

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Leadership. Service. Integrity.

Student Body Constitution
Eastern Illinois University Student Government

Fall 2004

Revised Spring 2024

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Eastern Illinois University, desiring to maintain academic freedom, academic responsibility, student rights, and to foster the recognition of the rights and responsibilities of students to the University and Community, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the Student body of Eastern Illinois University. This Constitution shall supersede any Rules or Bylaws adopted by any student governing boards, except when in conflict with university, state, and federal policies.

ARTICLE I

A. Composition

1. The Student Government, which will consist of two branches, shall represent the student body: the Legislative and Executive.

ARTICLE II - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A. Duties

1. The Legislative Branch shall consist of the Student Senate, hereafter referred to as the Senate.
2. The primary function of the Senate shall be to represent the Student Body of Eastern Illinois University and improve student life through the passage of bills and resolutions.
3. The Senate shall designate rules and bylaws that it deems appropriate for the administration of the Legislative Branch, in accordance with Article IX: Rules and Bylaws Adoption.

B. Composition

1. The Senate shall consist of one senate seat for every 800 students fully enrolled at Eastern Illinois University. The Senate will have a cap of 30 senators and a minimum of 11

senators. Student Senators, hereafter referred to as Senators representing the full Student Body.

2. A Senator must have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 and be a full-time undergraduate student in good disciplinary standing with the University.
3. The Student Senate Bylaws shall determine other eligibility requirements.

C. Meetings

1. Regular meetings of the Senate shall be held at least once per week during the fall and spring semesters, at the discretion of the Speaker of the Senate.
2. Special Meetings shall be convened by the Student Body President or the Speaker of the Senate in accordance with public law.
3. A quorum shall be defined as 50% plus one (1) voting member as stated in the Student Senate bylaws.
4. All meetings shall be open to the public except when closed by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership and in accordance with public law.
5. Meetings shall be presided over by the Speaker of the Senate and shall be governed by this Constitution and all Rules or Bylaws adopted by the Senate.

D. Responsibilities

1. The Senate shall act as the representative voice of the Student Body.
2. The Senate shall approve all student appointments, including appointments to Student/faculty boards, committees, councils, and University and Housing Judicial Boards all by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership of the Senate.

3. In addition, the Senate shall approve the Student Government Budget by a two-thirds majority vote.
4. The Senate shall recommend passage or failure of all tuition and fee increase proposals.
5. In the allocation of Student Activity Fees, the Senate shall determine the amount and usage of student fee money and approve or reject all budget recommendations made by a two-thirds majority vote.
6. The Senate shall elect a Speaker.
 - a. The Speaker may attend all Executive meetings.
 - b. The Speaker shall be a full-time undergraduate student.
 - c. The eligibility requirements and duties of the Speaker shall be governed by Rules or Bylaws adopted by the Student Senate.
 - d. The Speaker shall be responsible for maintaining the records of the Legislative Branch.

E. Removal

1. The Senate is empowered to remove any Student Body Executive Office, Student Trustee and University Judicial Board member for violating the Student Body Constitution, the Rules, or the Bylaws of said body.
2. Removal shall be by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate membership.
3. The Senate is also empowered to remove from office any student member on student/faculty boards councils and Student Government agencies after recommendations by the chairperson of the organization or by the Student Body President.
4. The procedure for removal shall be defined in the Rules and Bylaws.

5. The removed party may appeal to the University Vice President of Student Affairs, which may overturn the decision of the Senate only when the removal process is conducted in violation of the Student Government Constitution or University Policy.

ARTICLE III - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

A. Duties

1. The Executive Branch shall exercise administrative and managerial power over the programs and policies created by the Student Government.
2. Executive Officers shall be required to attend all Student Government Meetings. An accumulation of three (3) absences per semester will be grounds for impeachment.
3. Executive Officers who fail to respond to the opening roll call or the Adjournment roll call will receive one (1) half absence per missed roll call.
4. The Secretary will keep records of attendance for the Executive Branch.
5. The Executive Officers shall be responsible for meeting with their graduate advisor assigned to Student Government Executives through the Student Life Office at least once every week.

B. Compensation

1. Executive Officers may be compensated as determined by the Student Life Office by an amount that shall not exceed \$2,500 per semester or \$5,000 per year and cannot go lower than \$2,000 per semester or \$4,000 per year.
2. The Executive Officer scholarship shall be reviewed as the Constitution is reviewed.

3. The Senate shall develop Rules or Bylaws that shall indicate the amount of the compensation, the procedures for compensation, the type of compensation, and the changes in the amount of compensation shall not affect Student Body Executive Officers until the next regular election of student body executives.

C. Evaluation, Review, and Final Report

1. All Executive Officers shall be evaluated at the beginning of each Spring semester.
2. The evaluation of the Executive Officers shall be headed by the Student Government Advisor.
3. The purpose of this evaluation will be for the administration, faculty, staff, and students to evaluate the performance of each Executive Officer and outline goals for the future.
4. These sessions and all related materials shall be made open and available to the public.
5. Each Executive Officer shall submit a final report to Student Government archives.

D. Executive Branch Meetings and Rules of the Executive Branch

1. The Executive Branch shall meet once per week.
2. Meetings shall be presided over by the Student Body President. Executive Branch meetings shall be open in accordance with public law.
3. Agendas for this meeting must be available at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting starts.
4. The Executive Branch may not adopt rules unless a quorum of 50 percent plus one (1) executive is present.

5. The Executive Branch shall have the power to adopt rules deemed necessary or convenient for its business. Details of Executive Rules can be found in Article IX: Rules and Bylaws Adoption.

E. Composition

1. The Student Body President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Student Body.
2. The other Student Body Executive Officers shall be the Student Body Executive Vice President, Student Body Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Student Body Vice President for Student Affairs.
3. A Student Body Executive Officer must be a full-time undergraduate have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 and be in good disciplinary standing with the University for the entire academic year.
4. The line of succession to the Presidency shall be defined as the following: Executive Vice President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Speaker of the Student Senate.
5. In the case of a vacancy in any Student Body Executive Office other than the Student Body President, the President shall fill said vacancy by appointment, subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote by the Senate.
6. The President's appointment shall remain in office until the next regular election.

F. Student Body President: Powers and Duties:

1. The Student Body President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Student Body and shall determine the general policy of the Executive Branch of Student Government by exercising administrative supervision of the Vice President's Office of the President, Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs, and Student Affairs.

2. The President shall, in person or through an appointed representative, officially represent the Student Body at any function within or outside of the University.
3. The President shall be responsible for organizing and filing information pertaining to the University and bearing relevance to present or future Student Government activities and act to make such records public.
4. The President shall appoint Justices to the University Judicial Board, and the Student Elections Commissions.
5. Further, the President may remove a Student Government-appointed student Chairperson or member from a student/faculty board or council, subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.
6. The President shall create an Executive Commission when deemed necessary, deliver the State of the University Address at least once per semester, deliver special addresses to the Senate when deemed necessary, make appointments to committees as requested by external bodies, and may call special meetings of the Senate for a specific purpose.
7. In the form of an Executive Opinion, the Student Body President may make comments and/or recommendations on issues affecting students.
8. Executive Opinions shall be recognized as being authorized solely through the Office of Student Body President.
9. The President may veto any action taken by the Senate within the jurisdiction of the Student Government except parliamentary procedure, RSO Charter, or resolutions.
10. A veto must be delivered by the subsequent meeting that the vetoed action was passed by the Senate and is subject to reversal by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senators present.

11. The President shall be responsible for meeting at least once a month with the University President.
12. The Student Body President shall be an ex-officio member of committees, boards, councils, and task forces within the University President's area that function under shared governance policies.
13. The Student Body President shall be charged with the task of overseeing the preparations and performance of the First Night and Inauguration of the Senate.

G. Executive Vice President: Powers and Duties:

1. The Student Body Executive Vice President shall be the Chief Public Affairs Officer and Chief Business Affairs Officer of the Student Body and shall assist the President in determining the general policy of the Public Affairs Area.
2. Moreover, these powers shall be supplemented with authority to assist the President in the formulation and execution of Executive Branch policies and ex-officio membership on all executive commissions.
3. The Executive Vice President shall serve as a Student Representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee and shall appoint an alternate voting member subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate as defined by the State of Illinois and Board of Higher Education.
4. City Council Representative shall report to the Executive Vice President within seven days of each meeting of the City Council.
5. Such reports shall contain matters pertaining jointly to the city and the University and any legislation pending before the City Council.

6. All such reports must also be submitted to the Senate.
7. The Executive Vice President shall provide direction for the Student Action Team and appoint student members subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate as defined by the Student Lobbying Team Act.
8. The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for meeting with the University Director of Governmental Affairs.
9. The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for maintaining the records of the Executive Branch.
10. The Executive Vice President shall serve on the Council of University Planning and Budgeting and shall appoint an alternate voting member subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.
11. The Executive Vice President shall consult with the leaders of the Legislative and Executive Branches and assist in drawing up their respective itemized budgets for the next fiscal year.
12. The Executive Vice President shall provide updates once a semester on the budgets of the Student Activity Fee-funded boards to the Senate.
13. The Executive Vice President shall review all Student Government expenditures, requiring Senate approval, before being proposed.
14. The Executive Vice President shall regularly review and audit any and all financial records and expenditures involving Student Activity Fee funded boards, and shall reserve the right to audit and review any and all financial records involving student fee funded budgets.
15. The Executive Vice President shall reserve as an ex-officio member of, and attend all meetings of, the Senate Tuition and Fee Review Committee.

H. Student Body Vice President for Academic Affairs: Powers and Duties:

1. The Student Body Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be the Chief Academic Officer of the Student body and shall assist the President in determining the general policy of the Academic Affairs area.
2. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall exercise administrative supervision of the University Grade appeals System and act as a counsel for students seeking such appeals and shall be an ex-officio member of committees, boards, councils, and task forces within the University Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Area that function under shared governance policies.
3. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall serve as a voting member of the Council on Academic Affairs. If unable to serve, the Vice President of Academic Affairs shall appoint a proxy.
4. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall receive reports from those boards and councils under administrative supervision within the Student Government Academic Affairs Area and shall report on the activities of said boards and councils to the Senate as needed.
5. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall exercise administrative supervision of the Council of Student Deans, and meet with the council, on a regular basis, as defined by Executive Rules.
6. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be responsible for coordinating a joint meeting between the Deans of the Colleges and the Council of Student Deans at least once a semester.
7. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall meet at least once a month with the University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

8. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be charged with the task of overseeing the preparation and performance of the Students Distinguished Faculty Award.

I. Student Body Vice President for Student Affairs: Powers and Duties:

1. The Vice President of Student Affairs shall serve the Chief Student Affairs Officer and shall assist the President in determining the general policy of the Student and Affairs Area.
2. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall exercise administrative supervision over, appoint student members to, and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees, boards Councils, and task forces within the University Vice President for Student Affairs area that function under shared governance policies.
3. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall assist, advise, and promote all Registered Student Organizations.
4. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall meet at least once a month with the University Vice President for Student Affairs.
5. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall be charged with the task of overseeing the preparations and performance of Pantherpalooza.
6. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall be responsible for Diversity in Action Council and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Week.
7. The Vice President for Student Affairs in conjunction with Executive Vice President shall be responsible for all Registered Student Organization funding.

ARTICLE IV – STUDENT TRUSTEE

A. Job Description:

1. The Student Trustee shall serve as the student representative of the Board of Trustees.
2. They shall be the liaison between the board of trustees and the student body.
3. They shall keep the board connected to the needs and priorities of the student body to ensure that the board remains aware of students' perspectives.
4. The Student Trustee would be responsible for attending Board of Trustee Meetings, participating in discussions, and voting on matters that affect the college.

B. Requirements:

1. The Student Trustee shall attend the student senate meeting directly preceding and directly following each Board of Trustees meeting.
2. The Student Trustee shall meet with the Student Body President once per month.
3. The Student Trustee shall be required to follow all rules and guidelines set forth by the Elections Reform Act of Eastern Illinois University Student Government.

C. Eligibility:

1. The Student Trustee must maintain a GPA of 2.50, during their term.
2. The Student Trustee must be a full-time student, an undergraduate or a graduate student.
3. The Student Trustee must be an Illinois resident.

4. The Student Trustee must run in the Election and their term is from July 1st to June 30th.

D. Impeachment or Vacancy:

1. If the Student Trustee is removed from their position by the student senate, a special election may be held as soon as possible.
2. If the Student Trustee position is vacant after a student body election, the position may be given to the appropriate office.

ARTICLE V - VOTER CLASSIFICATION

A. Eligibility:

1. All Students enrolled in Eastern Illinois University shall be eligible to vote in the Student Government elections.

A. Voting

1. All students may vote in Student Body Executive Officer elections and all Senate Elections.

ARTICLE VI - GENERAL POWERS

A. General Powers

1. The Student Government, through powers granted and procedures established by this Constitution, shall have authority over all areas previously listed herein plus the following areas, except where the exercise of such power would violate this Constitution and or the Eastern Illinois University Board of Trustees administrative policies, state laws, or national laws.
2. The Student Government shall not be denied shared governance powers in the administration of student conduct on campus, in the allocation of all student activity fees, in recommending policy on the

use of all buildings paid for in any part by student fees, and in any monetary change of all student fees and tuition with the exception of course fees.

B. Continuity of Responsibility

1. Actions of the Student Government and all its entities will be binding upon and assumed by the future Student Government and all of its entities, until or unless such actions are altered or repealed by normal parliamentary procedure. The only exception to this is resolutions, which are non-binding.

ARTICLE VII - DIVISION OF POWERS

1. A Student Body Executive Officer, Student Senator, University Board Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, or University disciplinary member shall not hold more than one of the above-stated offices concurrently. Student Body Executive Officer may not serve as a member of the University Board or as a Resident Assistant, Senior Staff Assistant, or Assistant Resident Director during their term in office.
2. A Student Body Executive Officer, Senator, Student Trustee, or University disciplinary member shall not serve concurrently in any of the following capacities: Editor in Chief of the campus newspaper; station manager of the campus radio or television stations, or, in any way, the Chief Executive Officer of any regular news media supported by student fees excluding the campus yearbook and campus literacy publications.
3. A Student Body Executive Officer, Senator, Student Trustee, or University disciplinary member in media roles cannot report on anything related to Student Government.
4. A Student Body Executive Officer, may not serve concurrently as the Chief Executive Officer of any fee-funded board.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

A. Proposal

1. An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed by one of three methods: proposal submitted to the Senate, or proposal by initiative, or proposal by Constitutional Revision Committee.
2. Proposal by initiative.
 - a. Constitutional revisions may be submitted for ratification by initiative by presenting a petition with signatures of 10% of the Student Body to the Elections Commission in accordance with The Elections Reform Act.
3. Proposal by submission to the Senate.
 - a. Constitutional revisions may be submitted for ratification by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership of the Senate.
 - b. Proposals must be tabled for at least one week before being voted upon by the Senate.
4. Proposal by Constitution Revision.
 - a. A two-thirds majority vote of the membership of the Senate is required to convene a Constitutional Revision Committee which is governed by the bylaws.

B. Process

1. Copies of all proposed amendments and/or revisions shall be made available to the Student Body and the campus media.
2. The proposed amendments, regardless of the method of initiation, shall be submitted to the Elections Commission in accordance with The Elections Reform Act.
3. After a proposal by one of the three (3) methods above, proposed revisions shall be placed on the ballot for a student referendum.

4. Revisions shall be ratified after approval by a two-thirds majority of those students who cast votes on the proposed revision.

C. Clerical Revisions

1. The Senate shall be empowered to adopt linguistic and corrective changes in the event of errors and misspellings found in this document. Changes cannot alter or change the substance of any sentence. These changes shall be subject to a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate.

ARTICLE IX - RULES AND BYLAWS ADOPTION

A. Senate Bylaws

1. The Senate shall be empowered to adopt such rules, bylaws, and regulations deemed necessary and convenient for the execution of its functions through the procedures 12 established in this Constitution provided such rules, bylaws, and regulations do not conflict with this Constitution.
2. The bylaws shall govern only the Senate, except in cases specifically authorized by the Student Body Constitution.

B. Executive Rules

1. Executive Rules shall be adopted in a Senate bill form by a simple majority vote of the membership of the Executive Branch, pending approval by a simple majority of the membership of the Senate.
2. The Senate may not amend the proposed rule. These Rules shall govern only the Executive Branch of the Student Government unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.
3. Rules adopted shall not conflict with the Student Body Constitution, University policy, or public law.

C. Student Activity Fee-Funded Boards and Councils

1. Amendments to the Rules, Bylaws, and Regulations of Student Activity Fee-funded Boards shall be subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the membership of the Senate.
2. All Student Activity Fee-funded Board meetings shall include audience participation.
3. The organizations may make reasonable time restrictions on audience participation in accordance with parliamentary procedure.