

# **Constitution of the College Council**

Ratified April 13, 1993

Amended to the Spring Session Of the  
120th Arts & Sciences Council May 3,  
2014

## **PREAMBLE**

*We, the students of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia recognize the importance of student opinion in the decisions and designs of programs that affect College students. We are an integral part of the Arts and Sciences community, and are therefore entitled to an active role in deciding its policies and priorities. To this end, we hereby re-constitute an undergraduate Arts and Sciences government to represent the needs and interests of College Students, to provide any additional needed programs and academic advising, and to work with the administration and faculty to build and maintain a constructive community of learning.*

## **ARTICLE I: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Section 1. Name**

The name of the student government association for the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia shall be the College Council (hereafter "the Council").

### **Section 2. Objects**

The Council shall represent the interests, ambitions, and academic needs specific to the students in the College of Arts and Sciences to the larger University of Virginia community, in particular to the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, but also to the University's central administration, alumni, and other student organizations.

Within Arts and Sciences, the Council shall.

- A. represent the needs and interests of College students;
- B. serve as peer academic advisors;
- C. foster student/faculty relations;
- D. strengthen College identity
- E. solidify relations between the College of Arts and Sciences and its alumni.

### **Section 3. Authority**

The Council is a Student Agency of the University of Virginia. The authority of the Council is derived jointly from the Student Body of the College of Arts & Sciences and from the Arts and Sciences administration. The Council shall act as an advisory body to the Deans of Arts and Sciences.

## **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. CLAS Student Body Member Definition**

All students registered and regularly enrolled for any course or courses in the College of Arts and Sciences (CLAS), shall be members of the CLAS Student Body, eligible to participate in the Council, and subject to the Constitution.

### **Section 2. College of Arts and Sciences Activity Fee**

Each member of the CLAS Student Body shall contribute a designated fee, as set by the University Board of Visitors and assessed through the University Bursar, at the start of every enrolled semester, for the maintenance of the Council, its programs, and its activities.

### **Section 3. Non-Discrimination Clause**

The Council does not restrict its membership, programs, or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family and genetic information.

### **ARTICLE III: POWERS**

#### **Section 1. By-laws of the Council**

The Council shall have the power to adopt and amend, by a two-thirds affirmative vote, such By- laws as shall not be in conflict with this constitution. The Executive Committee may also establish temporary guidelines. These guidelines may be repealed by Council veto, in the form of a majority affirmative vote.

#### **Section 2. CLAS Student Body Activity Fee**

The Council shall have the power to approve allocations of the CLAS Student Body Activity fees.

#### **Section 3. Student Welfare**

The Council shall have the power to investigate any matter specifically affecting the welfare of the CLAS Student Body.

#### **Section 4. Elections/Selections**

The Council shall have the power to regulate all elections and selections of the Council members, except in cases where the purview of the Student Council takes precedence.

#### **Section 5. Appointed Positions**

The Council shall have the power to select, subject to the approval of the President, Appointed Executive members to the Council. The process of such selections shall be defined in the By-laws of the Council.

#### **Section 6. Veto powers over the President**

The Council shall have the power to approve or reject by majority affirmative vote all official actions and appointments made by the President of the CLAS Student Body.

#### **Section 7. Impeachment**

The Council shall have the power to impeach any member of the Council for neglect of duties or impropriety, at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The impeached member shall lose his/her voting power. The impeached member shall be given due warning by the Executive Committee prior to impeachment. In the case of the CLAS Representatives to the Honor Committee, the University Judiciary Committee, and the Student Council, and in the case of the CLAS Liaisons, such impeachment and/or dismissal shall affect only their membership on the Council and not their positions in their respective organizations.

##### **A. Process of Impeachment**

- 1) Members of General Body (including members of Executive Committee) shall approach Executive Committee with request for impeachment.
- 2) The Executive Committee shall dispense impeachment after deliberation.

##### **B. Appeal of Impeachment**

Impeachment shall be appealed by  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of General Body.

#### **Section 8. Implementation**

The Council shall have the powers necessary for the fulfillment and implementation of the above-mentioned powers.

## **ARTICLE IV: STRUCTURE**

### **Section 1. Representative Body**

The College Council shall consist of:

A. The Elected Officers of the College:

- 1) CLAS Executive Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the College;
- 2) CLAS Representatives to the Honor Committee;
- 3) CLAS Representatives to the University Judiciary Committee;
- 4) CLAS Representatives to the Student Council;

B. The CLAS Department Representatives and Department Representative Chair(s)

C. General Body of College Council (1st-4th years);

D. The CLAS Liaisons:

- 1) A CLAS Representative from the First Year Council;
- 2) A CLAS Representative from the Second Year Council;
- 3) A CLAS Representative from the Third Year Council;
- 4) A CLAS Representative from the Class Trustees;
- 5) A CLAS Representative from the Echols Council;
- 6) A CLAS Representative from the Transfer Student Council;

### **Section 2. Voting**

The CLAS Representatives to the Honor Committee, the University Judiciary Committee, and the Student Council, and the CLAS Liaisons shall be non-voting members of the Council. All other members of the Council shall have one vote, with the exception of the President, who shall vote only in the event of a tie.

### **Section 3. CLAS Executive Officers**

The executive powers of the Council shall be vested in the President of the CLAS Student Body.

A. The President of the College:

- 1) shall be the official representative of the Council and the CLAS Student Body to the CLAS administration and community;
- 2) shall chair the Council and preside over all meetings of the Council and of the Executive Committee;
- 3) shall be responsible for the functioning of the Council as a whole;
- 4) shall appoint students to represent the Council and/or the College of Arts & Sciences to relevant committees outside the Council;
- 5) shall have the power to form a cabinet of advisors and assistants, contingent upon approval from the Council;
- 6) shall have the power to approve or reject the appointments made by the Council for the chairs of all standing committees of the Council;
- 7) shall form all ad hoc committees as deemed necessary;
- 8) shall appoint all ad hoc committee chairs subject to the approval of the Council;
- 9) shall be vested with the power to call special meetings of the Council.

**B. The Vice-President of the College:**

- 1) shall assume the duties of the President in a non-voting capacity at the request or in the absence of the President;
- 2) shall be the Chief of Staff of the Council;
- 3) shall serve as administrator over all Council committees;
- 4) shall serve as ex-officio member of all Council committees;
- 5) shall oversee the internal communication of the Council;
- 6) shall have the power to appoint necessary aides to assist him/her with the execution of his/her responsibilities.

**C. The Treasurer of the College:**

- 1) shall be the Chief Financial Officer for the Council;
- 2) shall maintain all financial records of the Council;
- 3) shall report such status at all meetings;
- 4) shall be in charge of all disbursements of funds in payment of debts incurred by the Council;
- 5) shall be responsible for composing the annual budget of the Council (working in coordination with the outgoing and other incoming executive officers);
- 6) shall have the power to appoint necessary aides to assist him/her with the execution of his/her responsibilities.

**D. The Secretary of the College:**

- 1) shall be the Office and Records Manager for the Council;
- 2) shall keep the minutes of all Council meetings and distribute them to members in a timely Fashion;
- 3) shall archive such information;
- 4) shall maintain the organization of the files and records of the Council;
- 5) shall keep the office supplied with the items and materials necessary for the daily operation of the Council and its programs;
- 6) shall have the power to appoint necessary aides to assist him/her with the execution of his/her responsibilities.

**Section 4. Committees**

1) The Executive Committee, the General Body of College Council, and the Department Representatives shall be standing committees of the Council. Other standing committees may be established in the By-Laws of the Council. The Department Representative Chair(s) shall be appointed members of the Executive Committee. The CLAS Executive Officers and other appointed Chairs shall also be the members of the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS**

**Section 1. Elected Officers of the College**

The Elected Officers of the College shall be elected by popular vote among the members of the CLAS Student Body. The Elected Officers of the College shall be elected according to the rules and regulations established by the University Board of Elections, or its successive body.

**Section 2. CLAS Department Representatives**

For each CLAS academic department or interdisciplinary degree program, the members of the CLAS Student Body with declared majors in that department or program shall have the opportunity to apply to be members of the Council. Each CLAS Department Representative must apply to be a Department Representative of their respective major. The number of

Department Representatives shall be defined by the Executive Committee, as specified in the By-Laws, but this number shall be no less than one.

### **Section 3. CLAS Underclassmen Body**

Representatives from the First-Year class and Second-Year class shall be solicited through a College-wide application process and shall be chosen by the Council Executive Committee. The number of Council members from the First-Year and Second-Year classes shall be defined in the By-laws of the Council, but this number shall be no less than five from each class.

### **Section 4. CLAS Liaisons**

All CLAS Liaisons shall be selected by their respective organizations, unless otherwise specified in the By-laws of the Council. Additional CLAS Liaison positions can be established in the By-laws of the Council.

### **Section 5. Multiple Candidacies**

A candidate may run for more than one position on the Council, with the exception that a candidate shall not run concurrently for more than one Executive Office.

### **Section 6. Term of Office**

The term of office for all elected Executive officers shall be two consecutive semesters. All appointed Executive officers shall have their term of office determined at the discretion of the elected Executive Committee.

### **Section 7. Appointments to Vacant Positions**

In the event that a representative position to the Council becomes vacant, the Council shall appoint a member of the CLAS Student Body to fill the vacancy on an interim basis until either a special election/selection is held or the term expires. This power applies to the positions of the Elected Officers of the Council, Appointed Officers of the Council, the CLAS Department Representatives and Chair(s), the CLAS Underclassman Committee, and the CLAS Liaisons.

## **ARTICLE VI: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

### **Section 1. Meetings**

all meetings of the Council will be open to all members of the CLAS Student Body and the University Community at large unless the President states otherwise.

### **Section 2. Quorum**

One half of the voting members of the Council shall constitute a quorum, except in the case of outstanding business of two or more weeks, in which case the President of the Council may call for a vote requiring the approval of a percentage of the Council at his or her discretion.

### **Section 3. Amendments**

Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed as follows:

A. By a written petition signed by 200 students from the CLAS Student Body

B. By a written petition signed by twenty-five members of the CLAS Student Body, submitted to the Council, and passes by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the full Council.

C. By a motion of any Council member passed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the full

Council.

Amendment proceedings may be initiated if a quorum is present. A majority affirmative vote of at least 10% of the CLAS Student Body shall be necessary for ratification of an amendment.

**ARTICLE VII: RATIFICATION**

**Ratification of this Constitution shall require at least 10% voter participation of the CLAS Student Body, with a simple majority of those voters. However, if this threshold is not met, the responsibility of ratification falls upon a simple majority of the College Council General Body.** The officers at the time of ratification shall perform all appropriate duties set out in this Constitution until the turnover of offices upon the subsequent election.