of self-governance and shared governance. The structure of WSUSA is designed to provide representative leadership; therefore, WSUSA officers shall promote the opinions and the interests of the student body as their voice and trusted representatives. WSUSA is intended to provide student participation in academic, administrative, and extracurricular decision making at WSU. WSUSA, along with the WSU Administration, is to ensure efficient and prudent use of student fees and oversee the student fee allocation process, which is to be approved by the WSU Board of Trustees and the Utah State Board of Regents. WSUSA shall provide quality opportunities for academic and extracurricular experiences as well as promote student involvement in university clubs, organizations, events, and activities. WSUSA officers shall perform with effectiveness any powers and/or responsibilities bestowed upon them by Administration, the Board of Trustees, or the Board of Regents. WSUSA shall also promote WSU in the community and establish relationships with the community for the betterment of the University and the benefit of the students.

Article II

Membership and Officer Eligibility

Section 1: WSUSA Member Definition

Any person who pays full or partial student fees is considered a member of WSUSA for the entirety of that academic semester until the commencement of the following semester, excluding summer semester.

Section 2: WSUSA Elected Officer Eligibility

Any full-time student of WSUSA who holds a WSU cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale at the time of elections may be elected to any of the elected offices. Full-time status for undergraduate students is defined as enrollment in at least 12 credit hours during the current semester. Full-Time status for graduate students is defined as enrollment in the required number of credit hours to be classified as a full-time matriculated or full-time degree seeking student, as duly established by the University. or the Completion of 24 credit hours equal to full-time status within the preceding Summer and Fall semesters and registration of the current Spring semester will also deem a student eligible to hold elected office.
The exceptions to this definition of status are:

1. Students registered with the Students with Disabilities department. These students full-time status shall be determined by the student and an Advisor from the Students with Disabilities department. Students in this situation will receive compensation in proportion to their status and registered class hours.

2. A transfer student from another accredited institution of higher education, or a future student who is not considered a transfer student. Said individual must be matriculated to WSU to start the following semester. Said students are only eligible candidates for WSUSA offices in the Legislative and Judicial branches.

Section 3: Appointment of WSUSA Offices
Any person may be appointed to any WSUSA offices under the following criteria:

1. Said individual must hold a total cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale at the time of appointment;

2. He/she is a current member of WSUSA, or a transfer student from another accredited institution of higher education, or he/she is a future student and is not considered a transfer student. Said individual must be matriculated to WSU to start the following semester at the time of appointment, excluding summer semester.

Article III
Organizational Structure
WSUSA will be organized with an Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branch of Government. The powers and responsibilities of each branch shall be outlined in this Constitution and in the WSUSA Bylaws.

Article IV
The WSUSA Bylaws
This Constitution shall be accompanied by a set of Bylaws that shall further delineate the policies, procedures, rules, requirements, powers, and responsibilities of the WSUSA and WSUSA officers. The WSUSA Bylaws shall not contradict this Constitution, and this Constitution shall override the Bylaws whenever discrepancies arise.
ARTICLE V
The WSUSA Executive Branch

Section 1: Executive Power and Responsibilities

All Executive power herein granted shall be vested in a President of the WSUSA. The President shall administer all executive duties and responsibilities with assistance from the Vice Presidents as outlined in this Constitution and the WSUSA Bylaws. These Officers shall have the specific power to execute the laws and expenditures of the WSUSA in accordance with their respective duties and responsibilities, fill vacancies within their jurisdiction as outlined in this Constitution and the Bylaws, and to represent the membership of the WSUSA in the most effective manner.

The President shall have responsibility over the WSUSA budget; the President shall present the proposed budget for the following fiscal year to the WSUSA Senate for approval and a balanced budget for the current fiscal year for approval. Insofar as allowed by any governing body or document having jurisdiction over the WSUSA, the President shall oversee the allocation of student fees.

The President and the Vice Presidents shall be responsible for appointing all appointed offices in the Executive Branch and shall have the power to remove any of these officers without legislative approval for reasons of malfeasance or nonfeasance of duty. The President shall nominate candidates to fill vacancies in the Supreme Court and vacancies in the Vice President offices to be ratified by the Senate. The Legislative Vice President shall nominate candidates to fill vacancies in the Senate to be ratified by the Senate. The Executive Branch shall oversee the WSUSA Elections.

The President shall have the power to veto any legislation passed by the Senate. The President shall have four business days from the passing of any legislation to review the legislation, and then sign or veto said legislation. Legislation signed by the President will be enacted immediately. Legislation vetoed by the President shall return to the Senate as outlined in this Constitution. Any legislation neither signed nor vetoed by the President after four days of being passed shall be enacted as if signed. The President shall give to the Senate information regarding the State of the Association at least once during his/her term of office.

Section 2: Membership and Succession to Office

The Executive Branch shall be composed of the President, appointed Executive Cabinet members, the Vice Presidents and appointed assistants as deemed necessary and/or outlined in the Bylaws.

In case of the removal of the President from Office, or of death, resignation or temporary inability to discharge the powers and duties of said Office, the same shall devolve on the Legislative Vice President. Should the Legislative Vice President decline said office for any reason; one of the remaining Vice Presidents shall be elected by the Senate to assume the Office.
of President, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the WSUSA By-Laws. In either case, said officer shall serve for the duration of the term of the original office, or until the elected president may return to office. In the event of a vacancy in office of the Legislative Vice President, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall assume the office of the President of the Senate. In the event of a vacancy in any other Vice Presidential office, a replacement shall be nominated and then selected and subsequently ratified by the Senate, in accordance with the WSUSA By-laws.

ARTICLE VI
The WSUSA Legislative Branch

Section 1: Legislative Power and Responsibilities

All Legislative power herein granted shall be vested in a Senate of the WSUSA. The Senate shall have the power to create all legislation that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution all the powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the WSUSA. The Senate membership shall also have the power to fulfill their duties as outlined in the Bylaws.

The Senate shall conduct its proceedings in accordance with this Constitution and the Bylaws. The Senate shall keep minutes of its proceedings, which shall include the voting record of the members of Senate on legislation presented and on any question at the desire of one-fifth of the Senators present. Nominations for replacements to elected offices and Student Justices presented by the President shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. The Senate shall have the power to impeach any elected officer or Student Justice with a three-fourths vote. The Senate shall have two senate meetings from the date of any presidential veto, which shall be formally announced by the president in a senate meeting, to override said veto with a three-fourths vote.

The proposed WSUSA budget and the end-of-year balanced budget presented by the president shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Senate. Once approved by the Senate, changes to the WSUSA budget may only be made by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. Insofar as allowed by any governing body or document having jurisdiction over the WSUSA, the Senate shall have power to approve the student fee allocation by a simple majority vote and shall have the power to create any legislation pertaining to student fees.

Section 2: Membership

Senate representation shall be provided for all members of WSUSA. The Senate shall be composed of one Senator representing each recognized constituency. Each Senator shall have one vote on all matters. An officially recognized constituency shall be defined in the Bylaws. The Legislative Vice President shall be the Chair of the Senate. Standing ex-officio members of the Senate without the power to vote shall include the WSUSA President, a WSUSA advisor, and two Weber State University administrators, both of whom are appointed by the WSU Administration. Additional, temporary ex-officio members may be designated by a simple majority vote of the Senate membership.
ARTICLE VII

The WSUSA Judicial Branch

Section 1: Judicial Power and Responsibilities

All judicial power herein granted shall be vested in a Supreme Court of the WSUSA. The Supreme Court shall oversee an Ombudsman Committee that shall advocate on behalf of the student body. The Supreme Court shall have the power to interpret the Constitution and Bylaws upon petition and to determine the constitutionality of all legislation passed by the Senate upon petition. The Supreme Court shall perform any other judicial functions as specifically assigned by the Executive Officers, the Senate, and/or the Bylaws. Any decision made by the Executive Branch during elections may be appealed to the Supreme Court, whose decision shall be considered final. The Supreme Court shall verify election results. The Ombudsman Committee shall be vested with the power to handle student grievances on behalf of WSUSA.

Section 2: Membership

The Supreme Court shall consist of three Student Justices; the president shall designate one as the Chief Justice and the other two as Associate Justices. Each Student Justice shall have one vote on all matters. A WSUSA advisor shall be appointed to serve as an ex-officio member of the Supreme Court with the power to vote.

ARTICLE VIII

Election, Oath, Compensation and Impeachment

Section 1: Election

Only members of WSUSA will be allowed to vote in WSUSA elections. Elections shall be held during the spring semester for the officers for the following year. The specific times, places, and manners of holding elections for all elected officers shall be prescribed in the Bylaws.

Section 2: Oath of Office

Any elected or appointed officer shall begin executing the duties of said office only by taking the following oath:

"I, (name), do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the Office of (title) of the WSUSA and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the WSUSA."

Section 3: Compensation

The elected and appointed officers shall receive compensation for their services, as outlined in the Bylaws.

Section 4: Impeachment

The elected officers and Student Justices shall only be impeached after a hearing before the Senate. Rules and procedures for an impeachment hearing shall be outlined in the Bylaws.
ARTICLE IX
Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a consent of two-thirds of the Senate membership or by a petition signed by five percent of the WSUSA membership. In either case, the proposal shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of this Constitution when ratified.

ARTICLE X
Guarantee of Rights and Privileges and Continuity Clause

Section 1: Guarantee of Rights and Privileges

All rights and privileges not specifically outlined or enumerated by this Constitution and the Bylaws shall be reserved to the individual members of the WSUSA. No officers, while serving as the representatives and individuals authorized to act for and in behalf of the WSUSA, shall perform any act which would infringe upon, detract from, or deny the rights and privileges of any individual member of the WSUSA guaranteed by this Constitution and the Bylaws in any manner not prescribed herein. This Constitution and the Bylaws are subordinate to local, state and federal Law.

Section 2: Continuity Clause

Any agreements, contracts, or other binding actions entered into before the Adoption of this Constitution and the Bylaws shall be as valid against the WSUSA under this Constitution as under the former governing documents, except where specifically altered by the changes and differences of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XI
Ratification

This Constitution, and any amendments to it, shall be valid upon ratification by a three-fourths majority vote of the Senate membership and a two-thirds majority of the votes received from the WSUSA membership at large.

ARTICLE XII
Definitions

Officers: The WSUSA President, Vice Presidents, and Senators are considered elected officers of WSUSA. The Student Justices, Cabinet members, and appointed assistants are considered appointed officers of WSUSA.