

Constitution of The Student Senate of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Winona, Minnesota
Adopted September 29, 1982; Revised April 10th, 2012; Revised January 27th, 2015

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the College of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, realizing the goals and objectives of the university, do establish this constitution and pledge ourselves to its faithful execution.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Student Senate of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona Campus.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

Section 1 The Student Senate shall act as the official representative of the student body of the College on the Winona Campus: to articulate its views, to pursue its best interests with the Board of Trustees, the university administration and faculty, to promote mutual cooperation and understanding, and to improve relations with other educational institutions and associations, with the public in general, and with any other agency.

Section 2 The Student Senate shall control and coordinate, within the limits of authority delegated to it, the co-curricular activities of the student body and of the student organizations that are under its jurisdiction.

Section 3 The Student Senate shall promote and coordinate social and cultural activities of the Winona campus university through the Student Activities Committee, hereafter referred to as S.A.C.

ARTICLE III. AUTHORITY

Section 1 The authority of the Student Senate to organize is derived from the student body.

Section 2 The authority to govern is derived immediately from the student body, and ultimately from the university administration and the Board of Trustees of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

Section 3 The Student Senate is empowered to execute all provisions and necessary implications of this constitution, to make such regulations as it considers necessary to attain this end, and to apply such sanctions as it believes just for infractions of its regulations.

ARTICLE IV. FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

The purpose and authority of the Student Senate shall include, among others, the functions and powers provided in this article.

Section 1 The Student Senate shall approve all class association and all student organizations, and shall coordinate their co-curricular activities; it shall approve their constitutions, audit and/or open the books of financially backed organizations, coordinate their schedules of social functions both on and off campus, and determine the procedures for these functions.

Section 2 The Student Senate may circulate notices through the campus mail and e-mail, and express its views

in official student publications or publish notices when such actions appear necessary for the performance of its duties.

Section 3 The Student Senate shall control all funds generated by the student activity fee, and is empowered to determine the student activity fee pursuant to the regulations prescribed in Article XII.

Section 4 The Student Senate shall control all funds generated by the student laundry fee, and is empowered to determine the laundry fee, pursuant to the regulations prescribed in Article XIII.

Section 5 The Student Senate shall, with approval of the university administration, make such regulations, as it deems necessary for the continuance of good order on campus.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 The Student Senate shall consist of the following voting members: senators from living units that are populated primarily by students of the College, and from off-campus students of the College, as defined in Article VIII; and class officers, as defined in Article VII.

Section 2 The Student Senate shall have the following non-voting members who are observers with full floor privileges: the Student Senate Executive Board Members, as defined in Article VI.

Section 3 All members of the Student Senate must maintain good academic standing, as defined by the university. If at any time a member is not in good academic standing, they shall be removed from the Student Senate or in a probationary period at discretion of the advisor. The vacancy shall be filled as dictated by this constitution.

Section 4 All members of the Student Senate are required to attend Day at the Capital and at least one community event and/or volunteer experience for the Winona Campus community organized by the Vice President for Public Affairs.

1. Being that this is an extracurricular activity, all actions need to be made in consideration of academic requirements.

ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1 The Executive Board of the Student Senate shall consist of the following Executive Officers: President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Financial Affairs, Vice President for Social Affairs, Vice President for Public Affairs, Vice President for Campus Affairs, Vice President for Student Life, Vice President of Media and Communications, Vice President for Multicultural Affairs, and Executive Assistant.

Section 2 Nominations for the office of President shall be by voice as well as petition. Any candidate for President must be nominated by one senator at a meeting of the Student Senate designated by the President of the Student Senate. In addition, the candidate must submit a nomination petition signed by fifty members of the student body to the VP of Media and Communications of the Student Senate by a time and date designated by the President of the Student Senate. A member of the student body may sign no more than one petition for the office of President. Invalid signatures will be struck from all petitions on which they appear. Only candidates who have submitted a petition as stated above will be put on the online ballot.

Section 3 Nominations for executive officers, excluding President shall be by petition only. The nomination petition must be signed by twenty-five members of the student body and submitted to the VP of Media and Communications of the Student Senate by a time and date designated by the President of the Student Senate. A

member of the student body may sign no more than one petition for each office. Invalid signatures will be struck from all petitions on which they appear by the advisor. Only candidates who have submitted a petition as stated above will be put on the written ballot.

Section 4 Nominations for the positions described in Section 1 of this article shall be accepted only if the candidate is in good academic standing (as defined in the Student Handbook for the entire University).

Section 5 Descriptive biographies of nominated candidates shall be posted for a period designated by the executive board, and continuing through the duration of the elections.

Section 6 Executive officers shall be elected during the second semester. All members of the Winona undergraduate student body are eligible to vote in said election. The election shall be officiated by the current executive officers of the Student Senate, excluding those participating in said election. The election shall be held no more than two weeks after the deadline for specified petitions. The election shall be at a time that will allow the executive officers elect the opportunity to be involved in the process of committee appointments, and to observe the operations of the Student Senate.

Section 7 Nominees shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast, in the event of a tie or an undetermined election, a special election will be held.

Section 8 The term for all executive officers shall run parallel to the academic year with the term beginning the first day of summer break and ending the last day of second semester.

Section 9 It is the expectation that all executive officers be in attendance at every Senate meeting. If the executive officer is unable to be there they should have another senate member or executive officer give their report to senate. If there are repeated absences, the officer can be removed at the discretion of the the Ethics Committee with a two-thirds vote in favor of removal by the Student Senate.

Section 10 The impeachment of an executive officer shall be initiated by petition. The petition must be signed by twenty-five percent of the student body for the President positions and twenty percent for any other executive officer position, and then presented to the Student Senate President. After receipt and review of the petition, the Student Senate Executive Assistant shall schedule a meeting with the officer, the Executive Board, and the Student Senate Advisor. After the petition has been filed there will be an open forum for all students, in which the officer may address issues that he/she feels pertinent to their defense and the executive officers will state their position on the petition. To be impeached, an executive officer must receive two-thirds of the vote cast by the Student Senate favoring impeachment.

Section 11 In the event of a vacancy in an executive office of the Student Senate, the vacancy shall be filled with a special election of the student body conducted by the current executive officers of the Student Senate.

Section 12 In the event that no one applies for the open position, the position will be filled by appointment from the President of the Student Senate, with the assistance of the remaining or current executive officers at the discretion of the President of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE VII. CLASS OFFICERS

Section 1 Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes shall elect two voting class officers to be in charge of class fund raising. The number of Freshman hall representatives to become the class officer committee will be appointed at the discretion of the president representing the Freshman class, the appointing will have taken place by the midterm of first semester.

Section 2 Nominations for class officers shall be by petition. The petition must be signed by twenty-five

members of the respective class and submitted to the Executive Assistant of the Student Senate by a time and date designated by the President of the Student Senate.

Section 3 Nominations for officers shall be accepted only if the candidate is in good academic standing (as defined in the Student Handbook for the entire University).

Section 4 Descriptive biographies shall be posted in a designated area before the elections and continuing through the duration of the elections.

Section 5 Members of the class shall elect their respective officers. Election of class officers (with the exception of the Freshman Class Officer as per Article VII Section 1 of this document), shall take place during the second semester. This election shall be officiated by the executive officers of the Student Senate.

Section 6 Nominees shall be elected by their classmate with a plurality of the votes cast, in the event of a tie or an undetermined election, a special election will be held.

Section 7 The term of office for class officers shall extend from the first day of summer break to the last day of the second semester with the exception of the Freshman class committee who will serve from the date of their appointments until the last day of the second semester.

Section 8 The Class Officers depending on their year placement must raise a required amount of funds for the class they are representing for their senior year activities. It is a minimum requirement that freshman have raised \$100 or two fundraisers, Sophomores \$200 or four fundraisers, and Juniors \$300 or six fundraisers by the end of each year. The dollar amount and the fundraiser number are numbers that need to be reached in that year alone, not total from the current year and the previous year. The requirement for Seniors is that they have as much as they see fit to run their events during and after the school year.

1. These requirements are subject to senate review.
2. All class officers are required to meet with their advisor at least once a semester to confirm their plans for fundraising.

Section 9 Class Officers may special request funds from Student Senate to provide the necessary funds to prepare for their fundraising efforts; these funds do not apply toward the final fundraising requirements.

Section 10 Impeachment of a class officer shall be by petition. The petition must be signed by a twenty five percent of the members of the class and presented to the Student Senate President. After receipt and review of the petition, the Student Senate Executive Assistant shall schedule a meeting with the class officer, The Executive Board, and the Student Senate Advisor. The Executive Assistant will also schedule an open forum for all student at which the class officer may address issues pertinent to the petition in their defense and the executive officers will state their position on the petition. After the forum, a vote will be scheduled at which only members of the class are entitled to vote. The class officer will be impeached if two-thirds of the votes cast at that time favor impeachment.

Section 11 In the event of a vacancy of a class office, the position will be filled by a special election in which anyone who is interested in the position will fill out the required petition as stated in Section 2 followed by the election itself.

Section 12 In the event that no one applies for the open position, the position will be filled by appointment from the President of the Student Senate, with the assistance of the remaining or current class officers at the discretion of the President of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE VIII. SENATORS FROM THE LIVING UNITS

Section 1 Nominations for the office of Senator shall be accepted if the candidate is in good academic standing. Freshmen shall be considered in good academic standing until their standing can be established based on their first semester grades. (As defined in the University Catalog)

Section 2 Nominees for the position of Senator shall be members of the living unit represented by their position. The nomination process for Senators will be a self-nomination process with all nominations being submitted within a period specified by the President of the Student Senate, to the Executive Assistant of the Student Senate.

Section 3 Residents of the living unit shall elect Senators by a ballot on an election date designated by the President of the Student Senate. The elections will happen during the first semester. The Executive Officers of the Student Senate shall conduct and officiate the election.

Section 4 Nominees shall be elected by the plurality of the votes cast; in the event of a tie or an undetermined election, a special election will be held.

Section 5 Senators shall be elected from the living units in the following proportions: Any Residence Hall housing 90 or more students shall have two senators. Any Residence Hall housing less than 90 students shall have one senator.

Section 6 Representatives are responsible to hold one Hall Area meeting per semester and keep an active presence in their dorms so that those they are representing know and are comfortable to bring issues to the senator. Hall representatives are all required to have an easily accessible drop box for their residents to reach them with.

Section 7 Any Senator may be removed from the Student Senate if a petition of no-confidence is signed by majority of the residents in the Senator's constituency, presented to the Executive Assistant of the Student Senate, and voted upon by the members of that living unit. To be removed, a majority of the voting residents in the Senator's living unit must vote in favor of removal.

Section 8 In the event of a vacancy in a senate position from a living unit, a special election of the living unit shall be held. In lieu of an election, the President may appoint a replacement at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section 9 Class officers are not eligible to fill the role of a Senator with the exception of the Freshman Class Officer.

Section 10 Election of two at-large student Senators shall take place two business days after the general Senator elections. Students who were on the general election ballot will not have to reapply, but they will have to opt into the at-large ballot. Those new to the process will have to apply to be on the at-large ballot. Nominees shall be elected by the greatest plurality of the votes cast by the student body; in the event of a tie or an undetermined election, a special election shall be held.

Section 11 Election of one international student Senator shall take place during the Senator elections. The executive officers will seek out nominations prior to the election to be placed on the ballot. Nominees shall be elected by the greatest plurality of the votes cast; in the event of a tie or an undermined election, a special election shall be held.

Section 12 A student senator can be removed for not fulfilling their duties at the discretion of the the Ethics Committee with a two-thirds vote in favor of removal by the Student Senate. .

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1 All sessions of the Student Senate shall meet at the call of the President unless otherwise provided in this Constitution.

Section 2 A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of two-thirds of the active voting members.

Section 3 Every Senator is responsible for attending every meeting; however, under special circumstances, the Senator may designate a representative who is a resident of the Senator's living unit. The representative must make his or her presence known to the Executive Assistant or President of the Student Senate before the start of the meeting.

Section 4 If a voting member is not in attendance or represented at two meetings, the voting member may be removed at the discretion of the President of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE X. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1 The President

A. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Student Senate

B. The President shall call and preside at all sessions of the Student Senate unless otherwise provided in this constitution.

C. The President shall submit an agenda for each session at least 24 hours in advance of the session.

D. The President shall appoint all members and chairpersons of standing committees unless otherwise specified in this constitution.

E. The President shall approve the minutes of the sessions of the Student Senate prior to their publication.

F. The President shall conduct all correspondence for the Student Senate unless otherwise provided.

G. The President shall perform such other tasks as pertain to his/her office.

H. The President shall be a non-voting member, with full floor privileges, of the Faculty Body. A request can be made to receive the minutes.

I. The President shall be a member of the Minnesota Association of Private College Students (MAPCS), and as such, shall sit on the Council of Presidents.

J. The President shall attend all MAPCS meetings and conferences held in various Minnesota locations.

K. The President shall coordinate an active Executive Board and senate presence at club and organization meetings on campus.

L. The President shall conduct one-on-one meetings with each Executive Officer and each Class Officer once per semester.

M. The President shall have the right to call on members of the Executive Board for points of clarification.

Section 2 The Vice President for Academic Affairs

A. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be a member of any and all academic committees on the Winona Campus.

B. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be a voting member, with full floor privileges, of the Faculty Body and other Faculty committees.

C. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be a member of the General Education Curriculum Committee, the Education Standards Committee and the Curriculum Committee.

D. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be the liaison between the Student Success Center of Saint Mary's University and the Student Senate. They shall work with the Student Success Center in promoting academic success through career services, advising, disability services, the writing studio, and tutoring.

E. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President.

Section 3 The Vice President for Financial Affairs

A. The Vice President for Financial Affairs shall be responsible for budgeting and controlling funds derived from the student activity fee.

B. The Vice President for Financial Affairs shall chair the Finance Committee.

C. The Vice President for Financial Affairs shall make timely reports on the financial situation of the student activities fee to the President for the Student Senate.

D. The Vice President for Financial Affairs shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Section 4 The Vice President for Social Affairs

A. The Vice President for Social Affairs shall chair S.A.C.

B. The Vice President for Social Affairs shall be responsible for reporting the activities of S.A.C., performances, campus events, and athletics to the Student Senate and the entire Winona Campus e.g. The "In The Know While You Go" event sheets.

C. The Vice President for Social Affairs shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Vice President for Financial Affairs.

Section 5 The Vice President for Public Affairs

A. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall attempt to involve Saint Mary's University students and Saint Mary's University student government in politics on the campus level, in the Winona community, and on the statewide level.

- B. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall act as a liaison between the Saint Mary's University Winona Campus and the Minnesota Private College Council, hereon known as MPCC, and the Minnesota Association of Private College Students, hereon known as MAPCS.
- C. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall serve as a member of the MAPCS Advisory Board, and, as such, is required to attend all MAPCS meetings and conferences, held in various locations around Minnesota.
- D. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall be responsible for coordinating a Get-Out-The-Vote effort when any and all elections occur. This shall be in conjunction with all political organizations on the Winona Campus.
- E. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall be active in lobbying efforts sponsored by MPCC and MAPCS. These lobbying efforts shall be from January through April and this person shall organize a group of Winona campus members to attend lobbying sponsored by MPCC and MAPCS.
- F. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall be the liaison between the Student Senate and the Admissions office of Saint Mary's University. They shall work with the admissions office to promote Saint Mary's and the Student Senate to prospective students.
- G. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall be the liaison between the Student Senate and the Alumni Office of Saint Mary's University. They shall work with the alumni office to promote Saint Mary's and the Student Senate to alumni.
- H. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall make the Winona Campus aware of community events occurring in the Winona County area.
- I. The Vice President for Public Affairs Shall chair the Legislative Affairs Committee.
- J. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall attend or appoint a senator to attend all Winona Community Relations Committee meetings.
- K. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall organize at least one per semester community event and or volunteer experience for the Winona Campus Community e.g. MNDOT Highway Cleanup Program.
- L. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Financial Affairs, and the Vice President for Social Affairs.
- Section 6 The Vice President for Campus Affairs
- A. The Vice President for Campus Affairs shall work with departments and administration on issues regarding campus affairs.
- B. The Vice President for Campus Affairs shall be the coordinator for all student organization constitutions.
- C. The Vice President for Campus Affairs shall help all interested parties in becoming a Student Senate recognized organization.
- E. The Vice President for Campus Affairs shall sit on the Facilities Committee of the Winona Campus of Saint Mary's University.

F. The Vice President for Campus Affairs shall sit on the Safety Concerns Committee of the Winona Campus of Saint Mary's University.

H. The Vice President for Campus Affairs shall address concerns dealing with Maintenance, Campus Safety, and parking on Campus.

I. The Vice President for Campus Affairs shall co-chair the Student Concerns Committee.

K. The Vice President for Campus Affairs shall be the student liaison to the Outdoor Leadership Office.

J. The Vice President for Campus Affairs shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Financial Affairs, Vice President for Social Affairs, and the Vice President for Public Affairs.

Section 7 The Vice President for Student Life

A. The Vice President for Student Life shall work with departments and administration on issues regarding student life.

B. The Vice President for Student Life shall sit on the Dean's Advisory Committee of the Winona Campus of Saint Mary's University.

C. The Vice President for Student Life shall sit on the Student Life Committee of the Winona Campus of Saint Mary's University.

D. The Vice President for Student Life shall address concerns dealing with the Wellness Center, Residence Life, Student Life, Student Activities, Intramurals, Food Service, and the Bookstore.

E. The Vice President for Student Life shall co-chair the Student Concerns Committee.

F. The Vice President for Student Life shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Financial Affairs, Vice President for Social Affairs, Vice President for Public Affairs, and the Vice President for Campus Affairs.

Section 8 The Vice President of Media and Communications

A. The Vice President of Media and Communications shall be the chief graphic and web designer of the Student Senate. They will also be responsible for public relations issues, elections, and advertising.

B. The Vice President of Media and Communications shall create, update, and otherwise manage a Student Senate social media accounts.

C. The Vice President of Media and Communications shall create and update generic organization websites.

D. The Vice President of Media and Communications shall ensure photographs are taken of all activities of the Student Senate.

E. The Vice President of Media and Communications along with the Vice President for Social Affairs shall create and design flyers, posters, and other notices for senate purposes and will also create press releases and other public relations material as needed.

F. The Vice President of Media and Communications shall be the liaison between the Student Senate and the Marketing and Communications office of Saint Mary's University. They shall work with the Marketing and Communications office to engage the student body on branding and general promotion of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

G. The Vice President for Media and Communications shall be the liaison between the Student Senate and IT Helpdesk and Institutional Technologies offices of Saint Mary's University. They shall work with the offices to help improve the technology of Saint Mary's University students.

H. The Vice President for Media Communication shall coordinate Student Senate elections in conjunction with the President of the Student Senate.

I. The Vice President of Media and Communications shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Financial Affairs, Vice President for Social Affairs, Vice President for Public Affairs, Vice President for Campus Affairs, and the Vice President for Student Life.

Section 9 The Vice President for Multicultural Affairs

A. The Vice President of Multicultural Affairs shall be the student chair of the Solidarity Council which is responsible for representing and advocating for the diversity and diversity initiatives on the Winona, campus including but not limited to diversity related clubs. International Student Center, Diversity related clubs and the Study Aboard office.

B. The Vice President for Multicultural Affairs shall sit on the Student Activities Committee and help to plan multicultural activities on campus.

C. The Vice President for Multicultural Affairs shall be the liaison between the Student Senate and the First Generation Initiative of Saint Mary's University. They shall work with the First Generation Initiative office to promote Saint Mary's first generation student initiatives and support those in the program.

D. The Vice President for Multicultural Affairs shall be the liaison between the Student Senate and the De La Salle Language Institute and International Student Center of Saint Mary's University. They shall work with these offices to improve the experience of all international students on campus.

E. The Vice President for Multicultural Affairs shall be the liaison between the Student Senate and the Study Abroad Office of Saint Mary's University. They shall work with the Study Abroad office to promote Saint Mary's to promote the merits of international travel and studies for students.

F. The Vice President for Multicultural Affairs shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Financial Affairs, Vice President for Social Affairs, Vice President for Public Affairs, Vice President for Campus Affairs, Vice President for Student Life, and the Vice President of Media and Communications

Section 10 The Executive Assistant

A. The Executive Assistant shall record and publish the minutes of each session of the Student Senate.

B. The Executive Assistant shall be the custodian of all the documents of the Student Senate.

C. The Executive Assistant shall publish and distribute the agenda.

D. The Executive Assistant shall be responsible for recording the absence of a Senator from a session of the Student Senate.

E. The Executive Assistant shall co-chair the Senate Ethics Committee.

ARTICLE XI. LEGAL PROVISIONS

Section 1 The Student Senate shall have the power to negate actions of S.A.C. by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Student Senate.

Section 2 The Student Senate shall govern its sessions according to the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order Revised unless otherwise stated in this document.

ARTICLE XII. STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE BUDGET

Section 1 The Finance Committee will allocate the student activity fee to groups on a yearly basis. Groups will be appropriated necessary funds based on criteria presented to the Finance Committee. This criterion will include a report on the types of community service projects of events the club has sponsored in addition to other requested information. The Finance Committee will have the authority to use all such information when making decisions or recommendations to the Student Senate. Any organization desiring funding from the student activity fee must submit a request to the Vice President of Financial Affairs of the Student Senate by a publicly announced date specified by the Finance Committee. This date shall be no later than one month before the last day of classes of the semester.

Section 2 Only organizations which are recognized by the Student Senate and open to the entire undergraduate student body may submit a funding for a Special Request to the Student Senate. Any current undergraduate student can submit funding for an Academic Request.

Section 3 To raise the student activity fee above the limits dictated in previous referenda, a referendum must be held in which a two-thirds of the student senate vote to approve the raise.

Section 4 All financial matters, including the allocation of the student activity fee budget to Student Senate recognized organizations and capital improvement allocations, must be approved by two-thirds majority of the Student Senate.

Section 5 Special requests may be made to the Student Senate during the semester for additional funds. New clubs, after receiving recognition by the Student Senate, may submit a funding request during the semester. Special requests may also be made to fund an activity after some type of community service event or project.

Section 6 Organizations not meeting the prior year's budgeting process are subject to penalties by the Vice President for Financial Affairs.

ARTICLE XIII. THE LAUNDRY FEE BUDGET

Section 1 The laundry fee surplus may be used to make general capital improvements on the campus. The Vice President for Financial Affairs shall request ideas for capital improvements from the student body and present those ideas to the Student Senate along with a budget for the improvements. The capital improvements must be approved by the majority vote of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE XIV. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1 The Finance Committee

- A. The Finance Committee shall control both the student activity fee and the laundry fee.
- B. The Finance Committee shall develop, each semester, a proposed budget for both the activity fee and laundry fee. Said budgets must be submitted to the Student Senate for approval by the date specified by the Vice President for Financial Affairs and President of the Student Senate.
- C. The Finance Committee shall be chaired by the Vice President for Financial Affairs of the Student Senate and shall be composed of 5 student senators and 5 interested students appointed by the Vice President for Financial Affairs of the Student Senate.
- D. The Finance Committee may freeze any student group's account if reasonable evidence exists that money has been misused. A student group's account may only be frozen in this manner until the next Student Senate session, at which time the committee will recommend to the Senate any further action. The Finance Committee may freeze a club's budget at any time during the year for misuse or abuse of funds by the club.

Section 2 Student Activities Committee

The Student Activities Committee is a committee under the direction of the Student Senate and chaired by the Vice President for Social Affairs. The functions and duties of this committee are outlined in its own Constitution.

- A. The Student Activities Committee is open to all Saint Mary's University undergrad students who are interested.

Section 3 The Student Concerns Committee

The Student Concerns Committee and is under the direction of Student Senate and is co-chaired by the Vice President for Campus Affairs and the Vice President for Student Life.

- A. The Student Concerns Committee shall be responsible for all issues that arise during Student Senate meetings.
- B. The Student Concerns Committee shall undertake all problems and issues on the Winona Campus.
- C. The Student Concerns Committee is open to all Saint Mary's University undergrad students who are interested.

Section 4 The Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee is under the direction of Student Senate and is co-chaired by the Executive Assistant and one senator appointed by a vote of the senate. The functions and duties of this committee are outlined in Student Senate's Bylaws.

- A. The purpose of the ethics committee shall be to ensure that members of the student senate and members of groups and organizations affiliate or financed by the student senate are acting in a manner consistent with the mission and values of Saint Mary's University of MN and the student senate, by reviewing complaints from students and levying appropriate sanctions on members deemed in violation.

Section 5 Legislative Affairs Committee

The Legislative Affairs Committee is under the direction of Student Senate and chaired by the Vice President for Public Affairs.

A. The Legislative Affairs Committee shall undertake and be responsible for the planning for Day at the Capital, Constitution Day activities, Get out the Vote on the Winona Campus, and actively lobbying efforts sponsored by MAPCS.

B. The Legislative Affairs Committee is open to all Saint Mary's University undergrad students who are interested.

Section 6 The Solidarity Council

The Solidarity Council is under the direction and chaired by the Vice President for Multicultural Affairs.

A. The Solidarity Council will intentionally cultivate a culture of solidarity among undergraduate students and a culture of inclusion at the undergraduate College campus.

B. Support partnerships *between* those student organizations that identify with the interests of learners traditionally underrepresented in higher education and at Saint Mary's, particularly with interests and needs that transcend and complement within-group interests.

C. Support student development, co-curricular and curricular initiatives that increase students' capacities to empathize with diverse people and to live in an inclusive campus community.

D. Advise the Office of Student Life, the Student Senate or other groups as invited on policies or practices related to intergroup solidarity, diversity awareness and interpersonal intolerance.

Section 7 Other Committees

See the current Student Senate By Laws for a complete list of current committees. The Student Senate shall create other committees, as it deems necessary.

ARTICLE XV. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A. A House of Representatives shall be established such that each Student Senate recognized club and organization has one voting representative.

B. The House shall meet at least once per semester. Meetings shall be announced to all clubs and in other Saint Mary's publications at least two weeks prior to the scheduled time. Attendance at these meetings shall be mandatory and shall be a condition of the group's funding and Student Senate recognition.

C. The House meetings shall be attended by all the executive officers of the Student Senate and shall be open to the entire student body. The President of the Student Senate shall present a summary of the Senate's activities at the beginning of each meeting.

D. The House shall have the privilege of drafting resolutions to be presented to the Student Senate for consideration.

E. After a meeting of the House, the Vice President for Campus Affairs will be responsible for reporting the

activities of the House at the next meeting of the Student Senate.

F. The Vice President for Campus Affairs shall be responsible for the coordination of all House of Representative meetings.

G. Representatives will be responsible for explaining and executing the budgeting process of the Student Senate with their group.

ARTICLE XVI. STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

A. All student activities and organizations of the College are intended for the enjoyment, development, and education of students of the College.

B. Persons who do not pay a Student Activity Fee and/or are not students of the College are not permitted to participate in any programs and/or activities sponsored by any student organization of the College, unless the activities and/or programs have an unlimited number of openings available for participation and that said persons are not permitted to participate in any leadership roles in student organizations of the College.

ARTICLE XVII. RATIFICATION

This Constitution may be ratified as deemed necessary by the Executive Officers and the Student Senate.

ARTICLE XVIII. BY LAWS

A. Anything not covered in this Constitution shall then be referred to the Student Senate By Laws, if it is not covered in either document then Student Senate should proceed at their own discretion using best practices, common sense, respect for their fellow students, and the Saint Mary's University Mission and Vision.

B. The Student Senate By Laws should be reviewed and approved yearly before any official business is to be conducted.

ARTICLE XIX. AMENDMENTS

Section 1 The process for amending this Constitution shall be as follows:

A. Amendments shall be proposed by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Student Senate.

B. The proposed amendments are then to be forwarded to the office of the President of the University.

C. The President shall either approve, or decline to approve, the amendment; in the latter case, he shall return the amendment to the Student Senate, together with the reasons for his decision.

D. Any amendment not so returned shall take effect three weeks after the reception of the proposed amendments by the President.

E. Whenever an amendment is made, a new constitution, with the new amendment incorporated, must be adopted.