

# **JOHNSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

## **Preamble**

We, the students of Johnston Community College, in order to promote good relationships and understanding among the students, administration, faculty, staff and trustees; to unify the student body in the development of self government and good citizenship; and to set a high level of standards for our school through responsible conduct, do hereby establish this Constitution for the government of students of Johnston Community College.

## **Article I. Name**

Section 1.

This organization shall be known as the Johnston Community College Student Government Association.

## **Article II. Membership**

Section 1.

The membership of the Association shall consist of all curriculum students who pay student activity fees. Continuing education students may elect to join by paying the appropriate student activity fee.

## **Article III. Executive Branch**

Section 1.

The executive branch shall be composed of six executive officers and an executive council made up of the executive officers and the chairpersons of all standing committees.

Section 2.

The executive officers of the Association shall be the president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, and parliamentarian, each of whom shall be elected by a simple majority of the members of the Association voting in a general election held annually in the spring semester.

The requirements for being elected to an executive office and continuing to hold that office throughout the term of office shall be as follows:

1. Be a full-time curriculum student.
  2. Be in good standing academically and otherwise.
  3. Be enrolled as a full-time curriculum student for at least one semester prior to nomination.
- A. The term of office for all executive officers shall be one year beginning with their election in the spring semester and ending in the following semester when the officers for the next year take the oath of office. No office may be held for more than one term by the same individual. The oath of office will be administered within 30 days of the election.
- B. The duties of the office of president shall be as follows:

1. To administer and uphold the Constitution of the Association, its bylaws, and laws enacted by the senate.
  2. To call and preside at meetings of the executive council, the senate, and the student body.
  3. To nominate chairpersons and members of all standing committees whose names then are submitted to the senate for approval.
  4. To appoint any additional committees necessary to carry out executive functions, subject to approval of the senate.
  5. To issue orders to all committees and to require reports from them.
  6. To serve as a member of the College Board of Trustees, as provided for in the North Carolina General Statutes 115D.
  7. To represent the student body by serving as a member of the College Advisory Counsel.
  8. To be the official representative of the College on all other occasions and at functions wherein participation is appropriate.
- C. The duties of the office of vice president shall be as follows:
1. To assist the president in any way required by the president.
  2. To fulfill the duties of the president in the case of illness or absence of the president.
  3. To assume the office of president and to carry out the duties of the office for the remainder of the term in the event that the president resigns or is unable to fulfill the duties of the office for any reason.
  4. To serve as chair for the judicial branch and to preside over all meetings of the judicial branch.
- D. The duties of the office of secretary shall be as follows:
1. To accurately record and preserve the minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Association.
  2. To be in charge of all necessary paperwork required by the executive officers, the executive council, and the senate.
  3. To submit periodic reports to the membership or the Association, the advisor, and the College concerning the progress and actions taken by the Association.
  4. To prepare and keep a record of all actions, bylaws, statutes, and resolutions of the senate.
- E. The duties of the office of assistant secretary shall be as follows:
1. To assist the secretary in any way required by the secretary.
  2. To fulfill the duties of the secretary in the case of illness or absence of the secretary.
  3. Assume the office of secretary and to serve for the remainder of term in the event that the secretary resigns or is unable to fulfill the duties of the office for any reason.
- F. The duties of the office of treasurer shall be as follows:
1. To keep an accurate record of financial actions of the Association based on financial reports prepared monthly by the College Business Office.
  2. To serve as Chairperson of the Finance Committee, which is responsible for submitting budget recommendations.
  3. To report periodically to the Association or at any time required.
  4. To prepare and submit to the Association an annual financial report.
- G. The duties of the office of parliamentarian shall be as follows:

1. To assist the president in maintaining order in accordance with parliamentary procedure at meetings of the senate, the Association, and the student body.
2. To serve as advisor to the president and the executive council on matters involving parliamentary procedure.

#### Section 3.

The executive council shall consist of the six elected executive officers and the appointed chairpersons of the standing committees named in Article VII.

A. The duties of the executive council shall be as follows:

1. To propose legislation to be brought before the senate. Members of the senate may also propose legislation.
2. To hear reports from and to consult with chairpersons of committees concerning proposals, plans, progress, activities of committees.
3. To nominate members of the judicial branch and Disciplinary Review Committee.
4. To appoint students to serve on College advisory committees.

B. The executive council shall meet once every two weeks for the purpose of conducting business. Special meetings may be called by the president, vice president in the absence of the president or by a majority of the members of the executive council.

### **Article IV. Legislative Branch**

#### Section 1.

The legislative branch shall consist of a senate composed of the six elected executive officers and those students elected to serve as senators to represent the students enrolled in the various degree, diploma, and certificate curriculum programs on campus.

#### Section 2.

There shall be two senators elected from each program to represent the members of the student body in the senate. Additional senators shall be elected from each program on the basis of one for each 20 students, or major fraction thereof, above the first 20 students in that program.

#### Section 3.

The senate shall hold one regular meeting each month. Special meetings may be called by the president, vice president in the absence of the president, or by a majority of the members of the executive council. A quorum of three executive officers and seven senators is required to conduct official business.

#### Section 4.

The senate shall have the following legislative powers and duties:

- A. To conduct student government business by passage of motions by a simple majority vote of the members present at duly constituted meetings of the senate.
- B. To formulate and approve the annual budget of the student activity fund.
- C. To approve amendments to the annual student activity fund budget, as may be necessary from time to time during the year.

- D. To authorize, appropriate, and approve the expenditure of available contingency funds included in the budget.
- E. To appropriate funds from the student activity fund for the following purposes:
  - 1. Agencies of the Student Government Association.
  - 2. Extracurricular activities conducted by the Student Government Association.
- F. To approve or reject by a majority vote all appointments made by the president of the Association.
- G. To establish laws governing student government by passage of legislative acts by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the state.
- H. To approve rules and regulations governing the conduct of all elections.
- I. To formulate articles of impeachment, to conduct impeachment proceedings, and to remove from office any elected student government official duly impeached for failure to fulfill the duties of the office held. All actions of any kind dealing with impeachment of elected officials shall be subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the senate.
- J. To remove and replace any committee chairperson or member who is found to have failed to fulfill assigned duties.
- K. To require reports from all committees and other organizations subject to control by the Association.
- L. To initiate official actions deemed necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the student body.
- M. To elect a president and vice president to fulfill the regular term of office should both offices become vacant at the same time.
- N. To elect a vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, or parliamentarian to complete the term of office should any of these offices become vacant during a regular term of office.
- O. To elect by a simple majority vote the members of the Judicial Branch and Disciplinary Review Committee nominated by the executive council.

## **Article V. Judicial Branch**

### Section 1.

The powers of the judicial branch shall be to interpret the Student Government Constitution and legislative acts when called upon to do so.

### Section 2.

The judicial branch shall consist of seven members to be chaired by the Vice President. The Director of Student Activities shall serve as an ex officio member.

## **Article VI. Elections**

### Section 1.

Standing committees shall be established to perform specific functions of student government. The following standing committees shall be appointed by the senate to perform functions in the area indicated: (1) elections, (2) social, (3) student activities, (4) finance, (5) constitution, and (6) evening student relations.

Section 2.

Each standing committee shall meet three times per year or more frequently as necessary to carry out the duties of the committee. Committees shall present all proposals to the senate for approval by the senate.

### **Article VII. Standing Committees**

Section 1.

Standing committees shall be established to perform specific functions of student government. The following standing committees shall be appointed by the senate to perform functions in the areas indicated: (1) elections, (2) social, (3) student activities, (4) finance, (5) constitution, and (6) evening student relations.

Section 2.

Each standing committee shall meet three times per year or more frequently as necessary to carry out the duties of the committee. Committees shall present all proposals to the senate for approval by the senate.

### **Article VIII. Amendments**

Section 1.

Proposed amendments to this constitution shall be submitted to the senate for initial consideration. In order for a proposed amendment to be submitted to the membership for approval, the proposed amendment must first receive a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members of the senate. Proposed amendments must then be approved by an affirmative vote of a simple majority of the eligible members voting in a general student body referendum which must be announced at least two weeks prior to the date of the referendum.

### **Article IX. Ratification**

Section 1.

An amendment shall become part of this constitution immediately upon ratification by the senate following the referendum. An affirmative vote by a simple majority of the senate shall constitute ratification of any amendment previously approved by a majority of the voters in a general student body referendum.

### **Article X. Approval**

Section 1.

Constitutional amendments, legislative acts, motions, rules, regulations, and other actions passed by the Association are subject to the approval of the College administration and the Board of Trustees.

Ratified May 3, 1977

Amended April 10, 1984

Amended May 21, 1985

Amended March 28, 2007