



STUDENT GOVERNMENT MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

CONSTITUTION

Passed and ratified on March 7, 1977.

Amended: March 20, 1980,

December 1, 1988,

March 2, 1990,

September 28, 1990,

and April 23, 1993.

PREAMBLE

In order to better represent the students of Midwestern State University, to establish a more effective and efficient student government for determining and conducting matters of general student concern, and for furthering the growth and development of this institution, we the students of Midwestern State University do hereby ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the governing body in which the responsibility for effective student government is vested shall be the Student Government of Midwestern State University.

ARTICLE II – EXECUTIVE

Section 1. The executive authority of the Student Government of Midwestern State University shall be vested in a President, Vice-President, and Secretary who shall be elected by a majority vote of the Student Body voting in the Spring General Election each year. Their term of office shall be for one calendar year and shall begin May 1st following their election.

Section 2. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary each shall have been a student at Midwestern State University for two (2) long semesters (or one (1) long semester and two (2) summer terms) preceding the election. Each shall be at least a second semester Sophomore at the time of election and a Junior at the close of the semester in which elected, shall carry a minimum of nine (9) semester hours during the tenure of office, each shall have a M.S.U. cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 on a 4.00 point system, and each shall not be on probation.

Section 3. In case of vacancy in the office of President, either through resignation, impeachment, or other disability, the same shall devolve upon the Vice-president for the unexpired term of that office.

In case a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President, the Senate shall nominate candidates for his/her replacement at the first meeting following the vacancy. Voting shall take place at the first Senate meeting after the nominations.

In case a vacancy occurs in the office of Secretary, the President shall appoint an acting Secretary having all the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary until otherwise determined by the Senate.

The Senate may provide by law for the case of vacancy in both the office of President and Vice-President, declaring what officer shall then act as President.

Section 4. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary shall receive a compensation for their services.

Section 5. The President shall have the power and responsibility to execute all legislation made in pursuance of this Constitution by the Senate;

To require, when he/she deems it necessary, the opinion, in writing, of any Executive Officer upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices;

To convene a special session of the Senate, with at least forty-eight (48) hours prior notice, if he/she deems it necessary or if a majority of the Senate petitions him/her to do so;

To appoint student members of Faculty-Student Committees, with the consent of the Senate;

To supervise and direct the activities of the other Executive Officers;

To represent the Student Body at official functions; and to execute, during an emergency, action deemed expedient to welfare of the Student Body which is not contrary to this Constitution, which action he/she shall report to the Senate at its first session after said action;

To approve or veto all laws enacted by the Senate after official passage by the Senate;

To make appointments considered necessary to advise and assist in carrying out the duties of the office. These appointments do not require Senate approval; and

To appoint senators to fill vacant guaranteed and required seats as defined in Article III, Sections 4 and 5, with the consent of the Senate.

Section 6. The Vice-President shall have the power and responsibility to preside over the meetings of the Senate;

To promptly communicate all legislation passed by the Senate to the President; and

To execute the duties assigned by the President and the Senate.

Section 7. The Secretary shall keep and present the journal of the proceedings of the Senate; Maintain an open file of all legislation passed by the Senate and approved by the President;

Maintain in booklet for a permanent copy of the Constitution and all By-Laws passed by the Senate and approved by the President;

Conduct responsibility over the receipt and disbursement of the Student Government Loan Fund (all executive officers may disburse funds); and

Shall receive and answer or initiate appropriate correspondence and execute any other duties assigned by the President and the Senate.

ARTICLE III - LEGISLATIVE

Section 1. Legislative power derives from the Student Body of Midwestern State University and is primarily delegated to the Student Senate.

Section 2. The Student Senate shall consist of representatives from the following: student organization; residence halls; undergraduate and graduate classes.

Section 3. Each student organization, as defined in the Student Handbook, shall be entitled to one (1) representative. The membership of an organization will be determined from the roster on file in the Student Center Office of the semester in which the election is held. The organizations are to choose for their membership their student senator and must present their selection to the President of the Senate prior to the first meeting of the newly elected Senate each year. An organization wishing to change its senator may do so by notifying the President of the Senate.

Section 4. Each residence hall shall be entitled to one (1) student senator. The residence halls are to choose from their residents their- student senator and must present their selection to the President of the Senate prior to the first meeting of the newly elected Senate each year.

Section 5. Each undergraduate class shall elect two (2) senators. Graduate students shall elect one (1) senator. These senators are to be elected during the spring General Elections. The Freshman class shall elect its senators during the Fall Elections.

Section 6. Any class senator position becoming vacant after the Spring General Election and prior to the next fall semester shall be filled at the time of the elections in the Fall Semester.

Section 7. The term of office for all senators shall be for one calendar year and shall begin May 1st following their election. The exception will be the Freshman class senators which shall be elected in the Fall Semester and take office immediately following the election.

Any senator that misses four (4) Senate meetings shall automatically be dismissed from the Senate.

Any organization whose Senator is disqualified due to the Absence Rule shall lose the right to send a senator from that position until the next regular Spring Elections.

Section 8. Senators shall be enrolled for at least six (6) semester hours at the time of election and while serving as a senator, each shall have a MSU cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 on a 4.00 point system, and shall not be on probation. (The exception to the grade point requirement will be beginning freshmen seeking the positions of class senators). A senator must be a member of the organization, residence hall, or class from which elected.

Section 9. The Vice-President of the Student Government of Midwestern State University shall be the President of the Senate, but shall have no vote except in case of a tie. The Senate shall choose its other officers and make procedural rules.

Section 10. One or more advisors to the Senate shall be chosen from the faculty or staff. At least one advisor shall be a member of the Student Affairs staff. Each advisor shall serve a term of one year.

Section 11. The Senate shall assemble in the first week in May following the Spring General Election each year, and as often thereafter as it shall deem necessary.

Section 12. Every bill which shall have passed the Senate, before it becomes law, shall be presented to the President of Student Government; if he/she approves, he/she shall sign it within seven (7) days; but, if not, he/she shall return it with his/her objections to the Senate for reconsideration. If after such reconsideration, two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate approved the measure, it shall become a law. If any measure shall not be returned within fourteen (14) days after it shall have been presented to him/her, the same shall become law, in like manner as if he/she had signed it, unless the Senate by its adjournment shall prevent its return, in which case it shall not be law.

A bill or resolution can be proposed to the students by a petition signed by ten percent of the Student Body and presented to the Student Senate. Proposed bills or resolutions shall be published in the student news media two weeks preceding the Student Body vote on them.

ratification. Bills or resolutions shall be ratified by a two-thirds approval of those voting in a Student Body election held within five school weeks of the presentation of the petition.

All laws shall be recorded and shall be kept on file by the Senate. This file shall be open to students and campus press at all times. The Senate shall keep a journal of its proceedings.

Section 13. The Senate, with a quorum which shall be three-fifths (3/5) of its members, shall have the power to exercise jurisdiction over all matters delegated to it by the University Administration;

To recommend the apportionment and allocation of the monies collected from the Student Service Fee;

To determine Student Body election procedures, including time, place, and manner of election;

To confirm by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present all permanent appointments of the President of Student Government;

To select any special delegates representing the Student Body;

To receive and act upon the recommendations made to it by the President of Student Government;

To investigate and make recommendations through appropriate channels to the governing bodies of the University on matters of common concern to the University Administration and the Student Body;

To establish all elected and appointed Student Body positions and honors not enumerated in this Constitution;

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper to the provisions of this Constitution in providing for the general welfare of the Student Body;

To bring and try all impeachments of all Executive and Legislative officers of the Student Government and other officers elected by the Student Body. No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate. Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office and disqualification from holding any office, honor, or trust in the Student Government of Midwestern State University.

Willful violation of this Constitution and/or the laws made in pursuance thereof or negligence or conduct contrary to institutional moral and ethical standards shall be the only grounds for impeachment.

ARTICLE IV - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed to the Student Body by a three-fourths vote of the Student Senate, or by a petition signed by ten percent of the Student Body and presented to the Senate. Proposed amendments shall be published in the student news media two weeks preceding the Student Body vote on their ratification. Amendments shall be ratified by a two-thirds approval of those voting in a Student Body Election.

Section 2. Laws made and procedures established in pursuance of and germane to this Constitution so as to be of permanent significance until abolished or revised shall be included in a permanent body of statutes entitled the By-Laws of the Student Government of Midwestern State University.

ARTICLE V - SUPREME LAW

Section 1. This Constitution and the laws made in pursuance thereof shall be the Supreme Law, subject to University policies and regulations, governing the Student Body of Midwestern State University. The Executive and Legislative Officers, and all other Student Body elected officers shall be bound thereby.

ARTICLE VI - RATIFICATION

Section 1. This Constitution shall supercede all previous constitutions of the Student Body of Midwestern State University, becoming effective when ratified by a simple majority vote of those students voting in a properly held Student Body Election and when signed by the President of the Student Government and the President of Midwestern State University.