



THE STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Constitution

Preamble

The Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire shall serve as an advocate for all undergraduate students, deriving its power from the consent of the governed and developed on the principle that all undergraduate students of the University of New Hampshire have the right to participate in University governance. Such participation encourages the development of student expertise in University affairs and places significant responsibility on students for their involvement with the policies, rules, and regulations which affect the quality of education and the experience of students at the University of New Hampshire).

In order to ensure its impact and influence on the governance of the University, this Student Senate shall exist to:

- A. Provide a representative and inclusive structure of governance for the Student Body;
- B. Establish and maintain an effective means of communication among the various facets of student governance, student organizations, the University administration, faculty, staff, and community, and the Town of Durham;
- C. Serve as an advocate and a resource for the Student Body;
- D. Initiate and administer programs and services for the undergraduate Student Body and the University;
- E. Participate in the process of establishing University policies; and to monitor their implementation;
- F. Provide opportunities for the development of student leadership in governance;
- G. Review, and recommend changes to the "Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities" (SRRR);
- H. Ensure that the University Conduct System guards and protects the rights and interests of all students;
- I. Develop, implement, and monitor the budget and use of the Student Activity Fee;
- J. Monitor the development of all mandatory fees;
- K. Annually review all mandatory fees and make a recommendation to the University President prior to the budget submission to the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) Board of Trustees;
- L. Provide regular meetings open to the Student Body for the purpose of student governance.

Article I: Authority and Responsibility

Section I: Representation of the Student Body

- A. The Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire, the Student Body President, and the Student Body Vice President shall be the legitimate representative voices of the undergraduate student body.

Section II: Representation of the Student Senate

- A. The Student Senate Speaker shall be the legitimate representative voice of the Student Senate.

Section III: Powers of the Student Senate

- A. The Student Senate shall:
1. Have access to information or documents it may need to achieve its objectives, within the confines of applicable Federal, State, and Local laws.
 2. Recommend Student Senators, or other students, as representative members of any of the University standing committees. In addition the Student Senate may require a Student Senator who is a member of any such committee to be a member of, or to report to, one of the designated Student Senate Councils.
 3. Be notified of major proposals which affect academic and student affairs which are under the control of the University Administration (Administration) and such proposals shall be submitted to the Student Senate at least two weeks prior to making a decision upon such proposals. The Administration shall submit such proposals in good faith to the Student Senate, and if a two week time period is not practical shall inform the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and the Student Senate Speaker.
 4. Be notified of any changes to University policy proposed by the USNH Board of Trustees that directly affect academic and student affairs.
 5. Have input in all University matters which affect academic and student affairs which are under the control of the Administration.
 6. Have jurisdiction in all matters of Student Senate councils, Student Senate committees, and Student Activity Fee Organizations.
 7. Be kept informed of the agenda and proceedings of Faculty Senate meetings.
 8. Review all changes to academic policy prior to action by the Faculty Senate.
 9. Annually review all mandatory fees and make a recommendation to the University President prior to the budget submission to the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) Board of Trustees.
 10. Review any recommended changes or additions to the SRRR and University policy on matters affecting academic and student affairs which are within the jurisdiction of the Office of Student and Academic Services or other principal administrators of the University. In the event that the Student Senate and such administrator cannot reach an agreement on any recommended changes, the recommendation of the Student Senate and the recommendation of such administrator shall be jointly communicated to the University President for action.
 11. Initiate and propose changes to University policy which affect the Student Body.
 12. Work in conjunction with the student government from UNH Manchester.
 13. Operate under the Student Senate Constitution, the Student Senate Bylaws, Student Senate Standard Operating Procedures, and the Student Activity Fee Committee Standard Operating Procedures.

Article II: Composition*Section I: Representation*

- A. The Student Senate shall represent every undergraduate student enrolled at UNH Durham.
- B. Each Student Senator shall be assigned to one of the following constituencies:
 - 1. First Year
 - 2. Non-Resident
 - 3. Resident
- C. Student Senators shall be assigned by a ratio of one (1) Student Senator to every one hundred (100) undergraduate students, with each constituency designated a minimum of one (1) senator.

Section II: Members of the Student Senate

- A. The following shall be voting members of the Student Senate:
 - 1. Student Senate Speaker
 - 2. Student Body President
 - 3. Student Body Vice President
 - 4. Student Senators
 - a. First Year
 - b. Non-Resident
 - c. Resident
- B. The following shall be Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members of the Student Senate:
 - 1. Parliamentarian
 - 2. Executive Officer
 - 3. Business Manager
 - 4. Public Relations Manager
 - 5. Student Activity Fee Committee Chairperson
 - 6. Council Chairpersons
 - 7. Student Trustee/University System Student Board Representative
 - 8. Greek Affairs Liaison
 - 9. Commuter Affairs Liaison
 - 10. Student Activity Fee Chief Financial Officers

Section III: Members of the Executive Board

- A. The following shall be Voting Members of the Student Senate Executive Board:
 - 1. First Year Senators
 - 2. Officers of the Student Senate
 - a. Speaker
 - b. Parliamentarian
 - c. Executive Officer
 - d. Business Manager
 - e. Public Relations Manager

- f. Student Activity Fee Committee Chairperson
- g. Historian
3. President's Cabinet
 - a. Student Body President
 - b. Student Body Vice President
 - c. Council Chairpersons
 - d. Greek Affairs Liaison
 - e. Commuter Affairs Liaison
4. Student Trustee/ University System Student Board Representative
- B. The following shall be Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members of the Student Senate Executive Board:
 1. Student Activity Fee Chief Financial Officers

Article III: Student Senate Standing Councils

- A. The Student Senate shall hold the following standing councils:
 1. Academic and Student Policy Council
 2. Community Development Council
 3. Campus Structure Council
 4. External Affairs Council
 5. Health and Wellness Council
 6. Judicial Affairs Council

Article IV: Student Senate Standing Committees

- A. The Student Senate shall hold the following standing committees:
 1. Commuter Affairs Committee
 2. Election Committee
 3. Financial Affairs Committee
 4. Greek Affairs Committee
 5. Judiciary Committee
 6. Student Activity Fee Committee

Article V: Summer Operations

Section I: Operations

- A. The Student Body President and the Student Body Vice President shall be responsible for the operation of the Student Senate during the summer academic break.

Section II: Committees

- A. The Student Senate shall have the following standing committees for the duration of the summer academic break:
 1. Summer Quorum
 2. Summer Oversight Committee

Article VI: Amendments

- A. Proposed amendments to the Student Senate Constitution shall be submitted to the Student Senate Judiciary Committee for approval before presentation to the Student Senate.
- B. Amendments to this Constitution shall be presented to the Student Senate at least one meeting prior to the one in which the vote on such amendment shall take place, with the exceptions of spelling, grammatical, or formatting changes, which may be presented and voted upon during the same meeting.
- C. Amendments to this Constitution shall require the three-quarters (3/4) approval of the Student Senate.
- D. Amendments to the Constitution of the Student Senate shall require the approval of the University President. Recommended changes shall be jointly signed and communicated by the Student Senate Speaker, Student Body President, and the Vice President for Student and Academic Services to the President.
- E. Dates of approved amendments to the Constitution shall be appended to the end of this document under the following headings:
 - 1. "Approved by UNH Student Senate on"
 - 2. "Ratified by University President on"

Approval of the University of New Hampshire Student Senate Constitution

Approved by UNH Student Senate on: April 27, 2014

Ratified by University President on: April 30, 2012