



Constitution of the Student Association of La Sierra University

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Constitution of the Student Association of La Sierra University

Preamble

We, the students of La Sierra University, in order to encourage active support of the University's ideals, to provide opportunities in leadership, and to prepare students as responsible, social, and spiritual citizens do hereby establish this Constitution of the Student Association of La Sierra University.

Article I: Name, Membership, and Other Terms

Section 1: Name

1. The name of this organization shall be the Student Association of La Sierra University.

Section 2: Membership

1. The members of the Student Association shall be undergraduate students of La Sierra University enrolled for a minimum of twelve units and graduate students enrolled for a minimum of six units.

Section 3: Definitions

1. Whenever the acronym "SALSU" is used within this constitution, it shall be interpreted to mean Student Association of La Sierra University.
2. Whenever the term "Executive Officer(s)" is used it shall be interpreted as members of the Student Association of La Sierra University's Executive Council.
3. Whenever the word "Administration" is used within this Constitution, it shall be interpreted as meaning the Office of Student Life and/or its committees.
4. Whenever the words "University President" are used within this Constitution, it shall be interpreted as meaning the President of La Sierra University.
5. Whenever the words "University Provost" are used within this Constitution, it shall be interpreted as meaning the Provost of La Sierra University.
6. Whenever the word "Sponsor" is used within this Constitution, it shall be interpreted as meaning the Sponsor of the Executive Council.
7. Whenever the word "Advisor" is used within this Constitution, it shall be interpreted as meaning each Executive Council's individual Advisor.
8. Whenever the word "President" is used within this Constitution, it shall be interpreted as meaning the SALSU President.

Article II: Executive Branch

Section 1: Executive Body

1. The Executive Body of the Student Association shall be the Executive Council.

2. The Executive Council shall be responsible for planning all activities of the Student Association, for overseeing all of the operations of the Student Association, and for taking all actions deemed necessary for the proper and effective operation of the Student Association.
3. The Executive Council shall consist of the following voting members which include all of the Executive Officers: President, Executive Vice President, Spiritual Vice President, Social Vice President, Financial Vice President, Parliamentarian, Marketing Director, Wellness Director, Criterion Editor, Visions Editor, and Secretary.
4. The Sponsor(s) is/are nonvoting member(s) of the Executive Council and is/are expected to attend all meetings of the Executive Council.
5. For any meeting of the Executive Council to be official, a quorum of six voting members must be present, one of whom must be one of the following officers: President or Executive Vice President.
6. The chair of the Executive Council shall be the President, however in the absence of the President the Executive Vice President shall assume duties as chair.
7. Executive Council members have a Student Association Sponsor other than their Respective Advisor.
8. The Executive Council shall be scheduled to meet at least on a weekly basis at the time and place specified by the President upon consultation with all Executive Council members.
 - a. If an Executive Council member has more than two unexcused absences in a year, they will receive a reduction in stipend upon the President and Student Association Sponsor's decision.
 - b. If an Executive Council member misses more than three meetings in a year, their case for impeachment will be brought to the Constitution and Bylaws Board for discussion.
9. All Executive Officers are recommended to collaborate with other entities on campus (e.g. clubs, organizations, and departments).

Section 2: Passage of Executive Council Actions

1. All Executive Council actions, planned or taken, are subject to administrative approval and may be questioned or vetoed by the Administration.
2. If the Administration vetoes an action, a written explanation must be presented to the Executive Council within a reasonable amount of time. The Executive Council may appeal the decision to the University Provost.
3. If the University Provost vetoes an action, the Executive Council may appeal the decision to the University's Executive Council.
4. The decision of the University's Executive Council is final.
5. This process of appeals shall be known as the "order of appeals."

Article III: Legislative Branch

Section 1: Legislative Body

1. The Legislative Body of the Student Association shall be the Student Senate, hereafter referred to as the Senate.

2. The Senate shall be responsible for legislative action of the Student Association and for addressing issues on behalf of all members of the Student Association.
3. The twenty-four Senators and the Executive Vice President shall be the voting members of the Senate.
 - a. In the case of a tie, the Executive Vice President's vote shall be deemed the tiebreaker.
4. The following are nonvoting members of the Senate and are required to attend all meetings: President, Parliamentarian, Secretary, Marketing Director, Criterion Editor, Visions Editor, Spiritual Vice President, Wellness Director, Social Vice President, and the Senate Advisor(s).
5. For any meeting of the Senate to be official, a quorum of 13 Senators must be present in addition to one of the following officers: Executive Vice President or Parliamentarian.
6. The chair of the Senate shall be the Executive Vice President, however in the absence of the Executive Vice President, the Parliamentarian shall assume duties as chair.
7. Senate shall be scheduled to meet on a minimum of a biweekly basis with a minimum of four meetings per quarter at the time and place specified by the Executive Vice President.

Article IV: Judicial Branch

Section 1: Judicial Body

1. The Judicial Body of the Student Association shall be the Constitution and Bylaws Board.
2. The Constitution and Bylaws Board shall be responsible for all matters concerning the constitutionality of any Student Association action, including (but not limited to) the impeachment and removal from office of any officers, and for the implementation of provisions within the Constitution and Bylaws.
3. The Constitution and Bylaws Board shall consist of the following voting members: Parliamentarian, President, Executive Vice President, six Senators appointed by the Senate, the Judicial Committee, and four representatives from the Student Association nominated by the Parliamentarian and appointed by the Senate.
4. The following are nonvoting members of the Constitution and Bylaws Board and are required to attend all meetings: Secretary and the Student Association Advisor(s) of the Constitution and Bylaws Board.
5. For any meeting of the Constitution and Bylaws Board to be official, a quorum of twelve of the voting members must be present.
 - a. The Parliamentarian must be present at all Constitution and Bylaws Board meetings.
6. The chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Board shall be the Parliamentarian.
7. The Constitution and Bylaws Board shall meet at the time and place specified by the Parliamentarian upon consultation with all board members.

Section 2: Passage of Constitution and Bylaws Board Decisions

1. The Parliamentarian shall present all actions and decisions of the Constitution and Bylaws Board, with the exception of all cases involving the impeachment and removal from office of any officers and cases involving the constitutionality of Executive Council actions, to the Executive Council for approval.

2. The Executive Council may approve by a majority vote or veto by a three-fourths vote any decision of the Constitution and Bylaws Board.
3. The Constitution and Bylaws Board may override a veto of the Executive Council by a four-fifths vote.
4. All decisions of the Constitution and Bylaws Board are subject to the same administrative process and order of appeals as the Executive Council.

Article V: Filling Offices and Terms of Office

Section 1: Voting

1. All current members of the Student Association are entitled to one vote in all Student Association elections.
2. All Student Association elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

Section 2: Candidate Qualifications and Stipulations

1. Only Student Association members' representative of the spiritual, social, and academic standards of La Sierra University, as found in the student handbook are eligible to run for a Student Association office.
2. A student must be a member of the Student Association for the designated amount of time as described in SALSU By-laws prior to the election to be eligible to run for Executive office.
3. Each position of the Student Association may be held by only one Student Association member per term. No person may hold the same Executive Council office for more than two terms.
4. No Student Association member may run for or hold a Student Association office if the term of the Student Association office will coincide with the term of a Resident Hall Assistant position.
5. A Student Association Executive Officer may only hold an additional class or student organization office after petitioning to the Senate for approval.
6. All candidates are subject to administrative approval.
7. All candidates for Financial Vice President shall have completed or be currently enrolled in at least one of the following classes in order to be eligible to be hired for the office: ACCT 221, Financial Accounting I, ACCT 222, Financial Accounting II, or ACCT 223 Managerial Accounting.
 - a. If a candidate has not completed these class requirements, they would need to have had appropriate work experience relevant to the position and must be approved by the respective sponsor.
 - b. All candidates for Financial Vice President are to be interviewed by President, President-elect, Executive Vice President, Financial Vice President, respective advisor, and any other Executive Officers(-elect) deemed necessary.
 - i. President, President-elect, Executive Vice President and Financial Vice President shall remain impartial.
 - c. Position shall be hired before AIA of the current year.
8. All candidates for President and Executive Vice President must have been a member of Student Senate or the Executive Council for at least 3 full quarters to be eligible to run for office.

- a. All candidates for Social Vice President must be vetted via an interview conducted by the Parliamentarian and respective Advisor(s) prior to the election to be eligible to run for Student Association office.
- b. All candidates for Social Vice President shall be required to show competence in event planning, budget management, organization skills, and other pertinent skills.
- c. In the case that the Social Vice President runs for second term, the President and respective Advisor(s) will conduct the interview.
- d. Interview and approvals shall be completed no later than two weeks prior to elections.
- e. In the case that there is no qualified applicant for Social Vice President, Nominating Committee will satisfy the vetting interview requirement.

Section 3: Nominating Committee

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the President as chair, all members of the Executive Council, the Senate, and the four Student Association representatives from the Constitution and Bylaws Board.
2. The Nominating Committee shall have the final Student Association authority on choosing candidates for an election and filling all vacancies.

Section 4: Choosing Candidates for an Election

1. If there is no candidate for a Student Association office in a general election, then the Nominating Committee shall meet at least ten school days before the general election to name candidates for such positions.
2. The Nominating Committee shall nominate a minimum of one candidate or a maximum of two candidates for the office. The nominees must meet the same requirements for holding an office as all other candidates for that office and shall follow all election procedures.

Section 5: Filling a Vacancy

1. If there is a vacant office, then the Nominating Committee shall meet within ten school days after the vacancy has occurred to fill it.
2. The Nominating Committee shall nominate a maximum of two candidates to fill the vacancy. The nominees must meet the same requirements for holding an office as all other candidates for that office.
3. The Nominating Committee may then, by a two-thirds vote, make the appointment or have the Student Association vote on those nominated in a special election upon administrative approval.
4. In the case that a senate seat becomes open during spring quarter, it is up to the Executive Vice President and Sponsor to decide whether or not the Nominating Committee shall be called to fill the seat.

Section 6: Appointments

1. The President, President-elect, and Vice President-elect(s) in consultation with the Administration, shall nominate for the duration of their term, the following offices:

Secretary, Parliamentarian, Financial Vice President, Marketing Director, Criterion Editor, Visions Editor, and Wellness Director.

2. The President or President-elect shall have the Secretary, Parliamentarian, Financial Vice President, Marketing Director, Criterion Editor, Visions Editor, and Wellness Director appointed by the last Senate meeting of the Spring Quarter after General Elections have taken place.
3. The Senate must approve the nomination by a two-thirds vote or disapprove by a majority vote.
 - a. If the Senate disapproves of a candidate, the candidate may be taken to Administration to veto the Senate's decision.
4. Hiring process:
 - a. The President-elect shall be responsible for creating and posting applications for the vacant office positions.
 - a. The Executive Council Sponsor, Respective Advisor(s), President-elect and/or any other Executive Council member shall conduct the interview process for all candidates approved by Student Life. This shall address, but is not limited to, the following: review of candidate's previous work portfolio, ability to perform under time constraints, etc.
 - b. The final candidates shall be presented to Senate for approval. Once the vote is taken, the candidate shall be hired for the position.
5. Before a candidate may be interviewed for an office in the Executive Council, the student must have two written recommendations. One must be from a La Sierra University faculty member or administrator. The other may be from another La Sierra University faculty member or administrator or from another qualified individual such as a pastor, employer, or former teacher.

Section 7: Term of Office for Student Association Officers

1. The term of office for elected Officers shall begin on the first day of summer quarter and end on the last day of spring quarter of the following year.
2. The term of office for the Secretary, Parliamentarian, Financial Vice President, Marketing Director, Criterion Editor, Visions Editor, and Wellness Director shall begin on the first day of summer quarter or on the day following approval by the Senate, whichever comes last. The term of office shall end on the last day of spring quarter.

Article VI: Resignation/Impeachment

Section 1: Resignation Proceedings

1. If at any time an Executive Officer or Senator resigns from any position, said person shall be required to refrain from running for any Executive Council position or Senate seat for that full academic year before seeking office.

Section 2: Reasons for Impeachment

1. Any Executive Officer or Senator charged with conduct not in harmony with the principles of La Sierra University as found in the student handbook or expressed by the Administration and faculty senate shall be eligible for impeachment. This includes, but is

not limited to, the following: citizenship probation, destruction of school property, being grossly negligent of the duties of the office, failing to maintain eligibility of office, or being absent from more than the respective amount of meetings per term of office without a petition stating sufficient cause.

Section 3: Impeachment Proceedings

1. Any Student Association member may in writing charge an Executive Officer or Senator with an offense meriting impeachment. This accusation should be presented to the President or Sponsor.
 - a. In the case that the President is charged with an offense meriting impeachment, the accusation shall be presented to the Parliamentarian and Sponsor.
2. In the case of such an event, the Constitution and Bylaws Board shall evaluate within ten academic days the accusation to determine if there is sufficient cause which would be determined by the first vote
 - a. Vote 1: By a majority vote, the Constitution and Bylaws Board must first vote if the accusation has enough merit to continue to consider impeachment or other disciplinary actions. If it is voted that there is not enough merit, then all charges are dropped and the process is finished.
 - i. The Constitution and Bylaws Board can propose disciplinary actions; the President and Sponsor will make the decision.
 - b. Vote 2: If the first vote passes, then the body would move on to the second vote to determine whether the accused is guilty of any of the presented charges. This vote would need to pass by a two-thirds vote.
 - i. If the second vote is passed, the body shall hold discussion as to the date that the impeached Executive Officer or Senator should be removed.
3. An Executive Officer or Senator impeached from office shall be barred from running for any future Student Association Office(s) for at least two academic years.
4. Following a guilty verdict, the Constitution and Bylaws Board shall decide if it would be in the best interest of the student body to immediately remove from office the impeached Executive Officer or Senator, requiring a two-thirds vote.
5. If censured, an Executive Officer or Senator shall be placed on probation during which his or her performance and conduct shall be closely monitored and evaluated by the Constitution and Bylaws Board for as long as the Constitution and Bylaws Board deems necessary. The Constitution and Bylaws Board may later, by a two-thirds vote, remove from office an Executive Officer or Senator on probation if the Constitution and Bylaws Board determines that Executive Officer or Senator has violated the terms of the probation.

Article VII: Initiatives and Student Association Meetings

Section 1: Initiatives

1. If one-sixteenth members of the Student Association shall in writing request that a special action be taken, the Executive Council must call for a Student Association meeting to vote upon this action.
2. If 100 members of the Student Association shall in writing request the Executive Vice President to initiate an action in the Senate, the Senate must consider this action.

Section 2: Student Association Meetings

1. A Student Association meeting may be called for by the Executive Council as recommended by the Senate, the Constitution and Bylaws Board, the Administration, or one sixteenth of the members of the Student Association.
2. The President shall act as chair of the Student Association meeting.
3. The Executive Council may approve by a majority vote or disapprove by a five-sixths vote any action of the Student Association meeting.

Article VIII: General Provisions

Section 1: Constitution

1. The Constitution shall be available for student perusal in the library, on the Division of Student Life website, and in/on the Student Association office and website.

Section 2: Student Association Publications

1. The Criterion shall be the official newspaper of the Student Association.
2. The Visions shall be the official yearbook of the Student Association.

Section 3: Presidential Oath of Office

Within the first two weeks of the school year, the President shall take the following oath as administered by the University President: "I so solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the Student Association and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the Student Association of La Sierra University, so help me God."

Section 4: Student Association Dues

1. The Student Association dues shall be set by the Administration upon the recommendation of the Executive Council.
2. The Student Association dues shall be collected by La Sierra University at the beginning of every quarter a student is a member of the Student Association.

Section 5: Student Association Budget

1. The Student Association budget shall be passed first by the Executive Council and then by the Senate.
2. If the Senate does not approve the budget, the Executive Council shall make adjustments as necessary for passage by the Senate.
3. The Senate shall have the final Student Association authority on the budget.

Section 6: Parliamentary Procedure

1. *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be the official guide of the Student Association in all matters of parliamentary procedure.

Article IX: Amendments and New Constitutions

Section 1: Proposing Body

1. The Constitution and Bylaws Board shall review the Constitution in its entirety whenever deemed necessary by the Executive Council, the Senate, the Constitution and Bylaws Board, or the Administration and propose amendments and new constitutions as deemed necessary by the Constitution and Bylaws Board.

Section 2: Proposals of Amendments

1. The Constitution and Bylaws Board shall propose all amendments it deems necessary first to the Senate, next to the Executive Council, and finally to the Administration. After Senate and Executive Council approval by a majority, in addition to approval by the Administration, the amendment must be placed on the next election ballot or a special election must be called for by the Executive Council upon the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Board with the approval of the Administration.
2. One quarter of the members of the Student Association may propose by petition an amendment to be submitted to the Constitution and Bylaws Board. After Constitution and Bylaws Board, Senate, and Executive Council approval by a majority, in addition to approval by the Administration, the Executive Council upon the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Board and with the approval of the Administration must call for a special election to vote upon the amendment.

Section 3: New Constitution Guidelines

1. If the Constitution and Bylaws Board deems necessary that the Student Association draft a new constitution, the Senate and the Executive Council must approve the request by a two-thirds vote, in addition to approval by the Administration. Then, the Constitution and Bylaws Board may draft a new constitution.
2. The new constitution must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate and the Executive Council, in addition to approval by the Administration.
3. The new constitution must be placed on the next election ballot or a special election must be called for by the Executive Council upon the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Board and with the approval of the Administration.

Section 4: Approval of Amendments and New Constitutions

1. All amendments and new constitutions must be made available to the public prior to the time to which they are voted upon.
2. All amendments and new constitutions must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the votes cast by the Student Association voting members.
3. Immediately upon ratification, all previous constitutions are rendered null and void.