

**CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
BROWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the students of Broward Community College, through the authority of Broward Community College Policy, ordain and establish this constitution and follow its laws, to ensure the representation of the Student Body, and to provide for, the government of students and their own affairs. We seek to foster an inclusive and participatory relationship, the propagation of balance and fairness, and the well-being and prosperity of the students of Broward Community College.

**ARTICLE I**  
*Provisions*

- Section 1      **Name**  
The name of this Organization shall be Broward Community College Student Government, herein referred to as Student Government.
- Section 2      **Scope**  
Central Campus, North Campus, South Campus, and Downtown Center shall have its own Student Government functioning independently of all others. These bodies may come together to form a collective College-wide Student Government to coordinate college-wide efforts, known as Student Government Council.
- Section 3      **Jurisdiction**  
Student Government shall be the representative of the Student Body.
- Section 4      **Authority Vested**  
The authority vested in Student Government is given by College Policy.

**ARTICLE II**  
*Oath of Office*

"I (state your name), do solemnly swear and affirm to carry out my duties and responsibilities as (stated position) as stated in the Broward Community College Student Government Constitution and the Campus Bylaws of my campus to the best of my abilities. I (state your name) solemnly swear as a member of Student Government that I will conduct myself in a way that accurately represents Broward Community College and Student Government. I understand that if I fail to uphold my responsibilities or conduct myself in an ethical way that represents the College and Student Government, I will be subjected to removal from the office."

**ARTICLE III**  
*Officers/Executive Branch*

- Section 1:      **Executive Authority**  
The officers of each Student Government shall be the Student Body President and the Student Body Vice President. All executive powers and those powers not specifically granted herein to other branches of Student Government shall be vested in the Student Body President, assisted by the Student Body Vice President, and such other administrative officers as the President shall appoint to effectively carry out the business of Student Government.
- Section 2      **Powers and Duties of the President**  
The Student Body President shall:
- A.      Represent the interests of the Student Body to the faculty, staff and administration of his/her campus.

- B. Assume temporary legislative responsibility in the event that the senate is deemed inactive, as outlined in Article IX.
- C. Preside over the General meetings and make all necessary arrangements for those meetings, including setting the agenda. He/she will vote only in case of a tie.
- D. Have the power to veto legislation passed by the Senate within five (5) business days of its approval, excluding holidays. Failure to veto within the allotted time will declare the legislation as passed.
- E. Attend the Student Government Council meetings.
- F. Create ad hoc committees.
- G. Create standing committees with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Legislative body.
- H. Appoint all Standing Committee Chairs, approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Legislative body.
- I. Appoint/Remove all Executive Cabinet officials
- J. Serve on and/or nominate and/or appoint student government members to College/campus committees.
- K. Shall not run or hold any other office with any other college club or organization or any other Student Government.
- L. May run for only one position within Student Government during any general or special election.
- M. Must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credit hours per term at BCC, with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5. It shall not be required to take summer classes in order to hold position. Credit requirements shall be waived for members in their last semester of classes.
- N. Must have at least six (6) but no more than fifty (50) credits to run for and hold office.
- O. Shall sit on the Campus Activity Board.
- P. Complete ten (10) hours of office work per week.
- Q. Take, sign, and uphold the oath of office.

#### Section 4

#### **Powers and Duties of the Vice-President**

The Student Body Vice President shall:

- A. Fulfill the presidential responsibilities in the absence of the Student Body President as detailed in the Student Government Constitution and campus Bylaws.
- B. Attend the Student Government Council meetings.
- C. Serve as the Senate President.
- D. Preside over all Senate meetings and make all necessary arrangements for those meetings, including setting the agenda.
- E. Shall vote during a Senate hearing only in the event of a tie.
- F. Assist in conveying the issues of the student body to the faculty, staff and administration.
- G. Shall not run or hold any other office with any other college club or organization or any other Student Government.
- H. May run for only one position on Student Government during any general or special election.
- I. Must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credit hours per term at BCC, with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5. It shall not be required to take summer classes in order to hold position. Credit requirements shall be waived for members in their last semester of classes.
- J. Must have at least 6, but no more than fifty (50) credits to run for and hold office.
- K. Complete eight (8) hours of office work per week.
- L. Take, sign, and uphold the oath of office.

**ARTICLE IV**  
*Legislative Branch*

Section 1: **Legislative Authority**  
Each campus Student Government has the authority to implement a Student Senate. If the campus Student Government wishes to have a Student Senate then the structure of the senate must be stated in the Campus Bylaws.

Section 2: **Legislative Scope**  
The Legislative Branch shall hear and vote on legislation proposed by Student Government members. Legislation should be submitted in the form of appropriations and resolutions. All legislation must be cosponsored by a Senator or the Student Body President.

Section 3: **Powers, Duties and Limitations of the Student Senate**

The Student Senate shall:

- A. Convene at least twice a month with Quorum.
- B. Vote on at least 75% of all legislation brought to the Senate during any given meeting.
- C. Establish its own meeting times, and rules and procedures known as the Student Senate Rules and Procedures.
- D. Create ad hoc committees.
- E. Enact, by majority vote, campus Bylaws, with the exception of Bylaws concerning elections, which shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
- F. Advise and confirm, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, Committee Chair appointments made by the Student Body President.
- G. Remove student government members, both elected and appointed, according to procedures described in the Student Senate Rules and Procedures or the Campus Bylaws.
- H. Approve the fiscal budget of Student Government, as provided by the Division of Student Affairs and/or the Board of Trustees.
- I. Override a veto by the Student Body President by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate present at that specific meeting, within five (5) business days of its veto, excluding holidays. Quorum must be met in order to override a Presidential Veto.
- J. Hear and act on cases involving Student Government disputes or violation of College regulations within Student Government, the Constitution of the Student Government of Broward Community College, and the Student Body Code of Conduct.
- K. Senators shall serve on one (1) Student Government Standing Committee and on at least one college-wide or campus committee as available.
- L. Each Senate shall conduct 100 surveys and create a yearly report.
- M. Senators must be enrolled on their elected campus, in a minimum of six (6) credit hours per term at BCC, with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5. It shall not be required to take summer classes in order to hold position. Credit requirements shall be waived for members in their last semester of classes.
- N. Senators must complete six (6) hours of office time per week.
- O. Must have at least six (6) but no more than fifty (50) credits to run for and hold office.
- O. The Senate shall be considered active when its total membership is greater than two.
- P. Senators must take, sign, and uphold the oath of office.

## ARTICLE V

### *Powers*

Each Student Government shall have the power to conduct the following business during official meetings at which quorum is met:

- A. Determine positions and elect individuals as necessary to conduct the business of the Student Government
- B. Arrange its meetings, providing regular meetings with fixed time and place at least once a month.
- C. Call for a special election or referendum with two-thirds vote of the Senate in attendance at the General Meeting.
- D. By two-thirds vote of the Legislative body present, the Student Government may submit to a vote of the student body at the next campus wide election, the establishment or dissolution of a Standing Committee(s).
- E. Carry out other such responsibilities and duties as are consistent with the purposes of Student Government and conform to state laws and College policies.

## ARTICLE VI

### *Impeachment/Removal from Office*

A member, an elected or appointed official, may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Legislative Body. Due Process must be given as stipulated in the Student Senate Rules and Procedures. A member may only be removed for committal of malfeasance (misconduct or wrongdoing), misfeasance (improper and unlawful execution of an act that in itself is lawful and proper) or nonfeasance (failure to perform an act that is either an official duty or a legal requirement). In the event that the Chair of the meeting is the subject of the removal proceedings, the Senate will elect an acting chair that will preside over the meeting.

## ARTICLE VII

### *Resignation and Succession*

#### Section 1

##### **Resignation**

A member's resignation must be documented two weeks before his/her final day in Student Government. If the member's final day in Student Government arrives and documentation is not received, the President may place a report on file that shall serve as both documentation and finalization of the former member's resignation.

#### Section 2

##### **Succession**

In the event of temporary or permanent vacancy of the office of the Student Body President, the vacancy shall be filled by the Vice President. If the Vice-President permanently assumes the role of Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President vacancy shall be appointed by the Senate by a majority vote. A Student Body President's resignation letter must be placed on file two weeks before his final day in office. If formal documentation is not on file by the Presidents final day in office the Vice President may place a report in its place that finalizes the transfer of power.

#### Section 3

##### **Transfer of Power**

In the event that the Senate is unable to fulfill its duties as outlined in the constitution under Article IV Section 4 (A and B), the Senate shall be deemed inactive and the Executive Branch shall assume complete legislative authority and responsibility for the remainder of that term. This will remain in effect until new officials can be elected.

## ARTICLE VIII

### *Meetings, Quorum, and Attendance*

- Section 1     **Meetings**  
General Meetings shall be held at least once a month. Meeting dates and times shall be publicly displayed. Unless specifically addressed within the Constitution of the Student Government or the campus Bylaws, issues of parliamentary procedure will defer to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. The Constitution and its Bylaws take precedent over Robert's Rules of Order.
- Section 2     **Quorum**  
Voting/official business at General Meetings and Senate Meetings shall commence after quorum has been met. Quorum shall be defined as, the attendance of the voting majority (50% + 1).
- Section 2     **Attendance**  
A total of three (3) non-consecutive absences from general meetings shall be grounds for automatic removal from office. Two (2) consecutive absences from general meetings shall be automatic removal from office. This member may not assume a student government position until the subsequent semester.

## ARTICLE IX

### *Elections, Appointments & Term Limits*

- Section 1:    **Elected positions**  
The Student Body President, Student Body Vice President and Student Senators shall be elected by a majority vote of the Student Body at their respective campus.
- Section 2:    **Elections**  
Each campus will coordinate elections no later than the April prior to the term of office of those candidates elected for the following year, to provide ample time for a proper transitional period between administrations.
- Section 3:    **Appointments**  
Every administration shall have a Finance Chair, or its equivalent, who will manage Student Government finances.
- Section 4:    **Term limits**  
No Student Body President shall serve for more than two terms total. A term for a Student Body President shall be considered being in office for more than half of the total calendar days beginning from the first day of the summer semester and ending the last day of the winter semester.

## ARTICLE X

### *Student Government Council*

- Section 1     **Role**  
The Student Government Council shall convene to report on the status of each student government, coordinate a college-wide agenda, and review constitutional amendments.
- Section 2     **Membership**  
The Student Government Council shall consist of three members from each campus: President, Vice-President and an appointed or elected official.

- Section 3      **Meetings**  
The Student Government Council shall meet at least twice a semester. Each meeting shall be hosted by a different campus on a rotating basis.
- Section 4      **Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Assistant**  
The Student Body President of the hosting campus shall serve as Chair of the meeting. The Vice Chair shall be the Student Body President hosting the next meeting of the Student Government Council. In the absence of the hosting Student Body President, the meeting shall be chaired by the Vice Chair. The SGC Executive Assistant will be chosen by a majority vote of the Council. Each council member reserves the right to make recommendations to the Council for the position of SGC Executive Assistant. The SGC Executive Assistant must be an Executive Assistant, or the equivalent, at their respective campus Student Government.
- Section 5      **Duties**  
The Chair of the Student Government Council shall set the agenda and conduct the meeting. The Executive Assistant shall record minutes and make them available for public records 72 hours after the meeting.
- Section 6      **Quorum**  
Quorum is established when at least two (2) members from each campus represented are present. Official business/voting may not take place if quorum is not met. Quorum shall be lost if 50% +1 of the members in attendance are no longer present to the meeting.
- Section 7      **Voting**  
Each campus can send up to three representatives with voting power, to each Student Government Council meeting. If a campus President is unable to attend a meeting, it is his/her responsibility to designate an Executive Board member to serve as an official voice and vote of that campus's Student Government.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### *Ratifying the Constitution*

In order to ratify the Broward Community College Student Government Constitution the Student Government Council must vote and have a two thirds (2/3) of those votes in favor of the proposed constitution.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### *Amending the Constitution*

A majority (50%+1) of the established student government's Legislative Branch must pass the proposed amendment before it can be sent to the Vice President who will send the proposal to the Student Government Council. The Student Government Council will vote and shall require a two thirds (2/3) of the votes to ratify the amendment to the Constitution.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### *Authorization of Bylaws*

Each Student Government has the right to establish its own Bylaws to the Constitution relevant to that campus only. Each individual campus will decide how they wish to ratify their Bylaws. The Bylaws of the individual campuses shall not need approval from any other campus. The campus Bylaws cannot conflict or supersede the Constitution of the Student Government.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
BROWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

**AMENDMENT I**

Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, in order to run for and hold office, must be enrolled on their elected campus in a minimum of six (6) credit hours per term. It shall not be required to take summer classes in order to hold their position.

**AMENDMENT II**

An active Student Government shall be defined as having a Student Body President and a Student Body Vice President as defined in the Constitution of the Broward Community College Student Government.

**AMENDMENT III**

Quorum for the Student Government Council is established when at least two (2) members from each active constitutionally recognized campus are present.