

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

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

## **Article 1: General Organization**

### SECTION I: INFORMATION

The name of this organization is the William Jewell Student Government, hereafter referred to as SG. The SG consists of an Executive branch, a Legislative branch and a Judicial branch.

### SECTION II: DEFINITIONS

- Student: Currently enrolled students with full-time classification at William Jewell College.
- Senate:
  - 1) The formal, elected members of the legislative branch.
  - 2) A formal session of the elected members of the legislative branch, presided over by the executive branch.
- Senator: An elected, voting member of the legislative branch of the SG.
- Quorum: The number of voting members required to vote upon legislation or other issues within the student government. Within the SG, quorum is defined as three-fifths ( $\frac{3}{5}$ ) of the voting members.
- General election: an annual election to fill executive or legislative positions.
- Ad-hoc Senator: an unelected, non-voting member of the legislative branch of the SG..

## **Article 2: Executive Branch**

### SECTION I: COMPOSITION

The executive branch of the student government is composed of the president of the student body, vice- president of the student body, a secretary, and a treasurer.

### SECTION II: ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Qualifications:

1. All candidates for executive office must have a minimum GPA of 3.00. Failure to uphold this will result in immediate termination.
2. All candidates must be enrolled, full-time students at William Jewell College.

### SECTION III: EXECUTIVE DUTIES AND POWERS

#### A. Cabinet

1. The cabinet, by a 3-1 vote, may appoint students to fill positions on committees of the senate or when students are requested to serve on faculty or administrative committees.
2. If a vacancy should occur in any executive office, the cabinet, by a 2-1 vote, shall appoint an already elected Senator to occupy the vacant position. In such a case, a simple majority of the senate is required for confirmation of any appointed Senator.
3. The cabinet, by a 3-1 vote, will have the authority to appoint ad hoc senators, as deemed necessary.
4. The cabinet, by a 3-1 vote, will have the authority to establish committees for the senate.
5. In the case of a 2-2 tie on any of these decisions, the President's vote carries.

#### B. 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 by the first regular meeting of the senate following the action. The senate can override any veto with a two-thirds vote, which must be taken at the same meeting in which the president announces the veto action.
3. The 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.
4. 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 business days and give a 48-hour notice before said meeting after receiving a written request signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the senate to do so.

#### C. Vice-President

1. The vice-president will represent and assume all the duties of the president in the president's absence.
2. If the presidency becomes vacant, the vice-president will assume the role of student body president until the expiration of the elected government's term.

#### D. Secretary

1. The secretary will keep the minutes and attendance of senate meetings, ensure that these records are available to the public, verify the signatures on all petitions, and perform correspondence as directed by the president or the vice-president.
2. 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.

#### E. Treasurer

1. The treasurer will keep all financial records pertaining to the senate and formulate the budget.
2. 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: Legislative Branch**

#### SECTION I: TITLE

The legislative body of the SG is known as Student Senate.

#### SECTION II: COMPOSITION

- a. Four Senators will be elected from each class (first-year, sophomore, junior, and senior).
- b. All elected senators and executive officers of the senate are 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, except for first year senators, who will be elected in the fall.

#### SECTION III: 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 achieve and maintain this will result in termination of office. All first-year candidates are automatically exempt from this clause until after their first semester of courses has been completed.

- 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 IV: MEETINGS

The senate shall hold 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 V: DUTIES AND POWERS

- a. Any form of legislation requires quorum to be voted upon by the student senate.
- b. The senate has the power to enact all legislation that is necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the student body, and that is not in violation of the rules and laws of William Jewell College.
- c. The senate has the power to allocate funds that are assigned to the student government of William Jewell College.
- d. The senate has 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 senate.
- e. The senate will supervise all elections and has the power to call special elections upon the approval of 2/3 the senate.

#### SECTION VI: ORDER OF MEETINGS

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

#### SECTION VII: VACANCIES

The executive cabinet 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. Election records will be kept and can be used for appointment.

## **Article IV: Recall 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/or treasurer shall be held, with the positions to be held to a recall vote specified on the petition. A majority voice shall be required for removal of said officer(s).

### SECTION II: REFERENDUM

Upon presentation of referendum petitions to the secretary, signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the number of students who voted in the most recent general election, the senate will submit the subject of the petitions to the student body within two weeks. A referendum can be used to adopt or repeal legislation of the SG in lieu of the legislative body.

## **Article V: Amendments and Bylaws**

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed at sessions of the senate either by a senator or by a student. An amendment will become effective following a unanimous vote of the senate or a majority vote of the student body.

By-laws to this constitution may be passed, changed, or deleted by a 2/3 vote of the senate.

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

### **Article I: Representation**

SECTION 1: Student senators will represent the student body as members of the legislative branch of the student government.

Clause 1: The senate shall consist of sixteen (16) senators elected by the student body.

Clause 2: Four senators each will be elected from first-year, second-year, third-year, and fourth-year students, as determined by academic year of enrollment.

Clause 3: Senators will represent classes based upon their academic year of enrollment, rather than current academic status as determined by credit-hours.

Clause 4: Meetings of the student senate will occur no fewer than two times per month.  
Clause 5: Senatorial terms will last one academic year, beginning and ending after the spring general election (for upperclassmen) or after first-year elections in the fall.

SECTION 2: Ad-hoc senators (or ex-officio members) will be recognized as welcome guests at student senate meetings.

Clause 1: All recognized organizations of the College shall have the right to appoint an ad-hoc senator to the senate.

Clause 2: Ad-hoc members are welcome to attend all senate meetings.

Clause 3: Ad-hoc members are not permitted to vote in senate meetings.

## **Article II: General Election Procedure**

1. Candidates will be nominated by an election petition signed by no less than 50 full time William Jewell College students. For senator petitions, the 50 signatures must come from the same class as the senate candidate.
2. Elections, supervised by the elections committee, will be by secret ballot.
3. The elections committee will decide the filing deadlines for candidates and all guidelines for the election.
4. A general student body election, in which all full time students may vote, will be held each spring to choose executive officers.
5. Ranked choice balloting will be used to determine the winner of the executive election.
6. In the event of no candidates for the executive officers, the senate will designate a person to act as such until a permanent vacancy is filled by a special general body election.
7. For senator elections, the four candidates with the most votes from each class will win.
8. All candidates will abide by the election rules as set forth by the elections committee. The senate may penalize a candidate by a 2/3 vote and may prohibit a name from consideration for office by a 4/5 vote.

## **Articles III: 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.

## **Article IV: Senate Attendance Policy**

A senator is allowed two unexcused absences and two excused absences per semester. Once this amount is exceeded, said senator will be relieved of their office. Excused absences must be approved by the senate president or secretary prior to the meeting. An excused absence is a school related event, family emergency, sickness, personal emergency, or situation at the discretion of the cabinet.

#### **Article V: Allocation of Funds**

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

Section II: Any organization requesting funds from senate is required to submit a proposal to the senate. All organizations requesting funds shall demonstrate appropriate need and a commitment to fiscal responsibility. All organizations receiving funds shall be required to report the spending of senate funds.

#### **Article VI: Senate Advisor**

Each academic year, a member of the college faculty, administration or staff will be invited to serve as an advisor for the Student Senate. The advisor will be invited to all student senate functions. The cabinet will meet with the advisor on a weekly basis.