GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT SENATE CONSTITUTION

Article I. PREAMBLE
We, the members of the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, being determined to ensure the conveyance of the student voice to university governing bodies, the administration, and the Board of Trustees in matters of institutional policies; to establish an effective and efficient, responsible and responsive student government; to retain the sole authority to appoint and remove student representation to all university standing committees and advisory boards; to be a body of dedicated, proactive leaders; to represent all students and their diverse, ever-changing needs; do hereby ratify this Constitution.

Article II. MEMBERSHIP

Section II.01 All members of the Senate must:
(a) Be a currently enrolled student at Grand Valley State University during the semester in which they serve.
(b) Maintain a minimum of two-point-zero (2.0) cumulative grade point average on a zero (0) to four-point-zero (4.0) scale. Officers must have a two-point-five (2.5) cumulative grade point average.
(c) Meet these requirements, or the member will be removed

Section II.02 Senate Composition
The Senate will be composed of fifty (50) members, forty-four (44) to be elected during a period within six (6) weeks of the end of the winter semester by the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) student body at large. Six (6) seats will remain reserved for students in their first semester at Grand Valley each. This will occur within the first three weeks of the fall semester; if the vacancies are not filled by the first three General Assembly meetings of the fall semester they will then be open to any member of the Grand Valley student population. As other spaces open, they will be filled with members of the student body, appointed according to Senate Resources Committee Bylaws.
(a) Student Senate elections will be conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article I of the Bylaws.
(b) A recall election of the Student Senate may be held if two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of students who voted in the preceding Student Senate Election request by petition to the Dean of Students Office that a recall election take place.

Section II.03 Officers
The officers of the Senate shall be the President, the Executive Vice President, the Vice President of Senate Resources, the Vice President of Finance, the Vice President of Campus Affairs, the Vice President of Educational Affairs, the Vice President of Diversity Affairs, the Vice President of External Relations, and the Vice President of Public Relations. All officers shall be elected in accordance with Article I of the Bylaws. The current Senate officers and Senators will remain active once the Officer is elected or Senator is sworn in until their resignation, removal, or until the end of the winter semester.
(a) PRESIDENT: The President is responsible for formulating the agenda and chairing the General Assembly.
   (i) The President shall act as an ex-officio member to each of the Student Senate Standing Committees.
   (ii) The President has the ability to make temporary appointments to Senate committees until approved by the General Assembly.
   (iii) The President shall act as an ex-officio member to the Student Life Allocation Board.
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(iv) The President or designee shall serve as spokesperson of the students and represent the Senate’s position on issues to Faculty Governance, the Administration and the Board of Trustees. The President shall be the Student Representative to the Newspaper Advisory Board, the Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Board, the Intramural Student Advisory Council, the University Academic Senate, the Executive Committee of the Senate, the Student Organization Review Board, and the Student Life Advisory Committee and has first priority for any student seat on any other standing committee at the University.

(v) The President is responsible for notifying the Dean of Students and Associate Dean of Student Life of all student representative appointments made to University committees within twenty-four (24) hours of the appointment.

(vi) The President shall chair the Cabinet.

(vii) The President shall call a special meeting of the Student Senate if petitioned by a Senator who is supported by the signatures of 1/3 of the voting members or if directed by a voting majority of the Cabinet.

(viii) The President in conjunction with the Vice President of Finance is responsible for recording and auditing all Senate expenditures.

(b) EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: The Executive Vice President will be vested with the powers of the President in the absence of, or at the request of, the President.

(i) The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for the accuracy of all the Senate minutes and act as parliamentarian for the General Assembly.

(ii) The Executive Vice President shall serve as an ex-officio member to each of the Student Senate Standing Committees, voting only when a Committee needs quorum to conduct business.

(iii) The Executive Vice President shall work with the Vice President of Senate Resources in deciding which Student Senate Standing Committee will be responsible for filling the student representation seat on any new committees of the University.

(iv) The Executive Vice President shall be responsible finding Student Senators to sit on the Laker for a Lifetime committee and referring them to the General Assembly for appointment.

(v) The Executive Vice President shall formulate and implement the Student Senate annual Elections Commission unless they are unable to as prescribed by the Student Senate Bylaws Article I section 1.03 letter a.

(vi) The Executive Vice President shall serve as an ex-officio member on the Laker Traditions Team selection committee.

(vii) The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for updating and codifying the Student Senate’s Constitution, Bylaws and Policies.

(viii) The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for tracking and cataloging all legislation and ensure that said legislation meets the required format as prescribed in the Student Senate Bylaws Article II section 2.07 letters b and c.

(ix) The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for coordinating the reexamination of resolutions five years and older.

(x) The Executive Vice President shall be responsible for delegating the planning of the University Leadership Round Table to the Student Senate Committees.

(xi) The Executive Vice President will appoint senators to serve on the Appeals Process
Committee at the beginning of the fall semester and throughout the year as needed.

1) Members of Cabinet and Senate Resources Committee shall not serve on the Appeals Committee.

2) The Executive Vice President shall randomly select three (3) members of the Appeals Committee appointments. Each potential member shall be approached by the Executive Vice President, and will have the opportunity at that time to accept or deny their participation in the hearing. The appeals process is outlined in Section 4.05 of the SSSRC Policies and Procedures.

(c) VICE PRESIDENT OF SENATE RESOURCES: The Vice President of Senate Resources shall chair the Senate Resources Committee.
   (i) The Vice President shall also run and organize the Senate In-service.
   (ii) The Vice President of Senate Resources shall also run and organize the Student Senate Funding Board Training in conjunction with the Vice President of Finance
   (iii) The Vice President of the Senate Resources Committee shall work with the Executive Vice President deciding which Student Senate Standing Committee will be responsible for filling the student representation seat on any new committees of the University.

(d) VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE: The Vice President of Finance in conjunction with the President of the Senate shall record and audit all Senate expenditures. The Vice President shall maintain duties as chair of the Finance Committee, and process reserve requests from registered student organizations (RSO), and record and audit RSO requests. The Vice President shall also chair the Appropriations Committee.

(e) VICE PRESIDENT OF CAMPUS AFFAIRS: The Vice President of Campus Affairs shall chair the Campus Affairs Committee. The Vice President shall work with the members of the Campus Affairs Committee to develop proposals and projects for the Senate. The Vice President shall present these projects and proposals to the Cabinet and General Assembly.

(f) VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS: The Vice President of Educational Affairs shall chair the Educational Affairs Committee. The Vice President shall keep contact with all student representatives to University committees/sub-committees dealing with education. The Vice President shall work with the members of the Educational Affairs Committee to initiate projects relevant to the academic interests of the Grand Valley student body. The Vice President shall propose these projects to the Cabinet and General Assembly.

(g) VICE PRESIDENT OF DIVERSITY AFFAIRS: The Vice President of Diversity Affairs shall chair the Diversity Affairs Committee. The Vice President shall also be a member of the International Education Advisory Committee, or the SSDAC will designate a student to sit on the committee. The Vice President shall keep contact with all student representatives to University committees/sub-committees dealing with diversity.

(h) VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS: The Vice President of External Relations shall chair the External Relations Committee. The Vice President shall enhance student relations with the surrounding community.

(i) VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS: The Vice President of Public Relations shall chair the Public Relations Committee. The Vice President shall notify the campus community of
upcoming Senate meetings and activities.

(j) If an officer position becomes vacant, a special election to fill the vacated position shall take place no sooner than one (1) General Assembly meeting, and no later than two (2) General Assembly meetings after the position becomes vacant, in a manner congruent with Article I of the Bylaws.

(k) In the event that the President and the Executive Vice President be absent from a scheduled General Assembly meeting and/or a Cabinet meeting, the Vice President of Senate Resources will chair the meeting(s), and then the chain of command shall follow gavel order.

(l) If at any time fifty percent (50% +1) of the membership feel that an officer should be removed from office, they shall submit their signatures and charges to the Executive Vice President (or to the President if the Executive Vice President is the officer they want removed) at least one week before the Senate meeting which the request shall be presented. The request shall be placed on the agenda under New Business. The General Assembly will then discuss and vote on whether to remove the officer from office. This does not mean the officer is removed from the Senate. Removal will take a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Assembly.

Section II.04 Speaking on Behalf of the Senate

(a) The President, Executive Vice President, or Vice President of Public Relations shall be the only members of Student Senate authorized to make an official stance on any Senate issue.

(b) Other members of the Senate may make unofficial comments to the media or public; however, the Senator must clearly state that what they are stating is his/her personal opinion and does not reflect the views of the entire Senate.

(c) Other members of the Senate may make official comments to the media or public with the approval of the President, Executive Vice President, or Vice President of Public Relations.

(d) Approval of use of the Senate Logo and Letterhead shall also be restricted to the President and Vice President of Public Relations.

Section II.05 Cabinet

(a) Membership: Will consist of the President, the Executive Vice President, the Vice President of Senate Resources, the Vice President of Finance, the Vice President of Campus Affairs, the Vice President of Educational Affairs, the Vice President of Diversity Affairs, the Vice President of External Relations, and the Vice President of Public Relations.

(b) Purpose: The Cabinet shall act as an advisory board, making suggestions and recommendations to the General Assembly, including the Senate operating budget, yearly goals, objectives, and changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

(i) The maximum amount that Cabinet may approve on behalf of the General Assembly when senate is not in session in reserve requests is $9,999. General Assembly must be notified at the first meeting of the fall semester of all allocations made by the Cabinet during the spring and summer semesters.
Any reserve request over $10,000 will require a vote of the General Assembly.

Section II.06 Senate Committees

(a) SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
   (i) Membership: Will consist of six (6) Senators, four (4) chosen by Cabinet, one (1) appointed, congruent with Article II section 2.02, and the Vice President of Senate Resources elected by the General Assembly.
   (ii) Purpose: To develop and maintain an effective Student Senate and to ensure efficiency within this organization by servicing its internal needs and by enforcing its established rules.

(b) FINANCE COMMITTEE
   (i) Membership: Will consist of eight (8) Senators, seven (7) Senators chosen by Cabinet, and the Vice President of Finance, elected by the General Assembly.
   (ii) Purpose: To recommend the appropriation of funds to currently registered student organizations for the purpose of sponsoring educational, recreational, cultural, and social activities for the Grand Valley State University community.

(c) CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
   (i) Membership: Will consist of seven (7) Senators, five (5) chosen by Cabinet, one (1) appointed, congruent with Article II section 2.02, and the Vice President of Campus Affairs, elected by the General Assembly.
   (ii) Purpose: To monitor all campus-oriented issues, to inform the Student Senate and administration of these issues and to act as the voice of the students ensuring that their best interests are fulfilled.

(d) EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
   (i) Membership: Will consist of seven (7) Senators, five (5) chosen by Cabinet, one (1) appointed, congruent with Article II section 2.02 and the Vice President of Educational Affairs, elected by the General Assembly
   (ii) Purpose: To keep a close watch on the changing system of education at GVSU, to maintain close contacts with University academic committees and to ensure a strong student voice in the shaping of academic policies.

(e) DIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
   (i) Membership: Will consist of six (6) Senators, four (4) chosen by Cabinet, one (1) appointed, congruent with Article II section 2.02 and the Vice President of Diversity Affairs, elected by the General Assembly
   (ii) Purpose: To consider and act upon intercultural policy, practices and issues, to make recommendations to the Senate and University administration, to create open dialogues that have intercultural interests or focus, to facilitate awareness and open communication, and to research and investigate various forms of discrimination against students.

(f) EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
   (i) Membership: Will consist of seven (7) Senators, five (5) chosen by Cabinet, one (1) appointed, congruent with Article II section 2.02 and the Vice President of External
Relations, elected by the General Assembly.

(ii) Purpose: To act as a liaison between the Student Senate and the local community, ensuring that Grand Valley State University students have positive experiences in the areas surrounding the University.

(g) PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

(i) Membership: Will consist of seven (7) Senators, five (5) chosen by Cabinet, one (1) appointed, congruent with Article II section 2.02, and the Vice President of Public Relations, elected by the General Assembly.

(ii) Purpose: To inform the Senate of public opinion and concerns of the student body, to ensure an accurate image of the Senate, to create student awareness of important campus issues, and to inform the student body of Senate activities.

Section II.07 Non-discrimination Policy

See the Student Code Article I – Student Rights and Responsibilities, section 100.01.

Article III. FUNDING

The Student Life Fund as allocated by the Student Senate is subject to the paramount authority of the University President through the administrative officers of the University. The Senate allocates the Student Life Fund monies by means prescribed by the Finance Bylaws. Any excess funds in the Student Life Fund account shall be carried over to the next fiscal year.

Article IV. BYLAWS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section IV.01 The Student Senate has the authority to establish its procedures through the use of Bylaws.

Section IV.02 Proposed amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws must:

(a) Be presented to the General Assembly at least two General Assembly meetings before a vote can be taken.

(b) Be submitted in typewritten form with no less than one copy for each Senator and two copies for general record.

(c) Contain the original wording as it appears in the document to be amended, the proposed wording change, and rationale.

(d) Be approved by two-thirds of the General Assembly.

Section IV.03 Proposed Constitution or Bylaw amendments require the approval of the University President upon the recommendation of the Dean of Students at their earliest convenience following Senate ratification. No changes may take effect until said approval.

Article V. SEVERABILITY

Should any part of this document be found to be unenforceable, and/or no longer binding due to changes in the organizational structure, or in policies of the university or other body of legal authority, then the balance shall remain in force until a new or modified document is ratified.