

# Constitution of the Student Body of White Earth Tribal & Community College

## **Preamble**

We the students of White Earth Tribal & Community College, in order to promote the wellbeing of the Student Body, and in order to exercise the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of the student body pursuant to prevailing laws and as a partner in the role of advancing the goals and ideals of White Earth Tribal & Community College, do hereby establish and ordain this constitution.

*~ Nbwakaawin*

## **Article I. Name & Membership**

The governing body of the Student Body known as the Student Government and shall be established under the procedure stated in this constitution. Under this constitution, the "Student Body" includes all current enrolled students at White Earth Tribal & Community College as defined by this document.

### **Section 1. Student defined.**

- a. No individual that is employed by White Earth Tribal & Community College shall be defined as a student, whether or not the individual is enrolled for a course or courses.

**Exemption:** Federal Work Study Employees are not employees, but students utilizing a financial aid program.

- b. WETCC Council of Trustees, other than a specified Trustee to be held by an enrolled student(s); shall not be defined as a student, whether or not the individual is enrolled for a course or courses.
- c. All other individuals regardless of course load or grade status, that are currently enrolled for a course or courses shall be defined as a student. These students are the voting members of the Student Body.

*~ Gwayakwaadoziwin*

## **Article II. Purpose**

The purpose of the Constitution is to outline the establishment of a governing body for Students; that considers issues and to review, recommend, or formulate policy (as appropriate) in areas primary or exclusive to the Student Body. Such areas shall include, but not be limited to, matters of academic, extracurricular, community and/or external governmental affairs. This Constitution permits the governing body to provide extended channels of communication, increased areas of cooperation, and a greater acceptance of shared responsibility between the faculty, administration, and Student Body in matters of general and academic interests while advocating on behalf of students.

*~ Manaaji'idiwin*

## **Article III. Leadership**

Section 1: The Student Body shall be led by duly elected officers, to be known as the Executive Board.

Section 2: All Executive power conferred upon the Student Government shall vested in its Officers.

Section 3: The President of the Student Body shall be elected by the Student Body one week prior to the final week of Spring Semester. The President's term of office shall begin the week after Spring Commencement and last one year. The President shall chair all meetings of the Student Senate and shall serve as an active liaison between the Student Senate and the Student Body. The President shall also nominate no less than four and no more than ten and in even numbers, Senators for appointment each Fall Semester; subject to confirmation by the Executive Board.

Section 4: The Vice President-Parliamentarian of the Student Body shall be elected by the Student Body one week prior to the final week of Spring Semester. The term of office for the Vice President shall begin the week after Spring Commencement and last one year. The Vice President shall assume all the responsibilities of the President in case of the President's absence or removal from office. The Vice President-Parliamentarian shall serve as an active liaison between the Student Senate and WETCC Faculty and Administration and be responsible for the general administration of student clubs and organizations, rules, compliance and updating the Student Body on any changes to laws governing the Student Government, College or those specific in nature as to impact students.

Section 5: The Secretary-Treasurer of the Student Body shall be elected by the Student Body one week prior to the final week of Spring Semester. The term of office for the Secretary-Treasurer shall begin the week after Spring Commencement and last one year. The Secretary-Treasurer shall schedule meeting times and locations on behalf of the Student Senate, compile meeting agendas items, keep the official meeting minutes and records of the Student Senate, and be responsible for retrieving financial information from the WETCC Business Office to aid in the annual budgeting process for Student Activity Fee Fund by the Student Senate, and also aid the Vice President-Parliamentarian each semester for the auditing of student organizations.

Section 6: Provisions not specified in the sections above for the election of these three Officers of the Student Body shall be further specified from time to time by and through the Student Senate by adopting by-laws.

Section 7: All elected officers must be students as defined by this Constitution, and be enrolled full-time.

Section 8: An elected officer of the Student Body may only be removed from office upon withdrawal from being enrolled as a student of White Earth Tribal & Community College.

Section 9: A vacancy occurring in the office of President, the Vice President-Parliamentarian shall take his/her place without delay. All other vacancies shall be filled by appointment.

~ *Aakdehewin*

#### **Article IV. Student Senate**

Section 1: The Student Senate shall be the principal governing entity of the Student Government.

Section 2: The Executive Board of Student Senate shall be comprised of the elected officers of the Student Body: President of the Student Body, the Vice President-Parliamentarian of the Student Body, and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Student Body.

Section 3: The Student Senate shall be composed of the Executive Board of the Student Body and no less than four but no more than ten and in even numbers, Senators for terms of one regular academic year beginning the day following Fall Semester's add/drop day and the ending on the last day of finals for Spring Semester. The Student Body President shall nominate students to serve as Senators, and the Executive Board shall vote to confirm the nominations..

A. **Regular Academic Year defined.** Starting the day following the ADD/DROP deadline day of the Fall Semester and continuing until the last day of the Spring Semester Final Exams Week.

Section 4: All legislative power conferred upon the Student Government shall be vested in the Student Senate. The legislative function of the Student Senate shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. The exclusive power to grant recognition and sanctioning of all student clubs, organizations, and activities.
- b. The exclusive control of the Student Activity Fee, and the allocation of all moneys collected by said fee; and all other revenue received for distribution on behalf of the Student Body.
- c. The appointment of students to college, administrative, faculty, and community committees on which students have appointed membership.
- d. The authority to oversee the policies, operations, and administration of all student clubs, organizations, and activities.
- e. The authority to review all policy recommendations emanating from the Department of Student Services and the Council of Trustees; and provide feedback on behalf of the Student Body.

Section 5: The Student Senate shall serve as an active communications center for students and other members of the White Earth Tribal & Community College's community specifically interested in student affairs.

Section 6: The President shall preside at all Student Senate meetings and the Vice President-Parliamentarian shall preside in the President's absence. The procedures at all meetings of the

Student Senate, unless otherwise specified in this constitution or by the bylaws of the Student Senate, shall be upon conference with the Vice President-Parliamentarian on when or where clarification of rules or procedure is requested.

Section 7: The Student Senate shall conduct no less than three calendared meetings per each Fall and Spring Semester. Additional meetings may be called by a member of the Executive Board.

Section 8: A majority of voting members of the Student Senate, plus one, shall constitute a quorum.

Section 9: The Secretary-Treasurer shall gather business items and reports from members of the Senate and make available, to the Student Body, the Agenda for each Student Senate meeting. Any member of the WETCC Community shall have the right to submit a business item request for meetings of the Student Senate with any member for placement of consideration under New Business.

Section 10: Voting by members of the Student Senate, during meetings, may only be on issues specifically proposed and included in the written agenda for the meeting. This excludes votes of sentiments, which are in no way binding. In time sensitive cases, votes on items not included in the written agenda may be cast upon unanimous approval of the Executive Board.

Section 11: The presiding officer at all meetings of the Student Senate shall read aloud all motions which are properly made by members of the Student Senate. The Secretary-Treasurer shall record all proceedings of the Student Senate and make available all open meeting minutes, after they are approved, to the entire campus community.

Section 12: Committees maybe created from time to time by the Student Senate.

- A. The specific purposes, functions, and compositions of all standing Student Senate committees shall be specifically enumerated in the bylaws of the Student Senate. The Student Senate may create, alter, merge, or dissolve all standing Student Forum committees by amending the bylaws of the Student Senate.
- B. Any committee created by the Student Senate, which is not a standing committee, shall be designated as an ad hoc Student Senate committee. All ad hoc Student Senate committees shall be specifically charged by the Student Senate and shall automatically be terminated at the end of the academic year during which they were created.

*~ Debwewin*

#### **Article V. Remuneration and Compensation.**

Section 1. Officers and Senators of the Student Government shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses related to their work or assigned duties, upon providing an expense report with receipts to the Secretary-Treasurer, and then subject to approval by a vote of the Student Senate at any meeting that follows the incurrence of the expense.

Section 2. Officers shall receive per Semester stipends for during their time in office, to be paid in two parts, the first part on the day following the Semester's ADD/DROP deadline and the second part on the day prior to the beginning of Mid-Terms each Semester. The amount shall be established by-laws.

Section 3. Senators shall receive a Per Diem for each mandatory meeting each attends. Per Diem shall not be included for meetings where a Senator was absent. Officers are prohibited from receiving Per Diem for mandatory meetings.

Section 4. Per Diem for Special Meetings shall be allowed for both Officers and Senators, if the amount is established by by-law and in addition can be afforded by budget. The Secretary-Treasurer shall have authority to suspend Per Diem for Special Meetings in whole, without accruing back payments if he/she deems necessary to meet budget goals.

*~ Ddaadendizwin*

**Article VI. Right to Privacy Assured.**

The Student Body, its Government, nor any individual student as defined by this Constitution shall impose or enforce any measure that violates another student's right to privacy as provided for by the laws of the United States of America and the Great State of Minnesota. In keeping with these laws, at no time shall private data collected by the College as required be shared with or utilized by the Student Body and its Government.

*~ Manaaji'idiwin*

**Article VII. Provisions and Procedures Not Specifically Enumerated in this Constitution or the Bylaws of the Student Senate.**

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by two-thirds of the quorum present at any particular meeting of the Student Senate may vote to propose an amendment.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to this constitution shall be only be considered after a public hearing before the Student Body and then presented for a vote during the next Student Senate meeting.

Section 3. Adoption of amendments can only be made by two-thirds majority of the **total** membership of the Student Senate voting in favor.

*~ Zoongide'ewin*

**Article VIII. Ratification.**

This constitution shall be ratified following an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the total voting membership of the Student Senate, as defined by the bylaws of the Student Senate in place prior to its adoption.

*~ Gwekwaadziwin*

**Article IX. Continuation of Government**

Upon ratification of this Constitution, all Officers and Senators elected and/or appointed under the previous Constitution or By-Laws shall occupy the corresponding office as established under this Constitution without necessity of election or motion to approve this continuation. Elections will commence at the time proscribed in this Constitution and any form of special election shall be prohibited from taking place. Compensation or remuneration may be back paid for the period of the Academic Year in which this Constitution was established.

*~ Nbwaakaawin*

**Article X. Revocation**

Any Constitution or By-Laws governing the Student Body, established prior to the ratification of this Constitution will terminate immediately and without delay upon this Constitution's adoption.

And all current Officers and Senators shall continue on in their respective duties until elections are scheduled to be held per this Constitution.

*~ Gwiyakwaadoiziwin*

MADE EFFECTIVE THIS 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2017.

*ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT BODY*

**SIGNED BY**



**ITS PRESIDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

SARAH CAVANAUGH

**ITS VICE PRESIDENT-PARLIAMENTARIAN:** \_\_\_\_\_

  
AARON LEE WITTNEBEL

**ATTESTED TO BY**

**ITS ADVISOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

  
MELINDA RUSTAD, DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES