Constitution of the Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs

# Article One

## Section One

1. WCSA will formulate basic policies on all matters related to student life within the residential living units and student activity areas, such as student clubs, organizations, programs, and their related governing bodies. WCSA will be attentive to the general safety and security of the student body and University property in all of its actions. Such legislation will be subject to and consistent with the policies established by the Board of Trustees, the Charter of the University, the University’s Code of Regulations, and the laws of the United States of America and the State of Ohio. These provisions shall guide WCSA in the creation and maintenance of its internal governance, but no purely internal act, including but not limited to the amendment or adoption of Bylaws, rules, or this Constitution, shall be considered a policy under the meaning of this Article and Article Four, acts seeking to substantively altering the qualifications for office, the nature of WCSA, or the review process excluded.
	1. Such policies will be set forth in written notices that will be mailed to the Executive Committee of the Faculty, the President of the University, and other persons and organizations in order to publicize fully these policies to the campus. These policies will take effect in no less than thirty (30) days from the date of mailing of such notices, as provided herein, unless challenged by a recommendation for review as hereinafter provided for, but in no event before the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.
	2. WCSA will conduct studies; disseminate reports and opinions; and pass regulations, recommendations, and requests on any issues that lie before the University community. WCSA will also be responsible for the maintenance of student activities and the allocation of student activities fees. WCSA will at all opportunities try to promote scholarship, responsibility, and awareness.
	3. WCSA will appoint students to serve as members of the Judicial Board and representatives on student committees, appropriate faculty committees, and University commissions.
		1. Persons appointed to be representatives on student-faculty committees serve as advocates of WCSA and its policies.
2. Any member of the Ohio Wesleyan community may address the policies outlined in paragraph one by (1) submitting suggestions in writing to the Student Body President or (2) making a presentation at a regular WCSA meeting. WCSA will, however, have primary jurisdiction over the policy areas presented in paragraph one.

## Section Two

The Executive Committee of WCSA shall, through the President, present an annual report to the President of the University, Faculty, Student Body, and the Board of Trustees.

# Article Two – Membership and Voting

## Section One

The membership of WCSA shall consist of thirty-two students, three faculty, two administrators, and any appointed Ex Officio Members. Voting members of WCSA shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Class Representatives, Senior Class President, Residential Representatives, and At-Large Representatives. The President shall be the Presiding Officer of WCSA but shall have no vote unless they be evenly divided.

1. Student Representatives, other than the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and At-Large Representatives, shall be elected by either the Class Representative system or the Residential Representative system.
2. The President and the Vice President shall run on the same ticket and be elected by a majority vote of the students balloting. The Secretary and Treasurer shall also be elected by majority vote of the students balloting.
3. No student shall be eligible to run for Secretary, Treasurer, or on the President and Vice President ticket unless he has first presented to the appropriate WCSA authority a candidacy petition bearing the signatures of ten percent of the student body. No student shall be eligible to run for Senior Class President except a junior who has first presented to the appropriate WCSA authority a candidacy petition bearing the signatures of ten percent of the junior class. In respect to each of these offices, the candidate having the greatest number of votes shall be elected, if such number be a majority of the whole number of votes cast in that election. If, in any such election, no candidate has such a majority, the office shall be filled by means of subsequent election between the two candidates receiving the most and the second-most votes in the initial election. The electors for the run-off election shall be the same as those for the initial election.
4. Notwithstanding the stipulations of this Constitution, elections for all voting members shall be conducted in accordance with procedures and guidelines established by WCSA.
5. Faculty Representatives shall be elected by the faculty through its usual procedure for filling committee assignments.
6. The Administrative Representatives shall be appointed by the President of the University.
7. The regulations set forth by the Constitution and Bylaws shall apply to the entire membership of WCSA.

# Article Three – The Nature of the Student Representatives

## Section One – Numbers

The student body shall consist of fourteen Residential Representatives, two Fraternity Representatives, two SLU Representatives, one Off-Campus Representative, six Class Representatives, the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and a number of At-Large members necessary to create an active body of 32 members.

## Section Two – The Nature of Residential, Fraternity, SLU, and Off-Campus Representatives

1. Fourteen Residential Representatives, two Fraternity Representatives, two SLU Representatives, and one Off-Campus Representative shall be elected by popular vote of the student body. These representatives shall hold their positions for one calendar year.
2. Residential representatives shall be responsible for representing the general student populous residing in residence halls. Fraternity Representatives will be responsible for representing the students who reside in Fraternity houses. SLU Representatives will be responsible for representing students residing in SLUs. Off-Campus Representatives will be responsible for representing students residing Off-Campus. Their duties include convening periodic meetings with their constituencies and bringing their concerns to the attention of WCSA.
3. A student will only be eligible to be elected to the positionof Residential Representative if he/she resides in a residence hall. The constituencies of the Residential Representatives shall only consist of students who reside in residence halls. SLU representatives, Fraternity Representatives, and Off-Campus representatives will only be able to be elected if they reside in their respective titular domain.
4. The elections for Residential, Fraternity, and SLU Representatives will occur during the second week of the Spring Semester. The elections for Off-Campus Representatives will occur near the end of the Spring Semester.

## Section Three – The Nature of Class Representatives

1. The Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Classes shall each be represented by two Class Representatives.
2. Any freshman, sophomore and junior is eligible to run for the position of Class Representative for their respective class. No junior shall represent his class as both a Class Representative and a Class President.
3. The electors for a given class’s Class Representatives shall consist only of the students from the class which the respective Representative is derived. No person will be allowed to cast a vote in more than one Class Representative election.

## Section Four – The Nature of At-Large Representatives

1. The Executive Committee shall appoint, with the consent of WCSA, At-Large Representatives for the purpose of ensuring appropriate constituent balance on WCSA.
2. The goals and objectives of the Ohio Wesleyan University Affirmative Action Policy, or its successor, shall be a guiding principle in determining At-Large Representation.

## Section Five – Recalls, Vacancies, and Other Provisions

1. Any member of the Ohio Wesleyan University student body may present a petition to recall any member of WCSA. Such a petition must bear the signatures of at least one third of the voting members of WCSA.
2. Petitions may only be presented on charges that the member has violated the Constitution, any subsequent governing documents, or the Student Code of Conduct. Such charges must be stipulated in the petition.
3. When presented with such a petition, the President shall direct an investigation, subject to guidelines established by WCSA, and shall periodically present its proceedings and findings to the full body of WCSA. In the event that the President is the subject of the petition, the foregoing duties shall be discharged by the Secretary.
4. At the conclusion of an investigation, the President shall present its final findings to the full body, which shall consider the proposed recall. No member shall be removed except with the concurrence of three fourths of the voting members to which WCSA is entitled.
5. Except as provided elsewhere by this Constitution, a position left vacant by the removal of an elected official shall be filled by the qualified unelected candidate who received the highest number of votes in the last election for the same office. If this person cannot be determined, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy according to the standard procedure.
6. No individual who has been removed by the provisions of this section shall be eligible for any WCSA position in that same academic year.
7. In the event that the President, through absence or temporary disability, is unable to discharge the duties of the Presidential office, these duties shall be discharged by the Vice President. In the event of a vacancy in the Presidency, the Vice President shall become President. If there is neither a President nor a Vice President, the Secretary shall, upon resigning that office, become President. If there is neither a President, a Vice President, nor a Secretary, the Treasurer shall, upon resigning that office, become President. WCSA may establish guidelines to provide for the succession of the Presidency in the absence of all the aforementioned officers.

# Article Four – The Review Process

## Section One

1. No policy formulated and passed by WCSA will go into effect for at least thirty days from the date of mailing notices as provided in Article One, Section 1. This thirty-day waiting period will exclude vacations and the Summer Session.
2. Anytime during the thirty-day waiting period either a student group (see Article Four, Section 2, paragraph 1, a), the faculty, or the President of the University may call for a review.
3. Review may be called on either specific sections of the policy or the entire policy. In the former case, the rest of the policy will go into effect at the end of the waiting period.
4. In the case of additions to already formulated policies, only the new portions may be called for review.

## Section Two

1. There are three groups representing four constituencies of the University community who may call a policy for review.
	1. Any group of students wishing to challenge WCSA policy may initiate review proceedings by obtaining signatures on a petition equivalent to 25% of the student body. The petition should be submitted to the Student Body President.
	2. The President of the University may initiate review proceedings on behalf of the Administration or the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.
	3. The faculty may initiate review proceedings by a majority vote of a quorum of the faculty.
2. If WCSA considers it necessary, the new policy can be sent directly to the President of the University or his/her designated representative for immediate implementation.
	1. The President of the University will decide on the necessity for immediate implementation and may tentatively approve the policy or may request that the normal review process remain binding.
	2. If tentatively approved by the President of the University, the policy may still be called for review within thirty days, in which case the policy would cease to be in effect.

## Section Three – Reconsideration

1. Any informal reconsideration may be held between a designated WCSA committee and a constituency (student, faculty, or administration) that threatens to call a review. After this informal reconsideration, the WCSA committee may ask WCSA to reopen the policy and pass a compromise. If the policy is not changed, the review period will be extended so as to include at least five working days.
2. If any petition signed by 5 % of the students is presented to the Student Body President, WCSA will review the policy at the next regular meeting of WCSA after receipt of the petition. It will be first on the agenda of business for possible reconsideration. If the policy is not changed, the review period will be extended so as to include at least five working days.

## Section Four – Stages of Review

1. The first stage of review shall be the establishment of a compromise committee. This committee will consist of four members of WCSA and four members of the constituency that called the review. Each member of the Compromise Committee will be charged with representing and negotiating for the group and will report back to its parent constituency for ratification of the compromised policy. After compromise is ratified by both constituencies, the policy that results from the compromise will go into a new 30-day period.
	1. The constituency that called for review must designate its representatives to the Compromise Committee within two weeks. If the representatives of the constituency called for review are not chosen within two weeks, its call for review will be nullified and its right to call for review on that policy is forfeited.
	2. WCSA representatives to the Compromise Committee or Review Board (see Section 2) will be elected by the student members of WCSA. If WCSA does not appoint its representatives to either a Compromise Committee or a Review Board, the existing policy will remain in effect and the new policy will be considered void unless re-legislated by WCSA.
	3. Once a compromise has been ratified by both WCSA and the constituency that called the policy for review, that group may not again call for a review of the same version of the policy.
	4. If agreement by the Compromise Committee is not reached within 60 working days, the second stage of review, a Review Board, will be constituted.
2. The second stage of review, a Review Board, shall consist of three faculty members elected by the Executive Committee of the Faculty, three administrators selected by the President of the University, and three students selected by WCSA (but not necessarily members of WCSA). Further, two alumni or trustees selected by the President of the University shall serve in an advisory, non-voting capacity. The President of the University shall designate a convener for the first meetings of the Review Board. The Review Board shall hear such disputants, collect information, and formulae a policy. Such policy shall be translated to all campus constituencies and to the President of the University. The President in consultation with the Board of Trustees (or the Executive Committee of the Board) will act on the issue in question as soon as practical. Members of the Review Board are to be present when the Board meets to act on the issue in order to answer questions and otherwise be of such assistance as the Trustees shall desire.

# Article Five – Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be enacted by a vote of two-thirds of the voting members to which the WCSA body is entitled, provided that no amendment shall be enacted that has not been heard at two separate full-body meetings of WCSA.

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