

Constitution

Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs (WCSA)

Article One

Section One

1. WCSA will formulate basic policies on all matters related to student life within the residential living units and student activity areas, such as student clubs, organizations, programs, and their related governing bodies. WCSA will be attentive to the general safety and security of the student body and University property in all of its actions. Such legislation will be subject to and consistent with the policies established by the Board of Trustees, the Charter of the University, the University's Code of Regulations, and the laws of the United States of America and the State of Ohio. These provisions shall guide WCSA in the creation and maintenance of its internal governance, but no purely internal act, including but not limited to the amendment or adoption of Bylaws, rules, or this Constitution, shall be considered a policy under the meaning of this Article and Article Four, acts seeking to substantively altering the qualifications for office, the nature of WCSA, or the review process excluded.
 - A. Such policies will be set forth in written notices that will be mailed to the Executive Committee of the Faculty, the President of the University, and other persons and organizations in order to publicize fully these policies to the campus. These policies will take effect in no less than thirty (30) days from the date of mailing of such notices, as provided herein, unless challenged by a recommendation for review as hereinafter provided for, but in no event before the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.
 - B. WCSA will conduct studies; disseminate reports and opinions; and pass regulations, recommendations, and requests on any issues that lie before the University community. WCSA will also be responsible for the maintenance of student activities and the allocation of student activities fees. WCSA will at all opportunities try to promote scholarship, responsibility, and awareness.
 - C. WCSA will appoint students to serve as members of the Judicial Board and representatives on student committees, appropriate faculty committees, and University commissions.
 - I. A person appointed by WCSA to serve in the University Judicial System may not be a member of the Judicial Affairs Committee of WCSA or an agent of Residential Life (i.e., Resident Assistant) during overlapping terms.
 - II. Persons appointed to be representatives on student-faculty committees serve as advocates of WCSA and its policies. A person appointed by WCSA may not serve as both an appointee and a member of WCSA during overlapping terms. Exceptions shall be made when the appointee is mandated to be a WCSA representative, such as, but not limited to, the appointees to the Archway Committee of the University Administration.
2. Any member of the Ohio Wesleyan community may address the policies outlined in paragraph one by (1) submitting suggestions in writing to the Student Body President or

(2) making a presentation at a regular WCSA meeting. WCSA will, however, have primary jurisdiction over the policy areas presented in paragraph one.

Section Two

The Executive Committee of WCSA shall, through the President, present an annual report to the President of the University, Faculty, Student Body, and the Board of Trustees.

Article Two – Membership and Voting

Section One

The membership of WCSA shall consist of thirty-two students, three faculty, two administrators, and any appointed Ex Officio Members. Voting members of WCSA shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Class Representatives, Senior Class President, Geographical Representatives, and At-Large Representatives. The President shall be the Presiding Officer of WCSA but shall have no vote unless they be evenly divided.

1. Student Representatives, other than the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and At-Large Representatives, shall be elected by either the Class Representative system or the Geographical Representative system.
2. The President and the Vice President shall run on the same ticket and be elected by a majority vote of the students balloting. The Secretary and Treasurer shall also be elected by majority vote of the students balloting.
3. No student shall be eligible to run for Secretary, Treasurer, or on the President and Vice President ticket unless he has first presented to the appropriate WCSA authority a candidacy petition bearing the signatures of ten percent of the student body. No student shall be eligible to run for Senior Class President except a junior who has first presented to the appropriate WCSA authority a candidacy petition bearing the signatures of ten percent of the junior class. In respect to each of these offices, the candidate having the greatest number of votes shall be elected, if such number be a majority of the whole number of votes cast in that election. If, in any such election, no candidate has such a majority, the office shall be filled by means of subsequent election between the two candidates receiving the most and the second-most votes in the initial election. The electors for the run-off election shall be the same as those for the initial election.
4. Notwithstanding the stipulations of this Constitution, elections for all voting members shall be conducted in accordance with procedures and guidelines established by WCSA.
5. Faculty Representatives shall be elected by the faculty through its usual procedure for filling committee assignments.
6. The Administrative Representatives shall be appointed by the President of the University.
7. The regulations set forth by the Constitution and Bylaws shall apply to the entire membership of WCSA.

Article Three – The Nature of the Student Representatives

Section One – Numbers

The student members shall consist of nineteen Geographical Representatives, five Class Representatives, three At-Large Representatives, the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Senior Class President.

Section Two – The Nature of Geographical Representatives

1. Eighteen of the Geographical Representative seats shall be apportioned annually by WCSA on the basis of the distribution of the student body among the on-campus student residences. The one remaining seat shall represent off-campus housing. Seats for an academic year shall be apportioned by WCSA prior to the end of the immediately preceding academic year.
2. Geographical Representatives shall be responsible for representing their respective geographic areas. Their duties include convening periodic meetings with their constituencies to detail WCSA activity and assessing student concerns that should be brought to the attention of WCSA.
3. The election of Geographical Representatives shall take place in a manner established by WCSA. A student shall only be eligible to be elected to represent the geographical area within which he or she resides. A Geographical Representative who ceases to reside within his or her geographical area shall be removed from the body by the Executive Committee and replaced in accordance with the provisions of the WCSA Constitution and Bylaws. Students shall only be eligible to cast votes in the election for the Geographical Representatives from the geographical areas in which they reside.
4. The elections for the Geographical Representatives shall be held by the Friday of the third week of the fall semester.

Section Three – The Nature of Class Representatives

1. The sophomore and junior classes shall each be represented by two Class Representatives. The senior class shall be represented by one Class Representative and the Senior Class President.
2. Any freshman or sophomore is eligible for a Class Representative position from his or her respective class. Any junior may be elected as the Senior Class Representative or Senior Class President, but no person shall hold both offices at the same time.
3. The electors for a Class Representative election shall consist solely of the students in the class from which that Representative is derived. No person may cast a ballot in more than one class's Class Representative elections. These provisions apply with equal force to the election of the Senior Class President.

Section Four – The Nature of At-Large Representatives

1. The Executive Committee shall appoint, with the consent of WCSA, three At-Large Representatives for the purpose of ensuring appropriate constituent balance on WCSA.
2. The goals and objectives of the Ohio Wesleyan University Affirmative Action Policy, or its successor, shall be the guiding principle in determining At-Large Representation.

Section Five – Recalls, Vacancies, and Other Provisions

1. Any member of the Ohio Wesleyan University student body may present a petition to recall any member of WCSA. Such a petition must bear the signatures of at least one third of the voting members of WCSA.
2. Petitions may only be presented on charges that the member has violated the Constitution, any subsequent governing documents, or the Student Code of Conduct. Such charges must be stipulated in the petition.
3. When presented with such a petition, the President shall direct an investigation, subject to guidelines established by WCSA, and shall periodically present its proceedings and findings to the full body of WCSA. In the event that the President is the subject of the petition, the foregoing duties shall be discharged by the Secretary.
4. At the conclusion of an investigation, the President shall present its final findings to the full body, which shall consider the proposed recall. No member shall be removed except with the concurrence of three fourths of the voting members to which WCSA is entitled.
5. Except as provided elsewhere by this Constitution, a position left vacant by the removal of an elected official shall be filled by the qualified unelected candidate who received the highest number of votes in the last election for the same office. If this person cannot be determined, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy according to the standard procedure.
6. No individual who has been removed by the provisions of this section shall be eligible for any WCSA position in that same academic year.
7. In the event that the President, through absence or temporary disability, is unable to discharge the duties of the Presidential office, these duties shall be discharged by the Vice President. In the event of a vacancy in the Presidency, the Vice President shall become President. If there is neither a President nor a Vice President, the Secretary shall, upon resigning that office, become President. If there is neither a President, a Vice President, nor a Secretary, the Treasurer shall, upon resigning that office, become President. WCSA may establish guidelines to provide for the succession of the Presidency in the absence of all the aforementioned officers.

Article Four – The Review Process

Section One

1. No policy formulated and passed by WCSA will go into effect for at least thirty days from the date of mailing notices as provided in Article One, Section 1. This thirty-day waiting period will exclude vacations and the Summer Session.
2. Anytime during the thirty-day waiting period either a student group (see Article Four, Section 2, paragraph 1, a), the faculty, or the President of the University may call for a review.
3. Review may be called on either specific sections of the policy or the entire policy. In the former case, the rest of the policy will go into effect at the end of the waiting period.
4. In the case of additions to already formulated policies, only the new portions may be called for review.

Section Two

1. There are three groups representing four constituencies of the University community who may call a policy for review.

- A. Any group of students wishing to challenge WCSA policy may initiate review proceedings by obtaining signatures on a petition equivalent to 25% of the student body. The petition should be submitted to the Student Body President.
 - B. The President of the University may initiate review proceedings on behalf of the Administration or the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.
 - C. The faculty may initiate review proceedings by a majority vote of a quorum of the faculty.
2. If WCSA considers it necessary, the new policy can be sent directly to the President of the University or his/her designated representative for immediate implementation.
- A. The President of the University will decide on the necessity for immediate implementation and may tentatively approve the policy or may request that the normal review process remain binding.
 - B. If tentatively approved by the President of the University, the policy may still be called for review within thirty days, in which case the policy would cease to be in effect.

Section Three – Reconsideration

1. Any informal reconsideration may be held between a designated WCSA committee and a constituency (student, faculty, or administration) that threatens to call a review. After this informal reconsideration, the WCSA committee may ask WCSA to reopen the policy and pass a compromise. If the policy is not changed, the review period will be extended so as to include at least five working days.
2. If any petition signed by 5 % of the students is presented to the Student Body President, WCSA will review the policy at the next regular meeting of WCSA after receipt of the petition. It will be first on the agenda of business for possible reconsideration. If the policy is not changed, the review period will be extended so as to include at least five working days.

Section Four – Stages of Review

1. The first stage of review shall be the establishment of a compromise committee. This committee will consist of four members of WCSA and four members of the constituency that called the review. Each member of the Compromise Committee will be charged with representing and negotiating for the group and will report back to its parent constituency for ratification of the compromised policy. After compromise is ratified by both constituencies, the policy that results from the compromise will go into a new 30-day period.
- A. The constituency that called for review must designate its representatives to the Compromise Committee within two weeks. If the representatives of the constituency called for review are not chosen within two weeks, its call for review will be nullified and its right to call for review on that policy is forfeited.
 - B. WCSA representatives to the Compromise Committee or Review Board (see Section 2) will be elected by the student members of WCSA. If WCSA does not appoint its representatives to either a Compromise Committee or a Review Board, the existing policy will remain in effect and the new policy will be considered void unless re-legislated by WCSA.

- C. Once a compromise has been ratified by both WCSA and the constituency that called the policy for review, that group may not again call for a review of the same version of the policy.
- D. If agreement by the Compromise Committee is not reached within 60 working days, the second stage of review, a Review Board, will be constituted.

2. The second stage of review, a Review Board, shall consist of three faculty members elected by the Executive Committee of the Faculty, three administrators selected by the President of the University, and three students selected by WCSA (but not necessarily members of WCSA). Further, two alumni or trustees selected by the President of the University shall serve in an advisory, non-voting capacity. The President of the University shall designate a convener for the first meetings of the Review Board. The Review Board shall hear such disputants, collect information, and formulate a policy. Such policy shall be translated to all campus constituencies and to the President of the University. The President in consultation with the Board of Trustees (or the Executive Committee of the Board) will act on the issue in question as soon as practical. Members of the Review Board are to be present when the Board meets to act on the issue in order to answer questions and otherwise be of such assistance as the Trustees shall desire.

Article Five – Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be enacted by a vote of two-thirds of the voting members to which the WCSA body is entitled, provided that no amendment shall be enacted that has not been heard at two separate full-body meetings of WCSA.

History:

Passed by WCSA October 23, 1984
Revised November 13, 1984
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