

University of Cincinnati College of Law
Student Legal Education Committee ("SLEC")
Constitution & Bylaws
Amended August 21, 2006

I. Statement of Purpose

The Student Legal Education Committee ("SLEC") was established to provide a mechanism for joint action by the student body and faculty of the College of Law on decisions concerning the educational program and administration of the College, and to establish a means for the free flow of views between students and faculty. The establishment of SLEC is grounded on the recognition that both students and faculty have unique contributions to make in the achievement of their shared objectives.

II. Effect of This Constitution

The rules of this constitution shall be binding on the members and officers of SLEC. To this end, specific implementation shall be effected by regular consultation between the SLEC Chair and subsidiary officers, the Chair and the Dean, and the Chair and the general SLEC membership.

III. Organization of the Student Legal Education Committee

- 1) Committee Composition. The Student Committee on Legal Education shall consist of approximately eighteen members; each class shall have six representatives, one from each section. Representation by section is to be grandfathered in beginning with the 1L elections for the class of 2009.
- 2) 1L Elections. Elections will be held by the last week of September for the first-year members with membership on the committee being effective immediately following the election. The 1L class shall be informed of the election procedure at a meeting and by posted notices. Each candidate must submit a nomination form not less than one week before election, signed by at least twenty 1L students. A list of qualified candidates shall be posted at least three days before the election. Voting shall be by secret ballot and the candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. It is the responsibility of the Chair to coordinate these elections in a timely and efficient manner. The Chair may appoint representatives to facilitate the election process.
- 3) Member Term of Service. A member will serve until he or she graduates, subject to good behavior, and provided the member maintain a minimum academic average of 2.0. If an opening should occur in the first year, a new election will be held. If the opening occurs in the second or third year, the members of that class will appoint a new member to fill the opening subject to approval by a 2/3 majority of SLEC.
- 4) Chair Elections. During the first two weeks of April, SLEC shall elect a Chair. To be eligible for nomination, a member must be in good standing and have served on SLEC for at least one full academic semester. To be elected, a nominee must receive a majority vote of all SLEC members in good standing. If no nominee receives a majority vote when the first ballot is cast, the nominee receiving the most votes shall be placed on a second ballot as the first candidate and a runoff election conducted between the remaining nominees to determine the second candidate. In the event that the first ballot results in a three-way tie, the sitting Chair shall choose one candidate to be placed on the second ballot and a runoff election conducted to determine the second candidate. The newly-elected Chair shall begin serving immediately.

- 5) Vice Chair Elections. A Vice Chair shall be elected immediately after the election of the Chair, following the same election procedures. A member may run for both chair and vice chair, but may not be elected to both positions.
- 6) Secretary Appointment. No later than the first meeting of the second semester, a 1L shall be appointed secretary by the Chair, subject to approval of a majority of the committee.
- 7) Other Officers. The Committee may elect such other officers as it deems necessary through a 2/3 majority of SLEC, and may elect non-members from the student body to aid it in any research, writing and investigation with a majority.
- 8) Removal of Members. Members are expected and required to attend SLEC meetings and fulfill member duties. Members are required to report on their faculty committee activities orally at each meeting. If unable to attend a meeting, the member must provide the Chair with 24 hours notice and provide a written update to the secretary prior to the meeting to be read at the meeting. Failure to attend 3 meetings or report 2 times will require the member to address SLEC at the next meeting, where the member may be removed from office by the vote of at least two-thirds of its members for failure to discharge his duties adequately or other good cause, after full opportunity to be heard.

IV. Operations of Student Legal Education Committee

- 1) SLEC Meetings. SLEC shall hold regular meetings on the alternate Monday of the SBA meeting at 12:20 in a location to be designated by the Chairperson, or at a time determined by the Chairperson and approved by a 2/3 vote of SLEC in its entirety within two weeks of the beginning of the semester.
 - a) The SLEC meetings shall be operated under Robert's Rules of Procedure.
 - b) Meeting minutes shall be taken by the Secretary.
- 2) Student Body Feedback. SLEC shall remain informed of the views of the student body to ensure that these views are voiced to the faculty, both on issues that have arisen within the faculty committees and on issues that need to be taken to an appropriate faculty committee.
 - a) SLEC shall also hold at least one student body Update Meeting per semester, on a date and at a location to be determined within the first two weeks of each semester by the Chairperson.
 - b) Within 24 hours of adjournment of each SLEC meeting, SLEC shall post an update for the student body on the SLEC website, summarizing the meeting. The actual minutes, due to the confidential topics often discussed, shall be internally maintained on the SLEC TWEN site, but shall not be published for the student body.
- 3) Faculty Committees. Each SLEC member shall serve as a representative on one faculty committee.
 - a) List of Faculty Committees.
 - i) Academic Policy and Curriculum
 - ii) Admissions & Financial Aid
 - iii) Alumni
 - iv) Center for Professional Development
 - v) Faculty Appointments
 - vi) Honor Council
 - vii) Lawyers & the Legal Profession
 - viii) Library & Technology
 - ix) Student Petitions & Scholastic Review
 - b) Faculty Committee Descriptions. Each Faculty Committee shall be guided by a description of responsibilities and expectations detailed in Appendix A. This description shall be evaluated and if necessary, updated each year. Updates are subject to the same conditions as any amendment to this constitution.

- c) Member Assignment. The faculty committee to which the SLEC member is assigned shall be designated by the Chairperson, after consultation with SLEC in its entirety.
- d) Member's Role. The nature of the SLEC member's role as a representative on the faculty committee is determined by the nature of the committee.
 - i) If the faculty committee is one through which decision-making is based upon majority-rule voting, then the SLEC member shall be a voting representative on the faculty committee.
 - ii) If the faculty committee is one that operates under a policy of consensus, then the SLEC member shall work directly with the chairperson of the faculty committee to ensure that student voices are understood and acknowledged.
 - iii) The Chairperson and the SLEC representative shall discuss with the chairperson of the faculty committee and the Dean the voting status of the SLEC representative on that committee at the end of each academic year.
- e) Responsibilities and Expectations. SLEC members are expected to meet or exceed the responsibilities and expectations when serving in their roles as representatives on faculty committees.
 - i) Review. These responsibilities and expectations shall be reviewed:
 - (1) At the conclusion of each academic year by the SLEC member serving as the representative on the faculty committee.
 - (2) At the written request of any SLEC member.
 - ii) Modification. These responsibilities and expectations may be modified following a presentation and discussion of the proposed modifications. Following a 2/3 vote of SLEC in its entirety in favor of the modifications, the Chairperson will present the recommendations to the Dean.
- f) Faculty Committee Status. At the conclusion of each academic year, the SLEC member shall evaluate the status of the faculty committee and make suggestions to the Chairperson. The Chairperson, in turn, will present these suggestions with the Dean.
- g) Non-voting Representation. Additional SLEC members may serve as non-voting representatives of faculty committees when deemed appropriate by the chairperson of the faculty committee.
- h) Non-student Committees. Certain faculty committees, by virtue of their subject matter, may be designated as *non-student committees* by the Dean in consultation with the Chairperson.
- 4) SLEC Position Descriptions.
 - a) Chair. Each semester the Chair shall meet with the Dean to review the semester and any challenges faced by SLEC as a whole or any SLEC representative serving on a Faculty Committee. The Chair shall set up this meeting within six weeks into the semester to ensure full notification to the Dean. Each member shall submit a written report to the Chair to provide the Dean.
 - b) Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for communication between SLEC and the Student Body, including managing the SLEC website and coordinating the Semester Student Body Meetings.
 - c) Secretary. Keep report log; Keep minutes of meetings; maintain records; call meeting to order; disseminate meeting minutes to SLEC and the student body.

V. Amendments

An amendment to this Constitution shall require approval by two-thirds of all SLEC members of record who are in good standing at the time the amendment is proposed. Upon passage, it shall be submitted to the faculty for approval by a majority vote.