PREAMBLE

We the students of Simpson University in order to provide for the individual and communal academic, spiritual, and social development of the members of the Associated Student Body of Simpson University, which is comprised of all fulltime traditional undergraduates, within a Christ-Centered community and to ensure the voice of the students in the affairs of this institution, do hereby establish this constitution by the powers vested in us by the Associated Student Body, the governance of Simpson University, and the Board of Trustees.

Student Government is committed to providing challenging opportunities for individual growth in spirit, mind, and body, to providing a form of student representation that shall develop a unity of purpose and mutual understanding among campus organizations, and furnishing a forum for discussion of the concerns, suggestions, and ideas of the entire Associated Student Body of Simpson University.

We seek to fulfill our designated role in developing policies in cooperation with the trustees, faculty, and administration that align with the goals and mission of Simpson University, while promoting and upholding the Christian standards and ideals upon which the university is founded.

ARTICLE 1. EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1: Elected Officers:

Student government at Simpson University is comprised of three types of student leaders: Executive Officers, Student Government Officials, and Senators. The Executive Branch consists of the Executive Officers and Student Government Officials.

A. Executive Officers. These shall be elected by full-time undergraduate students in the traditional program and shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Officers provide leadership to the ASBSU Senate. The Executive Officers include:

1.) President
2.) Executive Vice-President
3.) Vice President of Finance

B. Student Government Officials.

Class Presidents. These shall be elected by the members of each undergraduate class and provide leadership to their class and represent them at ASBSU Senate meetings. These include:

1.) Senior Class President
2.) Junior Class President
3.) Sophomore Class President
4.) Freshman Class President
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2. Secretary of the ASBSU. This official shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, with the approval of Student Development, following elections and shall serve as the office manager and record keeper of the ASBSU.

Section 2. Qualifications of ASBSU

A. The qualifications of all ASBSU Executive Officers are as follows:

1. They shall be full-time undergraduate students enrolled in the traditional program of Simpson University.

2. They shall have attended Simpson University at least one year at the time of the beginning of their term in office.

3. They shall be positive role models, upholding the principles and guidelines of the Simpson University Community as outlined in the Simpson University Student Handbook.

4. They shall be spiritual leaders, upholding the standards and values of the Biblical model.

5. The President and Executive Vice President shall have achieved at least junior academic standing before taking office.

6. The President, Executive Vice President and Vice President of Finance shall each have a cumulative G.P.A. of at least 2.50. This G.P.A. must be maintained throughout the term in office.

B. The qualifications of Student Government Officials are as follows:

1. They shall be full-time undergraduate students enrolled in the traditional undergraduate program of Simpson University.

2. They shall be positive role models, upholding the principles and guidelines of the Simpson University Community as outlined in the Simpson University Student Handbook.

3. They shall be spiritual leaders, upholding the standards and values of the Biblical model.

4. They shall each have a cumulative G.P.A. of at least a 2.25. This G.P.A. must be maintained throughout the term in office.

5. Class Presidents shall have attained their appropriate academic standing by the end of the semester preceding the beginning of their term in office.

Section 3. Automatic Dismissal

A. Any ASBSU Executive Officer, Student Government Official or Senator confirmed to be on probation or on warning status with Student Development or the Academic Office shall automatically be removed from office.

B. Failure to meet qualifications of office as outlined in Article One, Section Two, as determined by the Vice President for Student Development or Student Government Advisor, shall result in automatic dismissal from office.
Section 4. Impeachment

A. Basis

1. Disloyalty to the standards and aims of Simpson University as outlined in the Simpson University Student Handbook.

2. Negligence in fulfilling the duties of the office, as outlined in the bylaws.

B. Purpose

1. The ASBSU disciplinary process is a hearing, not a trial.
2. The ASBSU disciplinary process is a fact-finding investigation, not a legal proceeding.
3. The purpose of a hearing is to determine if the accused did in fact conduct him or herself in ways unbecoming of an Executive Officer, Student Government Official, or Senator; as defined by whether or not officer’s, president’s, or senator’s behavior compromised the values, morals, standards and purposes of the ASBSU and Simpson University, as outlined in the Student Handbook and the Constitution of the Associated Student Body of Simpson University.

   a. This determination is made by means of a secret ballot of the full ASBSU Senate to ratify or dismiss the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the ASBSU.

   b. In the event that the accused is a member of the Executive Committee the Advisor of Student Government shall serve as a voting member of the Executive Committee in the place of the suspended member; in the event the accused is the ASBSU President, the Executive Vice President shall serve as the chair of the Executive Committee.

C. Protocol

1. The accused shall take a temporary leave of absence during the course of the process and the Executive Committee will make a determination as to the responsibilities that need to be carried out in their absence; if the position carries a stipend the accused shall still receive scheduled monetary compensation for their position.

2. Witnesses are not to be called on at the time of the hearing, but will enter their testimony in writing to the ASBSU Senate.

3. This will be a closed hearing, open only to ASBSU Senate members and needed staff/faculty, so as to prevent any unnecessary personal damage to the person in question.

D. Procedure

1. After receiving in writing a letter of grievance by a student, senator, faculty or staff member, the Executive Committee shall:

   a. Call a meeting to discuss the grievance.

   b. If necessary, the Executive Committee will request written statements from other individuals they deem important in determining the facts of the case who have first hand knowledge as to any improprieties or improper behaviors by the person in question.

   c. Upon receiving all written documents, the Executive Committee shall determine if a recommendation for impeachment should be presented to the ASBSU Senate.

   d. At the discretion of the Executive Committee the matter may be put to the Vice President for Student Development and the Student Government Advisor to make a recommendation, assuming the facts of the case are of an especially sensitive nature.
2. The process for the ASBSU Senate hearing should generally follow these guidelines:
   a. A written notification will be given to the person in question as to the date and time of the impending hearing.
   b. All testimony and supporting documents received by the Executive Committee will be provided to the person in question.
   c. The person in question shall respond to all accusations in writing to the Executive Committee within 72 hours prior to the time of the impending hearing.
      i. Witnesses shall testify only to the specific charges they have first hand knowledge of, and refrain from hearsay evidence or a general character reference.
   d. The Executive Committee will review the responses of the person in question and his or her witnesses' responses and further determine what action needs to be taken, if any.
   e. Written notice will be provided to all members of the ASBSU Senate no less than 48 hours beforehand regarding the time and place of the hearing.
      i. By mutual agreement of the person in question and the Executive Committee, a moderator may be appointed to oversee the hearing.
   f. All ASBSU Senate members present will be provided with a copy of all written documents involved, including both the Executive Committees' recommendation and the responses of the person in question and given an appropriate time to review all documents.
   g. Time will be given for the person in question to respond verbally to all allegations presented by the Executive Committee's findings, limited to ten minutes.
   h. Time will be given to a spokesperson from the Executive Committee who will summarize the basis for the committee's recommendation, limited to ten minutes.
      i. The time allotted for the person in question and the Executive Committee to respond verbally may be adjusted by mutual agreement of both parties.
   i. Time will be given to the ASBSU Senate members to ask questions of the person in question and the Executive Committee. Time will be limited to 15 minutes provided each member of the ASBSU Senate who might desire to have an opportunity to ask questions.
   j. A secret ballot will then be taken with a vote of three-quarters needed to substantiate the impeachment of the person in question. Voting shall be concluded within a five-minute time limit.
   k. The votes will be counted by the ASBSU advisor in the presence of another staff member serving as a witness.
   l. The ASBSU advisor will then inform the person in question of the results in person and provide written notification of the outcome to all ASBSU Senate members within 24 hours.

ARTICLE II. ASBSU SENATE

Section 1. Responsibilities and Purpose

A. The formal business meeting comprised of the Executive Officers and the Class Presidents, listed above, and the Senators, listed below, shall be known as the ASBSU Senate. The Senate, as the legislative body of the ASBSU, considers and acts upon all legislation brought to the ASBSU Senate. Such legislation is then submitted to the appropriate Simpson University administrative area and upon approval, the legislation is enacted.
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B. The ASBSU Senate acts as the authorized mediating body between students, faculty, and administration. In this capacity, it is responsible for the initiation of special meetings with the students, faculty, and administration, whenever they are deemed necessary.

C. The Senate acts for the ASBSU in matters related to program budgeting and the allocation of funds as outlined in the bylaws.

Section 2. Voting Members

A. Senate shall be comprised of the following voting members who represent students in a specific cross-reference of key areas of student life:

1. Academic Senators- one per academic department
2. Resident Hall Senators- one per resident hall
3. Commuter Senators- two
4. Spiritual Formation Senator- one
5. Intercultural Senator- one
6. Class Presidents- one per academic class
7. Intramural Coordinator- one
8. CAB Director- one
9. FYE Coordinator- one

B. Senators shall be chosen as specified in the bylaws for their specific position representing a specific segment of the student body.

Section 3. Qualifications of ASBSU Senators

A. The qualifications of ASBSU Senators are as follows:

1. They shall be full-time students enrolled in the traditional undergraduate program of Simpson University.
2. They shall be positive role models, upholding the principles and guidelines of the Simpson University Community as outlined in the Simpson University Student Handbook.
3. They shall uphold the standards and values of the Biblical model.
4. Senators shall be a member of the specific body of constituents they represent and shall serve for the duration of the academic school year.
5. They shall each have a cumulative G.P.A. of at least 2.00. This G.P.A. must be maintained throughout the term in office.

Section 4. Automatic Dismissal and Impeachment

A. Senators are held to the same standards as members of the Executive Branch of Student Government in terms of the potential for automatic dismissal and the impeachment process.

B. Automatic Dismissal will result from a failure to meet the standards outlined in Article I, Section 3 (A), as well as failure to meet the qualifications of Article II, Section 3.

C. Impeachment outlined in Article I, Section 4 apply to Senators as elected officials; this includes all areas including basis, purpose, protocol, and procedure for impeachment.
Section 5. Meetings

A. The ASBSU Senate shall meet at regularly scheduled intervals of at least every other week during the academic term, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

B. The ASBSU Senate shall meet at the call of the ASBSU President, or any three (3) members of the Executive Branch.
   a. With the approval of the Executive Committee, standing university faculty and administrative committees may bring a discussion topic related to their committee responsibility to the ASBSU Senate in order to obtain student input.

C. University Areas may send a non-voting representative to ASBSU Senate meetings. An area representative must be recognized by the specific area prior to the meeting in order to speak on behalf of the given area of the university; lack of recognition will constitute the representative as merely a guest to senate, not a representative speaking on behalf of a specific area. Areas such as Athletics are encouraged to send a representative to Senate.

D. Vice President for Student Development or their designated representative is to serve as the faculty/staff advisor to student government and may attend Senate as a non voting member.
   a. Any newly designated ASBSU Advisor will be made by the Vice President for Student Development in consultation with the Executive Branch.

ARTICLE III. STUDENT HANDBOOK

Student Government recognizes and upholds the Simpson University Student Handbook as the collection of guidelines, policies, and standards expected of all students as established by Simpson University.

ARTICLE IV. INITIATIVE

Any member of the student body may initiate any legislation, with the exception of amendments (see Article 6, Section 1), that is in harmony with the Constitution of the ASBSU and the principles of Simpson University by presenting a petition stating the proposed legislation and receiving signatures from fifteen percent of the student body. This legislation will be referred to the ASBSU Senate to delegate to the appropriate committee.

ARTICLE V. REFERENDUM

Section 1. Basis

Any proposed legislation which the ASBSU Senate deems of sufficient importance may be referred to the student body for a vote. A plurality vote shall be sufficient to pass any legislation.

Section 2. Procedure

The student body may present a petition signed by twenty-five percent of the student body to require that any ASBSU Senate legislation be referred to the student body for a vote before said legislation can be enacted. A plurality vote shall be sufficient to pass a student body initiated referendum.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

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Proposed amendments may originate in the ASBSU Senate or by the petition of twenty percent of the members of the ASBSU.

Section 2

This Constitution may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the ASBSU Senate with the approval of Student Development and the President’s Cabinet.

ARTICLE VII. BYLAWS

Bylaws not in conflict with the provisions of this Constitution may be enacted after a typewritten proposal of the bylaws has been presented to the members of Student Senate for a week long review period. An affirmative two-thirds majority vote of Student Senate, at a scheduled meeting, will constitute ratification. The responsibilities of various ASBSU officers, presidents and senators will be located in the ASBSU bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII. REVISION

The ASBSU Senate shall appoint a Constitution Revision Committee every third year to review and revise the Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX. ENACTING CAUSE

This Constitution shall become effective upon approval of the two-third majority of ASBSU Senate, and approved by Student Development, the President’s Cabinet, and upon ratification by the Board of Trustees of Simpson University.