

# Constitution of the Madonna University Student Senate



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## **Preamble**

We, the students of Madonna University, in order to form a unified student voice; protect students' rights, interests, and opinions; institute the respect for the dignity of each person; foster positive change; enhance community dialogue and understanding; and enrich the overall student experience, do hereby establish these bylaws, within the Catholic tradition, for the student body of Madonna University.

## **Article I**

### **Name**

The student representative body shall be known as Madonna University Student Senate.

## **Article II**

### **Purpose**

- A. The Student Senate of Madonna University shall:
  - 1. Respond to proposals deemed beneficial to the student body.
  - 2. Upon receipt of student complaints act to investigate the problem(s) and work to resolve them.
  - 3. Promote cooperation between all members of the University.
  - 4. Act as the representative for students and protect the individual student rights and freedoms to the best of its ability.

## **Article III**

### **The Senate**

#### *Section 1*

#### *Membership*

- A. The executive officers of the Student Senate shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- B. The entire elected body of the Senate shall be referred to as the General Assembly.

#### *Elected Senators*

- A. Must maintain full-time academic status, unless otherwise noted (e.g. transfer students).
- B. Must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
- C. Shall serve a one-year term after being elected in accordance with the bylaws.
- D. In the case of a vacant senate seat, qualified individuals may be nominated by another senator or self-nominated.

## Article IV

### Impeachment

- A. A request for impeachment of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary may be made to the Speaker of the Senate by way of either:
  - 1. A three-fourths (3/4) supermajority vote at a General Assembly meeting.
  - 2. A petition, validated by the Speaker of the Senate, containing fifty (50) printed name, signatures, and Madonna University IDs of members of the student body.
- B. The Speaker of the Senate must notify, via e-mail, any officer for whom an impeachment request has been made, immediately upon receipt of the request.
  - 1. The powers of an officer for whom an impeachment request has been made shall be suspended immediately upon the officer's notification of that request, and shall remain suspended until the impeachment hearings have reached their conclusion.
  - 2. The Speaker of Senate may appoint another member of the student body to assume any duty or power of an officer for whom an impeachment request has been made. This appointment lasts until the impeachment hearings have reached their conclusion.
  - 3. The Student Senate may overrule this appointment by way of a two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote at a General Assembly Meeting.
- C. The Speaker of the Senate must notify Student Senate of a request for impeachment, along with any reasons given for the impeachment request, and the decision to delegate any of that officer's powers, within three (3) days of receipt of the impeachment request.
- D. Impeachment hearings shall take place at a joint meeting of Student Senate within three (3) weeks of receipt of a request for impeachment. A removed officer is not eligible to fill any Student Government position for a period of one (1) year from the date of their removal from office unless s/he is elected to that position through a student body election.

## Article V

### Committees

#### *Section 1*

##### *Purpose*

- A. Committees shall assist the Student Senate in carrying out its responsibilities and shall provide for the development of policies and activities in areas of student interest.
- B. The committee chair shall be responsible for all activities assigned to the committee by the Student Senate.

#### *Section 2*

##### *Establishment or Elimination of Committees*

- A. Any Committee may be created or eliminated by the Student Senate President with 2/3

- (67%) vote in the General Assembly.
- B. A list of committees shall be kept in the bylaws.

### *Section 3*

#### *Membership*

- A. Membership policies shall be decided by the Vice President.
- B. It is the responsibility of the committee chair to ensure active membership.

### *Section 4*

#### *Ad Hoc Committees*

- A. The Student Senate President shall have the power to create ad hoc committees to pursue specific tasks.
- B. To eliminate an ad hoc committee, a 2/3 (67%) vote is required.

## **Article VI**

### **Meetings**

#### *Section 1*

##### *General Assembly Meetings*

- A. Shall be open to all members of Madonna University including: students, faculty, staff, administration, and visitors of the University.
- B. Shall be governed according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised Edition* in accordance with the bylaws.
- C. Shall take place weekly at a time appointed by the Student Senate as a whole.
- D. Shall be presided over by the President. If the president is not present, then the Vice President, then the Speaker of the Senate, then the Treasurer.
- E. Minutes of each meeting shall be taken by the Secretary.
- F. Motions brought to the floor can be voted on by all but the President, except cases where the President's vote would be the deciding vote.

#### *Section 2*

##### *Voting*

- A. Each member of the Senate shall have one vote.
- B. Quorum for General Assembly meetings shall be 3/4 (75%).

#### *Section 3*

### *Nonmembers Attending*

- A. Nonmembers shall hold no right to vote, but may participate in discussion of the General Assembly.

## **Article VII**

### **Elections**

- A. Petition and campaign requirements shall adhere to process displayed in bylaws.
- B. Validation of election results shall be conducted by the chair of the Special Events Committee and the Student Senate Advisor.

## **Article VIII**

### **Budget**

- A. The Student Senate must maintain a budget from which to fund registered student organizations.

## **Article IX**

### **Oath of Office**

- A. The Oath of Office for the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Senators shall be:

*I \_\_\_\_\_, promise to faithfully uphold the Constitution of the Madonna University Student Senate and defend the rights of each individual student to the best of my ability, in accordance with the Franciscan Values and Catholic Tradition of the University.*

## **Article X**

### **Advisor**

- A. In cooperation with the Administration of Madonna University, the Student Senate approves the Student Life Coordinator as the advisor to offer suggestions, provide counsel, and encourage debate on matters of student interest.

## **Article XI**

### **Amendments**

#### *Section 1*

### *Procedure*

- A. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a majority vote in the general assembly.
- B. The proposed amendment shall then be voted on after a proposal has been made no less than three weeks after.
- C. The amendment shall be made if the proposal receives a 2/3 (67%) vote in the Senate and shall become part of the constitution.

### *Section 2*

#### *Bylaws*

- A. Amendments to the bylaws shall follow the same procedure as above.

### *Section 3*

#### *Ratification*

- A. The constitution and bylaws shall be considered in effect when it has been approved by a 2/3 (67%) vote in the Senate.
- B. This constitution shall supersede all previous versions.
- C. The bylaws and constitution shall be made readily available to all members of the Madonna University community.