

**CONSTITUTION**  
of the  
**Student Government Association**  
of  
**Northern Kentucky University**

**Approved by the Board of Regents: January, 2005**

**Preamble**

In order to better coordinate relations among and between the Board of Regents, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and the Student Body; to insure collegial governance based on mutual respect of each party; to promote the integrity of Northern Kentucky University; to provide for fair representation of each individual student in matters pertaining to the University; and with the realization that a responsive and responsible Student Government Association can most effectively accomplish these aims; we, the Student Body of Northern Kentucky University hereby establish this Student Government Association Constitution.

**ARTICLE I**  
**NAME**

**Section 1:** The name of the organization shall be the Student Government Association of Northern Kentucky University (NKU), hereby referred to as SGA.

**ARTICLE II**  
**OBJECTIVES**

**Section 1:** The objectives of this SGA shall be as stated in the Preamble and as follows:

- A. To protect and promote the rights of the Student Body.
- B. To represent the student body to the institution in order to express issues and matters concerning the student opinion.
- C. To coordinate, maintain, and support a well-balanced social and academically oriented program for the Student Body.

## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1:** Elected members of the Student Government Association shall be students enrolled at NKU.
- Section 2:** The Student Government Association is fully committed and compliant with the University's policies and procedures related to nondiscrimination.

## **ARTICLE IV BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT**

**Section 1:** Students of Northern Kentucky University shall be governed by three distinct branches: Executive (the Executive Board), Legislative (a Student Senate) and Judicial (the Judicial Council). These three branches are separate unless specified differently within this Constitution.

### A. The Executive Board

1. **Members:** The officers shall consist of the President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Public Relations, Vice President of Student Involvement, and Vice President of Administration. These officers are not members of the Senate and therefore do not receive the rights provided by such membership. The President of SGA is granted the limited rights of Chair of the Senate as specified in Roberts Rules.
2. **President**
  - a. Shall preside over meetings of the Senate and all operations of the Executive Board.
  - b. Shall review all legislation adopted by the Senate. The President may veto legislation. Legislation approved by the President shall be verified by his or her signature. Legislation vetoed by the President shall be returned to the Senate, accompanied by a veto message. However, said veto may be overridden by a Senate two-thirds vote at the next regular meeting. Failure to sign legislation within 10 school days of passage by the Senate constitutes a veto.
  - c. Shall enter into agreements with agencies and organizations inside or outside the University community, on the behalf of the Student Government Association subject to the majority approval of the Student Senate or majority approval of the Executive Board in case the Student Senate is in recess. Recess shall be defined as the Summer Sessions and official University holidays and breaks during the academic year.
  - d. Shall represent the Student Body on the Board of Regents (KRS 164.321).

- e. Shall enforce the provisions of the Constitution, the Standing Rules of Order, mandates of the Student Senate, decisions of the Judicial Council, and referendum of the Student Body.
- f. Shall recommend Ad-Hoc committees and ex-officio members to the Senate for approval by a majority vote.
- g. Shall require written reports from Executive Board members, Student Senators as he/she deems necessary.
- h. Shall recommend students for appointment to University Standing Committees through the Vice President of Student Affairs for appointment by the University President.

### 3. Executive Vice President

- a. Shall carry out any reasonable actions as directed by the President.
- b. Shall act in place of the President in the absence of or at the request of the President.
- c. Shall recommend Senators to Senate Committees to be approved by simple majority of the Senate.
- d. Shall recommend Senate Committee Chairs to be approved by simple majority of the Senate.
- e. Along with the SGA advisor, shall coordinate the planning of Student Senate retreats, to be held prior to the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters.
- f. Along with the SGA advisor, shall coordinate the planning of the SGA Banquet, to be held at the conclusion of the spring semester.
- g. Shall serve as the student representative to Faculty Senate and Staff Congress. If unable to fulfill this duty, the President may select a representative from SGA to serve in this capacity.

### 4. Vice President of Public Relations

- a. Shall carry out any reasonable actions as directed by the President.
- b. Shall, in conjunction with the President, serve as the official spokesperson for SGA.
- c. Shall prepare and coordinate all internal and external SGA publicity.
- d. Shall issue, along with the President, all official SGA statements.
- e. Shall coordinate and assist in public relation efforts of all Senate committees.
- f. Shall oversee the maintenance of the SGA Web Site.
- g. Shall welcome and assist guests of the SGA.
- h. Shall coordinate all communication with other like institutions.
- i. Shall assist the Elections Commission in the publicity of all election notices and materials.

### 5. Vice President of Student Involvement

- a. Shall carry out any reasonable actions as directed by the President.
- b. Shall coordinate and facilitate communication with Student Organizations.

- c. Shall give reports to the Student Senate on student organization concerns.
  - d. Shall represent SGA on the Student Fee Allocation Board.
  - e. Shall chair the Legacy Committee.
  - f. Shall coordinate and facilitate student organization concerns with the Executive Board.
  - g. Shall serve as the official liaison with Student Life and meet regularly with the Assistant Director for Student Organizations.
6. Vice President of Administration
- a. Shall carry out any reasonable actions as directed by the President.
  - b. Shall provide agendas of the Student Senate meetings. Shall compile and maintain permanent records of minutes and agendas.
  - c. Shall compile and maintain record of attendance.
  - d. Shall oversee all membership and recruitment efforts.
  - e. Shall serve as a liaison to all Senate Committees.
  - f. Shall maintain the SGA Budget in collaboration with the Dean of Students.
  - g. Shall provide agendas of the Student Senate meetings. Shall compile and maintain permanent records of minutes and agendas. The Dean of Students office shall serve as the official repository of all SGA records.
  - h. Shall discuss and distribute the attendance policies for student Senators and Executive Board members and shall compile and maintain such records.
  - i. Shall consult with the Dean of Students on the academic status of all SGA members.
  - j. Shall oversee the application process for all SGA appointments.
7. Executive Board Powers and Duties
- a. Shall provide a general direction to the Student Senate.
  - b. Shall meet prior to each Senate meeting to consider matters brought before the Student Senate.
  - c. Shall post and maintain at least ten (10) office hours per week.
  - d. Shall be required to attend all Student Senate meetings, except when it interferes with the performance of their duties.
  - e. Shall be responsible for management of the SGA budget in collaboration with the Dean of Students.
8. Filling Vacancies
- a. If a vacancy shall occur in the Presidency, the Executive Vice President shall assume the office of the President. A written letter of vacancy by the outgoing President must be provided in order to declare a vacancy in the presidency. If, for some reason, a letter cannot be obtained, a majority vote of the Senate will serve to declare the vacancy.

- b. Board of Regent Vacancy.
  - i. If the President does not maintain his/her position as SGA President or status as a full-time student, a special election to select a full-time student member of the Board of Regents shall occur (KRS 164.321(8)a. This special election shall be held no later than twenty (20) official school days after said vacancy.
  - ii. The student elected shall fulfill the remainder of the past student board member's term of office, but shall not assume the duties of the President of SGA unless the elected person is the current Executive Vice President.
- c. In the event that the President and Executive Vice President resign, the Student Senate shall elect an acting President until such a time as a special election can be held for the office of President and Executive Vice President. This special election shall not be later than twenty (20) official school days after said resignations.
  - i. The individual elected to President under these circumstances shall assume and fulfill the duties of the student member to the Board of Regents.
- d. If a vacancy should occur in the Executive Board, other than the Presidency, the President shall appoint an individual to fill the vacancy with a Senate concurrence of two-thirds of the Senate. The appointed individual shall assume the said office until the next regularly scheduled Executive Board election.
- e. The Executive Board shall announce and publicize vacant positions to the Student Body and provide a period of no less than two weeks (10 school days) for candidates to file for consideration. Candidates must submit their materials to the office of the Dean of Students.
  - i. Applications shall be sent to all Senators for review and shall have the opportunity to interview applicants on the date of their recommendation.

## B. The Student Senate

- 1. Membership
  - a. There shall be thirty (30) Senate seats elected by the student body.
- 2. Senate Powers and Duties
  - a. Shall attend all meetings of the Student Senate.
  - b. Shall serve one (1) committee hour per week, as scheduled by their respective Committee Chair.
  - c. Shall serve on a Senate committee of the SGA, as recommended by the Executive Vice President and approved by a majority of the Senate.
  - d. Shall serve on a University Standing Committee at the recommendation of the President of SGA and appointment by the University President.

- e. Shall attend all Senate Retreats during their term of office.
3. Filling Vacancies
- a. Any vacancies occurring on the Senate shall be filled through appointment by the President with a concurrence of a majority of the Senate. Those individuals shall assume their respective position until the next regularly scheduled election. All appointed Senators shall fulfill the same requirements as those for a candidate of the respective office.
  - b. The Executive Board shall announce and publicize vacant positions to the Student Body and provide a period of no less than two weeks (10 school days) for candidates to file for consideration. Candidates must submit their materials to the office of the Dean of Students.
    - i. Applications shall be sent to all Senators for review and shall have the opportunity to interview applicants on the date of their recommendation.
4. Senate Committees shall be established in order for the Student Senate to effectively perform its duties:
- a. Finance Committee
    - i. Shall review the SGA budget by the third meeting of the Fall semester.
    - ii. Shall review all internal financial matters of SGA.
    - iii. Shall review the University budget and report any financial concerns that may affect the student body.
    - iv. Shall review tuition recommendations from the University Administration.
  - b. University Improvements Committee
    - i. Shall address academic concerns of the student body.
    - ii. Shall address the student perspective of campus beautification and capital projects.
    - iii. Shall address parking and space concerns.
    - iv. Shall address concerns pertaining to the quality of life on campus.
  - c. Student Rights Committee
    - i. Shall address grievances made by the student body.
    - ii. Shall review the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities and provide the Dean of Students with any concerns or issues resulting from said review.
    - iii. Shall review university policies that may affect the rights of students.
    - iv. Shall recommend and draft any amendments to the SGA Constitution or Bylaws regarding Student Rights.
  - d. Committee Chairs
    - i. The President, with consultation of the Executive Vice President, shall appoint the members and chairpersons of

these Senate committees, subject to approval by a simple majority of the Senate.

- ii. Shall direct and oversee legislation within the purview of his/her committee.
- iii. Shall only be eligible to vote in his/her committee in case of a tie.

## C. The Judicial Council

### 1. Membership

- a. Five Justices elected by the Student Body will make up the Judicial Council.
- b. The Student Government President, with the consultation of the Executive Board and with a concurrence of a majority of the Judicial Council and 2/3 of the Senate, shall appoint a chairperson from the Judicial Council membership to be designated Chief Justice.
- c. The Chief Justice shall serve as an ex-officio member of Senate. The Chief Justice shall maintain the office for a period of time not to exceed a duration of two (2) consecutive terms, so long as he or she remains a student in good standing at NKU and is duly reelected by the Student Body at the end of their first Judicial Council term.
- d. The appointment of Chief Justice shall normally occur within two weeks (10 school days) following the elections or within a reasonable timeframe following the term limit, resignation, or impeachment of the current Chief Justice, whichever occurs first. The Chief Justice shall preside over the meetings of the Judicial Council and he or she shall coordinate affairs with the Dean of Students.
- e. The Judicial Council shall select a temporary Chief Justice until a replacement is appointed and ratified by the Senate.

### 2. Judicial Council Powers and Duties

- a. Shall attend all meetings of the Judicial Council, which shall be set by the Chief Justice. Meetings of the Judicial Council shall be open to all interested parties.
- b. All Justices shall attend the first Student Senate meeting of each month. The Chief Justice shall attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Student Senate.
- c. Shall review and approve election rules and guidelines as recommended by the Election Commission and confirm dates for all elections. These rules and publicity plans shall be submitted to the Dean of Students for his or her review at least three (3) weeks (15 school days) before the election.
- d. When any question of the Constitution shall arise and upon the request of a majority of the Senate or the SGA President, the Judicial

Council shall qualify the meaning of the Constitution to the SGA within ten (10) official school days.

- i. Failure by the Judicial Council to act on the request of the Senate or the SGA President will result in an automatic appeal to the Dean of Students for interpretation.
- e. If the SGA is aggrieved by the Judicial Council interpretation, it may appeal within ten (10) official school days to the Dean of Students for a final determination of the matter.
- f. Shall have the power of judicial review over the constitutionality of any rule or action taken by the Student Government Association, or interpretation of the SGA Constitution or Bylaws. If a student concludes that an action of the Student Government Association is unconstitutional, he/she may appeal in writing, by means of the Dean of Students to the Judicial Council, which shall review the appeal and decide the same. The Judicial Council must conduct a hearing and render a decision on such an appeal within ten (10) official school days after the appeal is submitted unless an extension is necessary or reasonable due to the circumstances of the case. If the Judicial Council decides that the said action is unconstitutional the SGA must revoke the action and nullify any actions or legislation taken pursuant to the revoked action unless a timely appeal is filed with the Dean of Students.
  - i. Failure by the Judicial Council to act on an appeal will result in an automatic appeal to the Dean of Students for final determination of the matter.
- g. If either party is aggrieved by the decision of the Judicial Council, that party may further appeal to the Dean of Students within ten (10) official school days of the Judicial Council's decision for final determination of the matter.

### 3. Filling Vacancies

- a. Any vacancies occurring on the Judicial Council shall be filled through appointment by the President with a concurrence of a majority of the Senate. Those individuals shall assume their respective position until the next regularly scheduled election. All appointed members of Judicial Council must meet the same requirements as those for a candidate of the respective office.
- b. The Executive Board shall announce and publicize vacant positions to the Student Body and provide a period of no less than two weeks (10 school days) for candidates to file for consideration. Candidates must submit their materials to the office of the Dean of Students.

## Section 2. Terms of Office

- A. All elected officials shall assume office at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the semester in which they are elected. A term of office shall be two (2) semesters (Fall & Spring).
- B. No student shall serve more than two (2) appointed terms in SGA.
- C. The position of Student Regent shall be assumed following the oath of office for said position at a Board of Regents meeting.

**Section 3. Advisors**

- A. The Student Government Association shall be advised under the Division of Student Affairs. The Dean of Students shall serve as the official advisor for the organization. The Dean of Students office shall act as the official account manager for the Student Government Association budget.
- B. Duties and Responsibilities
  - 1. Along with the Vice President of Student Affairs, shall serve as the liaison between SGA and the NKU administration.
  - 2. Shall provide counsel to SGA toward its goals and in meeting its objectives.
  - 3. Shall attend SGA meetings unless it interferes with his/her other duties as a University administrator.
  - 4. Shall serve as a resource to SGA regarding university policies and regulations and parliamentary procedures.
  - 5. Shall oversee the efforts of the Vice President of Administration regarding financial matters. Review and approve all SGA expenditures.
  - 6. Shall coordinate elections in conjunction with the Judicial Council and the Election Commission.
  - 7. Shall ensure that University Regulations, institutional policies, federal, state laws, and the SGA Constitution and Bylaws are upheld and adhered to by the Student Government Association and shall take any reasonable or prudent steps necessary to ensure compliance and protect SGA, students and the institution.
  - 8. Shall review and approve all contracts and external agreements to be entered into by SGA.

9. Shall ensure that all members of SGA adhere to the minimum qualifications of their positions and shall remove those who fail to maintain said qualifications.

## **ARTICLE V ELECTIONS**

### **Section 1: Qualifications**

A. The qualifications for the SGA Executive Board shall be as follows:

1. Must be a full-time student at Northern Kentucky University as defined by the University.
2. Must stand for election before the entire student body.
3. Must be in good standing as defined by the University.
4. Must not have been convicted of a felony in any state.
5. Must have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale at the time of election. Executive Board members must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 or forfeit their office. The Dean of Students or his/her designee shall verify grades.
6. Must run for election with the declared intention of completing a one (1) year term
7. Must have completed thirty (30) credit hours by the beginning of the Fall semester following their election.
8. Candidates for President and Executive Vice President must comply with Commonwealth of Kentucky Statutes, relating to the Board of Regents membership (KRS 164.321).
9. Candidates for President and Executive Vice President may run on a slate.
10. No person shall declare to be a candidate for more than one (1) elected office during any SGA election.

B. The qualifications for the SGA Senate and Judicial Council shall be as follows:

1. Must be a student in good standing as defined by the University.
2. Must have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale at the time of election. Elected Senators or Judicial Council Justices must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.0 on a 4.0, or forfeit their office.
3. Must not have been convicted of a felony in any state.
4. Must run for election with the declared intention of completing a one (1) year term.
5. Must have completed twelve (12) credit hours by the end of the semester in which they are elected or prior to any appointment.
6. No person shall declare to be a candidate for more than one (1) elected office during any SGA election.

## **Section 2: Election Schedule**

### A. Elections of positions

1. Each Executive Board officer shall be elected in the spring election.
2. Fifteen (15) Senators shall be elected in the fall.
3. Fifteen (15) Senators shall be elected in the spring.
4. Two (2) Judicial Council members shall be elected in the fall.
5. Three (3) Justices shall be elected in the spring.

### B. Election dates

1. Fall election dates shall be the Wednesday and Thursday after the second Monday of November.
2. Spring election dates shall be the Wednesday and Thursday after the second Monday of April.
3. Online elections shall coincide with posted online availability hours of Norse Express.

## **Section 3: Election Commission & Election Rules and Guidelines**

### A. Election Commission

1. By the second full week of each semester, the Chief Justice shall recommend no more than eleven (11) and no less than five (5) individuals to serve on the Election Commission, from the student body, to be reviewed by the Dean of Students and ratified by a majority vote of the Judicial Council. If the Judicial Council fails to create an election commission, the SGA President shall recommend individuals for Dean of Students review and Senate consideration and approval by a majority vote of those present and voting. All provisions for commission membership shall be followed.
2. The Judicial Council and the Dean of Students shall ensure that the Commission represents a broad and diverse range of student constituencies.
3. No current Executive officer, Senator or Justice of the Student Government Association may serve on the Election Commission. No one running for election or having a significant relationship to a candidate (i.e. family, significant other, etc.) may serve on the Commission. Commission members who file for office at a later date or are determined to have a significant relationship to a candidate will be removed from the Commission by the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council shall appoint new members to the Commission if vacancies occur.
4. The Election Commission shall be responsible for the following:
  - a. Drafting election rules and guidelines
  - b. Preparing election packets
  - c. Resolving questions or concerns regarding elections
  - d. Enforcing election rules

- e. Creating election ballots
  - f. Staffing polling areas
5. The Elections Commission will serve as the initial interpreter of all disputes involving Election Rules and Guidelines.
  6. The Elections Commission may take action by a majority vote of those present and voting.
  7. The Chief Justice and the Dean of Students shall certify the election and publish all election results.
  8. Any decision of the Elections Commission may be appealed to the Judicial Council.
  9. No member of Judicial Council may vote in a matter concerning his or her own candidacy for office.
  10. A Commissioner shall be chosen by a majority vote of Commission members. The Chair shall schedule and chair Election Commission meetings and meet regularly with the Dean of Students on all matters relating to SGA elections.

#### B. Election Rules & Guidelines

1. Must be made available to the Judicial Council from the Elections Commission by February 1.
2. Must receive Judicial Council approval by March 1. If the packet is not approved by this date, the most recently enacted election guidelines shall remain in force. The Election Commission may seek Dean of Student's approval if the Judicial Council fails to act within the timeframe allowed, or appeal the Judicial Council's decision to the Dean of Students if it (Judicial Council) fails to approve the Election Rules & Guidelines.
3. The Election Commission will provide final Election Rules and Guideline recommendations to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students reserves the right to alter election rules and guidelines for good cause.
4. Spring Election Packets are valid for one year and will automatically be used for one election cycle, except in the circumstances outlined in part 3 (above).
5. Election Packet Rules and Guidelines must be made available to the Student Body no less than twenty-eight (28) days in advance of the election.
6. Election packets are due ten (10) days prior to the beginning of the elections.

#### C. Standing Election Guidelines

1. Use of University list serves and phone rosters is strictly prohibited.
2. Electronic Mail - Candidates may present their platform for election through e-mail to be approved and administered by the Dean of Students. This e-mail shall be limited to 200 words. The Elections Commission shall determine all deadlines for e-mail submission.
3. No type of campaign material can be libelous in nature.
4. Any dispute involving Election Rules and Guidelines must be submitted in writing to the Dean of Student's office.
5. All materials and posting of materials must follow established University policies.

#### D. Election Regulation and Grievance Procedures

1. The Judicial Council shall have jurisdiction in cases involving alleged infractions of the election regulations under the Constitution.
2. If an election is challenged by any student or member of the Board of Regents in writing within five (5) official school days following the election, the Judicial Council shall conduct a hearing on the challenge within five (5) official school days of the complaint.
3. The Judicial Council may declare a candidate disqualified or an election void if there is evidence of violations of standing election guidelines, fraud, corrupt practice in the voting, the miscounting of votes, significant campaign violations, or ineligibility regarding a candidate's qualifications.
4. If a party is aggrieved by a decision of the Judicial Council, that party may further appeal to the Dean of Students within ten (10) official school days of the Judicial Council's decision for final determination of the matter.

## ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

**Section 1:** Regular meetings shall be held at least once per week during the Fall and Spring semesters to carry out the business of the Senate. A special meeting may be called by the President or upon petition by a majority of the Senate body. Sufficient notice shall be given to the student population no less than seventy-two (72) hours or three (3) days prior to the meeting.

- A. All meetings shall be open to the academic community. Any person recognized by the Chair may participate in the discussion and raise any questions. A majority vote of those present and voting in the Senate also allows participation for specific individuals who wish to speak. Legislation presented for the Senate's consideration must be introduced, seconded, and voted upon by members of the Senate.
- B. The Senate may meet as a committee of the whole in closed sessions, but may take no action. The official advisor shall be in attendance.
- C. A Quorum of the Senate is such a number as must be present in order that business can be legally transacted. The quorum refers to the number present, not to the number voting. A majority of the Senate plus the Chair shall constitute a quorum with the authority to conduct any and all business unless specified differently within the Constitution.
  1. The term "Senate body" or "Senate membership" shall refer to the entire membership of the Senate, not just those present and voting (e.g. Article VI, Section 1.)
  2. The term "of the Senate" or any other language shall refer to only those present and voting at any official Senate meeting.

## ARTICLE VII IMPEACHMENT and REMOVAL PROCESS

### Section 1: Impeachment

#### A. Grounds for Impeachment

1. Any member of the SGA that has repeatedly neglected his or her duties or who has committed any act that has brought discredit to the SGA, is subject to impeachment. Neglected duties subject to impeachment include, but are not limited to, not fulfilling office hours, acquiring three (3) or more unexcused absences in a semester, and not attending retreats or other mandatory events.
  - a. Approved absences shall be determined by the SGA advisor.

#### B. Impeachment Process

1. A petition for impeachment proposed at a regularly scheduled meeting, seconded, debated and signed by two-thirds of the Senate, shall constitute an impeachment. This petition must contain grounds for impeachment.
2. Any SGA member impeached shall stand for possible removal by the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council will consider the impeachment charges and consider removal of the official through a hearing with the person(s) involved.

#### C. Removal Hearings

1. All removal proceedings of Executive officers or Senators will be handled through the Judicial Council. The Chief Justice will serve as a moderator for these proceedings.
2. The President shall have the authority to establish an Impeachment Committee of five (5) members of the Senate to be approved by majority of the Senate to hear the removal proceedings of a member of the Judicial Council. The Impeachment Committee shall select a Committee Chair from those appointed.
3. An author of the formal impeachment petition shall present evidence before the Judicial Council during the removal hearing. Failure to attend the hearing and present evidence shall result in a decision in favor of the impeached.
4. The individual impeached shall represent him or herself or select another student to act in their behalf before the Judicial Council. Attendance is not required.
5. The Dean of Students must be present at all removal hearings but has no vote.
6. A majority vote of the Judicial Council or an Impeachment Committee shall constitute a decision.
7. A Justice or committee member will be disqualified and removed by the Judicial Council or the Impeachment Committee when sufficient proof of conflict of interest is established in the preliminary motions. A Justice or committee member may, with cause, remove himself or herself from a case.

8. The Judicial Council or Impeachment Committee shall establish its own procedures in accordance with the provisions of the constitution; any decision made by the court shall be based on substantial evidence. Substantial evidence is defined as “such evidence that a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion” (*Black’s Law Dictionary*, 1990, p.1428).
9. Both parties may appeal the decision of the Judicial Council or Impeachment Committee to the Dean of Students within ten (10) official school days of the Judicial Council's decision for final determination of the matter.

## **ARTICLE VIII STUDENT INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL**

**Section 1:** The Student Body reserves the power to propose any act, measure or motion; or propose and enact amendments to the SGA Constitution and by-laws by referendum independent of SGA. In addition, the Student Body has the authority to adopt or reject any measure, act or motion passed by SGA, and to recall any member of the Senate, Executive Board or Judicial Council.

- A. A petition for enactment of some bill or provision, or a repeal of current SGA legislation, or recall of a member of SGA, must adhere to the following provisions:
  1. The petition is signed by no less than five percent (5%) of the current student body.
  2. Must be filed with the Dean of Students and the Judicial Council
- B. The Judicial Council shall declare a referendum or recall to be held no sooner than fifteen (15) official school days and no later than thirty (30) official school days for the purpose of voting on the measure. There must be sufficient notice provided to the Student Body before a vote can occur. Notice shall be given and provided at a minimum in the Northerner, by billboard or flyer throughout the campus, in the N3 Newsletter, and on the SGA website. The Dean of Students shall take whatever action is necessary to ensure adequate notice
- C. For a referendum to pass, it must receive a majority vote in an election and is subject to approval by the Vice President of Student Affairs, the President of the University, and the Board of Regents (KRS 164.350).

## **ARTICLE IX RULES OF ORDER**

**Section 1:** A majority vote is defined as a majority of those present and voting. Neither an abstention nor a proxy vote shall count as a vote. In the absence of any other special rules of order, which the Student Senate may adopt, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (latest edition) shall govern the conduct of the meetings. The Constitution shall take precedence over Robert’s Rules of Order in any conflicting issue.

**Section 2:** All legislation must adhere to the following prescribed procedures:

- A. Shall be distributed in writing to each Senator at least 24 hours prior to the first reading at a regularly scheduled Senate meeting.
- B. Shall be formally introduced to the body by a first reading before the Senate.
- C. Shall stand for a vote following a second reading before the Senate. This meeting shall occur no sooner than five (5) official school days following the first reading.
- D. No proposed legislation is in order that conflicts with the laws of the nation or state, University regulations or policies, or with SGA's constitution or by-laws, and if such proposed legislation is adopted, even by a unanimous vote, it is null and void.

## **ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

**Section 1:** Constitutional amendment proposals and ratification.

- A. Proposals will be accepted for consideration and possible ratification from:
  - 1. The Student Senate following a 2/3 vote, or
  - 2. A student petition signed by three percent of eligible student voters, or
  - 3. The Board of Regents.
- B. Ratification to the Constitution must adhere to the following provisions:
  - 1. Must receive a majority vote in a Student Body election and
  - 2. Must be reviewed and ratified by the Vice President of Student Affairs. If ratified, the Vice President shall submit the Constitution to the President of the University with his/her recommendations, and
  - 3. Must be reviewed and ratified by the President of the University. If ratified, the President shall submit the Constitution to the Chair of the Board with his/her recommendations, and
  - 4. Must be approved by the Board of Regents (KRS 164.350).

## **ARTICLE XI BYLAWS**

**Section 1:** In order to further the goals of Student Government, Bylaws to this Constitution may be established by the Senate following a two-thirds vote.

A. Must follow the legislative process as described in Article IX.

**Section 2:** In no way may any Bylaw contradict this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE XII LIMITATIONS**

**Section 1:** Nothing in this constitution shall be construed in such a manner as to be in conflict with law (federal or state), University Policy, or the Bylaws and Regulations of the Board of Regents of NKU.

**Section 2:** The Board of Regents retains final authority over all actions of the SGA and that the Board has delegated such authority to the President of the institution and other designated officials as appointed by the President. In addition:

A. The Northern Kentucky University Board of Regents may amend or repeal any portion of this Constitution or action of SGA when, in the judgment of the Board, the interests of the University may require it, and:

**Section 5:** This Constitution supersedes all previous Constitutions. All bylaws hereto now in effect and not in conflict with any provision of this Constitution are hereby declared to be binding and valid.