

Approved: January 24, 2001

CONSTITUTION OF THE WEST LAFAYETTE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the West Lafayette Senior High School Student Council.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to serve as an official medium through which students' ideas and opinions may be presented for faculty and administrative action; to serve as a governing body (with faculty supervision) for the development, promotion, and administration of student affairs; to give organized student support to educational, recreational, social, and charitable activities initiated and sponsored by the school, and thus form a closer relationship between the students, faculty, and administration.

Article III: Membership

The Student Council shall consist of a president and a vice president/treasurer, each being an upperclassman during his or her year of service, and a secretary. Any student with one half of the total number of credits needed to graduate shall be considered an upperclassman. In addition, the Council shall consist of a president, vice president/treasurer, secretary, and six representatives from each class. No student shall hold more than one voting position.

Article IV: Elections

All elections shall be supervised by the Election Committee. The new Student Council shall be installed by May 21.

Nominations for president, vice president/treasurer, and secretary of the Student Council shall consist of the presentation to the chairperson of the Election Committee by the candidates, a petition signed by no less than fifty students. Graduating seniors may not sign the petitions. No student shall sign more than one petition for each office. The election of the officers shall be held before the end of April. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors shall elect the officers from the group of nominees.

The class officers shall be president, vice president/treasurer, and secretary. Within one week of the election of the Student Council officers, class meetings shall be held during school hours. The class sponsor shall be present at these meetings. A member of the Election Committee shall be required to introduce each candidate with the sole purpose of offering each candidate the opportunity to speak or publicly abstain from speaking. Students shall cast their ballots following the procedure recommended by the Election Committee and approved by the Student Council.

In all Student Council and class officer elections, if no candidate receives greater than fifty percent of the vote, a run-off election between the top two candidates shall be held the following day of school. If there is a tie for the top position, all candidates with the tying percentage shall participate in the run-off election. If there is a tie for the second position, the top candidate and all of the candidates with the tying percentage for the second position shall participate in the run-off. The candidate with the highest percentage in the run-off shall be the elected officer. If a tie occurs for the top position in the run-off, balloting shall continue between the top two positions, until the tie is broken by the highest percentage method.

From each class, the six candidates for representative receiving the most votes shall be full representatives. In the event of a tie for the sixth representative position in the representative elections, a run-off election shall be held between all candidates receiving the tying number of votes. The candidate who receives a plurality of the votes in the run-off election shall become the sixth representative. In the case of a tie in the run-off election, subsequent run-off elections shall be held between tying candidates until one candidate obtains a plurality of the vote.

In the case of resignation, impeachment, or removal of a Student Council or class officer or representative, the vice president/treasurer shall replace the president. All other office vacancies shall be filled by a nominating committee, appointed by the President of Student Council, subject to a two-thirds vote of approval by the Student Council.

Article V: Duties

The duties of the president and secretary shall be those designated to the respective offices in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised. The president may appoint committees, as they are needed. The chairpersons of these committees shall be appointed by the president. The duties of the vice president/treasurer are as specified in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised. The vice president/treasurer shall also present a statement of the balance of the treasury at each meeting. The secretary shall record the minutes and create class reports about each meeting. The secretary and vice president/treasurer of the Student Council shall have the right to vote on Council. All representatives shall have the right to vote. The president shall vote only in the case of a tie. The Student Council, through its members, shall give a report to each class at a designated time following each meeting, except when the president deems such a report unnecessary.

Article VI: Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held at least twice every school month in a designated room. In case of bad weather or emergency, the president shall have the authority to cancel a meeting. All regular meetings shall be open to the student body. A meeting may be called by the president or two-thirds of the Council. In December, only one meeting shall be required.

Article VII: Attendance

As the elected student government of West Lafayette High School, it is paramount that the Student Council have as many members of Council present at each meeting as possible.

However, it is understood that circumstances out of members' control do warrant an occasional absence that shall be dealt with in the following manner.

If an elected and installed Council member knows that he or she shall be absent at majority of the meetings in a semester, it is recommended that he or she resign his or her post to Council at the beginning of the semester and be replaced by another officer or member of his or her class.

If a member of the Council is going to be absent at any meeting, any committee reports, or other items that the member needs to bring to the attention of the Council shall be sent with another Council member who shall be the report in place of the missing member. The absent member shall send a substitute who shall report to the council why the member is absent. The absent council member shall inform a member of the Executive Board of the absence before the missed meeting. Exceptions to this will be considered by the executive board.

Each absence shall be dealt with on an individual *basis*. The Executive Board shall have the power to decide whether or not the excuse is legitimate. The Executive Board shall determine whether extraneous circumstances warrant suspension of these attendance policies to make provisions on an individual basis for certain Council members. Examples of such extraneous circumstances include, but are not limited to: long-term medical illness or an absence for the purpose of performing another Council function.

If one meeting is missed without a legitimate excuse, within a semester, the member shall be warned by the sponsor. If one additional unexcused meeting is missed, the member shall be removed from the Council without further warning. The attendance policy applies to all meetings of the Student Council including Committee Chairs meetings, Committee Meetings, and Class Meetings. Absences shall be reported to the executive board by the Committee Chairs.

If a council member leaves before the "Old Business" section of a regular meeting, he or she is considered absent from the meeting. Similarly, if a member enters after the "Old Business" section of a meeting, he or she is also considered absent.

Article VIII: Impeachment and Censuring

If a member of the student body feels that a Student Council member has not fulfilled his or her responsibilities as a Student Council member, impeachment proceedings may be initiated against the member. The accuser must bring the expulsion recommendation to the Executive Board, which shall announce a special meeting of the Student Council at least one week in advance and called solely for this purpose. The accused may defend him or herself, and the recommendation must be discussed and voted on by the Student Council. A two-thirds vote in favor of impeachment of the member at two consecutive meetings shall be required for impeachment. The impeachment shall become part of the minutes and shall be reported to each class in the regular Student Council reports.

If a member of the Student Council feels that another member is not conducting him or herself in a manner befitting the Student Council in matters directly relating to the Student Council, censuring, or reprimanding, proceedings may be initiated against that Student Council member. The accuser must present the charges and the reasons for making the charges to the Council, and the accused may defend him or herself. A vote shall be taken on the charges, and a two-thirds vote in favor of censuring is necessary to pass the action. The censure shall become part of the minutes. A censured member shall not be denied any of his or her privileged as a Student Council member as a result of being censured.

Article IX: Clubs and Organizations

Each club and organization, except for the four classes, to be recognized as a bona fide school organization shall have to file with the Student Council, via the Council Evaluation Committee, a copy of the club's constitution and a list of its current sponsors and officers. To be ratified by the Student Council, the constitution of a club must be passed after no less than two readings. Prior to the end of school, each bona fide club shall present to the Student Council, via the Council Evaluations Committee, a summary of its activities.

All clubs and organizations affiliated with the school shall be subject to review in March at a meeting of the Student Council. Council members involved in such an organization shall be asked to recount the activities of said organization, then the Council Evaluations Committee shall investigate its activities for the past year. If an organization has not met at least (4) times during the year, and has not maintained a minimum membership of five (5) people, then it shall be subject to revision or may be disbanded. All clubs must turn in to the Student Council a list of its officers for the following year.

Article X: Amendment of this Constitution

This constitution may be amended if, having been passed by the Constitutional Revisions Committee with a simple majority, an amendment is then passed by the Student Council by a two-thirds in favor at two consecutive meetings.

BYLAWS

Section 1:

A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the voting members of the organization.

Section 2:

The Activities Committee shall be in charge of various Student Council activities and fund raising.

Section 3:

The Communications Committee shall be responsible for informing the student body of the Student Council activities and other news that would be of general interest.

The Chairman of the Communications Committee shall be the Secretary of the Student Council.

Section 4:

The Constitutional Revisions Committee shall be responsible for investigating proposed amendments to the constitution as stipulated in Article X of the Student Council Constitution.

Section 5:

The Convocations Committee shall plan all convocations sponsored by the Student Council.

Section 6:

The Council Evaluations Committee shall evaluate the various activities run by Student Council and provide feedback about such activities. The Evaluations Committee shall also keep a copy of the constitution of each bona fide club within West Lafayette High School. In addition, the Council Evaluations Committee shall be responsible for reviewing the yearly summary of activities of each club.

Section 7:

The Curriculum and Faculty Relations Committee shall serve to coordinate the relations among the administration, faculty, Student Council and the general student body. This committee shall also investigate the role of the students in the formation, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum, and shall make recommendation to the Council concerning alterations in the role. This committee all also be responsible for the implementation of appropriate programs approved by the Student Council.

Section 8:

The Drives Committee shall plan and execute Student Council initiated community activities and school fund raising activities.

Section 9:

The Election Committee shall consist of only senior members of Student Council. The Election Committee shall decide all aspects of the elections, with consent of the Student Council. The Chairman of the Election Committee shall be the Senior Class President.

Section 10:

The Executive Board shall consist of the president, vice president/treasurer, secretary, and the sponsors. No votes are taken at Executive Board meetings..

Section 11:

The School Board Committee shall represent the students' interests in School Board affairs and shall report back to the Council. At least one member of this committee shall attend each School Board meeting.

Section 12:

The Scrapbook Committee shall keep an informal record of the activities of each year's Student Council.

Section 13:

The Spirit Committee shall promote school spirit through activities involving the student body. It shall also coordinate the activities of the school mascot.

Section 14:

The Student Concerns Committee shall hear all student complaints and inquiries at each meeting and present these to the administration. It shall report at each meeting on the progress of the action taken on these complaints.

Section 15:

The Student I.D. Committee shall be responsible for the preparation of student identification cards and activity tickets.

Section 16:

The Vending Room Committee shall be responsible for the upkeep of the vending room and the machines therein.

Section 17:

The Welcoming Committee shall serve to welcome students new to West Lafayette High School, including incoming freshmen and transfer students.

Section 18:

Bona Fide school clubs, organizations, classes, and departments may request loans or grants from the Student Council. Any request for money from the Council must be made through a club, organization, class, or department of the school meeting the following requirements

1. The organization must be active at the time of the request.
2. The organization must show that it has raised at least one-half of the amount of money need for the task undertaken through a fund raising event within the past or current semester.
3. The request for a loan or grant must be made or endorsed in writing by one or more of the organization's sponsors.
4. No request for an amount greater than ten percent of the Student Council treasury may be granted without a two-thirds majority vote of the Council.
5. To request a loan, the club or organization must:
 - a. set a date by which the funds shall be repaid.
 - b. describe to the Council how the necessary funds shall be raised.
6. All requests for grants or loans from the Student Council must be passed at two consecutive meetings of the Student Council.