Constitution of the Western Student Association

We, the Students of Western Michigan University, desiring to:

Provide order to ensure the democratic organization and republican governance;

Provide fair representation of the Student Body;

Maintain an active voice in University affairs;

Recognize the Western Student Association as the legitimate Student representative body;

Charge the WSA with the responsibility to effectively and efficiently represent and act in the collect interest of Western Michigan University (WMU) Students;

do hereby establish the Western Student Association (WSA) and this constitution.

Article I: Purpose of the Association

Section One: Purpose of the WSA

A. To provide a central student union, responsive to the needs of WMU Students.

B. To work to guarantee the rights, integrity, and individuality of students in relation to the University regardless of race, sex, religion, color, height, weight, age, handicap, national origin, socioeconomic standing, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression or veteran status.

C. To advocate policies which best serve the students of the University in compliance with all Office of Student Engagement (OSE) and University policies, procedures, and practices and all local, state, and federal laws.

D. Provide an official voice for WMU students in University affairs.

E. To ensure the fair distribution of the Student Assessment Fee (SAF).

Article II: Composition of WSA

Section One: Composition of the Association

A. The WSA shall consist of the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch.
Section Two: Composition of the Executive Branch

A. The WSA Executive Branch shall consist of the Executive Board and the Cabinet.

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Executive Vice President, and the Vice President for Finance and Business Relations.

2. The Cabinet shall consist of the Vice President for Finance and Business Relations, Vice President for Information Technology (IT), Vice President for Political Affairs, Vice President for Public Relations, Vice President for Sustainability, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Vice President for Community Involvement, Vice President for University Pride, Vice President for Allocations, and the Vice President for Rules, Bylaws, and Administration.

Section Three: Composition of the Legislative Branch

A. The WSA Legislative Branch shall consist of two houses, the Senate and House of Representatives.

1. The Senate shall consist of Senators whom will be voted in during the general spring election, by their respective college based on their major(s). Alternatively, Senators may be confirmed by the House of Representatives with the required number of signatories, as outlined in Article II Section One of the WSA Bylaws.

2. The House of Representatives shall consist of Representatives from Registered Student Organizations, herein referred to as RSOs.

Section Four: Composition of the Judicial Branch

A. The Judicial Council shall consist of one Chief Justice and six Associate Justices.

1. All Justices shall be appointed, subject to two-thirds approval of the Senate.

2. Each Justice shall serve a one year term, subject to re-appointment.

3. Three Justices shall be appointed by the current President, two weeks before the General Election.

4. Four Justices, including the Chief Justice, shall be appointed by the new President.

Article III: Presidential Veto Power

Section One: Presidential Veto

A. The President shall be able to veto, in full, any legislation passed by the Legislative Branch within five business days of its passing.

B. The President shall provide written reasoning for the veto to all members of WSA within five business days of the veto.
Section Two: Override a Presidential Veto

A. The House and Senate shall reserve the right to override a Presidential veto with a two-thirds affirmative vote in each house, respectively.

B. Each house shall have ten business days to override a Presidential veto.

C. If the veto is successfully overridden with a two-thirds vote in each house independently, then the legislation shall be immediately considered adopted by WSA.

Article IV: Meetings

Section One: Structure of Meetings

A. All meetings are to be run in accordance with the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.

Section Two: Cabinet Meetings

A. The Cabinet shall meet at the call of the Executive Vice President with quorum being set as half of the membership plus one.

B. The Cabinet shall meet weekly, with a minimum of one meeting per month.

Section Three: Senate Meetings

A. The Senate shall meet at the call of the Speaker Pro-Tempore with quorum being set as half of the membership plus one.

B. The Senate shall meet weekly, with a minimum of two voting meetings per month.

C. The day and time of Senate meetings are to be set by the President no later than the first week of classes of the Fall Semester.

Section Four: House Meetings

A. The House shall meet at the call of the Speaker of the House with quorum being set as half of the membership plus one.

B. The House shall meet fortnightly, with a minimum of one meeting per month.

a. The second meeting of the House of the month shall meet at the same time as Senate and shall be chaired at the discretion of the Executive Vice President.

C. The day and time of House meetings are to be set by the Executive Vice President no later than the first week of classes of the Fall Semester.

Section Five: Judicial Council

A. The Judicial Council shall meet at the call of the Chief Justice.

B. The Judicial Council shall meet within three business days of the receipt of a complaint.
Article V: Elections

Section One: Eligibility

A. All currently enrolled students at WMU are eligible to vote in all general and special elections.

Section Two: Elections

A. The Student Body President, Executive Vice President, and Senators shall be elected in the general spring elections.
   a. The general spring elections are to be run at the discretion of the Election Promotions Committee.

B. Once elected, these positions shall take office four weeks prior to the end of the spring semester and serve a one year term.

Section Three: Presidential Ticket

A. The President and Executive Vice President positions shall be run and elected as a slate.

Section Four: General Spring Election

A. The general spring elections are to be held no earlier than the first week of March and no later than the first week of April.

B. All election procedures are to be completed in accordance with the most current Student Election Code, herein referred to as SEC.

Section Five: Senator Elections

A. Senator elections are to be initially held during the first senate meeting. During the Fall 2020 semester, senators will be directly elected by the House of Representatives.

Article VI: Impeachment and Resignation

Section One: Officers Subject to Impeachment

A. The following officers are subject to removal from office through impeachment:
   1. Student Body President
   2. Executive Vice President
   3. Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Senate
   4. Speaker of the House
   5. Senators
   6. Representatives
A. Representatives are subject to removal from office as outlined in Article X of the WSA Bylaws.

Section Two: Initiation

A. Impeachment proceedings shall be initiated upon receipt of a list of charges by the Executive Cabinet signed by a minimum of twenty-five percent of the Legislative Branch.

B. The Executive Cabinet must then call a meeting of the House within 14 days of receiving the signed list of charges, at which time a majority must vote to accept the charges.

C. If accepted, the charges are to be brought before the Senate within 14 days and the impeachment trial shall commence.
   1. The impeachment trial proceedings are to be run following the most current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, which are to be interpreted by the Chief Justice.
   2. Senators, acting as a jury, may ask questions through the Chair.

D. At the conclusion of the trial, two-thirds of the Senate must vote to remove the accused officer from office.
   1. If removed, the office then becomes vacant and is subject to be filled via succession, unless otherwise outlined in the bylaws.
   2. If the officer is not removed from office all charges are dropped and the officer is able to resume normal duties.

Section Three: Resignation and Removal from Office

A. Upon resignation or removal from office, the line of succession for the Executive Branch is as follows:
   1. Executive Vice President
   2. Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Senate
      A. In the event that the Speaker Pro-Tempore becomes President, the Secretary of the Senate shall become the Speaker Pro-Tempore.
   B. If the entire line of succession is exhausted, a special internal election shall be held in the Senate to elect a new President and Executive Vice President.
      1. All candidates for the special election must meet the requirements of the most current SEC.

Article VII: Amendments and Revisions

Section One: Proposed Amendments and Revisions

A. Any proposed amendment or revision to this constitution shall be placed for a majority vote of the student body at-large during the next general election, upon adoption by two-thirds affirmative vote in both the Senate and House independently.
1. If said amendment or revision is submitted two weeks prior to the end of the fall semester, the author(s) may request an at-large student body vote, however, all amendments and revisions are still subject to adoption by two-thirds affirmative vote in both the Senate and House Independently.

B. Upon passage, all changes shall go into effect immediately.

**Article VIII: WSA Bylaws**

**Section One: WSA Bylaws**

A. The WSA Bylaws shall serve as a detailed supplement to the WSA Constitution.

B. Changes to the bylaws need not be put to vote before the student body and may be enacted with a two-thirds affirmative vote within the House and Senate, independently.

**Section Two: Committee Bylaws**

A. Each committee of the WSA may establish its own operational bylaws, subject to two-thirds approval of the Senate. The Senate must approve any changes made to the bylaws by a two-thirds vote. These bylaws shall not come into conflict with the Constitution or Association Bylaws.

**Article IX: Statutory Preemption**

The policy of the Western Student Association is codified in its statutes authority of policy is prioritized by difficulty of statute codification. Authority of policy shall be prioritized: Constitutional statute, then Bylaw statute, finally ordinary statute. Statutes of higher authority prioritization preempt statutes of lower authority prioritization.

**Article X: Dissolution Clause**

In the event that WSA dissolves, all funds within the WSA account and all funds otherwise designated to WSA shall revert to the Office of Student Engagement to be utilized for student programming.

*Written by RBA Co-Chairs Benjamin Johnson & Tory Morse*

*Approved in Senate on 02/05/2020*

*Adopted: 03/20/2020*