

**Chadron State College
Student Senate Constitution**

Last Revised February 2010

Recognizing that the formation and operation of a genuine representative organization of the student body of Chadron State College is an inherent and essential right of the students of this College, in order to provide a forum for the expression of student views and interests; to be the “voice” of the student body; to improve student cultural and social welfare; to ensure the continued existence of student’s rights, both in principle and in practice; we, the students of Chadron State College, do hereby establish this constitution. The CSC Student Senate shall not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability.

Board Policy: 3300 Student Government

Each of the Nebraska State Colleges will have an organized student government. Student government is the principal entity for student participation in the decision-making process of the College.

1. The student government organization shall have a constitution which must be approved by the President.
2. Applicable state and federal laws and regulations, Board policies and College rules shall be followed in the operation of the student government organization.

ARTICLE I. NAME.

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be the Student Association of Chadron State College. All students of this college will be members of the Association by virtue of their enrollment at Chadron State College.

Section 2: The representative body of the Student Association shall be known as the Student Senate. The Senate will conduct the regular business of the Student Association.

Section 3: The Student Senate shall be composed of three distinct branches: the Executive (defined in Article II), the Legislative (defined in Article III), and the Judicial (defined in Article IV).

ARTICLE II. THE EXECUTIVE.

Section 1: The Executive Board will be composed of seven (7) officers, the President of the Student Association, the Vice President of the Student Association, the Treasurer of the Student Senate, the Secretary of the Student Senate, Corresponding Secretary of the Student Senate, and the Chief Justice and Parliamentarian of the Constitutional Court.

Section 2: Faculty Advisors must be notified of all Executive Board decisions and discussions prior to the weekly Senate meeting.

Section 3: The President of the Student Association shall serve as the official representative of the student body at all meetings and convocations concerning it; and, as an integral part of his/her duties, shall voice the position most favorable for the students. He/She will be the student representative on the Faculty Senate and the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Association.

Section 4: The President may appoint students to committees requiring student representation. He/She may appoint a student in his/her place on any standing committee with the consent of the Student Senate by majority vote. However, the appointment to the Faculty Senate or Student Affairs must be from within the Student Senate membership and will hold a temporary proxy vote only.

Section 5: The President may veto any legislation passed by the Senate. Any veto must be exercised within one week of the passage of the legislation affected. All vetoes must be reported in writing to the Secretary of the Senate. Vetoes must be acknowledged at the next full meeting of the Senate and can be

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overridden by a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate. The President may only veto any one piece of legislation three times.

Section 6: The President may submit petitions to the Constitutional Court concerning constitutional questions. The President may submit legislation for consideration by the Senate.

Section 7: The President may call a special meeting of the Senate; he/she, as President of the Student Association, may address the Senate on any issue or matter of concern after recognition by the Presiding Officer, the Vice President, of the Senate. The President shall have no vote in the Senate in any matter of business.

Section 8: The Vice President shall act as the Presiding Officer at all Executive Board and Senate meetings. He/She shall represent the Senate on the Academic Review Committee of the Faculty Association. The Vice President will have voting privileges only in legislation requiring a deciding vote. This does not include constitutional issues; which will be left up to the Constitutional Court.

Section 9: The Secretary of the Senate will be elected from the Senate by a majority vote of the Senate at the first meeting held after the Spring election, with his/her term beginning at the following meeting of the Senate. His/Her term of office will continue until the first meeting following the subsequent spring election.

Section 10: The Treasurer of the Senate will be elected from the Senate by a majority vote of the Senate at the first meeting held after the Spring election, with his/her term beginning at the following meeting of the Senate. His/Her term of office will continue until the first meeting following the subsequent spring election. The offices of the Treasurer of the Student Senate and the Treasurer of Campus Activities Board may not be held by the same person concurrently.

Section 11: The Corresponding Secretary will serve, ad hoc, at the discretion of the President; his/her appointment requires confirmation by the Senate. The Corresponding Secretary will act as the President's own secretary and will assist him/her in coordinating the Homecoming activities until their conclusion. The Corresponding Secretary will be responsible for keeping a clear and orderly record of the President's business and of the activities of Homecoming.

The Corresponding Secretary will be responsible for mailing the minutes from the Senate meetings to the appropriate recipients.

The Corresponding Secretary will also act as Historian of the Student Senate.

Section 12: No member of the Executive Board may hold any other position in Senate.

ARTICLE III. THE LEGISLATIVE. (THE STUDENT SENATE)

Section 1: The Legislative Branch of Student Senate shall be comprised of twenty-four (24) student senators representing the three (3) academic schools, eight (8) student senators elected at-large representing the entire student body, and eleven (11) Junior Senators and the Campus Activities Board President, who will serve as an ex-officio member.

Section 2: The three (3) academic schools will be the School of Business, Economics, Applied and Mathematical Sciences and Sciences, the School of Education, Human Performance, Counseling, Psychology and Social Work, and the School of Liberal Arts.

Section 3: The C.A.B. President and Student Trustee may not be elected to office within the Senate, and do not vote on Senate business.

Section 4: Junior Senators must be enrolled in twelve (12) hours of on-campus credit at Chadron State College. There will be eleven (11) Junior Senators serving on the Student Senate and Constitutional Court.

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Three (3) will serve for each of the three (3) academic schools and one (1) for at-large. One (1) will serve on the Constitutional Court. The term for Junior Senators will run from appointment to the last meeting of the school year. Junior Senators serve ex officio, are expected to attend all full Senate meetings, and retain full discussion privileges. Junior Senators may be allowed to vote on Student Senate committees of which they are a member if their voting capacity will be beneficial to the committee

Section 5: The Senate will adopt internal rules and regulations for the orderly conduct of the Senate's business. These will be entitled By-laws and shall be published as an appendix to this Constitution.

Section 6: All Executive Board members will serve ex-officio.

ARTICLE IV. THE JUDICIAL. (CONSTITUTIONAL COURT):

Section 1: The Judicial branch of the Student Association and the Student Senate shall be known as the Constitutional Court.

Section 2: The Constitutional Court shall be comprised of seven (7) Student Justices and one (1) Chief Justice, who will serve on the executive board. Five (5) Constitutional Court members and one (1) Junior Senator will be appointed in spring. The Executive Branch will nominate applicants. These nominees will then be voted on by the legislative branch. A majority vote is needed to affirm appointment. All court members will continually maintain a full knowledge of the Constitution and By-laws of the organization and be responsible for making binding judgments concerning the interpretation of the Constitution. The court will receive and consider any legitimate petition outlining a constitutional question, which would serve as the written statement for the petitioners.

Section 3: A petition requesting consideration of a constitutional question must be signed by the President of the Student Association, OR three (3) Student Senators, OR any ten (10) members of the Student Association. Such petitions must be considered and ruled upon within one (1) week following official presentation to the Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court. In considering such petitions, the Court must undertake to receive a written statement from the respondents' side.

- Section 4: A 2/3 majority vote of Senate can override a court ruling.
- a. To reach a decision, at least four (4) Justices must be present. In the event of a tied vote, the Junior Senator will have a vote.
 - b. A majority vote will suffice for all Court decisions.
 - c. Any decision by the Court must be delivered within one (1) week of receipt of the question, and must be accompanied by an explanation in writing of the reason(s) forming the decision. The decision will be delivered to the full Senate.

Section 5: Constitutional Court members will serve ex officio, but will attend all meetings.

Section 6: After each spring election, the members of the Senate must elect a Chief Justice and Parliamentarian from Court. The Chief Justice will preside over all Court sessions. In the absence of the Chief Justice, the Parliamentarian will preside.

Section 7: The Court must keep a clear and orderly record of its business and decisions.

Section 8: The Court must preside over all recall hearings and recall elections.

Section 9: The Constitutional Court will be responsible for the disciplinary actions of the full Senate with a special emphasis on attendance, eligibility, and conduct.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE.

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Section 1: Two (2) student elections will be held annually; they will be known as the Fall Election and the Spring Election.

Section 2: The President and the Vice President of the Student Association will be elected in the spring election.

Section 3: No more than twenty (20) Student Senators will be elected in the fall election. Five (5) Senators will be elected from each of the three (3) academic schools; and no more than five (5) Senators will be elected at-Large by the entire student body. Students seeking election from an academic school must be majoring in a department within that school. All education majors must run for the School of Education Human Performance, Counseling, Psychology and Social Work or At-Large, instead of his/her endorsement school.

Section 4: No more than twenty (20) Student Senators will be elected in the spring election. Five (5) Senators will be elected from each of the three (3) academic schools; and no more than five (5) Senators will be elected at-Large by the entire student body. Students seeking election from an academic school must be majoring in a department within that school. All education majors must run for the School of Education Human Performance, Counseling, Psychology and Social Work or At-Large, instead of his/her endorsement school.

Section 5: All candidates for office in the Student Association and the Student Senate must be Chadron State College Students who have completed twelve (12) hours of on campus credit, and must not be on disciplinary probation. Undergraduate Student Senators must be enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours of Chadron State College credit and Graduate Student Senators must be enrolled in at least nine (9) hours of Chadron State College credit.

Section 6: The Constitutional Court will enforce all election procedures. These procedures will appear in the by-laws to this Constitution. The rules will be posted at least two (2) weeks prior to any election.

Section 7: The President and the Vice President of the Student Association will be sworn into office at the second to last meeting of the academic year by the Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court.

Section 8: Newly appointed members of the Constitutional Court will be sworn into office by the Chief Justice of the Court at the first full meeting of the Student Senate following their election.

Section 9: Newly-elected Senators shall be sworn into office by the Chief Justice of the Court at the first full meeting of the Student Senate following their election.

Section 10: The term of office for a Senator shall be one (1) full year.

Section 11: If allegations of electoral misconduct are presented to Senate, a 2/3 majority vote shall be sufficient to move the matter to an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of one advisor, one member of the Constitutional Court appointed by the President, one member of the Executive Board appoint by the Chief Justice, and three Senators appointed by the Vice-President.

- a. Swearing in of newly elected Senators shall be delayed until the Ad Hoc Committee makes a recommendation to the Student Senate. This recommendation must take place within one (1) week of the Ad Hoc Committee's formation.
- b. Upon a finding of substantial electoral misconduct, a 2/3 majority vote of the current Student Senate shall be sufficient to render either election or specific office elections void—new elections must take place within one (1) weeks of this decision.

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Section 12: In case of an electoral tie, the candidates will present their qualifications orally at the next regular meeting of the Student Senate. A majority vote of the Senate by roll-call shall be sufficient to decide the election.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENT.

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended in either of two (2) ways. To be adopted, a proposed amendment may be approved by a majority vote of the current number of voting members in the Legislative Branch of Student Senate, and a majority vote of those voting at the next student election; OR, a proposed amendment may be adopted by approval of a 2/3 majority vote of those voting in a referendum election conducted under the rules for such an election. Each amendment must be voted on separately.

ARTICLE VII. DEFINITIONS AND PROVISIONS.

Section 1: A quorum for the Student Senate meetings, its various committees and subcommittees, and the Constitutional Court shall be a simple majority of the voting members of the respective groups.

Section 2: Unless otherwise stated in this constitution, a majority vote of those composing a quorum shall be binding.

Section 3: "A majority vote of the Senate" will mean a simple majority of the voting Senate membership present at the time of the vote.

Section 4: "A 2/3 majority vote of the Senate" will mean a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting Senate membership present at the time of the vote.

Section 5: Ex officio status will confer full discussion and debate privileges, but does not confer voting privileges.

ARTICLE VIII. VACANCIES.

Section 1: Anyone appointed to a vacancy in any academic school or at large in the Student Senate will only serve to the completion of the original term for which he/she has been appointed. A student appointed to fill the vacancy of a Senator representing one of the academic schools must have a major in a department of the school in which the vacancy occurs. All education majors must apply for the school of Education and Professional Studies, or At-Large, instead of his/her endorsement school.

Section 2: The Vice President shall assume the office of the President in the event of a vacancy and will only serve to the completion of the original term.

Section 3: In the event of a vacancy in the office of Vice President, the President shall nominate a qualified member of the Student Senate, whose appointment must be confirmed by a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate.

Section 4: In the event of a vacancy of the President and Vice President, the secretary will serve as acting President until Senate members elect a new President from within the Student Senate by a 2/3 majority vote.

Section 5: In the event of a vacancy in the Constitutional Court, the President shall nominate a qualified student, whose appointment must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Senate.

Section 6: In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court, any

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member of court may submit a letter to Senate regarding the position. A 2/3 majority vote from Senate will be needed to fill the position.

Section 7: In the event of a vacancy in the office of Parliamentarian of the Constitutional Court, any member of court may submit a letter to Senate regarding the position. A 2/3 majority vote from Senate will be needed to fill the position

ARTICLE IX. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.

Section 1: Any officer of the Student Association or member of the Student Senate may be subject to removal. Removal may be performed in two ways:

- a. Any student may initiate removal by submitting a petition to the Constitutional Court bearing the signatures of ten (10) percent of the student enrollment. The Court shall conduct a hearing at which time the Senator in question may defend his/her actions. Within one (1) week of the petition's presentation to Court, the Court shall decide whether to certify the petition. Upon certification, the petitions shall be submitted to Senate. A 2/3 majority vote shall be sufficient for removal.
- b. Any Senator may initiate removal by submitting a petition bearing the signatures of three (3) Senators to the Constitutional Court. The Court shall conduct a hearing at which time the Senator in question may defend his/her actions. Within one (1) week of the petition's presentation to Court, the Court shall decide whether to certify the petition. Upon certification, the petition shall be submitted to Senate. A 2/3 majority vote shall be sufficient for removal.

Section 2: Any Constitutional Court member may be subject to removal. Removal may be performed in two ways:

- a. Any student may initiate removal by submitting a petition to the Senate Executive Board bearing the signatures of ten (10) percent of the student enrollment. The Executive Board must come to majority decision to dismiss the Court member. Upon certification, the petition shall be submitted to Senate. A 2/3 majority vote shall be sufficient for removal.
- b. Any Senator may initiate removal by submitting a petition bearing the signatures of three (3) Senators to the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall conduct a hearing at which time the Court Member in question may defend his/her actions. Within one (1) week of the petition's presentation to the Executive Board, the Executive Board shall decide whether to certify the petition. Upon certification, the petition shall be submitted to Senate. A 2/3 majority vote shall be sufficient for removal.

Section 3: Any one of the following may constitute a recallable offense:

- a) malfeasance in office
- b) disciplinary probation
- c) gross failure to carry out constitutionally prescribed duties
- d) academic probation
- e) failure to adequately represent the constituents or students as a whole
- f) conviction of any felony during the term of office
- g) Any other indications of improprieties in fulfilling Senatorial responsibilities.

ARTICLE X. REFERENDUM.

Section 1: A referendum will be held on an issue if a petition is presented bearing the signatures of five (5) percent of the student enrollment and naming the issue. Refer to Article VII, Section 1 for Constitutional amendment referendums.

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Section 2: The Constitutional Court shall certify the validity of any referendum petition. As the Election Board, the Court will supervise and conduct the referendum election.

Section 3: Referendum petitions must be certified or rejected within two (2) weeks after their presentation to the Chief Justice. Referendum elections must be conducted within one (1) week after the Constitutional Court verifies the validity of the petitions calling for referendum action.

Section 4: The Constitutional Court may certify or reject referendum petitions only on the basis of the correct number of signatures in regard to the five (5) percent of signatures to the petition.

ARTICLE XI. ADVISORS.

Section 1: The Student Senate shall have three (3) advisors elected from the faculty or professional staff of the College by the members of the Student Senate. Advisors shall serve as ex officio members.

Section 2: In addition to the elected Advisors, the Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Services shall be invited to attend all Senate functions in an ex officio capacity.

Section 3: The Student Representative from the Board of Trustees shall serve as an advisor for the Student Senate for a term of one (1) year. He/She may not hold any other position in the Student Senate, and may not give up their Student Trustee position for any other position within Senate. Plainly, if a student is chosen as the Student Trustee, he/she must fulfill that obligation.

ARTICLE XII. ACTIVITY FEES.

Board Policy: 6022 Income; System-wide Fees; Individual Campus Fees: Section 8

8. Student Activity

Student activity fees shall not be considered as earmarked funds in Board policy. These funds are designated for student activities which are managed by student groups. The funds shall be distributed according to an annual budget developed by the appropriate student government organization on each campus. Activities receiving support from these funds must benefit a broad based student population. The funds shall not be distributed to individuals, except in the form of wages for services performed, not groups or organizations that are not established by and under the direct control of student government. Each campus is authorized to establish its own student activity fee level.

Section 1: The distribution of the Student Activity Fee is to be done by the Senate Finance Committee.

Section 2: The Senate Finance Committee will have their own set of guidelines, which must be passed by a 2/3 majority vote of the Student Senate. Any revisions of these guidelines must also be passed by the Student Senate.

Section 3: All allocations of Student Activity Fees must be passed by through the Student Senate.

Section 4: Funds left over after budget hearings are transferred to the Student Activity Fee Reserve Account

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ARTICLE XIII. STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE RESERVE ACCOUNT GUIDELINES

Section 1: All Activities or projects funded by this account should be open to all Chadron State College students regardless of sex, religion, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability.

Section 2: All allocations must be approved by 2/3rd majority of student senate eligible voting members at the meeting during which a request for an allocation is being made

Section 3: Allocations are made for special circumstances, activities, or projects that involve the Chadron State College student body.

Section 4: Allocations can be a maximum of \$5,000 per activity. Exceptions can be made if and only if agreed upon by a 2/3rd majority of the student senate eligible voting members at the meeting during which a request for an allocation is being made. Further the request must be reviewed and approved by both Vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Services and the Dean of Students.

Section 5: In any given year, a minimum of 50% of the Student Activity Fee Reserve Account's balance, after budget hearing considerations and allocations are made, will be maintained in reserve. The reserve balance may be increased beyond 50% at the discretion of the Student Senate Finance Committee during the course of the Annual Budget Hearings.

Section 6: Amounts approved for allocation must be reported on the treasurer's report of the week they were approved. The treasurer's report will state the balance of the entire account as an "Undisclosed Amount". The total balance of the account may only be verbally presented at the Senate meeting in which the request for the allocation was presented.

Section 7: Written requests should be submitted to the Senate Executive Board a week before the actual allocation is voted upon. The Student Activity Fee Reserve Account- Request for Funds can be picked up at the Student Senate office located in the Chadron State College Student Center.

ARTICLE XIV. RULES OF ORDER.

Section 1: The Student Senate shall abide by the rules and procedures found in Robert's Rules of Order, whenever they are not contrary to the established by-laws and constitution of Student Senate.

ARTICLE XV. RATIFICATION.

Section 1: This Constitution supersedes any other Student Association Constitution in existence. It shall become effective upon its ratification by a majority of the students voting in the election at which it is presented and by the President of Chadron State College.

Section 2: By-laws must be passed by a 2/3 majority vote of the legislative