

The Constitution of the Morehead State University Student Government Association

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Morehead State University, acknowledging our rights and responsibilities as citizens of the University community, do hereby establish a system of self-government where our convictions and actions may be fully represented in a forum, our rights protected from adjudication, and the student experience enhanced.

ARTICLE I – THE STUDENT BODY

Section 1. Definition and Rights

Definition: Any person enrolled as a full-time student of Morehead State University, including the Craft Academy, with the exception of dual credit students, is a member of the Student Body.

- A. Members of the Student Body shall possess the right to vote in any Student Government elections.
- B. Members of the Student Body possess the right to attend any Student Government Congress meeting.

ARTICLE II – BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Delegation of Powers

The Student Government Association of Morehead State University shall be composed of three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. These branches shall be separate but interrelated.

Section 2. Title of the Branches

These branches shall be named the **Executive Board**, the **Student Congress**, and the **Student Court**, respectively.

ARTICLE III – BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 1. Rights of Students

The rights of students of the Morehead State University Student Body shall not be infringed upon by any person, organization, association, or group affiliated with this University.

Section 2. Inalienable Rights

All students are by nature free and equal, and have certain inherent and inalienable rights, among which are:

- A. The right of students to free elections. Students appointed to office are to be appointed by freely elected officials.
- B. The right of students to alter, reform, or abolish their government, conditioned by the Board of Regents.

Section 3. University Reserved Right

Students have the right to due process as stated in the Student Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook, approved by the Board of Regents.

ARTICLE IV – THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1. Officers

The Executive Branch shall consist of the following officers: **President, Vice President, Secretary of Internal Affairs, Secretary of Public Relations, and Secretary of Campus Involvement.**

Section 2. Qualifications

- A. Any candidate for the executive branch must:
 - 1. Be a member of the Student Body.
 - 2. Have a 3.0 institutional cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 GPA scale, or a 3.0 institutional cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 GPA scale from the latest 2 consecutive semesters prior to the election.
- B. Any elected member of the executive branch must:

1. Be a member of the Student Body.
 2. Maintain a minimum at least a 3.0 institutional cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 GPA scale, or a 3.0 institutional cumulative grade point average from the latest 2 consecutive semesters prior to the election.as well as any semesters during their term in office.
 3. Not be on disciplinary probation or academic warning.
- C. Any candidate for the office of the President must also have spent at least three (3) semesters as a full-time student at Morehead State University.

Section 3. Executive Board Responsibilities

The Executive Board shall be responsible for the execution of all Student Congressional acts. It shall assist the President, meet prior to each general Student Congress session to set an agenda, meet in emergency sessions, and perform all duties granted by the Student Congress.

Section 4. Duties of Officers

- A. The President of the Student Government Association is the chief officer of the Executive Branch.
1. The major duties are as follows: to make all appointments granted to the executive branch, to preside at all the Executive Board meetings, and to perform such other duties as are necessary to serve the student body to the best of their ability.
 2. Their presidential-legislative power shall be limited to: introduction of legislation if applicable, messages, and power to initiate impeachment charges.
 3. Their presidential-judicial appointment power shall be limited to appoint, with the approval of the Student Congress, judges to the court.
 4. The Student Government Association President shall serve as student representative to the Board of Regents.
 5. The Student Government Association President shall serve on the Alumni Board.
- B. The powers of the Vice President shall be as follows:
1. The Vice President shall be vested with the powers of the President in the absence of, or at the request of the President.
 2. They shall be an ex-officio member of all Student Congress committees. They are charged with reporting their progress to the President.
 3. The Vice President shall preside during the impeachment and/or removal proceedings of the Chief Justice of the Student Court.

4. The Vice President must attend each standing committee's meeting once a month.
5. They shall conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of all standing committees each semester to be submitted to the President.
6. They shall head all ad hoc committees.
7. The Vice President shall serve as a liaison to the Faculty Congress.
8. The Vice President shall serve as a tiebreaking vote in the Student Congress when needed.

C. The powers of the Secretary of Internal Affairs shall be as follows:

1. The Secretary of Internal Affairs shall be responsible for the oversight and maintenance of all records of Student Congress meetings.
2. They shall handle all correspondence and send a notification of Student Congress meetings at least one day in advance of the dates of the respective meetings.
3. They shall file an official copy of the Student Congress minutes with the advisor and the Chief of Staff within one week after the Student Congress meetings.
4. They shall be responsible for taking attendance at Student Congress general meetings and taking disciplinary action as needed as set by the Executive Board.
5. They shall have the power to oversee financial transactions of the Student Government Association
6. They are entrusted with the keeping of all financial records, in an orderly and consistent manner, and the collection and distribution of all monies as directed by the Student Congress, and/or the President, when granted the power by Student Congress.
7. The Secretary of Internal Affairs shall be the presiding official over the Internal Affairs Committee.
8. They shall be responsible for presenting funding packets to the Internal Affairs Committee where the committee will then vote on the approval or denial of the packet.

D. The Secretary of Public Relations shall be responsible for the public affairs of the Student Government Association. The Powers of the Secretary of Public Relations shall be as follows:

1. They shall act as the public relations director of the Student Government Association and shall direct all notifications and announcements of Student Government Association sponsored events to the Student Body.
2. They shall keep an accurate record, either written or digital, of all the Student Government Association's promotional activities.
3. The Secretary of Public Relations shall be responsible for maintaining the Student Government Association's online presence.

4. The Secretary of Public Relations shall be the presiding official over the Public Relations Committee.
- E. The Secretary of Campus Involvement shall be responsible for the administration and proposition of all sponsored programs and/or events to the Executive Board and Student Congress. The powers of the Secretary of Campus Involvement shall be as follows:
 1. They shall keep a record of all the Student Government Association's related programs and sponsored events.
 2. They shall be responsible for the administration of special programs related to student issues or concerns as directed by the Executive Board and Student Congress.
 3. The Secretary of Campus Involvement shall be the presiding official over the Campus Involvement Committee.
- F. The individual members of the Executive Board will be responsible for other duties as assigned by the President.
- G. The Executive Board will be paid as Morehead State employees. Payment is subject to change.

ARTICLE V – THE STUDENT CONGRESS

Section 1. The Student Congress shall be composed of:

- A. The **Class Representatives** will be elected from the following classifications: two (2) Freshman, two (2) Sophomore, two (2) Junior, and two (2) Senior.
- B. One (1) representative per college shall be elected from their constituency. There shall be one (1) **College of Business and Technology Representative**, one (1) **College of Education Representative**, one (1) **College of Science Representative**, and one (1) **College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Representative**.
 - a. If a dual major falls under two different colleges, then they may exercise their own discretion as to which college to run for.
- C. The **Commuter Representative** shall be elected from their constituency. Commuters are defined as students not living in university housing.
- D. There shall be fourteen (14) **At-Large Representatives** elected. Those elected shall be a member of the Student Body.

- E. The **Craft Academy Representative** will be an appointed member to the Student Congress that is the Student Council President or their designee of the Craft Academy.
- F. The **Graduate Student Representative** will be an appointed member of the Student Congress by the director of the Graduate School or by the Executive Board. If no interest arises, other applicants will be taken.
- G. The **Athletics Representative** shall be elected from their constituency. A student athlete is defined as a member of a Morehead State University NCAA-sanctioned sport. If no interest arises, other applicants will be taken.
- H. The **Veterans Representative** shall be elected from their constituency. To qualify for Veterans Representative, a student must be current or past active-duty military personnel. If no interest arises, other applicants will be taken.
- I. The **Diversity and Inclusion Representative** shall be nominated by their constituents and appointed by the president.
- J. The **International Representative** shall be nominated by their constituents and appointed by the president.
- K. The **Housing Representative** shall be appointed by the Morehead State Office of Student Housing. The appointee must be either a member of the Executive Board of the Residence Hall Association or be a Resident Advisor.

Section 2. Chief of Staff

- A. The Chief of Staff shall be a member of the Student Congress that applies for the position. Applications are reviewed by the Executive Board, then qualified applicants are invited to an interview by at least 2 members of the Executive Board including the President and Advisor. After review of the applications, the President will then propose the appointment of the Chief of Staff to the Student Congress to then be voted on and confirmed by a majority vote. If no one would apply for the position, open nominations will be made at Congress meetings to be confirmed by a majority vote of the Congress.
- B. The Chief of Staff is responsible for:
 - 1. Attending Executive meetings and keeping records of said meetings, administrative tasks, and other duties.
 - 2. The Chief of Staff will be responsible for reading bills, as well as facilitating discussion, motions, and voting.

3. If the Chief of Staff is not present, the meeting will be presided upon by the President or their designee.
4. If for whatever reason the Secretary of Internal Affairs is unable to record minutes for the Student Congress meeting, the Chief of Staff or their designee will be responsible for doing so.
5. The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for overseeing reporting of hours by Student Congress members.
6. The Chief of Staff shall have a copy of the constitution, standing rules, the book of parliamentary procedure, and a list of all members of the Student Congress at all Student Congress meetings upon the request of the President.

Section 3. Qualifications

- A. All representatives must be full-time students and in good disciplinary and academic standing with a 2.5 overall institutional cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
- B. The Secretary of Internal Affairs and the Student Government Association Advisor shall ensure that all Student Congress members remain eligible for their positions throughout their term of office.

Section 4. Student Congress Responsibilities

- A. Representatives of the Student Congress shall be responsible for representing the constituency for which they are elected and shall vote on their behalf.
- B. Representatives of the Student Congress must serve on one of the standing committees.
- C. Representatives of the Student Congress must attend Student Congress meetings and the meetings of the standing committee they are assigned.
- D. Each Representative shall be responsible for meeting a required amount of hours per semester, set by the Executive Board each semester. Hours can be earned by attending Congress and Committee meetings and other Student Government Association-sponsored events. Representatives will be responsible for submitting proof of hours to the Chief of Staff.

Section 5. Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs in Student Congress, a new representative from the same constituency shall be appointed by the President of the Student Government Association and approved by majority vote of the Student Congress.

Section 6. Parliamentary Procedure

The Student Congress shall use Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, to govern the parliamentary procedure when needed and not in conflict with this constitution.

Section 7. Minutes

The Secretary of Internal Affairs must keep minutes of the Student Congress meetings and proceedings and post them to be viewed by the public as well as being kept as a record to be sent out before the following Student Congress meeting.

Section 8. Committees

- A. Standing committees are established through the constitution.
- B. Ad hoc committees of the Student Government Association shall be established by the executive branch upon Student Congress approval and shall be regulated by the Vice President.
- C. Committees shall be given direction through purposes and guidelines when established by the Student Congress and report to the Vice President.
- D. Decisions on quorum will be up to the discretion of the committee.

Section 9. Quorum

A majority of the voting members of the Student Congress shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 10. Committee Reports

Committee representatives shall be asked to report weekly on the action of their respective committees.

ARTICLE VI – THE STUDENT COURT

Section 1. Authority and Purpose

The Student Court established by the Student Government Association and approved by the Student Congress receives its authority from the Board of Regents through the President of Morehead State University. The Student Court will hear cases of members of the Student Government Association and student organizations charged by the Attorney General of the Student Court with violating provisions of the Student Government Association constitution, the association's election procedures, or other stated policies of the Association, and will recommend action to the appropriate University committee.

Section 2. Composition and Duties

- A. The Student Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and six Associate Justices.
- B. There shall be an Attorney General.
- C. There shall be a Chief Defense Counsel.
- D. There shall be a Clerk of Court as needed.

Section 3. Duties

A. Chief Justice:

- 1. The Chief Justice shall be chosen by a simple majority vote of the Student Court.
- 2. They will preside over all hearing and meetings.
- 3. They will call special meetings and hearings. They may discuss each case with the court.
- 4. They will cast a vote only in case of a tie.
- 5. In cases in which the Chief Justice is unable to preside, an acting Chief Justice shall be selected by a lot of the Associate Justices.
- 6. The Chief Justice shall have the power to organize the court to work on projects related to its operation.
- 7. The Chief Justice shall be the representative of the Court at all formal Student Congress meetings.

B. Associate Justices:

- 1. Each Associate Justice may discuss each case with the Court.
- 2. Each Associate Justice may cast one vote on all issues.

C. Attorney General:

- 1. Attorney General shall be designated by the Chief Justice, chosen from the associate justices.
- 2. They are to act as a prosecutor for the court.
- 3. They are to gather all pertinent and relevant information concerning the case.

4. They shall prepare a writ of summons on individuals or chief executive officers of organizations, ordering them to appear before the court. The summons must be delivered at least forty-eight (48) hours before the date of appearance to allow the defendant to consult with their Chief Defense Counsel. The server of summons shall be a designee of the Student Court.

D. Chief Defense Counsel:

1. Chief Defense Counsel shall be designated by the Chief Justice, chosen from the associate justices.
2. They shall gather evidence relevant to the case, and case and shall have access to the information of the Attorney General concerning the case.
3. They shall conduct the defense for the case unless the defendant requests another Counsel. Refer to Article VI, Section 1.
4. The defendant reserves the right to waive their defense counsel.

E. Clerk of Court:

1. Clerk of Court shall be designated by the Chief Justice, chosen from the associate justices as needed.
2. They shall keep transcripts of all proceedings for the court.
3. They shall forward each decision and a copy of the transcript of all proceedings to the President of the Student Government Association and the Secretary of Internal Affairs.

Section 4. Method of Selection, Terms of Office, and Vacancies:

- A. Method of Selection: The President of the Student Government Association, with the approval of the Student Congress, shall appoint Justices to the court. No Justice may be a member of the Student Congress while serving on the court. Appointments shall be made at the beginning of the fall semester by the President by the first Student Congress meeting of the academic year.
- B. Terms of Office: All Justices shall serve from the date of their approval by the Student Congress until the newly appointed members have been sworn in, unless otherwise stated in this constitution. All court officers must be full-time students at Morehead State University with a minimum of a 3.0 Institutional GPA on a 4.0 scale and must not be on social or academic probation at the time of appointment or during their term of office.
- C. Vacancies: In the event of vacancies, the President of the Student Government Association, advised by the Student Court, and with the approval of the Student Congress, shall appoint officers to serve the remainder of the term.

Section 5. Impeachment and Punishments

Any member of the Student Court may be removed from their respected office through the procedure defined in Article X, Section 1.

Section 6. Jurisdiction

Any member of the Student Association or any student organization charged by the Attorney General may be subject to the jurisdiction of the court.

Section 7. Authority and Appeal

- A. The establishment of the court and the derivation of its authority are contingent upon statutory restrictions of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and delegation of power from the Board of Regents and the President of the University.
- B. The court may recommend any action, which it considers fair and equitable to the appropriate University committee and may be modified.
- C. Decisions resulting from the recommendation of the Student Court may be appealed to the appropriate University committee and may be modified.

Section 8. General Punishments

- A. A Justice will be disqualified in any case in which proof of conflict of interest is established in the preliminary motions or any Justice may freely disqualify themselves from voting on a case, which they feel they cannot, without prejudice, pass judgment. A disqualified Justice may not attend court hearings. They may not discuss the case and cannot vote.
- B. A decision is reached by a majority of justices voting on the case.
- C. The Student Congress may develop lower courts, as they are deemed necessary, with the majority vote of the Student Congress and approval of the Board of Regents.

Section 9. Advisor

The Advisor of the Student Court shall be the Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee. They shall have deliberate power but no voting power in court. They must be notified in advance by the Clerk of the Student Court of all hearings.

Section 10. Meeting Time

- A. The court shall meet twice a semester as well as anytime that may arise.
- B. The Chief Justice shall have the power to call special meetings, providing a forty-eight (48) hour notice of all such meetings is given to all officials of the court.

Section 11. Hearings:

- A. The Chief Justice shall have the power to call special hearings. The Defendant, Chief Defense Counsel, Attorney General, Clerk of Court, Advisor, and all Justices must be notified of such hearings forty-eight (48) hours in advance.
- B. For regular hearings, the Student Court will determine procedures to follow as applicable to University policy.

Section 12. Enumerated Rights of the Defendant

A person appearing before the court is to be advised of the following rights which they enjoy as an American Citizen or as a full-time student at Morehead State University.

ARTICLE VII – STUDENT INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL

Section 1. Initiative

Any election deemed appropriate may be initiated by a resolution approved by a majority of the Student Congress at a regular meeting or by a petition directed to the Student Congress stating the proposed matter in full and signed by at least 10 percent of the Student Association.

Section 2. Referendum

The Student Congress shall, within 15 days of receipt, verify the initiative and shall refer the referendum to the President of the Association to begin ratification within twenty-four (24) hours of its verification. Ratification shall be accomplished in the following manner:

- A. The President of the Student Government Association shall, within 60 days and not less than 15 days from the date of receipt cause a special election to be held, wherein the Student Association shall be entitled to vote on the matter submitted.
- B. The election will be held, provided that notice of such election setting forth the proposed referendum, in full, be made public by the Secretary of Public Relations not less than six days prior to the date set for the election.
- C. If the referendum is approved by a majority of those voting it shall be binding upon all branches of the Student Government Association.

Section 3. Recall

If by a petition of not less than 25 percent plus one of the official's constituency calls into question the qualification record or if the loyalty of the elected official is disputed, the Student Congress shall call a special election demanding a majority vote of the total constituency to declare a vacancy in that office. If a vacancy is declared it shall be filled as stated in Article VI, of this constitution.

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 1. Executive Branch

The Student Association shall elect all members of the Executive Branch each year mid-term in the spring semester of the academic year. All dates, procedures, and rules pertaining to the elections and installations will be established by an Election Committee created by the Vice President. All newly elected officials shall be installed before the end of the spring semester at a time and in a fashion set by the Election Committee. The term of office, unless otherwise stated in this constitution, is to be no longer than 12 months and no less than 10 months after installation. If for whatever reason, a regular spring election for the Executive Branch is deemed to be infeasible, the Student Congress will vote on and confirm next year's Executive Branch from the current Student Government Association. If candidate registration has already taken place, this election will be limited to those who have already signed up for elections. If not, elections will be conducted based on nominations of members from the Student Government Association by the chair or the floor of the Student Government Association following Robert's Rules of Order. All elected representatives of the Student Association are subject to the qualifications, fulfillment of vacancies, recall, and responsibilities as set for the members of Student Congress.

Section 2. Student Congress

All members of the Student Congress listed in Article V, Section 1, subsections B, C, D, E, and F shall be elected from their respective constituencies during the first five weeks in the fall semester of the academic year. All dates, procedures, and rules pertaining to elections and installations will be established by an Election Committee created by the Vice President. All newly elected officials shall be installed after the election date at a time and in a fashion set by the Election Committee. The term of office is not to extend beyond the closing of the spring semester.

Section 3. Miscellaneous Student Elections

The Student Association shall elect all other elected representatives of the Student Association created by the Student Government Association of the University. All dates, procedures, and rules pertaining to elections and installations will be established by an Election committee created by the Vice President. All newly elected officials shall be installed at a time and in a fashion set by the Election Committee. The term of office shall be no more than 12 months and no less than 10 months after installation. All elected representatives of the Student Congress are subject to the qualifications, fulfillment of vacancies, recall, and responsibilities as set for the members of the Student Congress.

ARTICLE IX – SUCCESSION

Section 1. Presidential Order of Succession

The order of succession to the presidency shall be: Executive Vice President, Secretary of Internal Affairs, Secretary of Public Relations, Secretary of Campus Involvement, Chief of Staff, and then a representative of the Student Congress, respectively.

Section 2. Secretarial Order of Succession

The order of succession to any Secretary shall be: Chief of Staff, then a representative of the Student Congress, respectively.

Section 3. Chairs and Vice Chairs

In the event that an elected Chair or Vice Chair is deemed unfit by a majority of their respective committee, a new one may be elected by that committee.

ARTICLE X – IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL

Section 1. Definition of Impeachment

Any member of the Student Government Association, who has failed to act in the best interests of the Student Body or Student Government, may be impeached by a majority vote of Student Congress. This must be initiated through a bill submitted to the Secretary of Internal Affairs. A trial shall be held at the first convenience of the Student Court, from the act of impeachment. If a defendant is found guilty by the Student Court, the position shall be declared vacant and shall be filled by appointment by the President.

Section 2. Removal of Student Congress Representative

- A. If a Student Congress member drops below full-time status or a 2.5 Institutional GPA during a semester, they shall be removed from Student Congress.

Section 3. Removal of Chief of Staff

If the sitting Chief of Staff is deemed to be unfit for office, they may be dismissed by a majority vote of either the Student Congress or Executive Board.

ARTICLE XIe- MEETINGS

Section 1. Schedule of Meetings

Student Congress shall meet weekly during the regular academic year at a time, place, and date set by the Executive Board and advised by the Student Congress.

Section 2. Voting

- A. A member of the Student Congress may not vote on a bill if it pertains to a student organization they are a part of. They may however speak on behalf of their organization regarding the bill.
- B. Only members of the Student Congress are able to motion and cast a vote on an item on the floor.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Procedure

Amendments and changes to this constitution may be proposed by a member of the Student Congress in which an Ad hoc Committee is assembled. The Ad hoc Committee shall be chaired by the Vice President. Amendments and changes to this constitution may also arise by means of a petition signed by not less than 10 percent of the Student Association. An Amendment shall become effective when ratified by a two-thirds majority of the Student Congress, and when approved by the Board of Regents.

Revised: April 2000

Approved by Board of Regents: April 2000

Revised: 2/6/2001

Approved by Board of Regents: 3/03/2001

Approved by Board of Regents: 3/13/2008

Approved by Board of Regents: October 2010

Revised and Approved by Student Congress: 1/24/2018

Revised and Approved by Student Senate: 11/28/2018

Approved by Board of Regents: 3/28/2019

Revised and Approved by Senate: 1/25/2023

Approved by the Board of Regents: 2-23-23