

**STUDENT BODY CONSTITUTION
OF
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE**

Revised: March 2021

Ratified: April 8, 2021

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire campus and the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire-Barron County branch campus, seeking an effective and equitable means by which to establish, maintain and ensure, pursuant to the federal and state constitutional and statutory rights of students, self-government in student affairs and to promote the interests of students in all aspects of university operations on the respective campuses, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution.

We acknowledge that the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire occupies the sacred and ancestral lands of Indigenous Peoples. We honor the land of the Ojibwe and Dakota Nations.

ARTICLE I: THE STUDENT BODY

Section 1: Membership.

The student body of University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and its branch campus shall consist of all students officially enrolled at the university. All such students shall be eligible to vote in all student government elections and referendums as it pertains to the interests of their campus.

Section 2: Governing Body.

The student body shall be represented in all matters by the Student Senate which shall serve as its preeminent governing body.

ARTICLE II: STUDENT RIGHTS

Section 1: Open meeting.

All meetings of the Senate and its subordinate bodies shall comply with the provision of the Wisconsin Open Meetings law.

Section 2: Rights to petition.

All members of the student body shall have the right to petition the Senate for redress of a grievance. A petition may be presented to the Vice President of the Student Body or any Senator.

Section 3: Nondiscrimination.

The Senate, its subordinate bodies and officers, consistent with all applicable federal and state statutes, shall not discriminate against any person or group on any non-merit basis.

ARTICLE III: STUDENT SENATE

Section 1: Membership.

A: Eligibility. Any candidates for office and all students in the service of the Senate shall maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and be either: (a.) an officially enrolled student: or (b.) at least a second semester special ("non-admitted") student. The student must maintain at least half-time status at the university as defined by University Policy at the time of election or appointment and must thereafter maintain half-time status, exclusive of summer and winterim sessions, while in office or in the service of Senate.

B: Members. The voting membership of the Senate shall consist of the President of the Student Body, Vice President of the Student Body, and 30 Senators elected by the student body. Members of the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire-Barron County student government shall have speaking rights when attending University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Senate meetings.

C: Representation. Each Senator shall be elected from one of the two student communities, on-campus and off-campus, and must be elected from the student body at large. If a senator's residence changes to the other community and there is an open seat in the new community, ~~he/she~~ they will automatically be transferred to that seat. However, if no vacant seat exists, ~~he/she~~ they will have to wait for the next special/general election and run again. Consistent with the total number of officially enrolled university students residing in each community, the Executive Board of the Senate shall annually apportion, by the third week of March, the 30 Senate seats between the two communities.

D: General Elections. The general election shall be held annually in the second or third week of April. The Executive Board shall establish, by the end of the fall semester, the specific date(s) for the general election.

E: Special Elections. If, at the end of September, each community has more than one-third of its apportioned Senate seats vacant or occupied by appointees, the Executive Board shall call and schedule for the third or fourth week in October a special election to fill such seats. If this one-third threshold is reached by only one community the Senate may, by a two-thirds vote, provide for a special election to be held only in that community. The Senate in its bylaws may provide for a threshold requiring special elections which is proportionally less than one-third and applicable to both communities.

F: Vacancies. Vacancies arising in the Senate shall be filled by appointment upon majority vote of the Vacancies Committee of the Senate, with the advice and consent of the Senate, until the next election. The Vacancies Committee of the Senate shall be chaired by the President and consist of the Vice President, three senators at least one of which must be on-campus, and one of which must be an off-campus senator. The election of the Senators to this committee shall take place at the third or fourth meeting of the Senate after the general election.

G: Recall from Office. Any Senator must stand for reelection within 30 days of the presentation of a petition to the chairperson of the Organizations Commission. The petition must be signed by two-thirds of the number of eligible voters of his/her district which voted in the last general election. The President and Vice President shall be recalled in the same manner except there must be signatures of two-thirds of the number of voting students in general from the last election.

H: Removal. The Senate may establish and enforce uniform standards of conduct for its members. The Senate may, in its bylaws, provide methods for removal of Senators and appointed officers.

Section 2: Officers.

A: Titles. The officers of the Senate shall be the President of the Student Body, Vice President of the Student Body, and Treasurer.

B: Selection of officers. (1) The President and Vice President shall be elected by the student body at large at the general elections. (2) The Treasurer shall be appointed, removed, or replaced by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

C: Terms of office. The term of office for the President and Vice President shall be from the third Senate meeting following their election until the third Senate meeting following the next general election. (2) The term of office for the Treasurer shall be from the third or fourth Senate meeting following the general election until the third or fourth Senate meeting following the next general election or until a successor is appointed and confirmed, whichever occurs first. (3) Officers of the Senate may succeed themselves.

D: Duties. (1) The President shall be chief executive and legislative officer of student government and shall be responsible for proper execution of the constitution, bylaws, and Senate legislation. ~~He/She~~ **They** shall be the presiding officer of the Senate and shall have the right to vote at all times. (2) The Vice President may negotiate and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, sign executive agreements on matters of interest to the Senate in the absence of the President. ~~He/She~~ **They** shall preside over the Senate in the absence of the President and shall have the right to vote at all times. (3) The Treasurer shall keep the financial records of the Senate and shall be a member of the Student Senate Finance Commission. ~~He/She~~ **They** shall preside over the Senate in the absence of both the President and Vice President.

E: Succession to the Presidency or Vice Presidency. (1) In the event a vacancy occurs in the Presidency, the Vice President shall assume the office and duties of the President. (2) In the event that a vacancy occurs in the Vice Presidency, a new Vice President shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. (3) In the event that both the Presidency and Vice Presidency become vacant at the same time, the Senate shall call a special election to fill the vacancies at the earliest possible date, with the newly elected President and Vice President taking office immediately. During the interim, the Treasurer shall assume the office and duties of acting President.

F: Other officers. To fill such positions as may be created by the Senate in its bylaws, other officers, who need not be members of the Senate, may be appointed, removed, or

replaced by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Unless the Senate in its bylaws provides otherwise, the terms of such officers, including Standing Commission Chairpersons shall be from the third or fourth Senate meeting following the general election until the third or fourth Senate meeting following the next general election or until a successor is appointed and confirmed, whichever occurs first. Such officers may succeed themselves.

G: Acting officers. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Treasurer or in an appointed office created by the Senate in its bylaws, the President may appoint an eligible student to act in such office for, unless extended by the Senate, a period not to exceed 30 days or until a successor is appointed and confirmed, whichever occurs first.

Section 3: Meetings.

A: Senate meetings. The Senate shall meet every school week at a time and place designated by the Senate.

B: Quorum. A majority of the membership of the Senate shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a lesser number will suffice to adjourn or recess from time to time.

Section 4: Commissions, Committees and Representatives.

A: Standing Commissions. The Senate may constitute any Standing Commission by specifying its name, membership, powers, and duties in the bylaws.

B: Special and Select Committees. The Senate may constitute any Special or Select Committee by specifying its powers, duties, and term of existence in a bill.

C: Membership. The Chairperson and all members of each Commission and Committee shall be appointed, removed, or replaced by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

D: Student Representatives. Student representatives to all university committees shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Section 5: Legislation.

Senate legislation shall be of two forms. Bills shall be those pieces of legislation which establish binding policy and/or require the expenditure of time, labor, and/or money. Resolutions shall be those pieces of legislation which express the opinion of the Senate.

Section 6: Emergency Procedures.

The Senate may enact the emergency procedures per the bylaws if it is decided necessary, to temporarily amend them as needed. The definition of emergencies is “a state which impacts students wellbeing substantially determined by administration and senate.”

ARTICLE IV: JUDICIAL POWER

Section 1. Procedures.

A: Judicial Power. The judicial power shall be vested with the Student Senate.

B: Issues or Disputes. The Student Senate has jurisdiction over any issues or disputes arising under this constitution.

C: Elections. Internal Affairs will be responsible for overseeing the annual Student Senate elections. The Internal Affairs is to ensure that all elections are conducted truthfully and fairly, and abiding by the elections and campaign procedures. The Internal Affairs shall, at the beginning of every semester, do an election and campaign procedure review. Any subsequent rules that are recommended (by a simple majority within Internal Affairs) shall be taken to the Student Senate for a 2/3 majority approval.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution.

A: Initiation. Amendments to this constitution shall be initiated by any Senator or upon written petition by at least 100 members of the student body. Amendments may alter the constitution in whole or in part.

B: Ratification. A proposed amendment must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate at least one week after its written presentation to the Senate and at least 30 days before being presented to the student body for ratification. Ratification of the amendment shall be by a majority of the students voting on the amendment at the next general election or at a special election called by at least a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

C: Implementation. The amendment shall take effect upon the ratification by the student body.

Section 2: Amendments to the Bylaws.

Amendments to the bylaws to this constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, one week after their written presentation to the Senate.

ARTICLE VI: AUTHORITY

Section 1: Precedence.

This constitution shall have precedence over the bylaws, the bylaws over the parliamentary authority, and the parliamentary authority over regular legislation.

Section 2: Meeting Privileges.

The Senate may, in its bylaws, extend the privileges of introducing motions and debating, but not voting, to such persons or positions as it deems appropriate.

Section 3: Parliamentary Authority.

The Senate, and all of its subordinate bodies, will abide by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.