

# The Student Body Constitution of Eastern Michigan University

## Preamble

We do hereby establish this Student Body Constitution,  
as the Student Body of Eastern Michigan University,  
to advocate for our causes with an assertive voice,  
for the provision and protection of our rights.

## ARTICLE I: THE STUDENT BODY AND ELECTIONS

1. **Authority.** All power and authority vested in this Constitution is derived from the Student Body at Eastern Michigan University. All persons currently registered as students at Eastern Michigan University shall be Members of the Student Body.
2. **Student Voting Rights.** Members of the Student Body shall retain the right to vote in all General Elections of the Student Body. Legislation may be passed which provides specific qualifications regarding voter rights and procedures so long as such legislation does not disenfranchise any specific Member or groups of Members of the Student Body.
3. **General Elections.** Elected Officials of the Student Body, as provided herein, shall be elected via the General Election. The General Election shall occur yearly on the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in March.
4. **Election Commission.** The Student Senate shall establish an Election Commission no less than one calendar month prior to the commencement of the General Elections of the Student Body. The Election Commission shall be responsible for administering the General Elections of the Student Body according to the Election Ordinances.
5. **Election Ordinances.** The Student Senate shall possess Election Ordinances and any amendments to them no less than one calendar month prior to the commencement of the General Election. All matters of interpretation of the General Election are vested in the Election Ordinances.

## ARTICLE II: STUDENT GOVERNMENT

1. **Name.** This Constitution shall establish the Eastern Michigan University Student Government.
2. **Definition.** Student Government is a separate, student run organization and University department that acts as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to further Eastern Michigan University students' rights while working alongside the University. Student Government is a service organization intended to serve the needs of the Student Body.
3. **Mission.** Student Government shall secure a powerful and focused voice for the Student Body.

4. **Composition.** Student Government shall be a unified entity composed of the Student Senate and the Executive Board, with an independent judicial section. Each part will have its own responsibilities, but collectively work toward the mission of Student Government.

5. **Heritage.** In observance of our heritage and origin in the Student Council, proceedings of Student Government shall be based according to our founding in the year nineteen hundred and thirteen.

6. **Advisor.** The Advisor of Student Government shall be chosen by the body with the advice of the University.

7. **Membership.** Any member of the Student Body can join Student Government pursuant to its Bylaws. Upon joining Student Government, the Member agrees to their membership in a service organization and its duties as outlined in its rules. Members are expected to volunteer their time for the betterment of the Student Body.

8. **Non-Discrimination Clause.** Student Government does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, marital status, age, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression.

9. **Affiliation.** Student Government is a member of the United States Student Association (USSA), a collaborative body of all United States higher education students. Each year, the Student Body President will appoint a member of the Student Government to serve as Chief Delegate to the USSA, and work as the main coordinator of all interactions with both bodies.

10. **Student Bill of Rights.** Student Government shall maintain and enforce a Student Bill of Rights. Each item on the Bill of Rights must have first passed the Student Senate by a two-thirds approval vote and then passed through a referendum vote of the Student Body during a regularly scheduled General Election of the Student Body. Once the item has gained a majority of the votes cast, the item will be sent to the Office of the University President for their approval. The item will be considered adopted and part of the Bill of Rights once it has the approval of the Office of the University President. Any State, Federal, or local law that changes parts of the Bill of Rights, or makes it so that an item on the Bill of Rights becomes obsolete or illegal, has the power to amend the Bill of Rights without normal approval. The Judicial Sergeant and the Student Body President shall be charged as the chief enforcers for the Student Bill of Rights.

### ARTICLE III: THE STUDENT SENATE

1. **Legislative Powers.** All legislative powers of the Student Body shall be vested in the Student Senate, except in times of emergency, or when it is out of session, when the Executive Board may act on its behalf.

2. **Senate Composition.** The Student Senate shall contain thirty (30) seats. All Senators shall be elected at-large from the Student Body during the General Election. Four (4) seats of the Senate shall be reserved for delegates from each of the following organizations: the Residence Hall Association, the Commuter Student Association, the Graduate Student Association, and the International Student

Association. No more than ten (10) seats filled by Senators shall be for those that maintain contact with and represent the Colleges of Eastern Michigan University, evenly divided among them. All other seats shall be comprised of Senators that maintain contact and represent the Student Body at-large. One Senator shall be the Speaker of the Senate, who shall oversee all divisions.

3. **Length of Office and Standing.** Senators shall maintain office for a period of one academic year. Senators must maintain good academic and judicial standing with Eastern Michigan University.

4. **Voting.** Each seat within the Student Senate shall have one vote. Absentee and proxy voting are prohibited.

5. **Appointments.** Vacant Senator seats shall be filled by appointments made by the Student Senate.

6. **President of the Senate.** The Student Body Vice President shall be the President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless they are equally divided. The Student Body President shall reserve the right to chair Student Senate meetings, if deemed necessary prior to the opening of the meeting.

7. **Speaker of the Senate.** The Speaker of the Senate shall be elected by the Student Senate and shall preside over it in the absence of the President of the Senate. The Speaker shall be chief spokesperson and representative of the Student Senate, a member of all Standing Committees, and shall vote on the Executive Board.

8. **Meetings.** The Student Senate shall meet no less than once a month during the Fall and Winter semesters. Quorum shall consist of the presence of the majority of the Senators.

9. **Records.** Proceedings of the Student Senate shall be kept in a permanent file. All documents shall be available for inspection and replication by any Member of the Student Body.

10. **Bylaws.** The Student Senate may determine other rules for Student Government, including those of its proceedings, its officers, the Standing Committees, assignments of members, censure for disorderly conduct, and with two-thirds approval, expulsion of its own members or officers.

11. **Ex post facto.** No ex post facto legislation shall be approved.

12. **Resolutions.** Upon the approval of the germane Standing Committee, resolutions shall be sent to the Student Senate.

13. **Veto.** Legislation which shall have passed through the Student Senate shall be presented to the Student Body President. If approved, it shall be signed, but if not, it shall be returned with objections. The Student Senate shall reconsider it, and it shall fail unless it receives a two-thirds affirmative vote. If the Student Body President does not act on a resolution within fourteen calendar days, it shall be considered approved.

## ARTICLE IV: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. **Executive Powers.** The executive power shall be vested in the Student Body President and the Student Body Vice President of Eastern Michigan University, who shall be elected as a ticket by the Student Body during the General Elections of the Student Body. A student in good standing with the

University who has attained at least sophomore status shall be eligible to run for Office of Student Body President or Student Body Vice President and must maintain good academic standing during their time in office.

2. **Spokesperson and Appointments.** The Student Body President shall serve as the chief spokesperson and the principle representative of the Student Body. The Student Body President will appoint members of an Executive Board with the advice and consent of the Student Senate. Student representatives to University committees shall be appointed by the Student Body President.

3. **Board Rules and Removal.** The Executive Board shall include the officers of Student Government. It shall possess its own rules, which shall be created or amended as a part of the Student Government Bylaws. Members of the Executive Board may be censured by the Student Senate for disorderly conduct, and the Student Body President shall possess the power to remove appointed members of the Executive Board, as determined by the methods prescribed in the Bylaws. The Student Senate shall also reserve the right to remove members of the Executive Board that it previously confirmed with a two-thirds affirmative vote. All members of the Executive Board must maintain good academic and judicial standing with the University.

4. **Meetings.** The Executive Board shall hold meetings on a monthly basis, or of a greater frequency as deemed appropriate by its members.

5. **Out of Session Appointments.** The Student Body President shall have the power to make appointments to all vacancies that may occur during a recess or other incapacity of the Student Senate. These appointments are subject to the consent of the Student Senate upon the first meeting in which it reconvenes.

6. **State of the Student Body.** The Student Body President shall from time to time give to the Student Senate information of the state of the Student Body, and recommend for their consideration such measures as seem appropriate.

7. **Duty of the President.** The Student Body President shall take due note that the resolutions passed by the Student Senate be faithfully executed.

8. **Compensation.** The terms of compensation for the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and any member of the Executive Board that are received for service shall be neither increased nor diminished during the time in office. Terms of compensation must receive the advice and consent of the Student Senate.

9. **Multiple Offices.** No person shall serve as a member of the Executive Board while also serving the Student Senate in any capacity except those who are otherwise stated to do so in the Student Government Bylaws, or any subsidiary staff.

10. **Agreements.** The Student Body President shall have power, with the advice and consent of the Student Senate, to enter into agreements with other bodies of governance.

11. **Succession.** In the event the office of Student Body President becomes vacant, the Student Body Vice President shall assume said office. In the event the office of Student Body Vice President becomes vacant, the Student Body President shall make an appointment to fill the office. In the event both

offices are vacant, the Speaker of the Senate shall become the Student Body President and shall appoint a Student Body Vice President with advice and consent of the Student Senate.

## ARTICLE V: JUDICIAL PROCESS

1. **Impeachments.** Only Student Senators may raise impeachment charges against the Student Body President, Student Body Vice-President, or the Speaker of the Senate. The initial step is to have a hearing with the Judicial Sergeant.

A. **Hearing.** If the charges are deemed to be of sufficient character, than the Judicial Sergeant will call for an impeachment hearing. A written statement with the signature of an absolute majority of the Student Senate shall also call an impeachment hearing into session.

B. **Articles of Impeachment.** Charges must be drafter as Articles of Impeachment in the form of a Senate Resolution. The Articles of Impeachment must pass the Impeachment Session by an absolute two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate.

C. **Impeachment Sessions.** Impeachment sessions will consist of the Student Senate with the Judicial Sergeant as its chair. Impeachment sessions use submitted Articles of Impeachment to decide whether or not to remove the person from high office.

2. **Judicial Committees.** A judicial committee will be called upon to rule on matters of interpretation of this Constitution or other rules of Student Government.

## ARTICLE VI: THE CONSTITUTION

1. **Stare Decisis.** This Constitution shall establish *stare decisis* that all actions, legislation, decisions, opinions, and policies appropriately approved by the Student Senate be recognized as valid.

2. **Governing Document.** This Constitution shall serve as the governing document of the Student Body, and all members of Student Government shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support it.

3. **Stability and Amendments.** This Constitution shall be binding upon all members of Student Government at all times and may not be subject to any act or motion of suspension. The Student Senate shall propose amendments to this Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, whenever three-fourths of it shall deem necessary. Amendments shall replace the material it amends.

4. **Primacy.** Ratification of this Constitution shall replace any existing Constitution, in any form of Student Government.

5. **Ratification.** The adoption and ratification by two-thirds of voters of Congress shall make this binding.

Ratified on this day: April 04, 2006

Amendments and Dates:

- (1) Article III, Section 2 amended September 12, 2006
- (2) Article II, Section 9 amended November 28, 2006
- (3) Article VI, Section 3 amended November 28, 2006

Amended Articles

Listed below is the original content of each article, or its part, prior to amendment.

- (1) Article III, Section 2  
“The Student Senate shall contain thirty (30) seats: twenty-seven (27) Senators and three (3) Delegates. All Senators shall be elected at-large from the Student Body during the General Election. Up to sixteen (16) seats shall be comprised of Senators that represent the Student Body at-large; up to (10) seats shall be comprised of Senators that represent the Colleges of Eastern Michigan University, evenly divided among them; three (3) seats shall be reserved for a delegate from each of the following three organizations: the Residence Hall Association, the Commuter Student Association, and the Graduate Student Association. One Senator shall be the Speaker of the Senate, who shall oversee all division.”
- (2) Article II, Section 9  
“Student Government is a member of the Association of Michigan Universities (AMU), the collaborative body of Michigan’s public university students. Student Government is also a member of the United States Student Association (USSA), a collaborative body of all United States higher education students. Each year, the Student Body President will appoint a member of the Student Government to serve as Chief Delegate to AMU and USSA, and work as the main coordinator of all interactions with both bodies.”
- (3) Article VI, Section 3  
The following words were added: “This Constitution shall be binding upon all members of Student Government at all times and may not be subject to any act or motion of suspension.”