The Constitution of University of Colorado Student Government

NOTE: Only the sections that were changed are included in this document. Sections within individual Articles may have different numbering (or lettering) from the current Constitution due to the addition or deletion of entire sections. However, the Article numbers themselves will remain mostly consistent.

KEY to CHANGES: Additions are in red. Deletions are in blue or blue strikethrough. Language moved from elsewhere is in green. Only significant moves are included. Where needed for clarity, sections that are not included will be marked by ellipses: … or … .

ARTICLE II – THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

A. The Executive or Executives shall consist of either a Chief Executive (President) and an Associate Executive (Vice President), three Tri-Executives, or some other designated form with a maximum of three executive positions.

B. The Executive shall be elected through all-school elections for a one-year term to begin the day after the scheduled University of Colorado Boulder Commencement Classes, as established by the Academic Calendar of the University of Colorado Boulder, and after the certification of the Spring elections. …

ARTICLE III – THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A. The Legislative Council
   a. The Legislative Council shall consist of the members of the Representative Council and the Council of Colleges and Schools.
      i. The Representative Council and Council of Colleges and Schools shall have an equal total number of votes delegated to each Council.
      ii. No Representative or Senator may have the power to cast more than one vote in the Legislative Council under any circumstances.
   …
b. The powers and responsibilities of Legislative Council shall include, but not be limited to:

i. The Legislative Council may appoint, ratify, remove, and deratify Joint or Advisory Board members.

ii. The Legislative Council shall ratify commission directors and Representative Council appointments to the Joint or Advisory Boards by a majority vote, present and voting.

iii. The Legislative Council shall review and ratify appointments made by the Executive.

iv. The Legislative Council shall allocate or establish a system of allocation of money to student groups. …

c. Legislative Council Meetings

i. Meetings shall be held weekly during the spring and fall semesters. Meetings shall not be held when the University is not in session.

ii. The Legislative Council shall meet no less than fortnightly during summer session. Meetings shall not be held during July, the annual Legislative Recess.

   1. The Legislative Council officers may continue to work and be compensated during the Legislative Recess.

iii. The Legislative Council shall choose their President, Vice President, and other officers. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Legislative Council. The Vice President shall be President pro tempore of the Legislative Council, and shall preside in the absence of the President. …

B. The Representative Council

i. The Representative Council shall consist of at least as many Representatives members as there are degree-granting colleges and schools on the Boulder campus as listed in Article III.C.a.i.

ii. The term of office shall be one year. Half of the seats shall be elected in the Spring, and half of the seats shall be elected in the Fall. In the event of an odd number of Representative Council seats, one more shall be elected in the Fall than in the Spring.

iii. Responsibilities

   1. Each Representative Council member shall sit on at least one Joint or Advisory Board.

   2. The Representative Council shall establish university-wide priorities.

iv. Representative Council Meetings
1. When the University is in session, meetings shall be held weekly no less than fortnightly, but meetings shall not be held when the University is not in session.

2. Quorum shall consist of a majority of the Council.

C. The Council of Colleges and Schools
   
a. The Council of Colleges and Schools shall consist of Senators from each degree-granting college or school (known as the local colleges and schools) at the University of Colorado Boulder.

b. These colleges and schools are designated as follows: Arts and Sciences; Business; Education; Engineering and Applied Science; Environmental Design; Graduate; Law; Media, Communication and Information; and Music.
   
i. This list shall be updated automatically as schools or colleges are renamed, added, or removed.

c. Each school or college may elect or appoint up to two Senators, but in all business of Legislative Council, except for participation in committees, the delegation from each college or school shall total only one vote.
   
i. Each school and college government shall decide the method of election by which their Senators are selected.
   
ii. Responsibilities

   1. The Council of Colleges and Schools shall establish local college and school priorities.

   2. The Council of Colleges and Schools shall act as a liaison between the individual colleges and schools and the Legislative Council.

iii. Council of Colleges and Schools Meetings

   1. When the University is in session, meetings shall be held weekly no less than fortnightly, but meetings shall not be held when the University is not in session.

   2. Quorum shall consist of one Senator from a majority of the colleges and schools.

... .

ARTICLE VI – ELECTIONS

A. Elections for CU Student Government shall be twice yearly, during the fall and spring semesters months of October and April.
a. For extenuating circumstances or emergency situations, the Legislative Council may waive the requirement that an election be held in these months by a two-thirds majority, but each election must be contained in the semester it was originally intended for.

B. Election Commissioner
   a. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the Representative Council. . . . The Executive may nominate or recommend qualified individuals for the office of Election Commissioner to the Representative Council for their consideration of appointment. The Election Commissioner must be ratified by two-thirds, present and voting, of the Legislative Council after an appointment is approved by the Representative Council.
   b. Responsibilities
      i. The Election Commissioner is the chief administrator of all-school elections.
      ii. The Election Commissioner shall appoint assistant commissioners and poll-watchers and designate their duties.
      iii. The Election Commissioner and their assistants shall constitute the Election Commission.

C. The Election Commission
   a. The Election Commission, working with the Legislative Council Elections Committee, shall design and implement an Election Code and Election Schedule, subject to ratification by a two-thirds vote of the entire Legislative Council membership.
   b. The Election Commission shall run elections and all associated activities.
   c. The Election Commission shall submit their budget to the Legislative Council for approval.

D. Local college and school governments may have CU Student Government Election Commission run their elections, but must pay the cost of the election.

ARTICLE VII – JOINT BOARDS AND STUDENT FEE POLICY

A. Final responsibility to the Board of Regents and authority for student fee policy and expenditures shall be vested in the Executive and the Legislative Council.

B. All student fee policy and expenditures shall comply with Federal and State laws, as well as university policy as set forth by the Board of Regents.

C. All data concerning student fee policy and expenditures shall be open for inspection at reasonable times by all members of the University of Colorado Student Government and by proper officials of the State of Colorado.

D. Definitions
a. “Student” shall be defined as any full mandatory fee-paying member of the University of Colorado Student Government enrolled in at least six credit hours.
   i. Enrolled graduate students must pay some mandatory fees.
   ii. Enrolled graduate students are exempt from credit hour status.
E. “Non-student” shall be defined as any non-student who is affiliated with the University, except as where otherwise defined.
F. Joint Boards
   a. A system of boards, hereafter called the Joint Boards, shall exist to set and administer student fee policy within priorities established by the Legislative Council.
   b. A Joint Board may be recommended by the Executive(s), and established through legislation by the Legislative Council of CUSG approved with a 2/3rds majority vote.
   c. All Joint Boards shall establish bylaws to govern their own operations, subject to the ratification of the Legislative Council. These bylaws shall not supersede the provisions of this Constitution and should properly reflect the membership requirements and responsibilities of each Joint Board as set forth in this Article.
   d. The Joint Boards are required to set submit annual budgets, periodically review the allocation of student fee funds, ensure that student fees are being allocated appropriately according to the rules set forth in the Student Fee Regulations, and report on these tasks to the Finance Board.
   e. In order to fulfill the mission of each Joint Board, as established by the Legislative Council, the Joint Boards will establish set policy, allocate funds on behalf of the Legislative Council, and sponsor and promote programming for the student association.
   f. The membership of these boards will consist of at least seven (7) student voting members.
   g. One voting member of each Joint Board shall be a Graduate Student, so long as the Graduate Student is a member of this association, as defined in Article I.
   h. One voting member of each Joint Board shall be chosen from members of the Representative Council by the Executive. Each member of the Representative Council shall serve on at least one Joint Board unless removed by the Legislative Council.
      i. If there are fewer Joint Boards than seats on the Representative Council, The Executive may appoint the remaining
Representative Council members to Advisory Boards or other bodies as allowed by legislation.

ii. Representative Council members elected in the regular Fall and Spring elections shall serve on a Board until the end of the semester during which they were elected, but may be reappointed by the Executive as deemed necessary.

iii. In case of vacancy on a Board due to resignation, recall, or removal from the Representative Council by impeachment, the replacement Representative Council member shall assume the Joint Board responsibilities and voting status of the member they replaced.

iv. If a Joint Board seat becomes vacant due to the expiration of the holder’s term of office on the Representative Council, the Executive shall appoint another newly elected Representative Council member to the open position.

v. The appointment of Representative Council members to specific Boards may be rearranged as deemed necessary.

vi. The Legislative Council shall appoint some members of the Joint Boards. The term of these appointments shall be two years. The Board may recommend to Legislative Council qualified individuals for appointment.

i. Some Joint Board members shall be appointed by the Board for which they are chosen.

j. Two Some Joint Board members may be non-students appointed by the Board for which they are chosen. There may be a maximum of two non-student Joint Board members. The term of these appointments shall be specified by the Board making them. Legislative Council ratification shall not be necessary, but these members may be removed in the same fashion as Legislative Council appointees.

k. The Finance Board Chair shall be appointed by the Executives as provided for in this Constitution. The Finance Board Chair must be ratified by two-thirds of the Legislative Council.

l. All Joint Board meetings, policies, and budget recommendations shall be open and non-secret. All Joint Board meeting agendas must be
publicized prior to any meeting of the Joint Board. All Joint Board meeting minutes are to be made public after they have been approved by the Board. Input on matters pertaining to the Joint Board, from faculty, administration, and other sources, shall be encouraged.

m. The Joint Boards may add ex-officio and other non-voting members as they deem necessary to supply them with information necessary to their efficient and effective operation.
   i. All ex-officio members of Joint and Advisory Boards shall serve without voting power.

n. This section will maintain a list of Joint Boards that are currently established by CUSG and oversee all of the responsibilities outlined in Article VII of the CUSG Constitution:
   i. The University Memorial Center (UMC) Board
   ii. The Cultural Events Board (CEB)
   iii. The Environmental Center (E-Center) Board
   iv. The Student Recreation Center (Rec) Board
   v. The Air Board (KVCU Radio 1190)
   vi. The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) Board
   vii. The Distinguished Speakers Board (DSB)
   viii. The Volunteer Resource Center (VRC) Board

G. The Finance Board

   a. The Finance Board shall include seven students.
      i. One to be chosen by the Executive(s) from the Representative Council. The choice must be approved by the Legislative Council.
      ii. Two to be appointed by the Legislative Council.
      iii. One to be chosen by the local school student government of the Graduate School.
      iv. Three students at-large Two to be appointed by the Finance Board with Legislative Council ratification.
      v. The Finance Board Chair, to be appointed by the Executive, subject to approval, first, by a majority vote of the Finance Board, and subsequently a two-thirds majority of the entire Legislative Council.
         1. The Finance Board Chair may be removed by two-thirds vote of the entire Finance Board, or through the process of Impeachment.
vi. One Senator from the Council of Colleges and Schools chosen by
the Council of Colleges and Schools. The choice must be
approved by the Legislative Council.

vii. There shall also be a CUSG Director of Finance whose specific
duties shall be defined in the manner of Executive Staff, who
shall serve on the Finance Board ex-officio.

b. The Finance Board may include two non-students, making the total
voting membership of the board nine.

c. The duties and responsibilities of the Finance Board shall be:
   i. To set up a student fee budget within priorities established by
      the Legislative Council.
   ii. To submit the student fee budget to the Legislative Council for
       final action before presentation to the Board of Regents.
   iii. To allocate monies throughout the year for special purposes. ...

Note: Sections H–L, for the University Memorial Center Board, Cultural
Events Board, Environmental Board, Recreation Board and Air Board, have
been deleted. The common elements and requirements for each board are
summarized in Article VII, Section F, above.

ARTICLE VIII – COMMISSIONS AND STUDENT ADMINISTRATORS

A. Commissions and Student Administrators positions shall be established by
the Executive with majority approval of Legislative Council, present and
voting, or directly by Legislative Council, by a two-thirds vote, present and
voting.

   a. Some Commissioners, and Student Administrators may be members of
      the Executive Staff, and all members of the Executive Staff shall be
      considered either of the preceding.

B. Each Commissioner and Student Administrator shall be appointed by the
Executive and ratified by majority vote of Legislative Council.

ARTICLE IX – REMOVAL AND IMPEACHMENT

A. Impeachment
   a. The officers of the Student Government subject to impeachment shall
be:
      i. Executives
      ii. Members of the Executive Staff
iii. Representatives
iv. Senators
v. Justices of the Appellate Court
vi. Members of the Election Commission
vii. Members of the Finance Board, including its Chair

b. Articles of Impeachment detailing charges against officers of the Student Government shall be initiated by the Legislative Council or may be submitted for the consideration of the Legislative Council by the Student Assembly. Adoption of such Articles of Impeachment, by a majority vote of the Legislative Council, present and voting, shall initiate a trial of the officer in question which shall be held no sooner than one week later.

i. Grounds for impeachment shall be:
   1. Failure to substantially fulfill the duties of his or her office (including absence from three or more meetings in a legislative session, without a valid and reasonable excuse).
   2. The acceptance of bribes, for corruption, or for willing violation of the laws of this association or its Constitution.

c. The Legislative Council shall have the sole power to try impeachment.

i. No persons shall be tried as a group.

ii. The Chief Justice of the Appellate Court (or another Justice if the Chief Justice is unavailable), shall preside over the impeachment trial in the Legislative Council.

   1. No Justice shall preside over their own trial.

iii. An officer shall be convicted only by a two-thirds vote of the entire Legislative Council, and such a conviction shall result in removal from office.

B. Removal of Appointed Officers
   a. Joint and Advisory Boards

      i. Any Joint or Advisory Board members from the Representative Council, or Council of Colleges and Schools, may be removed by the Legislative Council.

         1. Two-thirds of the Legislative Council present and voting is required for removal from the board.

b. Executive appointments, excluding Justices of the Appellate Court, and the Finance Board Chair, may be removed by the Executive.

c. Legislative Council appointments, and all other appointments that require ratification by the Legislative Council, may be removed by a two-thirds vote, present and voting, of the Legislative Council, unless otherwise provided by this Constitution.
ARTICLE XI – STUDENT ASSEMBLY

A. All members of this Association shall be voting members of the Student Assembly and shall receive the right to introduce proposals for the consideration of the body.

B. The Student Assembly shall be granted the following powers:
   a. The power to propose Constitutional Amendments to the voters, by a two-thirds vote.
   b. The power to submit referendums to the voters for approval.
   c. The power to adopt resolutions, which shall have the same weight and effect as if they were passed by the Legislative Council.
   d. The power to adopt, for the consideration of the Legislative Council, Articles of Impeachment against impeachable officers of CUSG, by a majority vote.

ARTICLE XIII – REFERENDA

A. Student Enacted Referenda
   a. The students shall have the power to enact measures (resolutions, bills, and Constitutional Amendments) by referendum in the form of a ballot initiative.
   b. Resolutions and bills passed by ballot initiative shall have the same authority and force as any measure passed by the Legislative Council and approved by the Executive.

B. All petitions for ballot initiatives (including those proposing Constitutional Amendments as defined by Article XVI of this Constitution), and their relevant documents (the resolution, bill, or Amendment that the referenda would enact if approved by the voters) must be submitted to the Election Commissioner by five o’clock postmeridian on the Tuesday following the day of the mandatory candidates’ meeting (or as set by the Election Code) for the validation of signatures. Any petitions submitted after this deadline and verified will be considered valid for the next election.
   a. The procedure for placing a referendum on the ballot as an initiative shall be as follows:
      i. The petition must have the exact wording of the initiative question on the same sheet on which signatures are taken.
ii. If the question is so lengthy that this is impractical, then all details of the initiative in question must be publicized prior to and during the period in which signatures are collected.

iii. Each petition sheet must include a single referendum question and a clear outline of what the initiative would enact if adopted.

iv. The petition to place the initiative on the ballot shall contain signatures of eligible voters equal to or greater than 3.3% of all eligible voters.

b. Student signatures shall include their student identification numbers.

C. Legislative Referral
   a. The Legislative Council may propose legislation to the voters for approval as a referendum, by a two-thirds vote of the Legislative Council, present and voting.

D. All referenda (Legislative Referral or Student Enacted), shall consist of a single question, appropriately validated and placed on the ballot, upon which a student may only vote “Yes” or “No”, while reserving the right to abstain. a. The question should be a succinct and direct proposition that shall clearly describe the intent or action of the bill or resolution that would be enacted upon the adoption of the measure by the voters.

E. A referendum for a bill or resolution that is approved by voters, takes effect upon the certification of the election results, unless the referendum prescribes otherwise.
   a. The requisite number of votes to approve a referendum that is not a Constitutional Amendment is a majority of votes cast in favor for that referendum.
      i. The requisite number of votes for a Constitutional Amendment shall be prescribed by Article XVI of this Constitution.
   b. If provisions of two or more conflicting referenda are approved (including Constitutional Amendments) during the same election conflict, those of the referendum receiving the highest affirmative vote shall prevail.

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ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS PROCEDURE

A. Amendments shall follow the same procedure as Student Enacted Referenda as regards the student body.

B. Amendments can be initiated by the Executive or the Legislative Council with approval of two-thirds of the Legislative Council, present and voting.
   a. At least two weeks must elapse between the proposal of an amendment and voting on the amendment in the election, during which time publicity shall be given on the amendment.
C. Amendments proposed shall be adopted as valid parts of this Constitution only by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the votes cast for and against the Amendment by the voters in an election, with a minimum of ten percent (10%) of eligible student voters casting ballots in the election.

**ARTICLE XV – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

A. CU Student Government shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

B. CU Student Government shall pass no legislation aiding a sectarian organization.

C. CU Student Government shall pass no legislation abridging the freedom of the press, and/or of free speech.

D. CU Student Government shall pass no legislation abridging the right of its members to petition CUSG for a redress of grievances.

E. The enumeration of certain rights in this Constitution shall not be construed to deny or disparage others held by the student body.

F. All powers not delegated to the University of Colorado Student Government are reserved to the student body.

G. CU Student Government shall pass no bill of attainder or ex post facto legislation.

H. Before entering on the execution of their offices, all officers of the University of Colorado Student Government as defined by Article I.D., Student Administrators, and Commissioners, shall take an oath or affirmation to uphold this Constitution.

**ARTICLE XVI – ADVISORY BOARDS**

A. Student Health Advisory Board
   a. The Student Health Advisory Board shall include nine student voting members, appointed by the Student Health Advisory Board.
   b. The Student Health Advisory Board must include these three ex-officio members:
      i. A CUSG Executive or appointee.
      ii. A Legislative Council member appointed by the Legislative Council President. The choice must be approved by Legislative Council.
      iii. The CUSG Executive Staff member charged with student health matters.
c. The Student Health Advisory Board shall regularly provide information related to Wardenburg Health Center, student health fees, and student health and wellness.

B. The Legislative Council shall have the power to create a system of several other Advisory Boards, or other organizations that provide resources to students, that shall operate in a manner not unlike the Joint Boards, and provide for the regulation thereof.

a. All Advisory Boards established by the Legislative Council are tasked with the oversight and reporting of all Advisory Board activities to the Legislative Council and Executives, each semester.

b. An Advisory Board may be recommended by the Executive(s), and established through legislation by the Legislative Council of CUSG approved with a 2/3rds majority vote.

c. All Advisory Boards are required to organize their own board’s bylaws within one Academic Year of the formation of said Advisory Board.

i. Within these bylaws, the Advisory Board must include three ex-officio, non-voting positions for:

1. A CUSG Executive or appointee.
2. The Legislative Council member appointed by the Legislative Council President.
3. The CUSG Executive Staff member charged with the specific concerns of the Advisory Board as decided by the Executives.

ii. The bylaws must also establish: the voting procedures, bylaw amendment procedures, responsibilities of the Advisory Board, the method of election of the Chair or Co-Chairs of the Advisory Board, the process of selecting new voting members, the number of ex-officio and other non-voting members, and a minimum of seven voting student members.

iii. Any changes or amendments to the bylaws of an Advisory Board must be approved by the Legislative Council.

iv. This section will include a list of Advisory Boards established by the Legislative Council and currently operating. This list will be updated as needed as Advisory Boards are added, removed, or renamed. At the current time, these boards are:

1. Student Health Advisory Board of Wardenburg Health Center
2. Office of Information Technology Advisory Board
3. Student Athletics Advisory Board
4. Infrastructure and Sustainability Committee Advisory Board
5. Career Services Advisory Board
6. The Off-Campus Housing and Neighborhood Relations Advisory Board

C. The Legislative Council shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

ARTICLE XVII – EFFECTIVE DATE

The Associated Students of the University of Colorado Constitution in effect prior to ratification of this Constitution shall remain in effect until one minute past midnight on May 2, 1974, subject to the transition provisions set forth in this Constitution.

ARTICLE XVIII – RATIFICATION

This Constitution, when duly ratified, shall supersede all previous Constitutions.