

Charter of the Student Senate

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PREAMBLE

The fundamental proposition which governs the proposed structure of the Wayne State University Student Senate:

1. The most important objective of the organization shall be to provide students with the power to make meaningful decisions, and to exercise responsibility as a student leader concerning university affairs.
2. The organization shall be a means to fulfilling the principle that student activities should be an integral part of the educational programming at this university.
3. The foundation of the organization shall be a Student Senate, which shall be responsible for forming plans for the University Student Activities Programs (except the intercollegiate Athletic Program). These plans, (policies, amendments, proposals, and recommendations used interchangeably), are subject to the approval of the current President of Wayne State University.

The responsibility for the administration of such plans is vested in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

A. The **Student Senate** (hereafter referred to as the SS)

I. The SS shall have the official responsibility of recommending to the President of the university on plans that govern the student activities. The SS shall make recommendations to the proper departments and/or agencies, on matters that involve student interest and welfare.

Decisions that affect student matters other than those made by the President or the Board of Governors, shall not become a standing policy of the university until it has been before SS, and has been submitted and/or presented to the SS for at least two regularly scheduled meetings.

II. Composition of the SS

- a. The SS shall reflect the number of students according to procedures detailed below (in Section C).
- b. The Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs shall also be a member of the SS without voting privileges. S/he may send a designee/representative in their absence.
- c. The SS shall elect their own officers and establish their own bylaws.
- d. The SS shall establish an Executive Board (hereafter referred to as E-Board), who are elected to serve as the primary officers of the entire body of the SS during meetings and university affairs. These elected officers shall perform in the capacity of their respective office established under the bylaws.
- e. The SS shall meet at least once a month during the academic year. Otherwise the scheduled meetings for the SS and the SS E-board shall be established according to the bylaws.
- f. Deans, Directors, Vice Presidents, and the President shall make recommendations on issues. They may attend and participate without voting privileges in the meetings of the SS.
- g. If students and/or colleges that do not have a representative request representation, the SS will provide an opportunity for that college to receive representation according to the bylaws.
- h. In order to maintain a balance in the composition of the SS, one Member-at-Large may be elected in the next election for each additional college representative or constituent.

The determination to elect a Member-at-Large shall be made by the SS E-board and brought before the SS for a vote.

B. Procedures for Appeals

I. The Executive Board of the SS shall occasionally act as the screening body to determine the disposition of appeals from decisions of the executive committees, and other entities based upon charges of allegations, investigations, and unjust consequences as a result of policy. The SS E-Board may refer appeals to the SS Student Affairs Executive Board, Executive Committees or Commissions, or the Judicial Committee for adjudication (see Section II, B).

II. A Judicial Committee shall be appointed by the President of the university upon recommendations made by the SS. This committee shall be composed of these three (3) persons that are not members of the SS: two (2) students' from the general student body, and one law student recommended to SS by the Law Student Board. The law student shall be the presiding officer of this committee.

a. The Judicial Committee shall hear cases remanded to them that arise out of decisions made by Executive Committees or Commissions of the SS, which are alleged to be based on the exercise of excessive power or an absence of proper jurisdiction.

b. The decision of the Judicial Committee shall be final concerning matters within SS structure.

III. Since the SS is responsible directly to the President of the university, s/he shall constitute the court of final appeal.

C. Student Representation of the SS; Distribution; Elections; and Qualifications

I. At least fifteen (15) student members of the SS shall be chosen in a university wide election.

II. At least fifteen (15) representatives shall be chosen by and from the respective Colleges/Schools students in a College/School wide election. At least one student shall be selected from each of the following units:

- Business
- Education
- Engineering
- Fine, Performing & Communication Arts
- Graduate School
- Honors College
- Information Sciences
- Law
- Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Social Work
- Housing & Residential Life
- Extension Center(s)

III. All terms of the student representatives shall be for one (1) academic year.

IV. The student representatives shall be chosen in accordance with procedures outlined in the SS bylaws. The chosen student representatives shall be certified by the Election Committee, and shall take office at the first regularly scheduled May meeting of the SS.

V. Students officially registered as a Wayne State University student, for a course granting credit shall have the right to vote in the absence of the student representatives listed above (in II, Section C).

VI. Qualifications for student representatives on the SS shall be as follows:

- a. They shall be matriculated in one of the Colleges/Schools or enrolled in a degree granting program of the Graduate Division. A student representing a component unit shall be a matriculated student in the university.
- b. The SS representative shall not be on academic trial, probation, suspension, expulsion, or facing disciplinary action within the university.
- c. Undergraduate student representatives shall carry six (6) credit hours at the time of their election, and six (6) during their time in office, except that students carrying the number of hours needed only to complete remaining work for a degree shall be eligible. Graduate

students should carry at least three (3) hours at the time of their election and three (3) credit hour during their term of office, except those students carrying the number of hours needed only to complete remaining work for a graduate degree shall be eligible.

- d. Undergraduates shall have accumulated at least twelve (12) credit hours at this university. The graduate students shall have accumulated at least six (6) credit hours in the Graduate Division, unless they have at least twelve (12) hours of undergraduate credit at this university.
- e. Undergraduates shall have and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or greater. Graduate students shall maintain satisfactory grade standards as specified in the Graduate Bulletin. All elected and appointed members of the Colleges/Schools shall adhere to the grade average requirements of that academic year.
- f. Responsibility for the determination of additional eligibility requirements for the SS membership rests with the respective Colleges/Schools, or, in the absence of a Student Government, Council or Board, the respective Dean.

VII. Vacancies which occur among student representatives of the SS, shall be filled by the unit. Such replacements for the remainder of an unexpired term may be made by: a school wide election, appointment, or by the respective Colleges/Schools, Student Government, Council or Board.

VIII. Any student member of the SS may be re-elected provided that s/he maintains all eligibility standards.

IX. The SS may reprimand its members for disorderly conduct, and with the consent of two-thirds of those present and voting, expel a member.

X. The student body can request that the SS consider a disciplinary action of an elected or appointed representative(s) by presenting a petition signed by current students and amounting to at least ten percent (10%) of the number of total votes in the previous election and collected within a thirty (30) day period.

D. Amendments

I. Amendments and additions to this Charter may be proposed by the SS.

II. Written proposed amendments to this Charter shall be presented to each member of the SS at a regularly scheduled SS meeting.

III. Written proposed amendments to the Charter referred to under I, Section D, shall be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the SS.

IV. The Charter may be amended by two-thirds ($2/3$) of those present and voting, effective upon approval by the President of Wayne State University.