

**Allegheny Student Government
Constitution**

Adopted: Spring, 1970

Last Revision: Spring 2009

Article I Definition

Section 1. Name

The name of the organization established by this constitution shall be the Allegheny Student Government (ASG).

Section 2. Purpose

The Allegheny Student Government shall strive to maintain the quality of, and wherever feasible, improve upon the educational, cultural, and social aspects of the Allegheny community. The Allegheny Student Government shall endeavor to reflect, represent, and crystallize student opinion; to organize and coordinate programs of a co-curricular and extra-curricular nature; and to cooperate effectively with the faculty and administration in the areas of common concern to the Allegheny community.

Section 3. Powers

The Allegheny Student Government shall be the official voice and administrative unit of the student body. It shall have the power to carry out duties designated by the student body, faculty, and administration.

Section 4. Oath of Office

I, _____ (Name), Senator for the Class of _____ (Class Year), do solemnly swear to uphold the Constitution of the Allegheny Student Government. I shall strive to maintain the quality of, and wherever feasible, improve upon, the educational, cultural, and social aspects of the Allegheny College community. I will endeavor to represent student opinion in order to create an inclusive, respectful, and safe learning environment for all.

Article II Legislative Branch

Section 1. Description

The legislative power shall be vested in the Senate of Student Government. The Senate shall be comprised of forty senators, ten senators representing each class. The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer for each respective class shall be chosen from among and by the senators of that class at the first meeting of the Senate. Senators shall hold office for a period of one year and shall be eligible for reelection. Senators representing each class shall be elected by popular vote. Voting practice and procedure shall be outlined in the By-laws.

Section 2. Duties and Powers of the Senate

- A. Senators shall actively identify and represent the interests of the student body in debate and discussion with the college administration.
- B. The Senate shall pass legislation by a majority vote, which will act as the sentiments of the student body as a whole.

- C. The Senate shall use its judgment to properly distribute budgeted funds.
- D. Senators shall approve Cabinet appointments by a supermajority vote.
- E. The Senate shall approve appointments to the Judicial Branch by a supermajority vote.
- F. Senators shall perform all other duties designated to them by this Constitution or By-laws.

Section 3. Removal from Office

- A. Senators shall be impeached for neglect of duties, defined as the following:
 - a. Two unexcused absences in a semester.
 - b. Four absences total, including any combination of excused and unexcused absences in a semester.
 - c. Continual lack of participation.
 - d. Misuse of authority or funds.
 - e. Other acts unbecoming of a Senator and violations of oath, as determined by the Senate.
- B. A Senator shall be removed from office upon a supermajority vote of the Senate, to be conducted by secret ballot and out of sight of the senator in question.
- C. A vacancy in the Senate shall be filled upon the nomination by the respective Class President and supermajority confirmation by the full Senate.

Article III Executive Branch

Section 1. Description

The executive power shall be vested in the President of Allegheny Student Government. The President shall be elected for a period of one year. The President shall be elected together with a Vice President on a single ticket.

Section 2. Duties and Powers of the President

- A. The President may submit legislative recommendations to the Senate and shall supervise the execution of all legislation.
- B. The President shall oversee the creation of a budget proposal for the following year.
- C. The President will appoint a Cabinet, subject to individual approval of supermajority of Senate, to assist and advise in the operations and duties of the organization.
- D. The President shall serve as the principal liaison between the student body, the administration, and the faculty.
- E. The President may request the assistance of the Vice President and the Cabinet as s/he deems necessary.
- F. The President retains the authority to dismiss members of the Cabinet.
- G. The President shall perform any other duties designated to him/her by the By-laws.

Section 3. Duties and Powers of the Vice President

- A. The Vice President shall prepare the agenda and chair regularly scheduled Senate meetings.
- B. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the president as needed.

- C. The Vice President shall call a meeting of student leaders of ASG funded organizations at least once per semester.
- D. The Vice President shall perform any other duties designated to him/her by the By-laws.

Section 4. Impeachment

- A. The President and/or Vice President may be impeached for the following:
 - a. Neglect of duties.
 - b. Abuse of powers.
 - c. Misuse of the Treasury.
 - d. Willful disobedience of Senate rulings.
 - e. Other acts unbecoming of a President and/or Vice President and violations of oath, as determined by the Senate.
- B. The President and/or Vice President shall be removed by a motion passed by supermajority of the Senate for two consecutive weeks.
- C. The President and/or Vice President shall be removed from office by a supermajority of the student body with at least a simple majority of the full-time student body voting.
- D. Impeachment voting procedures shall be defined in the By-laws.

Section 5. Succession

- A. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the Vice President.
- B. A vacancy in the office of the Vice President shall be filled by a presidential appointment, subject to supermajority approval by the Senate.
- C. If both the presidency and the vice presidency become vacant simultaneously, a member of the Senate, subject to supermajority approval by the Senate, shall temporarily assume the duties, but not powers, of the presidency and relinquish senatorial duties until elections can be held. The office of the vice presidency shall be filled by the Parliamentarian until elections can be held. Elections shall be held within three weeks of the vacancy.

Article IV Judicial Branch

Section 1. Purpose

This judicial system is the mechanism by which the Allegheny College Honor Code and Allegheny College Regulations Regarding Student Conduct are enforced. It is the purpose of the judicial system to protect the rights of all members of the college community.

Section 2. Judicial Processes and Duties

- A. This judicial system contains two processes: the academic discipline process, which applies to alleged violations of the Honor Code; and the non-academic discipline process, which applies to alleged violations of the Regulations Regarding Student Conduct.
- B. The judicial system shall, from time to time, report to the Senate as to the state of the student body's compliance with the Honor Code and Regulations Regarding Student Conduct.

- C. A detailed description of the judicial process, including the Academic Integrity Board, the Community Standards Board, and the Honor Committee shall be made available in the Allegheny College Compass.

Section 3. Amendments

This judicial system shall be amended by supermajority of ASG Senate and majority vote of the faculty of Allegheny College.

Article V Ad Hoc Committees

Section 1. Description

Any student or students of Allegheny College may declare themselves to be an Ad Hoc Committee upon presentation of a written statement to the ASG President stating, (1) the name of the committee and (2) the goals and intentions of the committee.

Section 2. Procedure

An Ad Hoc Committee may present its proposals to the Senate.

Article VI Elections and Referenda

Section 1. Description

Elections shall be supervised by the Senate according to the procedure outlined in the By-laws.

Section 2. General Procedure

- A. Presidential primary elections shall be held during the third week of the spring semester. A one week delay shall intercede between the primary and general elections.
- B. If, during the presidential primary election, one ticket garners more than sixty percent of the vote then that ticket shall be considered elected. If this occurs then the general election will be forgone.
- C. If only two tickets participate in the presidential primary election then the ticket that garners a majority of the vote shall be considered elected. If this occurs then the general election will be forgone.
- D. Senatorial elections shall be held during the spring semester no more than six weeks after the presidential general election. First-year senators shall be elected no more than three weeks after fall matriculation.

Article VII General Constitutional Principles

- A. No person shall serve in more than one branch of Allegheny Student Government at one time.
- B. This Constitution as interpreted by the Senate shall be the supreme law of the Student Government.

Article VIII Amendments

Amendments to this constitution must receive a supermajority vote of approval of the Senate at two consecutive meetings or by a majority vote of the student body with at least a simple majority of the full-time student body voting in an all college referendum. Voting procedures will be defined in the By-laws.