

1 THE CONSTITUTION OF
2 THE WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION

3 RATIFIED ON MARCH 26TH, 2007

4 PREAMBLE

5 *We, the members of the Weber State University Student Association, in order to form a more effective association, ensure a*
6 *representative and orderly system of self-governance, establish internal justice, promote and defend those inalienable rights*
7 *and pursuant responsibilities common to all persons, as well as those provided by Federal, State and Institutional authorities,*
8 *and to pursue the fulfillment of the mission of this institution do ordain and establish this Constitution.*

9 **ARTICLE I**

10 ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITY

11 The Weber State University Student Association (WSUSA) has been established to provide for the general welfare
12 of the students of Weber State University (WSU) through principles of self-governance and shared governance. The
13 structure of WSUSA is designed to provide representative leadership; therefore, WSUSA officers shall promote the
14 opinions and the interests of the student body as their voice and trusted representatives. WSUSA is intended to
15 provide student participation in academic, administrative, and extracurricular decision-making at WSU. WSUSA,
16 along with the WSU Administration, is to ensure efficient and prudent use of student fees and oversee the student fee
17 allocation process, which is to be approved by the WSU Board of Trustees and the Utah State Board of Regents.
18 WSUSA shall provide quality opportunities for academic and extracurricular experiences as well as promote student
19 involvement in university clubs, organizations, events, and activities. WSUSA officers shall perform with
20 effectiveness any powers and/or responsibilities bestowed upon them by Administration, the Board of Trustees, or
21 the Board of Regents. WSUSA shall also promote WSU in the community and establish relationships with the
22 community for the betterment of the University and the benefit of the students.

23 **ARTICLE II**

24 MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICER ELIGIBILITY

25 **Section 1: WSUSA Member Definition**

26 Any person who pays full or partial student fees is considered a member of WSUSA for the entirety of that academic
27 semester until the commencement of the following semester, excluding summer semester.

28 **Section 2: WSUSA Elected Officer Eligibility**

29 Any full-time student of WSUSA who holds a WSU cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale at
30 the time of elections may be elected to any of the elected offices. Full-time status is defined as enrollment in at least
31 12 credit hours during the current semester or the completion of 24 credit hours within the preceding Summer and
32 Fall semesters and registration of the current Spring semester.

33 The exceptions to this definition of status are:

- 34 1. Students registered with the Students with Disabilities department. These students full-time status shall
35 be determined by the student and an Advisor from the Students with Disabilities department. Students
36 in this situation will receive compensation in proportion to their status and registered class hours.
- 37 2. A transfer student from another accredited institution of higher education, or a future student who is not
38 considered a transfer student. Said individual must be matriculated to WSU to start the following
39 semester. Said students are only eligible candidates for WSUSA offices in the Legislative and Judicial
40 branches.

41 **Section 3: Appointment of WSUSA Offices**

42 Any person may be appointed to any WSUSA offices under the following criteria:
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- 43 1. Said individual must hold a total cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale at the time
44 of appointment;
- 45 2. He/she is a current member of WSUSA, or a transfer student from another accredited institution of
46 higher education, or he/she is a future student and is not considered a transfer student. Said individual
47 must be matriculated to WSU to start the following semester at the time of appointment, excluding
48 summer semester.

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ARTICLE III
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

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WSUSA will be organized with an Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branch of Government. The powers and responsibilities of each branch shall be outlined in this Constitution and in the WSUSA Bylaws.

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ARTICLE IV
THE WSUSA BYLAWS

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This Constitution shall be accompanied by a set of Bylaws that shall further delineate the policies, procedures, rules, requirements, powers, and responsibilities of the WSUSA and WSUSA officers. The WSUSA Bylaws shall not contradict this Constitution, and this Constitution shall override the Bylaws whenever discrepancies arise.

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ARTICLE V
THE WSUSA EXECUTIVE BRANCH

61 Section 1: Executive Power and Responsibilities

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All Executive power herein granted shall be vested in a President of the WSUSA. The President shall administer all executive duties and responsibilities with assistance from the Vice Presidents as outlined in this Constitution and the WSUSA Bylaws. These Officers shall have the specific power to execute the laws and expenditures of the WSUSA in accordance with their respective duties and responsibilities, fill vacancies within their jurisdiction as outlined in this Constitution and the Bylaws, and to represent the membership of the WSUSA in the most effective manner.

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The President shall have responsibility over the WSUSA budget; the President shall present the proposed budget for the following fiscal year to the WSUSA Senate for approval and a balanced budget for the current fiscal year for approval. Insofar as allowed by any governing body or document having jurisdiction over the WSUSA, the President shall oversee the allocation of student fees.

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The President and the Vice Presidents shall be responsible for appointing all appointed offices in the Executive Branch and shall have the power to remove any of these officers without legislative approval for reasons of malfeasance or nonfeasance of duty. The President shall nominate candidates to fill vacancies in the Supreme Court and vacancies in the Vice President offices to be ratified by the Senate. The Legislative Vice President shall nominate candidates to fill vacancies in the Senate to be ratified by the Senate. The Executive Branch shall oversee the WSUSA Elections.

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The President shall have the power to veto any legislation passed by the Senate. The President shall have four business days from the passing of any legislation to review the legislation, and then sign or veto said legislation. Legislation signed by the President will be enacted immediately. Legislation vetoed by the President shall return to the Senate as outlined in this Constitution. Any legislation neither signed nor vetoed by the President after four days of being passed shall be enacted as if signed. The President shall give to the Senate information regarding the State of the Association at least once during his/her term of office.

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84 **Section 2: Membership and Succession to Office**

85 The Executive Branch shall be composed of the President, appointed Executive Cabinet members, the Vice
86 Presidents and appointed assistants as deemed necessary and/or outlined in the Bylaws.

87 In case of the removal of the President from Office, or of death, resignation or temporary inability to discharge
88 the powers and duties of said office, the same shall devolve on the Legislative Vice President. Should the
89 Legislative Vice President decline said office for any reason, one of the remaining Vice Presidents shall be
90 chosen by the Vice Presidents to assume the Office of President. In either case, said officer shall serve for the
91 duration of the term of the original office, or until the Elected President may return to office.

92 In case of the removal of the President from Office, or of death, resignation or temporary inability to discharge
93 the powers and duties of said office, the same shall devolve on the Legislative Vice President. Should the
94 Legislative Vice President decline said office for any reason, the Campus and Community and Diversity Vice
95 President shall assume the office of President. Should the Campus and Community and Diversity Vice
96 president decline said office, the Programming Vice President shall assume the Office of President. In either
97 case, said officer shall serve for the duration of the term of the original office, or until the elected President may
98 return to office.

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ARTICLE VI

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THE WSUSA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

101 **Section 1: Legislative Power and Responsibilities**

102 All Legislative power herein granted shall be vested in a Senate of the WSUSA. The Senate shall have the power
103 to create all legislation that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution all the powers vested by this
104 Constitution in the Government of the WSUSA. The Senate membership shall also have the power to fulfill their
105 duties as outlined in the Bylaws.

106 The Senate shall conduct its proceedings in accordance with this Constitution and the Bylaws. The Senate shall
107 keep minutes of its proceedings, which shall include the voting record of the members of Senate on legislation
108 presented and on any question at the desire of one-fifth of the Senators present. Nominations for replacements to
109 elected offices and Student Justices presented by the President shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.
110 The Senate shall have the power to impeach any elected officer or Student Justice with a three-fourths vote. The
111 Senate shall have two senate meetings from the date of any presidential veto, which shall be formally announced
112 by the president in a senate meeting, to override said veto with a three-fourths vote.

113 The proposed WSUSA budget and the end-of-year balanced budget presented by the president shall be approved
114 by a simple majority vote of the Senate. Once approved by the Senate, changes to the WSUSA budget may only
115 be made by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. Insofar as allowed by any governing body or document having
116 jurisdiction over the WSUSA, the Senate shall have power to approve the student fee allocation by a simple
117 majority vote and shall have the power to create any legislation pertaining to student fees.

118 **Section 2: Membership**

119 Senate representation shall be provided for all members of WSUSA. The Senate shall be composed of one
120 Senator representing each recognized constituency. Each Senator shall have one vote on all matters. An officially
121 recognized constituency shall be defined in the Bylaws. The Legislative Vice President shall be the Chair of the
122 Senate. Standing ex-officio members of the Senate without the power to vote shall include the WSUSA President,
123 a WSUSA advisor, and two Weber State University administrators, both of whom are appointed by the WSU
124 Administration. Additional, temporary ex-officio members may be designated by a simple majority vote of the
125 Senate membership.

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ARTICLE VII
THE WSUSA JUDICIAL BRANCH

128 **Section 1: Judicial Power and Responsibilities**

129 All judicial power herein granted shall be vested in a Supreme Court of the WSUSA.
130 The Supreme Court shall oversee an Ombudsman Committee that shall advocate on behalf of the student body.
131 The Supreme Court shall have the power to interpret the Constitution and Bylaws upon petition and to determine
132 the constitutionality of all legislation passed by the Senate upon petition. The Supreme Court shall perform any
133 other judicial functions as specifically assigned by the Executive Officers, the Senate, and/or the Bylaws. Any
134 decision made by the Executive Branch during elections may be appealed to the Supreme Court, whose decision
135 shall be considered final. The Supreme Court shall verify election results. The Ombudsman Committee shall be
136 vested with the power to handle student grievances on behalf of WSUSA.

137 **Section 2: Membership**

138 The Supreme Court shall consist of three Student Justices; the president shall designate one as the Chief Justice
139 and the other two as Associate Justices. Each Student Justice shall have one vote on all matters. A WSUSA
140 advisor shall be appointed to serve as an ex-officio member of the Supreme Court with the power to vote.

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ARTICLE VIII
ELECTION, OATH, COMPENSATION AND IMPEACHMENT

143 **Section 1: Election**

144 Only members of WSUSA will be allowed to vote in WSUSA elections. Elections shall be held during the spring
145 semester for the officers for the following year. The specific times, places, and manners of holding elections for
146 all elected officers shall be prescribed in the Bylaws.

147 **Section 2: Oath of Office**

148 Any elected or appointed officer shall begin executing the duties of said office only by taking the following oath:
149 "I, (name), do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the Office of (title) of the WSUSA and will, to the
150 best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the WSUSA."

151 **Section 3: Compensation**

152 The elected and appointed officers shall receive compensation for their services, as outlined in the Bylaws.

153 **Section 4: Impeachment**

154 The elected officers and Student Justices shall only be impeached after a hearing before the Senate. Rules and
155 procedures for an impeachment hearing shall be outlined in the Bylaws.

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ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS

158 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a consent of two-thirds of the Senate membership or by a
159 petition signed by five percent of the WSUSA membership. In either case, the proposal shall be valid to all
160 intents and purposes as part of this Constitution when ratified by a three-fourths vote of the Senate membership,
161 excluding abstention votes, and a two-thirds majority vote received from the WSUSA membership at large during
162 a WSUSA final election.

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ARTICLE X
GUARANTEE OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AND CONTINUITY CLAUSE

165 **Section 1: Guarantee of Rights and Privileges**

166 All rights and privileges not specifically outlined or enumerated by this Constitution and the Bylaws shall be
167 reserved to the individual members of the WSUSA. No officers, while serving as the representatives and
168 individuals authorized to act for and in behalf of the WSUSA, shall perform any act which would infringe upon,

169 detract from, or deny the rights and privileges of any individual member of the WSUSA guaranteed by this
170 Constitution and the Bylaws in any manner not prescribed herein. This Constitution and the Bylaws are
171 subordinate to local, state and federal Law.

172 **Section 2: Continuity Clause**

173 Any agreements, contracts, or other binding actions entered into before the Adoption of this Constitution and the
174 Bylaws shall be as valid against the WSUSA under this Constitution as under the former governing documents,
175 except where specifically altered by the changes and differences of this Constitution.

176 **ARTICLE XI**
177 RATIFICATION

178 This Constitution shall be valid upon ratification by a three-fourths majority vote of the Senate membership and
179 a two-thirds majority of the votes received from the WSUSA membership at large.

180 **ARTICLE XII**
181 DEFINITIONS

182 Officers. The WSUSA President, Vice Presidents, and Senators are considered elected officers of WSUSA. The
183 Student Justices, Cabinet members, and appointed assistants are considered appointed officers of WSUSA.