

Constitution

of Student Shared Governance at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls

an implementation of Wisconsin statute 36.09(5)



Prepared by: The University of Wisconsin-River Falls 76th Session Student Senate
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We, the students of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, aim through Student Shared Governance, to secure those conditions most conducive to intellectual development, fellowship and concern with the human condition for the students of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. We also recognize the vital role students perform as members of the higher education community, and in so shall make demands upon the institution to achieve the conditions that are most conducive to students' wellbeing. We believe further that the most effective way to achieve the necessary goals of students is through vocalization of these needs through Student Shared Governance.

Article I. Student Association

Section 1.01 Membership

(a) All students currently enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls shall be members of the Student Association. Members of the Association are entitled to the rights, privileges, and protection of the Student Association. Membership shall be open to all UW-River Falls students, without regard to race, religion, gender, national origin, disability, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, military status, marital status, or parental status.

Section 1.02 Student Government Association Legislative Branch

(a) The Student Senate shall serve as the representative and legislative governing body of the Student Government Association for the Student Association.

Section 1.03 Student Government Association Executive Branch

(a) The President, Vice President and presidentially appointed members serving on behalf of the Student Body President and Vice President shall serve as the executive governing body of the Student Government Association for the Student Association.

Section 1.04 Parliamentary Authority

(a) The Parliamentary Authority of the Student Association shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Section 1.05 Segregated University Fees

(a) Shall be handled in accordance with F50 and all other relevant laws.

Section 1.06 Wisconsin Open Meetings Law

(a) All meetings in the Student Association and Student Senate shall be conducted in accordance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

Article II. Student Shared Governance at UWRF

Section 2.01 Qualifications

(a) Participation shall be limited to students currently enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and maintain a cumulative GPA of [2.5](#)

Section 2.02 Participation

(a) The student role in shared governance shall fall into four basic categories:

(i) Student Government Association

- 1) This agency is elected by the student body and is comprised of a legislative and executive branch. It serves as the major recommending body relative to overall campus matters. It reviews and deals with the complete spectrum of student-life related concerns. The Student Government Association has major contact with University administration and the Faculty Senate, with recommendations directed to the Chancellor on most matters. The Student Government Association Student Senate serves as UW-River Falls' Segregated University Fees Allocation Committee (SUFAC). All members of the Student Government Association shall abide by the Student Government Association Code of Conduct.

(ii) Administrative Committees

- 1) Non-policy making committees whose sole purpose is to advise the administrative departments with which they are associated.
Students shall have an active role in Administrative Committees.
- 2) Appointment of students to Administrative Committees shall be made by Student Senate.

(iii) Faculty Senate and University Committees

- 1) Faculty Senate committees and University committees consider policies, problems, and programs and to recommend action by the Faculty Senate, the University faculty, or the Chancellor. Students shall have an active role in Faculty Senate and University committees.
- 2) Appointment of students to Faculty Senate and University committees shall be made by Student Senate.

(iv) Ad-hoc Committees

- 1) Short term committees developed by the Student Senate, Faculty Senate, Administration, or any academic department that shall include student participation. These shall include search and screen committees and other temporary committees.

Article III. Student Government Association

Section 3.01 Student Senate

(a) Purpose

- (i) To serve as the primary representative legislative body of all current and future students at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.
- (ii) To, in consultation with the appropriate boards, establish and allocate allocable fees, and review and recommend non-allocable fees.
- (iii) To actively promote student rights, views, and concerns to appropriate bodies at the campus, regional, state, and federal levels.
- (iv) To recognize the student as a vital partner of the educational process, and to secure those conditions most conducive to intellectual and inclusive community development.
- (v) To coordinate with various campus shared governance bodies.
- (vi) To serve as the review body for all new and changes to current major policies.
- (vii) To review segregated fees. Fee review statements and discussion shall be sent to the Chancellor.
- (viii) To approve all changes to the student organization, conduct policy.
- (ix) To officially recognize all Student Organizations and to establish appropriate requirements for recognition as a Student Organization.
- (x) Shall, by virtue of the Oversight and Rules committee adjudicate all disputes that arise in the Student Association.
- (xi) Shall, by virtue of the Oversight and Rules committee be solely responsible for oversight of the Student Government Association.

(b) Structure

- (i) Membership shall be at least 20 voting members and shall include the President and Vice-President. The election/selection process shall be outlined in the Student Senate By-laws
- (ii) The term in office shall be:
 - 1) If elected in the Spring Election, the term will commence upon the end of the academic year and run until the end of the following academic year.
 - 2) If elected in fall or appointed, the term will be until the end of the current year.

(c) Subunit Structure

- (i) The Student Senate shall have standing committees to achieve its purpose.
- (ii) The Student Senate shall have a Student Senate Finance Committee

(d) Meeting Schedule

- (i) This student agency is required to meet at least weekly in a designated place at regular hour with the exception of Final Exam Week, when school is in session, unless the Senate, by a 3/4 majority vote, cancels the meeting or unless the University is closed due to severe weather or other emergency conditions. Non-emergency cancelations must be approved at least two weeks prior to the meeting being canceled.

Section 3.02 Student Government

Association Executive Branch

(i) Purpose

1. The Student Government Association Executive Branch shall be led by the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President and shall consist of presidentially appointed members as outlined in the Student Government Association Bi-Laws.
2. To serve as the final review body for all new and changes to current major policy.
3. To manage the day to day operations of the Student Government Association.
4. To assign Senators and At-Large students to Student Senate, Faculty Senate and administrative committees.
5. To manage and approve all changes to the student organization conduct policies
6. To review and recommend changes to segregated fees upon the completion of the review of segregated university fees by the Student Senate.
7. To assign all segregated fees and user fees to a Student Senate Review Board.
8. To manage all changes to the student organization, conduct policies.
9. To provide direction and leadership to the Student Association, and to provide direction to the Student Senate regarding segregated fees, user fees, and policies.
10. Shall have the authority to veto changes to student shared governance bi-laws and allocable fee increases. This veto may be overturned by a 2/3rds majority vote of the Student Senate.
11. To review and approve all changes to the allocable segregated fees.
12. Shall have full authority over the Student Government Association operating budget.
13. Student Body President or executive designee shall serve as a full voting member of the Budget Review and Recommendation Committee.

(ii) Structure

- 1) Membership shall include the President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Executive Directors and Chairs of Student Senate standing committees, the Chair or designee of the Residence Hall Association, and Chairs of Student Senate Review Boards. Further additions to the executive branch can be made at the discretion of the President.
- 2) Shall be chaired by the Student Body President.

(iii) Meeting Schedule

- 1) This committee is required to meet at least bi-weekly when classes are in session.

(iv) Fee Review Process Requirements

- 1) The process for the review of non-allocable segregated fees and user fees shall be outlined in the "University of Wisconsin-River Falls Procedures for Review of Non-Allocable Fees and User Fees" document that shall be reviewed by the Student Body President and Student Senate prior to implementation. The Residence Hall Association shall be tasked with the initial review of the Residence Life user fee. This document shall be reviewed and approved annually by the Student Senate President and the Chancellor.

Section 3.03 Student Senate Committees and Boards

a) Student Senate Finance Committee

(i) Purpose

- 1) . The Student Senate Finance Committee is a sub-unit of the Student Senate and is tasked to manage and allocate allocable segregated fees as well as oversee and review non-allocable segregated fees in accordance to UW System administrative policy 820.
- 2) To maximize the student programing utilizing funds collected by the Organized Activities fee.
- 3) To initiate and maintain appropriate policies and represent student groups to promote the establishment and continued maintenance of student interests, organizations and initiatives.
- 4) To provide student input in determining appropriate funding and fee levels for the committee's respective fee(s) of concern. Fee recommendations shall be sent to the Student Senate.
- 5) To review and advise differential tuition and usage of funds from differential tuition
- 6) To provide facilities usage and policies for departments utilizing non-allocable segregated fees.

- 7) To initiate recommendations concerning appropriate facility development, renovation and construction for departments utilizing the board's respective fees of concern.
- 8) To have full oversight of all non-allocable, user and parking fees.
- 9) All changes to the Student Senate Finance Committee or its sub-committees governing documents and department policies shall be sent to Student Senate for approval.

(ii) Structure

One Chair, Student Senators, and Students at-large.

(iii) Meeting Schedule

- 1) The Student Senate Finance Committee is required to meet at least twice monthly throughout the academic year.

(iv) Student Senate Finance Sub-committees

A. Student Athlete Advisory Committee

a. Structure and member selection

- i. Membership shall include at least 14 student's representations from each varsity sport and students at large. Selection of varsity sport membership shall be outlined in the Student Athlete Advisory Committee By-Laws. Selection of at large membership shall be made by student senate

B. Dining Services Oversight Committee

a. Purpose

- i. The purpose of the Dining Service Oversight Committee shall be to provide student feedback on dining services at UW-River Falls
- ii. The Dining Services Oversight Committee will have sole jurisdiction over all areas relating to dining services at UW-River Falls.

b. Structure and member selection

- i. Membership shall include representation from each hall council, two student senators and one at-large student representative.

b) Oversight and Rules Committee

Purpose

- (a) The committee shall oversee all elections involving recognized student organizations and the Student Government Association.
- (b) The committee shall have jurisdiction over all cases and controversies arising under the Constitution, Bylaws, rules, or laws of the Student Association.
- (c) The committee shall have jurisdiction over the discipline of Registered Student Organizations.
- (d) The committee shall have no authority over disciplinary action of individual student's other than removing students from their elected or appointed positions.

Section 1 Membership

- (a) The committee shall consist of six students and the Senior Student Affairs Officer or their designee.

Section 2 Selection

- (a) Shall be members of the Student Association and shall be appointed by the Student Senate Vice President.

Section 3 Meeting Schedule

- (a) This committee is required to meet at least monthly throughout the academic year.

Article IV. Process of Policy Formation and Review

Section 5.01 Definition of Policy

- (a) Policy shall be defined as a “definite guideline that shall be utilized to prescribe a determined course of action (decision) under certain and specified conditions.”
- (b) It shall include at least one of these guidelines that pertain to 1) general student life/conduct, 2) overall facility utilization, and/or 3) overall educational/programmatic concerns.

Section 5.02 Limitations of Agencies:

- (a) The agency will be allowed to recommend action on “minor” policy concerns directly to the Area Director for decisions and implementation. The Area Director will accordingly seek channel approval from the next appropriate level (if determined necessary by the Area Director and his/her supervisor).
- (b) The agency should forward all “major” policy recommendations through the prescribed channels as delineated in “Student Participation at UW-River Falls,” and in the detail as requested by Policy Formulation Documents.

Section 5.03 Definitions Of “Major” Policy:

- (a) “Major” policy shall be defined as a “policy that results in a major, substantial impact on the community of students being served by the particular student agency.” The “labeling” of major or minor shall be determined by the Senior Student Affairs Officer, in consultation with the area director, channel authority, Student Senate and the appropriate student committee. The decision of the Senior Student Affairs Officer may be appealed to the Chancellor. Section 5.04 Policy Review

(a) Step #1

- (i) The appropriate Student Senate Review Board reviews, considers, and evaluates the specific agency major policy matter (whether it is a new major policy or possible revision of an existing policy). The appropriate Student Senate Review Board then formulates its specific recommendation or proposal by a step process and approval procedure as delineated below.
- (ii) As a matter of procedural policy, no decision will be made by the agency/committee without first initiating at least a seven (7) day review/waiting period. In this manner, the appropriate subunits of the agency/committee will be able to effectively consider the proposed policy matter prior to a final decision by the agency/committee. As a result, first-hand involvement and informed input can be reasonably assured in the initial formulation of policy.

(b) Step #2

- (i) The agency’s/committee’s recommendation will be forwarded to Student Senate. Student Senate is given ten (10) days to respond to the recommendation of the agency, and may elect to perform one of the following two courses of action. (Note: If Student Senate does not reply either positively or negatively, the recommendation will be sent though the appropriate channel automatically.):
- (ii) Student Senate reviews and supports the recommendation of the agency/committee. The recommendation then proceeds to Step #3 (review and approval by the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs level).
- (iii) Student Senate reviews the recommendation and does not favor the recommendation in part and/or in total. If such is the case, the following alternatives exist:
- (iv) Direct input to the Senior Student Affairs Officer and - Student Senate, by a majority vote, does not favor the recommendation and therefore may submit its views directly to the Senior Student Affairs Officer with appropriate information (rationale, decisions, etc.) included in the “Policy Formulation Document”. (Copies of any correspondence from the Student Senate substantiating their position shall also be forwarded to the initiating agency/committee).
- (v) Compromise Method - Student Senate by majority vote does not favor the recommendation either in part or in its entirety. The Senate will request the agency to reconsider its recommendation based on the rationale and position presented by Student Senate. After reconsidering its position at its next regularly scheduled meeting, the agency may then 1) accept Student Senate’s position, and forward its amended recommendation through the channels, beginning again with the Student Senate, or 2) reject part and/or all of Student Senate’s position and forward its original recommendation through the channels, beginning again with Student Senate.
- (vi) As is the case with the Faculty Senate, Student Senate has, as an alternative, the option to use the hearing/forum method to analyze positions/recommendations, etc., which they feel, require further study and/or action. The results of the hearing/forum may be shared with appropriate persons and/or parties.

(c) Step #3

- (i) The Senior Student Affairs Officer receives and reviews policy recommendations from the Student Senate (possibly amended as a result of Step #2).
- (ii) The Senior Student Affairs Officer may solicit recommendations, comments, observations, etc., from the appropriate Area Director(s).
- (iii) The Senior Student Affairs Officer has 15 days after receipt of Student Senate recommendation to forward this policy recommendation to the Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance or the Vice Chancellor/Provost (depending on initiating agency) with appropriate personal comments, observations, recommendations, etc., attached.

(d) Step #4

- (i) The Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance or the Vice Chancellor/Provost follows the same procedure as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, but after a maximum of 15 days from receipt of recommendation forwards the policy to the Chancellor.

(e) Step #5

- (i) The Chancellor reviews and considers the policy recommendation of the originating agency/committee as well as other input from the Student Senate, Area Directors, and Administrators.
- (ii) The Chancellor then formulates a decision on the policy recommendation after a maximum of 15 days from receipt of recommendation. If approved in its entirety, the Chancellor informs the originating agency, the Student Senate, the Dean and/or Budget Officer, and the appropriate area director.
- (iii) If the Chancellor vetoes a portion of the policy recommendation, or the entire recommendation, the basis for changing or denying such recommendation, shall be substantial and shall be communicated to the recommending student agency, with copies sent to the Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance, Vice Chancellor/Provost, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Area Director(s), the Student Senate and any other appropriate agency or staff person.

Article V. Amendments

Section 6.01 Changes to this document shall be the responsibility of the Student Senate and Student Senate subunits. Amendments require a seven-day introduction before being voted on by the Student Senate. Amendments by a Student Senate subunit to that subunits respective section shall require a majority vote by the Student Senate. Amendments by subunits that have a parent subunit must be voted on and passed by all parent subunits before amendments are forwarded to the Student Senate. Amendments by the Student Senate without review of respective subunits shall require a 2/3 majority vote by the Student Senate. All amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Chancellor and a majority vote of the Student Association.