

**The Constitution of****The Weber State University Student Association****Drafted March, 1999****Ratified April, 1999****Last revised, April 12, 2001****PREAMBLE**

**WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION, in order to form a more effective association, ensure a representative and orderly system of self-governance, establish internal justice, promote and defend those inalienable rights and pursuant responsibilities common to all persons, as well as those provided by Federal, State and Institutional authorities, and to pursue the fulfillment of the mission of this institution do ordain and establish this Constitution.**

**ARTICLE I****The WSUSA Executive Branch****Section 1 Executive Power**

The Executive power shall be vested in a President of the WSUSA. The President shall administer all executive duties and responsibilities with assistance from two Vice Presidents - the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Executive Vice President. These Officers of the WSUSA 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 WSUSA Bylaws, and to represent the membership of the WSUSA in the most effective manner.

**Section 2 Membership**

The Executive Branch shall be composed of the President and appointed cabinet members, the two Vice Presidents and their appointed assistants as deemed necessary and/or outlined in the WSUSA Bylaws. To serve as the President, one of the two Vice Presidents, appointed Cabinet member, or appointed Assistant, any person who is a fully matriculated, full-time student of Weber State University, paying full student fees and maintaining a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale at the time of elections may be elected or appointed to any one of these offices. To retain the elected or appointed office, a cumulative 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and a 2.0 semester grade point average on a 4.0 scale must be maintained for the duration of the term of office beginning with the semester following the Executive's taking their oath of office, or the Cabinet members or Assistants being appointed.

The members of the Executive Branch, including any appointed officers allowed by this Constitution or the WSUSA Bylaws, shall serve for one year with the right to re-election or re-appointment for one additional term. No officer of the WSUSA Executive Branch shall serve in any other capacity which would conflict or interfere with the necessary and primary duties of an WSUSA Executive Officer and shall not accept any responsibility which may be construed so as to be in conflict of interest with said office in the WSUSA Executive Branch.

In case of the removal of the President from Office, or of death, resignation or temporary inability to discharge the powers and duties of said office, the same shall devolve on the Executive Vice President and such Officer shall act accordingly for the duration of the term of the President, or until the disability be removed. Should the Executive Vice President, having assumed the duties of President, no longer continue in said office for any reason, then the Elected Vice President of Academic Affairs, shall assume the office of President for the duration of the term of the original office, or until the Elected President may return to office.

In case of the removal of either or both Vice Presidents from office, or of death, resignation, or temporary inability to discharge the powers and duties of said office(s), the same shall devolve on new Vice President(s) to be nominated by the President of the WSUSA and ratified by a vote of a two-thirds majority of the Senate membership. Said appointment(s) shall serve for the duration of the term of the original Vice President(s), or until the disability be removed.

**Section 3 Conduct of Business**

The President of the WSUSA shall have the specific power to oversee the budget process for the WSUSA and shall be required to submit a balanced budget to the WSUSA Senate for approval before leaving office. Insofar as authority may be granted from any other governing body over the WSUSA, the WSUSA President shall have the specific power to oversee the allocation of all student fees. Furthermore, the President of the WSUSA may fill vacancies within the Presidential Cabinet and in the Supreme Court by appointment, receive guests to the WSUSA and once a year give to the WSUSA Senate information for the State of the Association.

All legislation passed by the WSUSA Senate shall be presented to the WSUSA President for approval or veto. If the WSUSA President approves of said legislation, it shall be signed within four business days, entered in the records of the WSUSA Senate and enacted. If any legislation shall not be returned by the President within four academic days after it shall have been passed by the WSUSA Senate, the same shall be enacted in like manner as if signed. If the

WSUSA President vetoes said legislation, it shall be returned to the WSUSA Senate according to Article II, Section 4 of this Constitution.

Any elected officer of the WSUSA Executive Branch shall have the power to remove any appointed officer within the jurisdiction of said office and not specifically delineated in this Constitution, without legislative approval for reasons of malfeasance or nonfeasance of duty.

## ARTICLE II

### The WSUSA Legislative Branch

#### Section 1 Legislative Power

All Legislative power herein granted shall be vested in a Senate of the WSUSA. The WSUSA Senate shall have the power to make all legislation which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the following powers and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the WSUSA. The WSUSA Senate membership shall also have the power to fulfill their duties as outlined in the WSUSA Bylaws, which shall be consistent with this Constitution.

#### Section 2 Membership

The Senate of WSUSA shall be composed of one Senator representing each officially recognized constituency. An officially recognized constituency shall be defined in the WSUSA Bylaws. To be an WSUSA Senator, any person who is a member of any officially recognized constituency and maintains a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale at the time of elections may be elected to represent said constituency. To retain membership in the WSUSA Senate, a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale and a 2.0 semester grade point average on a 4.0 scale must be maintained for the duration of the term of office beginning with the semester following the Senator's taking their oath of office. If receiving compensation, the senator must carry at least twelve credit hours and pay full-time student fees during his or her term of office. If the senator finds it necessary to take less than the full-time equivalent, he or she must petition the Dean of Students with a written request. A senator may, however, continue to serve in his or her position without meeting this requirement, but will serve without compensation.

The WSUSA Vice President of Academic Affairs shall be the Chair of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless the Senate be equally divided. Additional Officers of the WSUSA Senate deemed necessary for the conduct of Senate business shall be selected according to the WSUSA Bylaws.

The members of the Senate shall serve for one year, with the right to re-election for one additional term, and each shall have one vote on all matters. Further, no member of the WSUSA Senate shall serve in any other capacity which would conflict or interfere with the necessary and primary duties of an WSUSA Senator and shall not accept any responsibility which may be construed so as to be in conflict of interest with said office in the WSUSA Senate.

In case of the removal of any member of the WSUSA Senate from Office, or of death, resignation or temporary inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on an appointed Officer nominated by the WSUSA Vice President of Academic Affairs and ratified by a vote of a two-thirds majority of the Senate membership. Said appointment(s) shall serve for the duration of the term of the original Senator, or until the disability be removed.

Standing ex-officio members of the WSUSA Senate, serving with voice only, shall include the WSUSA President, the Coordinator for Student Government, and two Weber State University (WSU) Administrators, both of whom are appointed by the WSU Administration. Other WSU Administrators shall be welcomed as ex-officio members whenever they shall visit and seek a voice with the WSUSA Senate. Additional, temporary ex-officio members may be designated by a simple majority vote of the WSUSA Senate membership.

#### Section 3 Conduct of Business

The WSUSA Senate shall conduct its proceedings in accordance with this Constitution and the WSUSA Bylaws. The WSUSA Senate shall keep minutes of its proceedings, which shall include the voting record of the members of the WSUSA on legislation presented and on any question at the desire of one-fifth of those present.

#### Section 4 Legislation

Legislation which shall have passed the WSUSA Senate shall, before it is enacted, be presented to the President of the WSUSA. The WSUSA President shall have four academic days to sign or veto the said legislation. If vetoed, said legislation, shall be returned to the WSUSA Senate with the veto entered in the minutes. The WSUSA Senate shall have two business weeks from the date of veto to enact any legislation, which has been vetoed by the WSUSA President, by a vote of a three-fourths majority of the Senate membership, excluding abstention votes. In all such cases the names of the WSUSA Senate members voting for and against the legislation shall be entered in the minutes.

Insofar as allowed by any governing body or document having jurisdiction over the WSUSA, any legislation pertaining to student fees, including but not limited to: raising student fees, lowering student fees, or altering the manner in which said fees are allocated, shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the WSUSA Senate, excluding abstention votes.

Funds allocated to the WSUSA annually shall be budgeted by the WSUSA Executive Branch and ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the WSUSA Senate membership. Once passed, no changes may be made without a three-fourths majority vote of the WSUSA Senate membership.

## ARTICLE III

### Election, Oath, Compensation and Impeachment

#### Section 1 Election

The times, places, and manners of holding elections for all Elected Officers and Senators of the WSUSA shall be prescribed in the WSUSA Bylaws.

#### Section 2 Oath of Office

Any Elected Officer or Senator of the WSUSA shall begin executing the duties of said office only by taking the following Oath: "I (name) do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the Office of (title) of the WSUSA and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the WSUSA."

#### Section 3 Compensation

The Elected Officers and Senators of the WSUSA shall receive compensation for their services, as outlined in the WSUSA Bylaws.

#### Section 4 Impeachment

A three-fourths majority vote of the WSUSA Senate membership shall impeach any Elected Officer or Senator of the WSUSA after a hearing before the Senate, as outlined in the WSUSA Bylaws.

### ARTICLE IV

#### The WSUSA Judicial Branch

##### Section 1 Judicial Power

The Judicial Branch of WSUSA shall be known as the Student Advocate Council (SAC). The SAC shall be comprised of the Supreme Court and the Ombudsman Committee. All judicial power herein granted shall be vested in a Supreme Court of the WSUSA. The WSUSA Supreme Court shall have the power to interpret the WSUSA Constitution upon petition, to determine the constitutionality of all legislation passed by the WSUSA Senate upon petition, and to perform any other judicial functions as specifically assigned by the WSUSA Executive Officers, the WSUSA Senate, and/or the WSUSA Bylaws. The Ombudsmen Committee shall be vested with the power to handle student grievances on behalf of WSUSA.

##### Section 2 Membership

The membership of the WSUSA Supreme Court shall include five Student Justices. Of the five Student Justices, one shall be designated as the Chief Justice and one shall be designated as the Associate Chief Justice by the President of the WSUSA.

The President of the WSUSA shall make appointments to the Supreme Court as positions become vacant and upon the consent of a majority vote of the WSUSA Senate membership

Any person who is a student of Weber State University, maintaining a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale at the time of elections may be appointed to the office of Supreme Court Justice. To retain the appointment, a cumulative 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and a 2.0 semester grade point average on a 4.0 scale must be maintained for the duration of the term of office beginning with the semester following the Justice's taking their oath of office. Each member of the WSUSA Supreme Court shall serve by their own decision, which shall be decided at the time of the WSUSA general elections. The duration of service for each Justice will be no more than four years after their appointment or upon graduating from Weber State University, which ever comes first. Each Student Justice shall have one vote on all matters.

No member of the WSUSA Supreme Court shall serve in any other capacity which would conflict or interfere with the necessary and primary duties of a WSUSA Supreme Court Justice and shall not accept any responsibility which may be construed so as to be in conflict of interest with said office in the WSUSA Supreme Court. An Advisor shall be appointed by the Weber State University Administration, who shall serve as an ex-officio member with voice only.

No member of the Supreme Court shall begin executing the duties of said office except by taking the following Oath: "I (name) do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the office of Student Justice of the WSUSA and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the WSUSA."

##### Section 3 Impeachment and Vacancy of Office

A three-fourths majority of the WSUSA Senate membership shall impeach any member of the WSUSA Supreme Court after a hearing before the Senate, as outlined in the WSUSA Bylaws. In the event that a Justice is removed from the Office of WSUSA Supreme Court by impeachment, resignation, death or inability to discharge the

powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on an appointed Officer nominated by the WSUSA President and ratified by a vote of a two-thirds majority of the WSUSA Senate membership. Said appointment(s) shall serve for the duration of the term of the original Student Justice.

### ARTICLE V

#### Amendments

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

**Article VI****Guarantee of Rights and Privileges****and Continuity Clause****Section 1 Guarantee of Rights and Privileges**

All rights and privileges not specifically outlined or enumerated by this Constitution and the WSUSA Bylaws shall be reserved to the individual members of the WSUSA. No Executive Officer, Legislative Member, or Student Supreme Court Justice, while serving as the representatives and individuals authorized to act for and in behalf of the WSUSA shall perform any act which would infringe upon, detract from, or deny the rights and privileges of any individual member of the WSUSA guaranteed by this Constitution and the WSUSA Bylaws in any manner not prescribed herein.

**Section 2 Continuity Clause**

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

**Article VII****Ratification**

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

**Article VIII****Definitions**

**Weber State University Student Association (WSUSA) Membership.** Any student who pays student fees is considered a member of WSUSA for the semester the fees are paid.