

# **The Constitution of the Student Government of William Jewell College**

We the students of William Jewell College, in order to secure student rights, to provide the proper organization for the management of student affairs, to voice student opinion, and to carry out student will concerning affairs both within and outside of the college, do hereby establish this constitution.

## **Article 1: General Organization**

### SECTION I: TITLE

The name of this organization shall be the William Jewell Student Government, hereafter referred to as SG.

### SECTION II: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this organization shall be composed of full-time students enrolled at William Jewell College.

### SECTION III: ORGANIZATION

The SG shall be organized into three branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial.

### SECTION IV: POWERS

- a. SG shall have the authority to recommend matters of policy affecting the student welfare.
- b. SG shall have the authority to supervise all campus elections.
- c. SG shall have the right to establish, review, and dismiss all standing and ad hoc committees of the SG.
- d. The SG shall be empowered to initiate and enact any legislation necessary to implement to foregoing or to fulfill the purpose of this constitution as set forth in the preamble except where jurisdiction shall be denied by school policy.

### SECTION V: DEFINITIONS

- a. Legislation – an enactment of the SG.
- b. Student, students, or student body – students with full-time classification at William Jewell College.
- c. General Election – annual election of SG executives.

## **Article 2: Executive Branch**

### SECTION I: COMPOSITION

- a. The Executive Branch of the SG shall be composed of the president of the student body, vice-president of the student body, a secretary, and a treasurer.

- b. All Executive powers herein shall be vested in the president, vice-president, secretary, and the treasurer.
- c. Any use of he, him, or his shall be interpreted as non-gender terms.

## SECTION II: ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

### a. Qualifications

- 1. All candidates for Executive office must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 at the time of election. Failure of any official to maintain his required minimum average while in office shall result in immediate and automatic removal of office.
- 2. All candidates for Executive office must be enrolled full-time at William Jewell College.
- 3. All candidates shall fully subscribe to all election rules as set forth by the elections committee. Failure to comply fully may result in elimination from the race. The senate shall determine if an infraction occurred by a two-thirds vote may prohibit a name from consideration for office by a four-fifths vote.

### b. Procedure

- 1. Candidates for executive offices shall have their party nominate by an election petition signed by not less than fifty (50) full time William Jewell College students.
- 2. A general student body election, in which any full time students enrolled at William Jewell College may vote, shall be held each spring to choose executive officers.
- 3. Election shall be by secret ballot, supervised by the elections committee.
- 4. In the event of no set of candidates receiving the majority of votes (more than 50%), the two sets of candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be placed in a run-off election.
- 5. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the run off-election shall become the executive officers
- 6. In the event of no candidates for the executive officers, the voting members of the senate shall designate a person to act as such until a temporary vacancy ceases or until permanent vacancy is filled by a special general body election following the prescribed elections guidelines.

## SECTION III: EXECUTIVE DUTIES AND POWERS

### a. President

1. The president of the student body shall preside over the student senate.
2. The president may exercise a veto over any action taken by the senate. The veto action must be publicly presented at the next regular meeting. The senate can override any veto with a two-thirds vote, which must be taken at the same meeting in which the president announces his veto action.
3. The president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees established by the senate.
4. The president may appoint students to fill positions on committees established by the senate or when students are requested to serve on faculty or administrative committees. These appointments must be confirmed by a simple majority vote of the senate.
5. The supreme authority to interpret provisions of this constitution shall be vested in the student body president, whose interpretations must be delivered in sessions of the senate and be sustained by a simple majority of the senate.
6. The president shall set the time of regular meetings and can call special sessions of the senate. The president must call a special meeting within five days after receiving a written request signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the senate to do so.
7. If a vacancy should occur in any other of the executive offices, the president shall appoint an already elected Senator to occupy this position. A simple majority of the senate is required for confirmation.
8. The president shall have the authority to appoint special ad hoc committees, as he deems necessary.
9. The president shall have the authority to appoint delegates in accordance with by-laws.

b. Vice-President

1. The vice-president shall preside at all sessions of the student senate when the president is absent.
2. The vice-president shall, upon request of the president, represent the president at all activities which he is unable to attend, and may assume all the authority of the president in his absence.
3. Should the presidency become vacant, the vice-president shall become president, to fill the unexpired term, and shall appoint a senator to serve as vice-president. The vacant position of the senator shall then be filled according to proper constitutional procedure.
4. The student body vice-president shall serve as the liaison officer between senate and the faculty of the college.
5. The vice-president shall be an ex-officio member of all senate committees.

c. Secretary

1. The secretary shall keep the minutes and perform correspondence as directed by the president or the vice-president.
2. The secretary shall ensure that senate minutes are available upon request.
3. The secretary shall keep attendance at the senate meetings.
4. The secretary shall be responsible for the verifications of signatures on all petitions.
5. Failure to carry out these prescribed duties shall result in immediate dismissal. The president shall initiate dismissal proceedings with a majority vote required for dismissal.

d. Treasurer

1. The treasurer shall keep all financial records pertaining to the senate, and, in conjunction with the president and the vice-president, shall formulate the budget each fall.
2. The treasurer shall be prepared at each meeting to report on the financial status of senate.
3. Failure to carry out these prescribed duties shall result in immediate dismissal. The president shall initiate dismissal proceedings with a majority vote required for dismissal.

**Article III:**

SECTION I: TITLE

The legislature of the SG shall be known as Student Senate.

SECTION II: PURPOSE

The Student Senate shall assume all legislative responsibilities, duties, and powers granted herein.

SECTION III: COMPOSITION

- a. Four senators shall be elected from each class (first-year, sophomore, junior, and senior).
- b. All elected senators and executive officers of the senate shall be entitled to one (1) vote (with the exception of the presiding officer)
- c. These senators shall be elected during the spring semester at the time specified by the senate president.

SECTION IV: CANDIDACY

- a. Each candidate for an elected office shall have minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 at the time of election. Failure to maintain this minimum cumulative grade point average while in office will result in immediate and automatic removal from office. All first-year candidates are automatically exempt from this clause until after first semester.
- b. Candidates must be nominated by a petition signed by no less than fifty (50) full-time William Jewell College students in accordance with time limitations designated by the elections committee.

## SECTION V: MEETINGS

The senate shall hold regular weekly meetings during the fall and spring semester of each school year. A regular meeting of the senate may be omitted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership. The senate shall determine the rules of attendance.

## SECTION VI: QUORUM

The senate shall hold regular weekly meetings during the fall and spring semester of each school year. A regular meeting of the senate may be omitted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership. The senate shall determine the rules of attendance.

## SECTION VII: DUTIES AND POWERS

- a. The senate shall have the power to enact all legislation which is necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the student body which is not in violation of the rules and laws of William Jewell College.
- b. The senate shall have the power, upon any majority vote, to allocate funds that are assigned to the student government of William Jewell College.
- c. The senate shall have the power to call special sessions of the senate by presenting the president with a petition bearing the signatures of at least one-fourth (1/4) of the student senate members.
- d. The senate shall have the power to call special elections by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the vote of its members.

## SECTION VIII: ORDER OF MEETINGS

Senate meetings shall be conducted by the rules of order mandated by the presiding officer.

## SECTION IX: PRESIDENTIAL VETO

A piece of legislation passed by the senate shall be presented to the president within seven (7) days after its passage. The president may sign the act or veto the act. If the president vetoes the act, he must return the bill to the senate with a written explanation within seven (7) days or the bill will take effect. The senate may override a veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the president.

## SECTION X: VACANCIES

The president shall appoint a full-time William Jewell student to fill any vacant seat. The appointee shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the senate. Vacant delegate appointments do not have to be filled.

## **Article IV: Judicial**

### SECTION I: TITLE

The judicial arm of the SG shall be known as The College Conduct Committee (CCC).

### SECTION II: PURPOSE

The CCC shall be responsible for administering justice in certain individual disciplinary cases and improving current discipline regulations.

### SECTION III: COMPOSITION AND NOMINATIONS

The CCC shall be composed of (five) faculty members and five (5) full-time students. The full-time students are appointed by the president of the SG and approved by a majority (more than ½) of the senate. The students do not have to be senate members and can be nominated by an elected member or an appointed delegate. The committee members may also be nominated by the executive officers of the student government.

## **Article V: Recall, Initiative, and Referendum**

### SECTION I: RECALL

Upon presentation of recall petitions signed by students comprising fifty percent (50%) of the number of students who voted in the most recent general election, an election for the recall of the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer shall be held. A (blank) voice shall be required for removal of said officer.

### SECTION II: INITIATIVE

Upon presentation of initiative petitions to the secretary, signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the number of students who voted in the most recent general election, the senate shall either adopt such legislation or submit it to a vote of the student body.

Should the senate choose to submit said legislation to a vote of the student body, the election shall be held within two weeks and shall be supervised by the elections committee. A simple majority shall be required for automatic adoption of the proposed legislation.

### SECTION III: REFERENDUM

Upon presentation of referendum petitions signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the number of students who voted in the most recent general election, the senate shall place before the student body the issue which is the subject of the petitions.

- a. The referendum vote must be taken within two weeks after the petitions are turned into the secretary. A simple majority vote shall be necessary to repeal legislation.
- b. The senate shall not reconsider repealed legislation during the academic year that a referendum vote was held.

## **Article VI: Amendment Procedure**

Amendments may be proposed at sessions of the senate either by a senator, or by a signed petition of ten percent (10%) of the student body. Said amendments must be in writing.

A proposed amendment may be vote on immediately after the discussion of the amendment and shall become effective upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the senators present and a simple majority of the student body.

Amendments passed by senate shall be put to a vote of the student body within two weeks.

### **Article VII: By-Laws**

By-laws to this constitution may be passed, changed, or deleted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the senate, except in specific cases when the senate specifies a higher minority when the By-Law is passed. In such a case, the By-Law must originally be passed by that majority.

### **Article VIII: Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be govern the SG in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the SG may adopt.

## **The Bylaws of the Student Senate of William Jewell College**

### **Article I: Representation**

SECTION 1: Student Senators shall represent the student body in the following manner:

Clause 1: The senate shall consist of 20 (20) representatives elected by the student body.

Clause 2: Senators shall be elected from the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes.

Clause 3: Each of the four classes shall elect five senators to represent it.

Clause 4: Any senator changing academic classification during the academic year will remain a representative of the class from which he was originally elected.

Clause 5: The entire senate shall convene on a regular basis, no less than twice a month.

Clause 6: Each senator is expected to serve an entire one-year term.

SECTION II: Ex-Officio Membership

Clause 1: The president, or an elected representative, of all recognized organizations shall be an ex-officio member of the student senate.

Clause 2: Ex-Officio members are welcome to attend all senate meetings.

Clause 3: Ex-Officio members are not permitted to vote in senate meetings.

SECTION III: Delegate shall be appointed in the following manner:

Clause 1: Delegates shall number no more than three per standing committee.

Clause 2: Delegates shall be nominated by either the committee chairperson or the president of senate.

Clause 3: Delegates may only vote in committee decision, they may not vote in senate meetings.

Clause 4: The delegates may be from any class.

Clause 5: Delegates must be approved by both the president and the majority of senate.

#### SECTION IV: Faculty Advisor

Clause 1: Each academic year, a member of the college faculty shall be invited to serve as an advisor of the Student Senate.

Clause 2: The faculty advisor will be invited to all student senate functions.

#### SECTION V: The Cabinet shall be elected in the following manner:

Clause 1: All Cabinet elections shall be governed by the student senate elections committee.

Clause 2: All tickets wishing to run for cabinet shall file their intent to do so with the elections committee. A ticket shall consist of four individuals, each designated to one of the four cabinet positions.

Clause 3: The election shall be decided by means of secret ballot. Ballots will be provided and counted by the elections committee.

#### SECTION VI: Student Senators shall be elected in the following manner:

Clause 1: All student senate elections shall be governed by the student senate elections committee.

Clause 2: Students wishing to run for student senate shall file their intent to do so with the elections committee.

Clause 3: The filing dates shall be made by the elections committee and may be the same as the Cabinet filing date.

Clause 4: The election of the senators may be coordinated on the same day as the election of the Cabinet.

Clause 5: There may be four ballots representing each of the four classes.

Clause 6: Members of the student body shall vote for candidates from their respective classes.

Clause 7: The election shall be decided by means of secret ballot. Ballots will be provided and counted by the elections committee.

Clause 8: The five students receiving the most votes for each class shall be the five representatives for that respective class.

Clause 9: Students may use the process of dual balloting if the senate and Cabinet elections are overlapping.

Clause 10: The newly elected Cabinet and Senate must convene no later than two weeks after the elections are completed.

SECTION VII: Appointments will be made in the following manner:

Clause 1: The president, with consultation of the senators and a simple majority vote of the senate, shall appoint open seats in senate not filled in a primary election.

Clause 2: Election records shall be filed in the student senate office used for appointment should a class lose representation of a senator. The order of finish, starting with the fifth place candidate, will be used for appointment.

SECTION VIII: Attendance policy shall be as follows:

Clause 1: A senator is allowed to miss a maximum of five absences per term. Any member exceeding this maximum shall immediately lose his or her office for the remainder of the term. Certain exceptions will be made if approved by the senate president or secretary prior to the meeting.

## **Articles II: Special Elections**

The student senate shall hold a Colonel Alexander Doniphan and L.E. Kresse election yearly in which the senior class will select the senior class man and woman they feel will “march the farthest” during their lifetimes.

## **Articles III: Committees**

The cabinet shall appoint committees as needed.

## **Article IV: Allocation of Funds**

SECTION I: Any organization requesting funds from senate is required to submit a proposal one week prior to the meeting that senators will vote on that proposal.

Clause 1: Allocations of any senate funds will require a majority (50%) vote from the senate.

Clause 2: The student senate treasurer is responsible for budget updates and determining fiscal status of the SG.

SECTION II: The following guidelines shall be considered concerning the allocation of funds:

Clause 1: Funds shall be used for the betterment of the William Jewell , area, and/or global communities.

Clause 2: All organizations requesting funds shall demonstrate appropriate need and a commitment to fiscal responsibility.

SECTION III: All organizations receiving funds shall be required to present both written and verbal reports detailing the spending of senate funds.