



## CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

*To further the interests and promote the welfare of the students at the University of Chicago; to foster a University community; to represent the body more effectively before University authorities and the community at large; we, the students of the University of Chicago, hereby establish a Student Association under the following Constitution.*

### **ARTICLE I: THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

1. All students of the University of Chicago shall be members of the Student Association.
2. A student shall be any person, registered in any Division or School or with advanced standing, considered a student in residence by the University of Chicago.
3. The President of the Student Association shall convene the Student Association at his or her discretion, or upon the request of 10 Assembly members, or when so petitioned by five percent (5%) of the members of the Student Association.
4. The Student Association shall be represented by a Student Government comprised of an Assembly and an Executive Committee. The Assembly shall be comprised of a College Council and a Graduate Council.
5. Members of the Student Association shall have the right to speak at all meetings of the Assembly. All meetings, impeachment trials, and other operations of the Student Government shall be open to them, with the exception of the Finance and Annual Allocations Committees when they deliberate.
6. The Student Government may not set any procedural guidelines nor engage in any act which deprives students or Recognized Student Organizations of their fundamental right to be notified of proceedings against them, to speak in their defense if they so choose.

### **ARTICLE II: THE COLLEGE COUNCIL, GRADUATE COUNCIL, AND ASSEMBLY**

1. The College Council and Graduate Council shall operate under existing pan-University By-Laws until the adoption of Assembly By-Laws describing the representation and rules of the body.
2. The Assembly has the following powers (as specified in the By-Laws):
  - a. to legislate on any topic within the purview of the Student Association of the University;
  - b. to elect members to a Finance Committee to grant funding to Recognized Student Organizations, and to elect members to other standing committees;
  - c. to spend funds under the Assembly's control;
  - d. to approve or overturn Presidential appointments, in accordance with the By-Laws;
  - e. to establish ad hoc committees;
  - f. to submit referenda to the Student Association;
  - g. to establish special committees to hear and resolve matters arising from the relationship involving any of the following: Students, Recognized Student Organizations, and the Student Government;
  - h. to refuse the recognition, privileges, or funding of any Recognized Student Organization.
3. The Assembly shall possess full legislative powers. The Assembly may delegate specific parts of its legislative power to the Executive Committee for specific periods and within specific areas of authority by a two-thirds vote.

- a. The Assembly shall not delegate the following powers:
    - i. the power to amend the By-Laws of this Constitution;
    - ii. the power to schedule a referendum or an election to change either this Constitution or its By-Laws;
    - iii. the power to initiate amendments to this Constitution or its By-Laws;
    - iv. the power to overturn Presidential appointments;
    - v. the power to remove an officer of the Student Government.
  - b. The power of the Assembly shall be automatically delegated to the incoming Executive Committee on the last day of Spring Quarter, to end with the certification of the new Assembly elected in the regularly scheduled Autumn election.
4. College students and graduate students each may form a Constitution with the consent of 3/5 of the respective students voting on the constitutional referendum. Each Council shall adopt independent By-Laws describing the operation of and rules for each body.
  5. No recommendation of the Finance Committee shall become valid, and no funds transferred to Recognized Student Organizations before the allocation has been reviewed by each Council as specified in the Assembly or Council By-Laws.
    - a. When reviewing the recommendation of the Finance Committee, each Council shall approve the allocation, overturn the allocation and report a new amount, or direct the Finance Committee to reconsider its decision.
    - b. In the event that the two Councils disagree on a course of action, the Executive Slate shall choose one or the other option proposed by one or the other Council, by majority vote. e power to choose shall not be construed to grant the Executive Slate the power to overturn a unanimous allocation, or to adopt a third course of action different from either Council's proposals.
    - c. Assembly shall adopt regulations for the expedient discharge of the duty outlined in paragraphs (a) and (b) in the By-Laws. Each Council may establish such procedures as it deems necessary to balance the interests of expedient review of funding requests with the desire to make educated, knowledgeable, and informed decisions on funding.
  6. The above powers of the Assembly shall not be construed as a limitation or specific enumeration of the powers of the Assembly.

### **ARTICLE III: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the Student Association, chairs of all standing and ad hoc committees, and other appointed officers of the Student Association.
2. Elected Officers:
  - a. The elected officers of the Student Association shall be the President, the Vice President for Administration, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the two Student Liaisons to the Board of Trustees, and the Community and Government Liaison.
  - b. All elected officers must be members of the Student Association.
  - c. The President of the Student Association shall be the chief executive officer of the Student Association.
  - d. The Vice President for Administration and the Vice President for Student Affairs shall fulfill those duties as outlined in the By-Laws and as assigned by the President, in accordance with this Constitution.

3. The Standing Committees:
  - a. The Student Association shall have the following permanent Standing Committees:
    - i. The Finance Committee;
    - ii. The Elections & Rules Committee;
    - iii. The Annual Allocations Committee;
    - iv. Thee Committee on Recognized Student Organizations;
    - v. The Program Coordinating Council.
  - b. The Assembly may establish other Standing Committees in the By-Laws. The College Council and the Graduate Council each may establish its own Standing Committees under its own By-Laws.
  - c. Membership on all Standing Committees of the Assembly shall be open to all members of the Student Association, except where stipulated otherwise in this Constitution.
  - d. Membership on the Finance Committee, and the Student Government-allocated seats on the Committee on Recognized Student Organizations and the Program Coordinating Council, shall be elected by the Assembly.
  - e. Members of the Elections and Rules Committee and the Annual Allocations Committee shall be elected by the Assembly.
  - f. The duties of the Standing Committees shall be outlined in the By-Laws.
  - g. Standing Committee chairs shall be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of either the Assembly, or both the College Council and Graduate Council, as determined in the Assembly's By-Laws.
    - i. The exception shall be the Elections & Rules Committee, the Chair of which shall be elected by the Committee and approved by the President.
4. The President, with consent of either the Assembly, or both the College Council and Graduate Council, as determined in the Assembly's By-Laws, may establish ad hoc committees and appoint chairs to those committees.
5. Appointed Officers:
  - a. The Secretary of the Association is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Assembly.
  - b. A Parliamentarian from outside the Assembly can be appointed by the President.
  - c. The President may appoint other officers, such as Sergeant-At-Arms, as he sees fit, with the advice and consent of the Assembly.
6. The Executive Committee shall prepare and deliver regular reports and proposals on matters of policy and action for the consideration of each body as appropriate. It shall execute the policies of each body and perform any other functions each body may delegate to it.
7. The Executive Committee may be convened by the President or by a majority of the members of the Committee.

## **ARTICLE IV: ELECTIONS**

1. The election of the President, Vice President for Administration, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Student Liaisons to the Board of Trustees shall occur in the spring of each academic year on a date selected by the Elections and Rules Committee, which shall govern all elections, subject to this Constitution and to its By-Laws. This date of the election may not be set later than seventh week of the Spring Quarter.

2. A candidate for the office of President shall run in conjunction with a candidate for each of the two Vice Presidencies; the three candidates shall comprise a unitary and indivisible slate of candidates. Votes shall be cast for such a slate of candidates, not for the individual candidates.
3. College Council and Graduate Council elections and appointments shall occur in either the Autumn Quarter of each academic year or the Spring Quarter preceding each academic year or both until all representatives are determined.
4. Any member of the Student Association is eligible to run for office.
5. In order to be eligible to run, candidates for President/Vice President for Administration/Vice President for Student Affairs ticket must submit a petition complying with the requirements of the By-Laws.
6. A candidate for the College Council or any elected Graduate Council seat must submit a petition complying with the requirements of the By-Laws for that body's constituency.
7. A candidate for either Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees must submit a petition complying with the requirements of the By-Laws.
8. Elections shall be scheduled and conducted pursuant to the provisions of this Article and the By-Laws.
9. Vacancies in any position occurring before the expiration of the term of office shall be filled in accordance with the appropriate By-Laws.
10. The Assembly shall have the power, on its own or through delegation or consent of the Elections and Rules Committee, to establish all rules and procedures for all elections, and the Elections and Rules Committee shall govern and hear all disputes regarding such elections. The Elections and Rules Committee shall be the final judge of all election disputes and results.

## **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS AND QUORUM**

1. The College Council and Graduate Council each shall hold no fewer than four meetings per term excluding the summer term. The College Council and Graduate Council shall meet together as the Assembly at least once per term excluding the summer term. The Committee on Recognized Student Organizations and the Finance Committee each shall meet no less than once every two weeks, and a quorum is required in order to conduct official business.
2. A quorum is required in order to conduct business in the name of the College Council or Graduate Council of the Student Association of the University of Chicago. A quorum of the Assembly is required in order to conduct business in the name of the Assembly of the Student Association of the University of Chicago.
3. A quorum for each body shall consist of a majority of the eligible voting members.
4. All business of each body shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise stated in this Constitution or unless the Councils in their By-Laws so provide.

## **ARTICLE VI: INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, RECALL, AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

1. The rights of initiative, referendum, and recall are vested in the Student Association.
2. Elections and Rules Committee shall submit an act of referendum within one (1) month upon petition by 5% of the Student Association, with the exception that no referendum may be held during the period beginning the last day of Spring Quarter and ending with the certification of the new Assembly elected by each constituency in the regularly scheduled Autumn election.

3. Each legislative body shall act upon any matter, except a referendum or a recall election, within two (2) weeks of a petition by 5% of its constituency.
4. A recall election for the President, Vice President, or either Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees, shall be held within three (3) weeks upon petition by 5% of the Student Association; no recall election may be scheduled during the period beginning the last day of Spring Quarter and ending with the certification of the new Assembly elected by each constituency in the regularly scheduled Autumn election.
5. A recall election for an elected College Council or Graduate Council member shall be held within three (3) weeks upon petition by 10% or 25 members of the electoral unit, whichever is greater, from which the member serves with the exception that no recall election may be scheduled during the period beginning the last day of Spring Quarter and ending with the certification of the new Assembly elected by each constituency in the regularly scheduled Autumn Quarter election.
6. Members of the Student Government may be removed from office for neglect of duty or malfeasance of office by a two-thirds vote of the appropriate legislative body, after having been offered a hearing in that body. Such malfeasance may include violation of the Constitution.

## **ARTICLE VII: BY-LAWS**

1. The Assembly shall adopt and amend By-Laws of this Constitution by a two-thirds vote. Each Council shall adopt By-Laws of its own by a two-thirds vote, without contradicting the Assembly By-Laws.
2. The Student Association may amend the By-Laws by a three-fifths majority of votes cast at the next scheduled election or at a special referendum.
3. The By-Laws shall be made available by the Elections and Rules Committee for public inspection.
4. In no case shall the By-Laws be enacted or amended to contradict this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE VIII: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

1. Amendments to this Constitution may be initiated by a two-thirds vote in the Assembly or upon petition by 5% of the Student Association.
2. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall require the approval of three-fifths of the Student Association members voting on the amendment. The Elections and Rules Committee shall schedule campus-wide elections to approve amendments initiated at any time during the Autumn, Winter, or Spring Quarters. Such elections must be publicized campus-wide at least three weeks in advance. Otherwise, proposed amendments may be placed on the ballot during the regularly scheduled Autumn Quarter or Spring Quarter elections.

## **ARTICLE IX: RATIFICATION, TRANSITION, AND INTERPRETATION**

1. This Constitution has been ratified as an amendment to the Student Association Constitution of 2001, according to the procedures set forth therein for amendments.
2. Should any question regarding the interpretation of this Constitution arise, the Executive Slate, after consulting with the Chairs of the College and Graduate Councils, may issue an interpretation. This interpretation shall stand unless overturned by a 2/3 vote of the Student Government Assembly or of either Council.

## **HISTORY:**

- Ratified by the Student Association: May 11, 2000
- Amended by the Student Association: October, 2001 “SA Court Removal” (Articles I-IX)
- Amended by the Student Association: May 28, 2003 “Two Liaisons” (Articles III, IV, and VI)
- Amended by the Student Association: April 26, 2006 “Spring Elections” (Article IV)
- Amended by the Student Association: April 26, 2007 “SG-Allocated Seats” (Article III)
- Amended by the Student Association: April 26, 2007 “E&R Chair Approval” (Article III)
- Amended by the Student Association: April 22, 2010 “Community and Government Liaison” (Article III)