



**Constitution  
of the Student Union  
of  
Washington University  
in St. Louis**

## **Student Union Mission Statement**

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.

## **Student Union Vision**

It is the vision of Student Union to responsibly 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 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 the Student Union.

## **ARTICLE II. Constituency**

### **Section 1:**

The constituents of Student Union shall consist of all undergraduate students of Washington University in St. Louis upon payment of the Student Activity Fee. This group may also be referred to as the constituency.

### **Section 2:**

Constituents shall have the right to vote in Student Union elections.

### **Section 3:**

Only constituents of the Student Union may hold office.

### **Section 4:**

Throughout this Constitution, the pronouns he/him/his shall be gender neutral.

## **ARTICLE III. Powers and Jurisdiction**

### **Section 1. Activity Fee**

The Student Union shall have the power to collect an activity fee equal to one percent (1%) of tuition from each undergraduate student.

### **Section 2. Representation**

The Student Union shall have the power to represent its constituents within the University and the greater community.

### **Section 3. Requirements to Hold Office**

Constituents of the Student Union appointed or elected to office in the Student Union shall be referred to as officers of the Student Union.

No constituent may hold more than one Student Union office at the same time.

## **ARTICLE IV. Executive Branch**

### **Section 1. Executive Officers**

- a. The Executive Officers of the Student Union shall be the President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Programming, Vice President of Finance, and Vice President of Public Relations
- a. The Executive Officers must be constituents of the Student Union enrolled in at least nine (9) credits each semester.
- b. Any officer enrolled in fewer than nine (9) credits in a semester shall be subject to approval by the Senate, by a majority vote of the officers present, as to his ability to represent constituents of the Student Union.

### **Section 2. Duties and Powers of the President**

*The President of the Student Union shall:*

- a. Act as the official representative of the Student Union.
- b. Possess authority to determine the appropriate decision-making method for the Executive Council when such a process is undefined and authority to act on Executive Council decisions
- c. Convene and preside over meetings of the Executive Council, except at such times as he may, at his discretion, delegate this function to the Vice President of Administration.

- d. Invite any constituent of the Student Union to attend Executive Council at his discretion.
- e. Appoint such executive assistants as shall be deemed necessary for the proper execution of his duties with consent of the Senate and Treasury and have the power to remove such persons from their positions, with the consent of the Senate and Treasury.
- f. Have the power to veto, in writing, any act of legislation passed by the Legislative Branch of the Student Union within three (3) business days of its passage.
- g. During any period when, first, the Legislative Branch cannot meet, and second, the Executive Council cannot meet, the President shall act for the Student Union. The President shall inform the Legislative Branch of all acts that occurred in their absence in order for a review to take place.
- h. Present a State of the Student Union Address to all branches of the Student Union at least once each semester.
- i. Possess the power to call emergency meetings of the Legislative Branch with at least twenty four (24) hours notice to all representatives.
- j. Represent the position of the Student Union in university judicial cases when the actions of the Student Union as a whole are challenged.

### **Section 3. Duties and Powers of the Vice-President of Administration**

*The Vice President of Administration of the Student Union shall:*

- a. Act as the official internal affairs officer of Student Union
- b. Exercise the duties and powers of the President in his absence from office or in his inability to act, and shall perform such duties as shall be delegated to him by the President.
- c. Provide for the supervision and coordination of all committees and auxiliary organizations of the Student Union.
- d. Serve as the Parliamentarian of the Senate and Treasury meetings.
- e. Preside over the election of the Speaker of the Senate and Speaker of the Treasury.
- f. Chair the School Presidents' Council
  - 1. The School Presidents' Council shall meet at least once a month to discuss issues of concern to the individual schools and the University as a whole.
  - 2. Membership of the School Presidents' Council shall include the Vice President of Administration and the five School Council Presidents
- g. Chair the Recruitment and Retention Committee (RRC)
  - 1. The Recruitment and Retention Committee shall encourage constituents to get involved in Student Union, as well as maintain the interest and involvement of individuals participating in Student Union.
  - 2. Membership of the Recruitment and Retention Committee shall include the Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Programming, the Election Commissioner, and at least one

representative each from the Senate, Treasury, Class Councils, School Councils, and other constituents.

#### **Section 4. Duties and Powers of the Vice President of Programming**

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

- a. Act as the official representative of Student Union for issues related to university programming.
- b. Coordinate Student Union programming.
- c. Chair the Social Programming Board. Appoint representatives to the Social Programming Board with the consent of the Executive Council.

#### **Section 5. Duties and Powers of the Vice President of Finance**

*The VP of Finance of the Student Union shall:*

- a. Be responsible for the collection, disbursement, and accounting of the revenues and expenditures of the Student Union.
- b. Be required to review all expenditures of the Student Union operating budget.
- c. Submit a written report of the revenues and expenditures to all branches of the Student Union within the last three (3) meetings of each session of the Senate and the Treasury.
- d. Be responsible for the supervision of the Student Union business staff and the preparation of all financial records.
- e. Be responsible for educating all student group treasurers with regard to Student Union monetary processes.
- f. Serve as an ex-officio and non-voting member of the Social Programming Board.

#### **Section 6. Duties and Powers of the Vice President of Public Relations**

*The VP of Public Relations of the Student Union shall:*

- a. Act as the official Public Relations director of Student Union, including developing and promoting Student Union's brand, relationship with the media, and publicity.
- b. Act as a public relations resource for student groups.
- c. Chair the Public Relations Committee
  1. The Public Relations Committee will be comprised of constituents appointed by the VP of Public Relations with the consent of the Executive Council.
  2. The purpose of the Public Relations Committee is to facilitate publicity for Student Union as a whole, and act as a guide and resource for SU-recognized student groups.

3. All Student Union Councils, Committees, and Elected Bodies shall report activities and proceedings weekly to the Public Relations Committee.
- d. Inform the constituency regarding Student Union endeavors at least twice a semester.
- e. Coordinate the publication of the time, date, and place of all regular meetings

## **Section 7. Executive Council**

- a. There shall be an Executive Council composed of:
  1. The Executive Officers of the Student Union.
  2. The Speakers of the Senate and the Treasury.
  3. The advisor of the Student Union.
- b. The duties and powers of the Executive Council
  1. The Executive Council shall:
    - i. Advise the President in the functioning of the Student Union.
    - ii. Act for the Student Union during periods when the Legislative Branch cannot meet. Any such actions shall be subject to review by the affected body, the Senate or the Treasury, by a majority vote of the officers present.
    - iii. Aid the chairs in the supervision and coordination of the Legislative Committees.
    - iv. Decide by a majority vote on financial appeals not submitted to the Treasury.
- c. 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. This decision making rule may be vetoed by a majority vote of the other officers of the Executive Council. If the decision 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 the Student Union shall be the School Council recognized by a majority of the constituents in that undergraduate division. Such determination of recognition by the constituents in that undergraduate division shall be conducted through a Student Union Election run by the Election Commissioner.
- c. Each School Council shall write and amend its own Constitution which shall then be housed in the Student Union office.

- d. Every School Council President shall serve on the School President's Council which is chaired by the Student Union Vice President of Administration.

## **Section 9. Class Councils**

- a. There shall be four Class Councils, one for each undergraduate class.
- b. The Class Councils, as one body, shall have a Constitution that is housed in the Student Union office.
- c. The Class Council Constitution is amendable by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting population of the constituency.
- d. Election of the Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Class Officers shall take place in conjunction with the Student Union Executive Officer elections in the Spring of the year.
- e. Election of the Freshman Class Officers shall take place in the fall semester, not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty-five (25) days after the first day of classes.
- f. All Class Officers shall serve on the Joint Class Council that is advised by the Student Union Vice President of Programming.
- g. If a position falls vacant, candidates will be nominated within two (2) weeks by the Class Councils and confirmed by majority votes in both the Senate and Treasury.

## **ARTICLE V. Legislative Branch**

### **Section 1.Representatives**

- a. The legislative powers of the 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 the 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. Give advice and consent, by a majority vote of the officers present, to appointments made by the President.
  - 4. Have the power to require reports from any committee or officer of the Student Union by a majority vote of the officers present.

5. Have the power to enact, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total Senate, legislation previously passed, which was subsequently vetoed by the President of the Student Union.
  6. Have the power to bring articles of impeachment against any officer of the 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 the Treasury.
    - i. Consent is defined as a majority vote of the officers present.
  7. Have the power to create or dissolve committees through a motion requiring a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the officers present.
  8. Either approve or deny the General Budget once received from the Treasury by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total Senate. If the General Budget is denied, the Treasury must resubmit the General Budget for Senate approval, within two (2) regular meetings of the Senate.
  9. Be the only persons with the power to initiate a motion in the Student Union Senate.
  10. Regularly serve on at least one (1) of the Student Union Senate Committees for the duration of their term.
  11. Attend regular and special meetings of the Senate, unless excused by the Speaker of the Senate.
  12. Review, by a majority vote of the officers present, the pertinent actions of the President or Executive Council taken during any absence of the Senate.
- 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. Provide notification of each meeting to Senators at least twenty-four (24) hours before each meeting.
  3. Have a vote in the Senate only in the case of a tie.
  4. Determine the agenda of the meetings of the Senate.
  5. Have the power to remove a Senator from office after two (2) unexcused absences.
  6. Regularly meet with the chairs of the Senate Committees, which are defined in the Statutes of the Student Union.
  7. In case of an emergency, have the power to call upon any Senator to serve in his position.

### **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 Treasurer and/or Budget Committee of the Student Union.
  4. Present the General Budget to Senate once a year for approval.
  5. If the Senate does not approve, the Treasury must resubmit the General Budget within two (2) Senate meetings for approval.
  6. Supervise student organizations functioning under the auspices of the Student Union.
  7. Have the power to bring articles of impeachment against any officer of the 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.
    - i. Consent is defined as a majority vote of the officers present.
  8. Be the only persons with the power to initiate a motion in the Student Union Treasury.
  9. Serve on either the Budget Committee or the Student Group Activities Committee for the duration of their term.
  10. Attend regular and special meetings of the Treasury, unless excused by the Speaker of the Treasury.
  11. 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 the Student Union.
  12. Review, by a majority vote of the officers present, the pertinent actions of the President or the Executive Council taken during any absence of the Treasury.
- 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. Provide notification of each meeting to Representatives of the Treasury at least twenty-four (24) hours before each meeting.
  3. Have a vote in the Treasury only in the case of a tie.
  4. Determine the agenda of the meetings of the Treasury.
  5. Have the power to remove a Representative of the Treasury from office after two (2) unexcused absences.
  6. Regularly meet with the chairs of the Budget Committee and the Student Group Activities Committee.
  7. In case of an emergency, have the power to call upon any Representative of the Treasury to serve in his position.
- c. Committees of the Treasury
1. The Budget Committee, the Equipment Committee and the Student Group Activities Committee (SGAC) 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 Student Group Activities Committee shall act as a liaison between the Student Union and student groups and shall be chaired by a Representative of the Treasury who serves on the Student Group Activities Committee and is elected by a majority vote of the Treasury.
4. The Equipment Committee shall act as the manager of all equipment purchased with Student Union operating funds and shall recommend appropriate equipment purchases, repairs and upgrades as necessary. The Equipment Committee shall be chaired by a Representative of the Treasury who serves on the Equipment Committee and is elected by a majority vote of the Treasury.
5. 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**

- a. All acts of the Legislative Branch of the Student Union shall be considered the official stance of the Student Union at the end of three (3) days following the passage of the motion unless the President of the Student Union vetoes such legislation in writing.

#### **Section 5. Meetings**

- a. Both the Senate and the Treasury shall meet at least fifty percent (50%) of the weeks in each session.
- b. A session shall begin with the first meeting after a regular election of legislative representatives and shall end with the last meeting before the next election.
- c. A quorum, for both the Senate and the Treasury, shall consist of a majority of the entire officers of that body.
- d. Regular meetings of the Senate and the Treasury shall be open to all constituents of the University community.
- e. During a regular meeting of the Senate or the Treasury, any constituent of the University Community, upon recognition by either the Speaker of the Senate or the Speaker of the Treasury, respectively, shall have the right to address legislative representatives.

### **ARTICLE VI. Judicial Branch**

#### **Section 1. Constitutional Council**

- a. There shall be a Constitutional Council composed of five (5) justices and one (1) or two (2) alternate justices.
- b. The Constitutional Council shall be the judicial body of the Student Union.

c. Duties and Powers of the Constitutional Council

*The Justices of the Constitutional Council shall:*

1. Be appointed by the President with Senate and Treasury approval by a majority vote of the officers present.
2. Take office when a seat becomes available and leave office upon graduation, study abroad, or inability to carry out his duties.
3. At the request of at least one quarter (25%) of the Legislative representatives, interpret the Constitution and/or Statutes of the Student Union.
4. Review the actions of any officer of the Student Union for consistency with the Constitution or Statutes of the Student Union after receiving a challenge from two percent (2%) of the constituency of the Student Union.
5. Decide all cases in which an officer of the Legislative or the Executive branches of the Student Union is involved, and cases between Student Union registered groups and/or councils.
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. Be required to review and update the Constitution and the Statutes of the Student Union at least once per semester.
9. Hear all cases of discrepancy regarding elections and referenda, and activities of the Election Commission.
10. There shall be a Chief Justice of the Constitutional Council.

d. Duties and Powers of the Chief Justice

*The Chief Justice of the 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 the Student Union on all legal and constitutional questions.

## **ARTICLE VII. Elections**

### **Section 1. Election Commissioner**

- a. The powers to conduct the elections of the 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 Constitutional Council with Senate and Treasury approval. Approval is defined as a majority vote of the officers present. Appointment shall follow spring elections, and the duration of the term shall be one (1) year.
2. Organize and coordinate all elections of the Student Union.
3. Possess the power to create an Election Commission. The Election Commissioner shall propose an Election Commission for approval to the Senate by a majority vote of the officers present.
4. Convene and preside over meetings of the Election Commission.

## **Section 2.Election Commission**

- a. The Election Commission shall determine the rules by which the election shall be run. The Senate and the Treasury shall approve all election rules.
- b. 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 Vice President of Administration shall be installed as President for the unexpired term.
- d. If the offices of Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Finances, Vice President of Programming or Vice President of Public Relations fall vacant, a successor shall be appointed to fill the unexpired term by a majority vote of the Senate and the Treasury.
- e. If a candidate for an office is disqualified after an election within thirty (30) days after the election, the qualified candidate with the next highest vote total shall be installed.
- 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 (1/2) of the appointed number of Senate seats from each school shall be elected each semester.

- c. Each Senator elected in a regular election shall hold his office for one (1) calendar year or until a successor is installed. No constituent shall be eligible for election if he cannot complete his full term.
- d. Preceding the fall and spring semester elections, the number of constituents in each school shall be obtained by the Election Commissioner. Each school shall have one (1) Senator for every two hundred-fifty (250) constituents. If the remaining number of constituents in that school is greater than one hundred twenty-five (125), there shall be one (1) additional senator in that school. Each school shall, regardless of its enrollment, have a minimum of two Senators.
- e. Each Senator shall be enrolled in the undergraduate division that he represents. Senators who transfer divisions may complete their term if the school council recognized by the Student Union of the division they are leaving approves their continued representation within three (3) weeks of the transfer.
- f. The Student Union constituents shall elect each Senator from that school. In electing Senators, each voter may cast as many votes as seats open in their school, but may only cast one (1) vote per candidate.
- g. If a Senate seat falls vacant, the Speaker of the Senate, shall, within five (5) days, notify the presiding officer of the affected School Council recognized by the Student Union, which shall then have the right to appoint a constituent of the Student Union to serve the unexpired term.
  - 1. If no recognized student governing body of the affected school exists, or if said body fails to appoint a Senator before two (2) Senate meetings following the official announcement to the Senate have passed, the Speaker of the Senate shall have the power to appoint a constituent of that school as a Senator to serve the unexpired term.

### **Section 5.Election and Appointment of Representatives of the Treasury**

- a. Elections of Representatives of the Treasury will be held once annually in the spring semester.
- b. Preceding the spring semester elections, the number of undergraduate constituents at the University shall be obtained by the Election Commissioner. There shall be one (1) Representative of the Treasury for every three hundred twenty-five (325) constituents. If the remaining number constituents is greater than one hundred sixty-two (162), there shall be one additional Representative of the Treasury.
- c. If a Representative of the Treasury seat falls vacant, the Speaker of the Treasury shall have the power to appoint a constituent of the Student Union to serve the unexpired term.
- d. All constituents of the 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 VIII. Compensation**

No officers of the Executive, Legislative, or Judicial branches of the Student Union, defined as members of the Executive Council, members of the Constitutional Council, and the elected representatives of the constituency, will receive any type of monetary compensation, salary or otherwise, from the Student Union budget for their duties of those Executive, Legislative, or Judicial branches. This legislation 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 moneys spent.

## **ARTICLE IX. Initiative, Referendum, and Recall**

### **Section 1. Initiative**

- a. The constituency of the 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 he determines 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 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 the 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 the Student Union and transmitted in writing to the Chief Justice.
- b. The Chief Justice shall, if he determines 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 510 after he 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 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 officer in dereliction of his duties.
- b. Any constituent may petition for the recall of an officer of the Student Union who is in dereliction of his duties.
- c. The party petitioning for recall must submit a formal request before the Constitutional Council in accordance with its Grievance Policy, and appear before the Council to make his case.
  1. In the case that the subject of recall is a member of the Constitutional Council, the grievance shall be taken to the Executive Council of Student Union.
- d. If the Constitutional Council approves the petition for recall:
  1. The Constitutional Council shall proceed by taking the petition to the executive officers of the affected organization within ten (10) business days.
    - i. In the case that all officers of the affected organization hold equal office or if there is just one executive, the petition will be taken to the entire group, as in the case of Senate and Treasury.
  2. If the affected executive officers do not approve the petition by a two-thirds (2/3) majority, then the petition will not pass, and no recall shall take place.
- e. If the Constitutional Council or affected executive officers do not approve the recall:
  1. The party may appeal by calling for a vote of the affected constituency via elections in which at least fifty percent (50%) of the affected constituency participates. This vote shall occur within twenty-five (25) business days.
  2. If the majority votes in favor of the recall, then the subject of the petition shall be recalled.
  3. In the case that less than fifty percent (50%) of the affected constituency participates, or that the majority of the voters do not vote in favor of the recall, no recall shall take place.
- f. Replacement of recalled officer:
  1. If an officer of Student Union has been recalled in accordance with the procedures above, then the remaining officers of his organization shall select a replacement officer—in accordance with their constitution—who shall serve until the end of the term. This must occur no sooner than ten (10) business days after the recall and no longer than twenty-five (25) business days after.

### **ARTICLE X. Amendments**

## **Section 1.Amendments**

- a. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by two methods:
  1. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of either the Senate or the Treasury, with consent from the body which is not proposing the amendment. Consent is defined as a majority vote of the officers present.
  2. A petition signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the constituency of the 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 his discretion.
- d. The Amendment shall be enacted when ratified by two-thirds (2/3) of those voting in a referendum of the Student Union.

## **ARTICLE XI. Dissolution**

### **Section 1.Property of the 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 to the present Student Union within the specified five (5) years, unqualified title to all of the property of the Student Union shall then be vested in the University.

## **ARTICLE XII. 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 him.
  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 himself. Any constituent offering testimony may refuse to answer questions that would tend to incriminate himself. No evidence may be presented against a student that was seized and held without his 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 XIII. Equality**

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

## **ARTICLE XIV. Enactment**

This constitution will take affect after the election of the Executive Officers for the 2003-2004 school year.