

Carnegie Mellon University

Student Senate Bylaws

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Article 1. Purpose and Scope.

- A. The purpose of these bylaws is to establish the structures and operating procedures of Student Senate, which is the undergraduate legislative branch of Carnegie Mellon University student government, created in the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution*.
- 5 1. The general purpose of Student Senate is to represent the voice of the Carnegie Mellon University undergraduate student body, to work toward enhancing the overall undergraduate student experience on campus, and to oversee the allocation of the portion of the Activities Fee under the direct control of Student Senate.
- 10 B. Where there is a contradiction between these bylaws and the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution* or the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Government Fiscal Policy*, those documents shall supersede these bylaws.
- C. When there is a contradiction between these bylaws and the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Senate Fiscal Policy*, these bylaws shall supersede that policy.

Article II. Terms and Definitions.

- 15 A. The *Activities Board* refers to the standing committee of Student Government, established in the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution*, to coordinate events to entertain, educate, and enrich the lives of the entire campus community.
- B. The *Activities Fee* refers to the funds that are collected and placed under the control of Student Government by the Carnegie Mellon University Board of Trustees.

- 20 C. The *Committee on Student Organizations* refers to the standing committee of Student Government, established in the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution*, to oversee the process of granting and revoking the status of *Student Government Recognition* to student organizations.
- 25 D. The undergraduate student body is divided into the following *constituencies*:
1. Carnegie Institute of Technology
 2. College of Fine Arts;
 3. College of Humanities and Social Sciences;
 4. Mellon College of Science;
 5. School of Computer Science;
 - 30 6. Tepper School of Business;
 7. Bachelor of Humanities and Arts, Bachelor of Sciences and Arts, Sciences and Humanities Scholars Program, Bachelor of Computer Science and Arts, and Miscellaneous Students.
- E. Every member of the undergraduate student body is classified as a constituent in their home college at Carnegie Mellon University, as specified by the Carnegie Mellon University Registrar.
- 35 (a) Any member of the undergraduate student body who does not fall under the auspices of the constituencies listed shall be classified as a Miscellaneous Student.
- F. The Elections Board refers to the standing committee of Student Government, established in the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution*, to oversee the annual Student Government Executive and Student Senate elections.
- 40 G. Financial Probation is a form of probation for Student Government Recognized organizations, and is established in the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution* and *Student Government Fiscal Policy*
- H. A full session of Student Senate shall extend from the first regular meeting of Student Senate following the ratification of the Student Senate Election results until the adjournment of the
- 45 meeting at which the following year's Student Senate Election results are successfully ratified.
- I. The Graduate Student Assembly is the graduate legislative branch of Carnegie Mellon University student government, created in the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution*.
- J. There are two *half sessions* of Student Senate. The first begins at the first regular meeting of the full session and ends at the last regular meeting of the Fall semester. The second half
- 50 session begins at the last regular meeting of the Fall semester and ends at the last regular meeting of the full session.
- K. The *Joint Funding Committee* refers to the standing committee of Student Government, established in the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution* to oversee the funding of student organizations.
- 55 L. A *joint meeting* of Student Senate and the Graduate Student Assembly is a meeting of Student Senate and the Graduate Student Assembly at which a majority of the members of Student Senate and a majority of the members of the Graduate Student Assembly are present.
- M. A *meeting* of Student Senate is any gathering of a majority of the voting members of Student Senate, provided all such members have been notified of that gathering at least one (1) week in
- 60 advance of the gathering.
- N. *Notification* of a group of students shall be satisfied by either an e-mail sent to all individuals in that group, or a verbal announcement at a regular meeting of that group, provided minutes of that meeting are recorded and distributed.
- O. The *President's Cabinet* refers to the standing committee of Student Government, established
- 65 in the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution*, to assist the Student Body President with the running of the Executive Branch of Student Government.
- P. *Recognition Probation* is a form of probation for Student Government Recognized organizations, and is established in the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution* and *Student Government Fiscal Policy*
- 70 Q. A regular meeting of Student Senate is a meeting among those scheduled by Student Senate

for the purpose of conducting their routine business.

R. The *student body* refers to the collection of students enrolled in undergraduate or graduate academic programs at Carnegie Mellon University's Pittsburgh campus.

75 S. The *student government executive committee* refers to the committee, established in the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution*, consisting of the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Student Body Vice President for Finance, Student Body Vice President for Organizations, Student Senate Chair, and Graduate Student Assembly President.

T. A *student organization* is any grouping of members of the student body.

1. Neither Student Senate nor the Graduate Student Assembly is a student organization.

80 U. The *undergraduate student body* refers to all members of the student body who are enrolled in undergraduate academic programs at Carnegie Mellon University's Pittsburgh campus.

Article III. Duties and Powers of Student Senate.

A. General Duties of Student Senate:

85 1. Hold regular meetings, at least twice during each complete month of the academic year;
2. Enact and enforce legislation aimed at accomplishing the objectives of the undergraduate student body;

3. Act as representatives of the undergraduate student body to staff, faculty and administration of Carnegie Mellon University;

90 4. Appropriate and approve the expenditures of all funds under direct control of Student Senate, as prescribed in the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution*, the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Senate Fiscal Policy*, these bylaws, and the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Senate Fiscal Policy*;

5. Break a tie, in any undergraduate student body election of Student Senators, by way of a majority vote at a meeting of Student Senate.

95 B. **Constitutionally Assigned Duties of Student Senate:** The following are responsibilities required of Student Senate by the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution* and the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Government Fiscal Policy*. Student Senate is required to fulfill these duties, as described in that constitution and fiscal policy, until such time as they are removed from that constitution and fiscal policy.

100 1. Appoint a representative of Student Senate to sit on the Committee on Student Organizations;

2. Appoint a representative of Student Senate to sit on the Elections Board;

3. Approve or reject nominations of undergraduate students to the Joint Funding Committee, as presented by the Student Body Vice President for Finance;

105 4. Approve or reject nominations of undergraduate students to the Committee on Student Organizations, as presented by the Student Body Vice President for Organizations;

5. Discuss and vote on amendments proposed to the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution* and its associated documents and policies;

110 6. Discuss and vote on requests, presented by the Student Body Vice President for Finance, to increase the Student Activities Fee for undergraduate students by up to five (5) percent;

7. Meet with the Graduate Student Assembly to review and vote on the proposed Joint Funding Committee budget;

115 8. Vote on recommendations, from the Student Body Vice President for Finance, regarding the Student Government Recognition status of a student organization that has been placed on Financial Probation by the Student Body Vice President for Finance;

9. Fulfill the duties and assume the powers assigned to Student Senate when Student Senate and the Graduate Student Assembly enter binding arbitration.

- C. **Constitutionally Assigned Powers of Student Senate:** The following are powers conferred upon Student Senate by the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Body Constitution* and its associated documents. Student Senate holds these powers, as described in that constitution and its associated documents, until such time as they are removed from that constitution and its associated documents.
1. Override a Presidential Veto of Student Senate legislation;
 2. Overturn a decision of the Committee on Student Organizations regarding a student organization's Student Government Recognition status, and/or its status of Recognition Probation;
 3. Request the impeachment of the Student Body President, Vice President for Finance, and/or Vice President for Organizations;
 4. Overrule the decision(s) of the Student Senate Chair and the Graduate Student Assembly President regarding the assignment of duties and/or powers normally belonging to a particular officer of Student Government, when an impeachment request has been made for that officer;
 5. Overrule the appointment of a member of the student body as an Interim Student Body President, Vice President for Finance, and/or Vice President for Organizations;
 6. Install, in coordination with the Graduate Student Assembly, a member of the student body into a vacant Student Body President, Vice President for Finance, and/or Vice President for Organizations office;
 7. Overrule the appointment of a Student Body Vice President;
 8. Overrule the appointment of an Assistant to the Student Body Vice President for Finance;
 9. Confirm or reject the nomination of undergraduate students to the Joint Funding Committee and the Committee on Student Organizations;
 10. Approve or reject aberrations in the make-up of the Joint Funding Committee;
 11. Overrule the removal of any undergraduate student from the Joint Funding Committee and/or the Committee on Student Organizations;
 12. Remove a member of the student body from the Elections Board;
 13. Overrule the appointment of any member of the President's Cabinet;
 14. Remove the Activities Board Executive Chair from office;
 15. Overrule, in coordination with the Graduate Student Assembly, a freeze placed on the budget of a student organization;
 16. Vote to enter binding arbitration with the Graduate Student Assembly;
 17. Vote, in coordination with the Graduate Student Assembly, to override the Carnegie Mellon University *Student Government Fiscal Policy*, *Joint Funding Committee Bylaws*, *Committee on Student Organization Bylaws*, and *Student Government Election Rules*.

Article IV. Members of Student Senate.

155 **Article V. Student Senate Fiscal Policy.**

Article VI. Officers.

Article VII. Meetings.

Article VIII. The Executive Committee of Student Senate.

Article IX. Standing Committees.

160 **Article X. Student Body Directives.**

Article XI. Amendment.

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