

SENATE BY LAWS

Approved by the OSA Senate February 20, 1996

CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT BODY

Mandatory reflection of OSA Constitution follows

Article IV

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

All legislative powers granted herein shall be vested in the Student Senate hereinafter known as the Senate, as the upper house, and the Student Assembly, hereinafter known as the Assembly, as the lower house.

Section 1 - Senate

A. Membership

The membership of the Senate shall include twenty-five (25) Senators elected by and from the student body. These twenty-five (25) Senators shall be allotted proportionately to the Colleges of Letters and Science, Education and Human Services, Nursing, and Business Administration based on the proportion of students enrolled within each college, to be established by the Senate in accordance with the Election Bylaws. No Senator may serve in the Assembly. The Senate may appoint, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present, such Associate Senators as it deems necessary.

B. Tenure

A Senator shall be elected by a plurality vote in an all-campus election by the voters according to their declared majors; if the seat of a Senator shall be vacated by resignation, academic probation, recall election, non-enrollment in the University, impeachment, or otherwise, the president shall appoint a new Senator from the college where the vacancy occurs. A Senator shall serve from the date of his/her election or appointment until the next all-campus senatorial election.

C. Powers and duties

The powers and duties of the Senate shall be:

1. To serve as the official voice of the student body;
2. To grant or withdraw official recognition for each student organization which seeks or holds such recognition and to grant or withdraw voting power of these organizations in the Assembly;
3. To oversee and approve all campus elections and referenda.
4. To establish standing and special committees of the Senate.
5. To have power to override a Presidential veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senators present;
6. To establish the Senate Bylaws and rules of proceedings;
7. To elect a Vice President Pro-Tempore from among its voting membership;
8. To approve the OSA budget;

9. To serve a minimum of two (2) office hours per week either in the OSA office or in a manner otherwise approved by the OSA Vice President;
10. To serve on a minimum of two (2) OSA affiliated committees and report on the proceedings of those committees.
11. To enact all legislation, which shall be necessary and proper to execute and enforce the foregoing and all other powers, vested by this constitution in OSA or in any department or office thereof.
12. To self appoint within membership all Senators to the Joint Legislative Committee.

1. Name

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the Oshkosh Student Association (OSA) Student Senate.

2. Membership

2.1 Regular Senators

- 2.11 Shall be those members elected to the OSA Senate from their respective college in accordance with the OSA Constitution and Election By-Laws or appointed by the President and approved by the Senate in the case of a vacancy in accordance with the OSA Constitution.
- 2.12 Student Senators shall maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.25 during their term of office.
- 2.13 Two (2) unexcused absences will result in forfeiture of that individuals senate seat.
- 2.14 Four (4) excused absences each term will result in forfeiture of that individuals Senate seat with the exception of Special Meetings and with the exception of University approved absences.
- 2.15 OSA Senators may not sit on the OSA Executive Board except the Vice President Pro Tempore.

2.2 Associate Senators

- 2.21 Shall have all powers and duties given to Regular Senators, in the exception of voting rights as outlined in section 3.2.

3. Voting Rights

3.1 Regular Senators

3.11 Elected Senators

- 3.111 Shall have immediate voting rights after approval of the Election Commissions Spring Senate election report.

3.12 Appointed Senators

- 3.121 Shall have immediate voting rights after their approval by the OSA Senate.

3.2 Associate Senators

- 3.21 Shall not have any voting rights.
- 3.22 Shall not be able to make motions.

4. Meeting and Quorum

4.1 Meetings

- 4.11 Regular formal meetings shall be defined as the day, time and place as voted upon by the Senate; or if not voted upon, the day, time and place of the previous regular meeting.
- 4.12 A special meeting shall be called by the President or by the Vice President with the approval of a full Senate or by contacting all Senators to tell them of the meeting.
- 4.13 Seating at the head table shall be limited to the President, the Vice President, the Vice President Pro Tempore, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Parliamentarian and the OSA Secretary.
- 4.14 During regular scheduled Senate meetings, all resolutions may not be voted on after the two-hour mark from the time the meeting is called to order.
- 4.15 Sponsor or a representative of sponsor of a resolution must be in attendance for that resolution to be considered or voted on.

4.2 Quorum

- 4.21 A quorum to conduct business shall be a majority of a full Senate.
- 4.22 A full Senate shall be the number of Senators allowed by the OSA Constitution and determined by the most recent re-districting.
- 4.23 In the computing program of a quorum, vacant or unoccupied seats will not be counted.

5. Officers

5.1 Vice-President of OSA

5.11 Term of Office

- 5.111 The Vice President shall be elected by a plurality vote in a general all-campus election, held simultaneously with the election for President, for a term of one (1) year as defined in the Election Bylaws. The Senate shall elect a Vice President Pro-Tempore at the beginning of its term from amongst its membership who shall chair meetings of the Senate in the absence of the Vice President. If the office of Vice President shall be vacated by resignation, academic probation, recall election, non-enrollment in the University, failure to maintain a grade point average of 2.50 while in office, or otherwise, the Vice Present Pro-Tempore shall temporarily assume the duties of the Vice President. The President shall appoint, with approval of the Senate and Assembly, a person to assume the Vice Presidential position within (10) class days of the vacancy.
- 5.112 If the offices of both the President and Vice President are vacant simultaneously, the Vice President Pro-Tempore shall temporarily assume both offices, and the Senate shall sponsor a special all-campus election within four (4) weeks after the date of these

vacancies to fill both offices for the remainder of the term. If less than two (2) academic months remain in the term the Vice President Pro-Tempore shall become President and the Speaker of the Assembly shall become Vice President and the Senate and Assembly shall elect new persons to the offices respectively.

- 5.12 Voting Rights
 - 5.121 The Vice President shall vote in the case of a tie vote only.
- 5.13 Powers and Duties
 - 5.131 To chair all meetings of the Senate.
 - 5.132 To appoint the members of all standing and special committees of the Senate and the Senates members on all Joint Senate and Assembly committees.
 - 5.133 To serve as an Associate Student Senator and Associate Student Member of the Assembly.
 - 5.134 To assist the President.
 - 5.135 To call special meetings of the Senate on his/her own initiative, at the request of the President, or at the call of simple majority of the Senate, and;
 - 5.136 To prepare the agenda for the Senate meetings.
- 5.2 Vice President Pro-Tempore
 - 5.21 Nomination
 - 5.211 Only regular Senators with voting rights may be nominated for Vice President Pro-Tempore.
 - 5.212 Nominations shall be made at the first regular meeting following the approval of the spring Senate Election Commission Report.
 - 5.22 Election of Vice President Pro-Tempore
 - 5.221 Only regular Senators shall be allowed to vote.
 - 5.222 All voting shall be done by secret ballot.
 - 5.223 Elections shall be held at the next regular meeting following the meeting at which nominations were made.
 - 5.23 Term of Office
 - 5.231 The Vice President Pro Tempore shall assume office immediately after being elected.
 - 5.232 The Vice President Pro-Tempore shall hold office until such a time as a new Vice President pro-Tempore is elected.
 - 5.233 If a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice President Pro Tempore through resignation, recall, non-enrollment in school, or otherwise, a new election shall be held immediately upon his resignation.
 - 5.24 Powers and Duties
 - 5.241 To chair all meetings of the Senate in the absence of the Vice President of OSA.
 - 5.242 To assume all other powers and duties of the Vice President of OSA in the absence of the Vice President of OSA

- 5.243 To coordinate the activities of all Senate committees.
- 5.244 To serve as a member of the Executive Board of OSA.
- 5.245 To serve as an Associate OSA Assembly person.
- 5.246 To notify all groups registered by the OSA Senate that they have been registered as a student organization.
- 5.247 To chair the Committee on Committees
- 5.26 Recall of the Vice President Pro Tempore
 - 5.251 The Senate may initiate recall on the Vice President Pro-Tempore with the consent of the Senate by a majority of the voting members present at a regular meeting of Student Senate.
 - 5.252 At the next regular meeting of the Senate, a secret ballot vote shall be taken and the Vice President Pro-Tempore shall be recalled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present.
- 5.3 Secretary and other offices
 - 5.31 Appointments
 - 5.311 The Office Manager of OSA shall be the recording Secretary of the OSA Senate.
 - 5.312 The Vice President of OSA shall also appoint any other such offices as he/she deems necessary.
 - 5.313 In the absence of the OSA Office Manager, the Vice President Pro Tempore shall be the recording secretary of the OSA Senate.
 - 5.314 The Senate may remove, by a 2/3 majority vote, any person previously appointed by the President or Vice-President and approved by senate.
 - 5.32 Term of Office
 - 5.321 All appointed officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Vice President of OSA.
 - 5.33 Voting Rights
 - 5.331 No appointed officers shall have any voting rights.
 - 5.34 Powers and Duties (Secretary)
 - 5.341 To record minutes of all OSA Senate meetings and to have said minutes of all OSA Senate meetings ready for the next OSA Senate meeting.
 - 5.342 To keep on file a record of minutes of all OSA Senate meetings and to keep on file a record of all reports, minutes, etc., of the Senate committees.
 - 5.343 To prepare materials to be presented at the Senate meeting.
 - 5.344 To keep an accurate record of attendance at all regular meetings.
 - 5.345 To be of general assistance to the Vice President of OSA and the Vice President Pro-Tempore.

6. Parliamentary Procedure

- 6.1 Parliamentary Authority
 - 6.11 The current edition of Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure shall govern this organization in all parliamentary situations that are not provided for in the Constitution, By-Laws, or adopted Laws.
- 6.2 Censuring Senators
 - 6.21 A Senator may be reprimanded by the chair at the Senate meeting and can only be made at the meeting in which the cause of the reprimand is needed. A reprimand is defined as to reprove informally.
 - 6.22 A Senator may be censured by a majority of the full Senate. Censure is defined as an official reprimand by the Senate.
- 6.3 Policies for Approving Organizations and Appointments
 - 6.31 Organizations
 - 6.311 The Student Senate shall grant or withdraw official recognition for each student organization that seeks or hold such recognition.
 - 6.32 Appointments
 - 6.321 To confirm by a majority vote all appointments made by the President or Vice President of OSA to standing committees, student/faculty committees, and University Court by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
- 6.4 Numbering Legislation
 - 6.41 All Senate legislation shall be marked SS-the year the present Senate was elected-and the number of the legislation.
 - 6.42 Senate numbering of legislation shall start with 001, representing the first piece of legislation of the new Student Senate.
 - 6.43 Senate numbering of legislation shall end with the approval of the following Senate Election Commission report.
- 6.5 Emergency Powers
 - 6.51 An emergency shall require:
 - 6.511 An emergency student political protest, conference, moratorium or action, or
 - 6.512 Imminent danger to students, physical and otherwise, or
 - 6.513 A situation requiring student position immediately on any affair, the usefulness of which position would be gone or reduced by the next Senate meeting, or
 - 6.514 Imminent danger to OSA's existence
 - 6.52 The following powers may be assumed:
 - 6.521 Power to make or negate financial commitments in OSA's name, other than as provided in the Constitution.
 - 6.522 Power to extend emergency powers beyond the one-week limit specified in these By-Laws.
 - 6.523 power to commit OSA to any policy beyond the one week limit, and
 - 6.524 Power to dissolve or limit any branch, committee, or agency of

OSA except as provided in the Constitution.

6.53 The power (s) assumed would expire at the next Senate meeting after the proclamation of an emergency, unless the President or Senate nullifies his/her proclamation before the end of that period after the Senates next meeting the power can only be extended by a resolution.

6.54 After one (1) week the power (s) may only be extended by resolution of the Senate. Otherwise, the President may not proclaim a related emergency again for thirty (30) days, unless the Senate changes the number of days.

6.55 If emergency powers are assumed, the president will file a written report on any and all action taken under those powers by the time of the Senate meeting following the expiration of power.

6.6 Resolutions

6.61 Resolutions shall be introduced one week prior to any action on the resolutions.

6.62 All resolutions shall include the sponsor's name (s).

6.63 Presidential appointment resolutions and Student Organization Recognition resolutions alone shall be exempt from section 6.61 of these Bylaws.

7. Referendums

7.1 The Senate, upon receiving a bona fide petition containing five hundred (500) signatures shall direct the Election Commission to add the referendum question to the presidential or Senatorial Election ballots, whichever comes first.

7.2 The Elections Commission shall represent the results of the referendum to the Senate.

7.3 All referendums except constitutional amendments must conform to the OSA Constitution. The Student Senate shall have jurisdiction in defining constitutionality, in the event that there is no appropriate body to perform this function, i.e. Student Court

7.4 Results of a referendum ruled constitutional shall be binding on the Senate.

7.5 The OSA Assembly, Senate and Executive Board may place a referendum on the ballot with a two-thirds (2/3) approval.

8. Ratifying By-Laws

8.1 These By-Laws shall become effective upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full Senate.

8.2 All previous By-Laws for the OSA Senate are hereby void with the passage of these By-Laws.

9. Amendments to By-Laws

9.1 Any amendments shall be prepared in writing by any Senator or Associate Senator to the OSA Senate.

- 9.2 The voting on the amendment shall be at the meeting following the introduction of the amendment unless all the Senators are present at the meeting the amendment is introduced.
- 9.3 Amendments shall be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full Senate in order to be enacted.

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