

Constitution of the Arts & Sciences Council

Ratified April 13, 1993

Amended to the Spring Session
Of the 115th Arts & Sciences Council
February 23, 2009

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia recognize the importance of student opinion in the decisions and designs of programs that affect College students. We are an integral part of the Arts and Sciences community, and are therefore entitled to an active role in deciding its policies and priorities. To this end, we hereby re-constitute an undergraduate Arts and Sciences government to represent the needs and interests of College Students, to provide any additional needed programs and academic advising, and to work with the administration and faculty to build and maintain a constructive community of learning.

ARTICLE I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Name

The name of the student government association for the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia shall be the Arts & Sciences Council (hereafter "the Council").

Section 2. Objects

The Council shall represent the interests, ambitions, and academic needs specific to the students in the College of Arts and Sciences to the larger University of Virginia community, in particular to the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, but also to the University's central administration, alumni, and other student organizations.

Within Arts and Sciences, the Council shall.

- A. represent the needs and interests of College students;
- B. serve as peer academic advisors;
- C. foster student/faculty relations;
- D. strengthen College identity;
- E. solidify relations between the College of Arts and Sciences and its alumni.

Section 3. Authority

The Council is a Student Agency of the University of Virginia. The authority of the Council is derived jointly from the Student Body of the College of Arts & Sciences and from the Arts and

Sciences administration. The Council shall act as an advisory body to the Deans of Arts and Sciences.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. CLAS Student Body Member Definition

All students registered and regularly enrolled for any course or courses in the College of Arts and Sciences (CLAS), shall be members of the CLAS Student Body, shall be eligible to participate in the Council, and shall be subject to the Constitution.

Section 2. College of Arts and Sciences Activity Fee

Each member of the CLAS Student Body shall contribute a designated fee, as set by the University Board of Visitors and assessed through the University Bursar, at the start of every enrolled semester, for the maintenance of the Council, its programs, and its activities.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1. By-laws of the Council

The Council shall have the power to adopt and amend, by a two-thirds affirmative vote, such By-laws as shall not be in conflict with this constitution. The Executive Committee may also establish temporary guidelines. These guidelines may be repealed by Council veto, in the form of a majority affirmative vote.

Section 2. CLAS Student Body Activity Fee

The Council shall have the power to approve allocations of the CLAS Student Body Activity fees.

Section 3. Student Welfare

The Council shall have the power to investigate any matter specifically affecting the welfare of the CLAS Student Body.

Section 4. Elections/Selections

The Council shall have the power to regulate all elections and selections of the Council members, except in cases where the purview of the Student Council takes precedence.

Section 5. Committee Chairs

The Council shall have the power to select, subject to the approval of the President, the Chairs of all standing committees of the Council. The process of such selections shall be defined by in the By-laws of the Council.

Section 6. Veto powers over the President

The Council shall have the power to approve or reject by majority affirmative vote all official actions and appointments made by the President of the CLAS Student Body.

Section 7. Impeachment

The Council shall have the power to impeach any member of the Council for neglect of duties or impropriety, by a majority affirmative vote of the full Council. The impeached member shall lose his/her voting power. The impeached member shall be allowed at least one week to prepare a defense. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the full Council shall be required for the dismissal of the impeached member. In the case of the CLAS Representatives to the Honor Committee, the University Judiciary Committee, and the Student Council, and in the case of the CLAS Liaisons, such impeachment and/or dismissal shall affect only their membership on the Council and not their positions in their respective organizations.

Section 8. Implementation

The Council shall have the powers necessary for the fulfillment and implementation of the above-mentioned powers.

ARTICLE IV: STRUCTURE

Section 1. Representative Body

The Arts & Sciences Council shall consist of:

- A. The Elected Officers of the College:
 - 1) CLAS Executive Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the College;
 - 2) CLAS Representatives to the Honor Committee;
 - 3) CLAS Representatives to the University Judiciary Committee;
 - 4) CLAS Representatives to the Student Council;
- B. The CLAS Academic Department and Interdisciplinary Degree Program Representatives;
- C. The CLAS First-Year and Second-Year Class Representatives;
- D. The CLAS Liaisons:
 - 1) A CLAS Representative from the First Year Council;
 - 2) A CLAS Representative from the Second Year Council;
 - 3) A CLAS Representative from the Third Year Council;
 - 4) A CLAS Representative from the Class Trustees;
 - 5) A CLAS Representative from the Echols Council;

Section 2. Voting

The CLAS Representatives to the Honor Committee, the University Judiciary Committee, and the Student Council, and the CLAS Liaisons shall be non-voting members of the Council. All other members of the Council shall have one vote, with the exception of the President, who shall vote only in the event of a tie.

Section 3. CLAS Executive Officers

The executive powers of the Council shall be vested in the President of the CLAS Student Body.

- A. The President of the College:
- 1) shall be the official representative of the Council and the CLAS Student Body to the CLAS administration and community;
 - 2) shall chair the Council and preside over all meetings of the Council and of the Executive Committee;
 - 3) shall be responsible for the functioning of the Council as a whole;
 - 4) shall appoint students to represent the Council and/or the College of Arts & Sciences to relevant committees outside the Council;
 - 5) shall have the power to form a cabinet of advisors and assistants, contingent upon approval from the Council;
 - 6) shall have the power to approve or reject the appointments made by the Council for the chairs of all standing committees of the Council;
 - 7) shall form all ad hoc committees as deemed necessary;
 - 8) shall appoint all ad hoc committee chairs subject to the approval of the Council;
 - 9) shall be vested with the power to call special meetings of the Council.
- B. The Vice-President of the College:
- 1) shall assume the duties of the President in a non-voting capacity at the request or in the absence of the President;
 - 2) shall be the Chief of Staff of the Council;
 - 3) shall serve as administrator over all Council committees;
 - 4) shall serve as ex-officio member of all Council committees;
 - 5) shall oversee the internal communication of the Council;
 - 6) shall have the power to appoint necessary aides to assist him/her with the execution of his/her responsibilities.
- C. The Treasurer of the College:
- 1) shall be the Chief Financial Officer for the Council;
 - 2) shall maintain all financial records of the Council;
 - 3) shall report such status at all meetings;
 - 4) shall be in charge of all disbursements of funds in payment of debts incurred by the Council;
 - 5) shall be responsible for composing the annual budget of the Council (working in coordination with the outgoing and other incoming executive officers);
 - 6) shall have the power to appoint necessary aides to assist him/her with the execution of his/her responsibilities.
- D. The Secretary of the College:
- 1) shall be the Office and Records Manager for the Council;
 - 2) shall keep the minutes of all Council meetings and distribute them to members in a timely fashion;
 - 3) shall archive such information;
 - 4) shall maintain the organization of the files and records of the Council;
 - 5) shall keep the office supplied with the items and materials necessary for the daily operation of the Council and its programs;
 - 6) shall have the power to appoint necessary aides to assist him/her with the execution of his/her responsibilities.

Section 4. Committees

The Executive Committee and the Academic Advising Committee shall be standing committees of the Council. Other standing committees may be established in the By-Laws of the Council. Each committee Chair shall be a member of the Executive Committee. The CLAS Executive Officers shall be the members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS

Section 1. Elected Officers of the College

The Elected Officers of the College shall be elected by popular vote among the members of the CLAS Student Body. The Elected Officers of the College shall be elected according to the rules and regulations established by the University Board of Elections, or its successive body.

Section 2. CLAS Academic Department and Interdisciplinary Degree Program Representatives

For each CLAS Academic Department and Interdisciplinary Degree Program, the members of the CLAS Student Body with declared majors in that Degree Program shall have the opportunity to nominate students from within their respective Degree Program to be members of the Council. For each Degree Program, if there exists a single student organization associated with that Degree Program (as defined in the By-laws of the Council), that organization shall have the power to endorse the selection of representatives from among the majors of the Degree Program to be members of the Council (within guidelines set in the By-laws of the Council). Representatives from all other Degree Programs shall be solicited through a College-wide application process and shall be appointed by the Council Executive Committee to be members of the Council. The number of Council members from each Degree Program shall be defined in the By-laws of the Council, but this number shall be no less than one.

Section 3. CLAS First-Year and Second-Year Representatives

Representatives from the First-Year class and Second-Year class shall be solicited through a College-wide application process and shall be appointed by the Council Executive Committee. The number of Council members from the First-Year and Second-Year classes shall be defined in the By-laws of the Council, but this number shall be no less than five from each class.

Section 4. CLAS Liaisons

All CLAS Liaisons shall be selected by their respective organizations, unless otherwise specified in the By-laws of the Council. Additional CLAS Liaison positions can be established in the By-laws of the Council.

Section 5. Multiple Candidacies

A candidate may run for more than one position on the Council, with the exception that a candidate shall not run concurrently for more than one Executive Office,

Section 6. Term of Office

The term of office for all Council members shall be for two consecutive semesters and shall commence at the first meeting of the Council in the month of April of a given academic year. This term of office is superceded in the case of representatives to the Honor Committee, the

University Judiciary Committee, and the Student Council, and in the case of the CLAS Liaisons, the constitutions of their respective organizations.

Section 7. Appointments to Vacant Positions

In the event that a representative position to the Council becomes vacant, the Council shall appoint a member of the CLAS Student Body to fill the vacancy on an interim basis until either a special election/selection is held or the term expires. This power applies to the positions of the Elected Officers of the College, the CLAS Academic Department and Interdisciplinary Program Representatives, the CLAS First-Year and Second-Year Class Representatives, and the CLAS Liaisons.

ARTICLE VI: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Section 1. Meetings

Except as the President may designate, all meetings of the Council will be open to all members of the CLAS Student Body and the University Community at large.

Section 2. Quorum

One half of the voting members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed as follows:

- A. By a written petition signed by five percent of the CLAS Student Body and submitted to the Council;
- B. By a written petition signed by twenty-five members of the CLAS Student Body, submitted to the Council, and passes by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the full Council.
- C. By a motion of any Council member passed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the full Council.

Amendment proceedings may be initiated if a quorum is present. The members of the Council must be given at least one week advance notice of such proceedings. A majority affirmative vote of at least 10% of the CLAS Student Body shall be necessary for ratification of an amendment.

ARTICLE VII: RATIFICATION

Ratification of this Constitution shall require a simple majority vote of enrolled CLAS students. The officers at the time of ratification shall perform all appropriate duties set out in this Constitution until the turnover of offices upon the subsequent election.