

# **ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The representative government of the undergraduate student body of Washington University in Saint Louis shall be referred to in this Constitution as Student Union.

# **ARTICLE II. CONSTITUENCY**

## **SECTION 1. DEFINITION**

The constituents of Student Union shall consist of all full-time undergraduate students of Washington University in St. Louis. This group may also be referred to as the constituency.

## **SECTION 2. RIGHTS OF CONSTITUENTS**

- a. Constituents shall have the right to vote in Student Union elections.
- b. All constituents shall have the right to appeal for Student Union funding regardless of whether or not they are in a Student Union-recognized group.

# **ARTICLE III. MISSION AND VISION**

## **SECTION 1. MISSION**

The mission of Student Union is to create a vibrant campus community by: advocating for the needs and interests of undergraduate students, developing and implementing both innovative and traditional programs, and allocating the student activity fee to unique and engaging activities, programs, and initiatives.

## **SECTION 2. VISION**

It is the vision of Student Union to responsibly and equitably serve and empower every undergraduate student to be a force for change and improvement while fostering and preserving tradition at Washington University in St. Louis.

# **ARTICLE IV. POWERS AND JURISDICTION**

## **SECTION 1. ACTIVITY FEE**

Student Union shall have the power to collect an activity fee equal to one percent (1%) of tuition from each full-time undergraduate student of Washington University in St. Louis. From fiscal year 2026 to fiscal year 2028, the annual increase in the total projected fee income shall not exceed \$150,000. After fiscal year 2028, the restrictions on the activity fee shall be revisited and the language of this clause will be updated by the Chief Justice to reflect the new contract between the Student Union President and the University.

## **SECTION 2. REPRESENTATION**

Student Union shall have the power to represent its constituents.

### **SECTION 3. REQUIREMENTS TO HOLD OFFICE**

- a. A Student Union office shall be any elected office defined in this constitution or the Class Council Constitution, as well as any appointed office that must be confirmed by any one or more of the Student Union Executive Council, the Senate, or the Treasury.
- b. Only constituents of Student Union may hold office. Any officer enrolled in fewer than twelve (12) credits in a semester shall be subject to approval by the Senate and the Treasury, by a majority vote of the officers present, as to their ability to represent constituents of Student Union.
- c. No constituent may hold more than one Student Union office at the same time.
- d. Constituents shall have the right to run for office while studying abroad but shall not hold office while studying abroad.

## **ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

### **SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The Executive Officers of Student Union shall be the President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Programming, and Vice President of Engagement.

### **SECTION 2. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT**

#### **The President of Student Union shall:**

- a. Act as the official representative of Student Union.
- b. Convene and preside over meetings of Executive Council, except at such times as the President may delegate this function to the Executive Vice President.
- c. At their discretion, invite any constituent of Student Union to attend Executive Council.
- d. Maintain relationships with University administrators.
- e. Appoint such executive personnel as they deem necessary for the proper execution of their duties with consent of the Executive Officers, and have the power to remove such persons from their positions, with the consent of the Executive Officers.
- f. Have the power to veto, in writing, any act passed by the Senate and/or the Treasury of Student Union within three (3) business days of its passage.
- g. During any period when, first, the Senate and/or the Treasury cannot meet, and second, the Executive Council cannot meet, the President shall act for Student Union. The President shall inform the pertinent legislative body, the Senate and/or the Treasury, of all acts that occurred in their absence in order for a review to take place.
- h. Possess the power to call emergency meetings of the Senate and/or the Treasury with at least twenty-four (24) hours notice to all representatives.
- i. Represent the position of Student Union in University judicial cases when the actions of Student Union as a whole are challenged.
- j. Preside over Student Union Leadership meetings, except at such times as the President may delegate this function to the Executive Vice President.
  1. The membership of Student Union Leadership includes: Student Union's Executive Officers; the leader(s), appointed by the President, of each executive entity enumerated in this Constitution; the speakers of both the Senate and the Treasury; the committee

chairs of both the Senate and the Treasury; the Chief Justice; and the Election Commissioner.

2. Student Union Leadership must meet at least once per month while the legislative bodies are in session.

### **SECTION 3. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

#### **The Executive Vice President of Student Union shall:**

- a. Act as the official internal affairs officer of Student Union.
- b. Exercise the duties and powers of the President in their absence from office or by reasonable determination of their inability to act, and shall perform such duties as shall be delegated to them by the President.
- c. Provide for the supervision and coordination of all auxiliary organizations of Student Union.
- d. Preside over the election of the Speaker of the Senate and Speaker of the Treasury.
- e. Coordinate Student Union recruitment and retention.

### **SECTION 4. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE**

#### **The Vice President of Finance of Student Union shall:**

- a. Be responsible for coordination with the Student Union business staff and the preparation of all financial records.
- b. Be responsible for the collection, disbursement, and accounting of the revenues and expenditures of Student Union.
- c. Be required to review all expenditures of the Student Union operating budget.
- d. Be responsible for the maintenance of information on the Student Union financial portal.
- e. Be responsible for educating all student group treasurers with regard to Student Union monetary processes.
- f. Possess the power to approve any budget or equipment appeal under one thousand (1,000) dollars without approval of the Treasury.
- g. Possess the power to set procedures for allocation, funding, and disbursement of Student Union funds.
- h. Determine the amount of money carried forward between fiscal years.
- i. Serve as the Parliamentarian of Treasury.
- j. Prepare, present, and balance the General Budget per the procedures outlined in this Constitution.

### **SECTION 5. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMMING**

#### **The Vice President of Programming of Student Union shall:**

- a. Act as the official representative of Student Union for issues related to University programming.
- b. Coordinate internal Student Union and external student body programming.
- c. Act as a liaison between the Social Programming Board and SU.

- a. The duties and powers of the Vice President of Programming with respect to their capacity on the Social Programming Board shall be enumerated in the Social Programming Board Constitution.

## **SECTION 6. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF ENGAGEMENT**

### **The Vice President of Engagement of Student Union shall:**

- a. Communicate with the Student Union constituency.
- b. Be responsible for the development and promotion of Student Union publicity and branding.
- c. Act as the official representative of Student Union for issues related to University and community engagement.
- d. Act as a public relations resource for student groups.
- e. Hire and supervise the manager of the Student Union Public Relations team.
  1. The Student Union Public Relations (SUPR) team will be comprised of persons hired by the SUPR Manager with the consent of the Vice President of Engagement.
- f. Update the constituency about the actions taken by and the status of each branch of Student Union at least once per semester.
- g. Coordinate the publication of the time, date, and place of all public meetings.
- h. Serve as the Parliamentarian of the Senate.

## **SECTION 7. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The voting membership of the Executive Council shall be comprised of the Executive Officers of Student Union and the Speakers of the Senate and the Treasury.

The ex-officio, non-voting, advisory membership of Executive Council shall be comprised of the Chief Justice and, at the discretion of the President, advisors to Student Union.

### **The Executive Council shall:**

- a. Advise the President in the functioning of Student Union.
- b. Act for Student Union during periods when the applicable legislative body cannot meet. The President or their designee shall present any such actions to the affected body for review by majority vote of the officers present.
- c. Aid the chairs in the supervision and coordination of the legislative committees. 4. Decide, by a majority vote, financial appeals which are not to be reviewed by the Treasury or the Vice President of Finance.
- d. When the Executive Council must act and there is no defined decision-making process, the President shall deem the appropriate process for decision-making within the Executive Council and have the power to act on Executive Council decisions. A proposed decision-making process may be vetoed by a majority vote of the other officers of the Executive Council. If such a process is vetoed, the authority to deem the appropriate process for decision-making shall fall back to the President.

## **SECTION 8. SCHOOL COUNCILS**

- a. Each undergraduate division may have a self-governing School Council.
- b. The School Council recognized by Student Union shall be the School Council recognized by a majority of the constituents in that undergraduate division.

- c. Each School Council shall maintain its own Constitution which shall be housed in the Student Union office.

## **SECTION 9. EXECUTIVE ENTITIES**

- a. The executive entities of Student Union shall exist within the executive branch to create or further initiatives of Student Union, and/or to advise Student Union on a specific matter for the betterment of the undergraduate experience.
- b. The executive entities of Student Union shall include the Social Programming Board (SPB), among others. New entities will be approved by a majority vote of the Senate and Treasury, to be codified in the SU statutes.
- c. Each executive entity shall maintain a constitution, which shall include its mission, procedures for the selection and termination of officers and membership, and descriptions of the roles of officers. Constitutions of executive entities must adhere to all provisions within the Student Union Constitution and Statutes.
- d. Amendments to constitutions of executive entities shall be subject to approval by a majority vote of the Executive Council of Student Union.
- e. The Student Union President shall appoint at least (1) but no more than (2) constituents for each respective entity to be responsible for all operations of the entity, who shall be confirmed with consent of the Senate and the Treasury respectively. The official title of the aforementioned individual(s) shall be defined in the constitution of each executive entity. For the purposes of the Student Union Constitution, they shall be referred to as the “entity leader”.
  - 1. In the specific case of the Social Programming Board, the Vice President of Programming shall serve as the “entity leader” and shall not need the consent of the Senate and the Treasury.
  - 2. Initial appointments shall be brought to the Senate and Treasury for confirmation prior to the conclusion of the academic year.
- f. Each executive entity must designate (1) constituent to serve as its Treasurer, fulfilling all responsibilities of a student group treasurer. The title, selection process, and any additional responsibilities of this officer shall be enumerated in each entity’s constitution.
- g. The Student Union President shall determine the ex-officio, non-voting advisor for each executive entity, which shall be a Student Union Executive Officer, except in the case of the Social Programming Board.
- h. Executive entities shall have the right to submit an operating budget annually for allocation through the general budget process.
- i. Executive entities shall have the right to appeal to the Executive Council for additional funding, subject to the approval of the Vice President of Finance.
- j. Executive entity status shall be up for review upon the transition of the new executive board
  - 1. If the executive board determines that an entity does not fit the goals of the board, it shall be given the opportunity to transition to a Category I student group upon review of the Activities Committee and approval by Treasury.

# ARTICLE VI. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## SECTION 1. REPRESENTATIVES

The legislative powers of Student Union shall be vested in the Student Union Senate and the Student Union Treasury.

## SECTION 2. SENATE

### a. Duties and Powers of Senators.

#### **The Senators of Student Union shall:**

1. Have one (1) vote in the Student Union Senate.
2. Have the power to enact any legislation concerning matters of policy affecting constituents and their welfare under this Constitution.
3. Have the power to require updates from any committee or officer of Student Union by a majority vote of the Senators present.
4. Have the power to enact, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total officers of the Senate, legislation previously passed, which was subsequently vetoed by the President of Student Union, within (2) meetings of the Senate since the time of veto.
5. Have the power to bring articles of impeachment against any officer of Student Union on the grounds of incongruence with this Constitution by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total Senate, with the consent of Treasury.
6. Have the power to create or dissolve committees through a motion requiring a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senators present.
7. Be the only persons with the power to initiate a motion in the Student Union Senate.
8. Regularly serve on at least one (1) of the Student Union Senate Committees for the duration of their term.
9. Attend regular and special meetings of the Senate, unless excused by the Speaker of the Senate.
10. Give consent by majority vote of the Senators present where consent is indicated in this Constitution and the Statutes of Student Union.

### b. Duties and Powers of the Speaker of the Senate.

#### **The Speaker of the Senate shall:**

1. Convene and preside over meetings of the Senate as its chairperson.
2. Have a vote in Senate only in the case of a tie.
3. Determine the agenda of the meetings of the Senate.
4. Have the power to remove a Senator from office, with the majority approval of the chairs of the Senate Committees and the Speaker of the Senate, after two (2) unexcused absences.
5. Regularly meet with the chairs of the Senate Committees, which are defined in the Statutes of Student Union.
6. In case of an emergency, have the power to call upon any Senator to serve in their position for up to three (3) consecutive meetings.

## SECTION 3. TREASURY

### a. Duties and Powers of the Treasury.

**The Representatives of the Student Union Treasury shall:**

1. Have one (1) vote in the Student Union Treasury.
  2. Have the power to enact legislation concerning Student Union monies and resources.
  3. Have the power to approve any budget and make appropriations proposed by the Vice President of Finance or Budget Committee of Student Union.
  4. Supervise student organizations functioning under the auspices of Student Union.
  5. Have the power to bring articles of impeachment against any officer of Student Union on the grounds of incongruence with this Constitution by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total Representatives of the Treasury, with the consent of the Senate.
  6. Be the only persons with the power to initiate a motion in the Student Union Treasury.
  7. Serve on either the Activities Committee or the Budget Committee for the duration of their term.
  8. Attend regular and special meetings of Treasury, unless excused by the Speaker of the Treasury.
  9. Have the power to enact, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total Representatives of the Treasury, legislation previously passed, which was subsequently vetoed by the President of Student Union, within (2) meetings of the Treasury from the time of veto.
  10. Give consent by majority vote of the representatives present where consent is indicated in this Constitution and the Statutes of Student Union.
- b. Duties and Powers of the Speaker of the Treasury.

**The Speaker of the Treasury shall:**

1. Convene and preside over all meetings of the Treasury as its chairperson.
  2. Have a vote in Treasury only in the case of a tie.
  3. Determine the agenda of the meetings of the Treasury.
  4. Have the power to remove a Representative of the Treasury from office, with the majority approval of the chairs of the Treasury Committees and the Speaker of the Treasury, after two (2) unexcused absences.
  5. In case of an emergency, have the power to call upon any Representative of the Treasury to serve in their position for up to three (3) consecutive meetings.
- c. Committees of the Treasury
1. The Activities Committee and the Budget Committee shall be standing committees of the Treasury.
  2. The Budget Committee shall act as the monetary recommendation and distribution committee of the Treasury and shall be chaired by a Representative of the Treasury who serves on the Budget Committee and is elected by a majority vote of the Treasury.
  3. The Activities Committee shall act as a liaison between Student Union and student groups and shall be chaired by a Representative of the Treasury who serves on the Activities Committee and is elected by a majority vote of the Treasury.
  4. Additional committees of the Treasury shall be created or dissolved by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the officers present.

**SECTION 4. ENACTMENT AND APPROVAL**

All acts of the Legislative Branch of Student Union shall be considered the official stance of Student Union immediately following the passage of the motion.

## **SECTION 5. MEETINGS**

- a. Both Senate and Treasury shall meet at least fifty percent (50%) of the weeks when they are in session.
- b. Both Senate and Treasury shall be in session between the first day of classes and the last day of classes in a given semester.
  - a. The Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the Treasury have the power to call an emergency meeting outside of session with at least twenty-four (24) hours notice to all respective representatives.
- c. A quorum, for Senate, Treasury, and all subsidiary committees of Senate and Treasury, shall consist of a majority of the entire officers of that body.
- d. A quorum must be present for any proceedings of a meeting of the Senate or the Treasury to be considered valid.
- e. Unless indicated otherwise in a line of the Constitution or Statutes of Student Union, a majority or two-thirds vote of a body shall be of the officers present of the applicable body.
- f. Regular meetings of Senate and Treasury shall be open to all students, staff, administrators, and faculty of Washington University in St. Louis.
- g. During a regular meeting of Senate or Treasury, any student, staff member, administrator, or faculty member of Washington University in St. Louis, upon recognition by either the Speaker of the Senate or the Speaker of the Treasury, respectively, shall have the right to address the legislative representatives.

## **SECTION 6. GENERAL BUDGET SESSION**

- a. The General Budget session shall be considered a meeting of Senate and Treasury. 1. The Speakers of the Senate and the Treasury shall preside over the session.
- b. The meeting shall be open to all constituents of Student Union.
- c. Senators and Treasury Representatives shall:
  1. Vote to recommend to the Vice President of Finance whether to fund specific items in the General Budget.
    - i. The vote required to province a recommendation shall be a majority of the Senate and the Treasury collectively.
  2. Either approve or deny the General Budget presented by the Vice President of Finance. If the General Budget is denied, the Vice President of Finance must resubmit the General Budget for approval within three (3) days.
    - i. The vote required to approve shall be two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the Senate and two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the Treasury voting separately.

# **ARTICLE VII. JUDICIAL BRANCH**

## **SECTION 1. CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL**

- a. The Constitutional Council shall be the judicial body of Student Union.
- b. There shall be a Constitutional Council composed of five (5) Justices and at least one (1) Alternate Justices.



c. Duties and Powers of the Constitutional Council

**The Justices of the Constitutional Council shall:**

1. Be appointed by the majority of the current Constitutional Council, with the consent of the President and the Senate and the Treasury, respectively.
1. Take office when a seat becomes available and leave office upon graduation, study abroad, or inability to carry out their duties.
2. At the request of at least one quarter (25%) of the Legislative representatives, interpret the Constitution and/or Statutes of Student Union.
3. Review the actions of any officer of Student Union for consistency with the Constitution or Statutes of Student Union after receiving a challenge from two percent (2%) of the constituency of Student Union.
4. Issue opinions on:
  - a. Cases in which an officer of the Legislative or Executive branches of Student Union are involved.
  - b. Cases between Student Union-recognized groups and/or councils.
  - c. Cases regarding elections and referenda.
  - d. Cases regarding activities of the Election Commission.
5. Issue advisory opinions when requested at the discretion of the Constitutional Council.
6. Try all cases of impeachment.
7. Have the power to examine evidence, call available witnesses, authorize the issuance of such writs as it shall require, and make rules necessary and proper for the conduct of its business.
8. Ensure that all involved parties have the right to represent their interests before the issuance of a pertinent opinion.
9. Be required to review and update the Constitution and the Statutes of Student Union at least once per semester.
10. Have a Chief Justice of the Constitutional Council.

d. Duties and Powers of the Chief Justice

**The Chief Justice of Student Union shall:**

1. Be elected from and by the five (5) justices of the Constitutional Council by a majority vote.
2. Operate as the chair of the Constitutional Council and the chief officer of the Judicial Branch.
3. Convene and preside over meetings of the Constitutional Council.
4. Maintain an accurate copy of the Student Union Constitution and the Student Union Statutes.
5. Distribute an updated copy of the Student Union Constitution and the Student Union Statutes to each Executive Officer and redistribute each time either is amended.
6. Advise Student Union on all legal and constitutional questions.
7. Distribute opinions of the Constitutional Council to any party named or referenced in such an opinion and to the voting membership of Executive Council.

# ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS

## SECTION 1. ELECTION COMMISSIONER

- a. The powers to conduct the elections of Student Union shall be vested in the Election Commissioner.
- b. Duties and Powers of the Election Commissioner **The Election Commissioner shall:**
  1. Be appointed by the Student Union President from within the current, sitting, election commission, upon the position falling vacant, after consultation with the Executive Vice President and Chief Justice, with consent of the Senate and the Treasury, respectively.
    - i. Shall the commission have one or fewer sitting members, the President may choose to seek out a nominee from the constituency.
  2. Take office when a seat becomes available and leave office upon graduation, study abroad, or inability to carry out their duties.
  3. Organize and coordinate all elections of Student Union.
  4. Create an Election Commission of at least three members
    - i. Should there be vacancies the commissioner will appoint Commission members with consent of the Senate and the Treasury, respectively. ii. Members shall take office when a seat becomes available and leave office upon graduation, study abroad, or inability to carry out their duties.
  5. Convene and preside over meetings of the Election Commission.
  6. Obtain the number of constituents from the University preceding the spring semester elections.

## SECTION 2. ELECTION COMMISSION

- a. Shall be comprised of the Election Commissioner and at least three additional members
- b. The Election Commission shall determine the rules by which the election shall be run. Senate and Treasury shall approve all election rules.
- c. No member of the Election Commission may run for office while serving on the Election Commission

## SECTION 3. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- a. Elections for Executive Officers shall be held in the spring semester.
- b. The Executive officers shall hold office until their successors are installed.
- c. If the office of President falls vacant, the Executive Vice President shall be installed as President for the unexpired term.
- d. If the offices of Executive Vice President, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Programming, or Vice President of Engagement fall vacant, a successor shall be appointed to fill the unexpired term by the President upon consultation with the Executive Council and shall be confirmed by consent of the Senate and the Treasury, respectively.
- e. If the offices of President and Executive Vice President are vacant simultaneously, the Speakers of the Senate and the Treasury shall appoint a successor to the office of President upon consultation with the Executive Council. The nominee shall be confirmed with consent of the Senate and the Treasury, respectively.

- f. All constituents shall be able to vote for the Student Union Executive Officers.

#### **SECTION 4. ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF SENATORS**

- a. Elections of Senators will be held twice annually, in the fall semester and in the spring semester.
- b. One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the appointed number of Senate seats shall be elected each semester. Should there be an odd number of seats, the additional seat shall be a fall seat.
- c. Each Senator elected in a regular election shall hold their office for one (1) calendar year.
- d. There shall be one (1) Senator for every three hundred thirty (330) constituents. If the remaining number of constituents is greater than one hundred sixty-five (165), there shall be one additional Senator.
- e. Candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected to serve as a Senator until all of the seats up for election have been filled. In order to be eligible for a seat, a candidate must be on the ballot or receive seventy-five (75) write-in votes.
- f. If a Senate seat falls vacant, the Speaker of the Senate shall have the power to appoint, upon consultation with the Senate Leadership Team, a constituent of Student Union to serve the unexpired term.
  - i. Except in cases where a Senator temporarily vacates their seat due to a medical leave of absence, the appointed Senator filling the vacancy shall serve only for the duration of the original Senator's absence.
  - ii. Except in cases where a planned vacancy for a duration of the term is declared at the time of election, the next available candidate with the most votes that did not get elected shall have access to the vacancy for the duration of the original Senator's absence. In the case that there is no such candidate, the Speaker of the Senate shall follow the default appointment process.
- g. All constituents of Student Union may vote for Senators. Each voter may cast as many votes as seats open but may cast only one (1) vote per candidate.

#### **SECTION 5. ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TREASURY**

- a. Elections of Representatives of the Treasury will be held twice annually, in the fall semester and in the spring semester.
- b. One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the appointed number of Representatives of the Treasury shall be elected each semester. Should there be an odd number of seats, the additional seat shall be a fall seat.
- c. Each Representative of the Treasury elected in a regular election shall hold their office for one (1) calendar year.
- d. There shall be one (1) Representative of the Treasury for every three hundred thirty (330) constituents. If the remaining number of constituents is greater than one hundred sixty-five (165), there shall be one additional Representative of the Treasury.
- e. Candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected to serve as a Treasury Representative until all of the seats up for election have been filled. In order to be eligible for a seat, a candidate must be on the ballot or receive seventy-five (75) write-in votes.
- f. If a Representative of the Treasury seat falls vacant, the Speaker of the Treasury shall have the power to appoint, upon consultation with the Treasury Leadership Team, a constituent Student Union to serve the unexpired term.

- i. Except in cases where a Representative of the Treasury temporarily vacates their seat due to a medical leave of absence, the appointed Representative of the Treasury filling the vacancy shall serve only for the duration of the original Representative of the Treasury's absence.
  - ii. Except in cases where a planned vacancy for a duration of the term is declared at the time of election, the next available candidate with the most votes that did not get elected shall have access to the vacancy for the duration of the original Representative of Treasury's absence. In the case that there is no such candidate, the Speaker of the Treasury shall follow the default appointment process.
- g. All constituents of Student Union may vote for Representatives of the Treasury. Each voter may cast as many votes as seats open but may cast only one (1) vote per candidate.

## **ARTICLE IX. COMPENSATION AND CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST**

### **SECTION 1. OFFICER COMPENSATION**

- a. No officer of Student Union shall receive any type of monetary compensation, salary or otherwise, from the Student Union budget for their duties as such an officer of Student Union.
- b. This section shall not be construed to preclude Student Union officers for receiving compensation, monies or otherwise, from funding sources other than the student activity fee or any reimbursement type of payments for monies spent.

### **SECTION 2. CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST**

- a. Student Union officers and Student Union-recognized groups have a responsibility to conduct business in a manner that is objective, ethical, and compliant with all laws, regulations, and University policies.
- b. The goal of all business dealings shall be to support the University community or the applicable Student Union-recognized group.
- c. For-profit enterprises are ineligible to receive Student Union recognition, petition for block funding, or appeal for Student Union funds.

## **ARTICLE X. INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, RECALL, IMPEACHMENT**

### **SECTION 1. INITIATIVE**

- a. The constituency of Student Union shall have the power to initiate any act within the power of the Legislative Branch, provided that five percent (5%) of the constituents shall sign a petition calling for an election on a bill, which shall be submitted in writing to the Chief Justice.

- b. The Chief Justice shall, if they determine the petition to be in proper order, call upon the Election Commissioner to hold an election on the proposed bill in not less than ten (10) and not more than twenty-five (25) days after the Chief Justice shall have received the petition and the bill.
- c. Public notice of such an election shall be given not less than four (4) days before the election.
- d. The vote required for passage shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.
- e. Any proposal made within twenty-five (25) days of the end of any semester may, at the direction of the Election Commissioner, be deferred for a vote until not more than ten (10) days after the opening of the following semester.

## **SECTION 2. REFERENDUM**

- a. The constituency shall have the power to call for a referendum on any act of Student Union, provided a petition calling for the referendum and specifying in writing the action that the referendum is to take shall be signed by five percent (5%) of the constituency of Student Union and transmitted in writing to the Chief Justice.
- b. The Chief Justice shall, if they determine the petition to be in good order, call upon the Election Commissioner to hold an election on the act in not less than ten (10) days and not more than twenty-five (25) days after they shall have received the petition.
- c. Public notice of such an election shall be given not less than four (4) days before the election.
- d. The vote required for passage shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.
- e. Any proposal made within twenty-five (25) days of the end of any semester may, at the direction of the Election Commissioner, be deferred for a vote until not more than ten (10) days after the beginning of the following semester.

## **SECTION 3. RECALL**

- a. This procedure shall be followed by Student Union constituents in order to recall an elected officer.
- b. Any constituent may petition for the recall of an officer of Student Union.
- c. The constituency shall have the power to call for a recall vote for any elected officer of the Student Union, provided a petition calling for the recall and specifying in writing the reason for the recall, signed by five percent (5%) of the constituency of Student Union and transmitted in writing to the Chief Justice.
- d. The Chief Justice shall, if they determine the petition to be in good order, call upon the Election Commissioner to hold an election on the act in not less than ten (10) days and not more than twenty-five (25) days after they shall have received the petition.
- e. Public notice of such an election shall be given not less than four (4) days before the election.
- f. The vote required for recall shall be majority of the votes cast.
- g. Any proposal made within twenty-five (25) days of the end of any semester may, at the direction of the Election Commissioner, be deferred for a vote until not more than ten (10) days after the beginning of the following semester.
- h. Replacement of recalled officer:
  - 1. If an officer of Student Union has been recalled in accordance with the procedures above, the recalled officer shall be replaced for the remainder of the unexpired term in accordance with the procedures outlined in this Constitution and any existing governing documents pertaining to the applicable group. This must occur no sooner

than ten (10) business days after the recall and no longer than twenty-five (25) business days after.

## **SECTION 4. IMPEACHMENT**

- a. This procedure shall be followed by Student Union officers in order to impeach an officer in dereliction of their duties.
- b. Impeachment procedures can be initiated by elected members of Treasury or Senate.
- c. Articles of impeachment shall be submitted to the Chief Justice to determine the articles are compliant with Student Union impeachment procedures.
- d. After approval by the Chief Justice, the initiating party shall present the articles of impeachment to Senate and Treasury.
- e. Articles of impeachment but be approved by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote by the body in which the articles are originating in and a majority vote by the other legislative body.
- f. Upon approval of the articles, the officer bringing the complaint shall bring the issue before the Constitutional Council for a hearing to determine whether dereliction of duty has occurred.

## **SECTION 5. BLOCK FUNDING**

- a. The constituency of the Student Union shall have the power to initiate the allocation of funds to any student initiative or Student Union student group, provided that fifteen percent (15%) of the constituents sign a petition calling for an election on the allocation, which shall be submitted in writing to the Election Commissioner for approval no less than ten (10) days before the spring election.
- b. Block Funding petitions shall only appear on an election ballot once per academic year.
- c. Block Funding Allocations shall irrevocably replace all other sources of funding from the Student Activities Fee for a period specified in the petition of either one (1) or two (2) fiscal years, to be allocated evenly on an annual basis.
- d. The vote required shall be two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the votes cast.

# **ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS**

## **SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS**

- a. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by two methods:
  1. A two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of either the Senate or the Treasury, with consent from the body which is not proposing the amendment.
  2. A petition signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the constituency of Student Union.
- b. All Constitutional Amendment petitions must specify if they shall call for a special election.
  1. If so, the Election Commissioner shall set an election day for not less than ten (10) and not more than twenty-five (25) days after the petition is submitted.
  2. If a special election is not called for, the question shall be placed on the ballot of the next regular election. If the balloting system makes this impossible, a supplemental ballot shall be printed and distributed during the voting period.
- c. Petitions submitted less than ten (10) days before an election may be held over until the following election, or the Election Commissioner shall hold a special election at their discretion.

- d. The amendment shall be enacted when ratified by two-thirds (2/3) of those voting in a referendum of Student Union.

## **ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION**

### **SECTION 1. PROPERTY OF STUDENT UNION**

- a. Should this association cease to exist, all property shall conditionally revert to and be held by the University for a period of five (5) years.
- b. If any general student government is formed and recognized by a vote of a majority of the students at Washington University in St. Louis in an election conducted by the University within said five-year (5) period, all property held shall become the property of such successor organization.
- c. If no such general student government succeeds the present Student Union within the specified five (5) years, unqualified title to all of the property of Student Union shall then be vested in the University.

## **ARTICLE XIII. SUBSTANTIVE RIGHTS AND IMMUNITIES**

### **SECTION 1. LIMITATIONS**

All Substantive Rights and Immunities hereafter described apply only within the Student Union of Washington University in St. Louis.

### **SECTION 2. GENERAL RIGHTS AND IMMUNITIES**

- a. No Student Union officer or student group may be deprived of their rights or property without due process of law, nor be denied the equal protection of the law.
- b. No Student Union officer or student group may be prosecuted under the law, statute, rule, or regulation that was enacted after the fact of the action; nor shall be punished more severely under the law, statute, rule, or regulation that increases the punishment established at the time of the action.
- c. No Student Union officer or student group may be prosecuted for an act committed more than one (1) calendar year before the initiation of prosecution.
- d. No Student Union officer or student group may be prosecuted more than once for the same act under the same law, statute, rule, or regulation.

### **SECTION 3. PROCEDURAL RIGHTS**

- a. A constituent accused and brought to trial must be guaranteed the following rights:
  - 1. To receive written notice of the charges against them.
  - 2. The opportunity to prepare a reasonable defense in advance of the hearing.
  - 3. To confront and question the accuser, if a constituent, or to study and challenge a signed statement if the accuser is not a constituent.

4. To question witnesses and submit material evidence.
5. To refuse to testify against themselves. Any constituent offering testimony may refuse to answer questions that would tend to incriminate themselves. No evidence may be presented against a student that was seized and held without their permission or without warrants from designated authorities.
6. To receive an impartial and open hearing, and if convicted, to be subjected to no cruel or unusual punishment.
7. To have hearings and trials completed with all deliberate speed.

#### **SECTION 4. ADDITIONAL RIGHTS**

The enumeration of these rights and immunities shall not preclude other rights and immunities.

### **ARTICLE XIV. EQUITY**

All constituents shall be given equitable treatment under the rules, regulations, law, and Constitution of Student Union. All official documents of Student Union must reflect this belief. This is not inclusive of the actions of those student groups that, although funded by Student Union, do not reflect the views of Student Union as a whole.

### **ARTICLE XV. ENACTMENT**

This Constitution will be effective as of April 5th, 2023.