

THE ASHEVILLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Revisions accepted by Student Council 16, February 1998

Revisions accepted by the Faculty 20, April 1998

Further Amendments accepted by Student Council and Student Body April 2006

International Amendment accepted by Student Council and Student Body March 2007

Form Rep Amendment accepted by Student Council and Student Body April 2009

Article I

Purpose

The Student Council shall assist the Administration and Faculty in governing the student body. It shall have an established and definite role, as hereinafter specified, in formulating that school policy directly concerning the students; it shall represent student opinion to the Administration and Faculty, and Administration and Faculty opinions to the student body; it shall safeguard the worthwhile traditions and customs of the school, represent the students on public occasions, and in every way possible promote school spirit and further the welfare of The Asheville School and its students.

Article II

Membership

The Student Council shall comprise a group of three officers and twelve representatives. The President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall constitute the cabinet. Members of the Cabinet shall be elected by the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Forms. There shall be two representatives from the Third, Fifth, and Sixth Forms, three representatives from the Fourth Form, a prefect representative, and two Day Student representatives. Representatives shall be elected by their constituents. At the beginning of each school year, a faculty member shall be nominated by the Headmaster and approved by the Council as Council Advisor.

Article III

Elections

A. General Procedure

Candidates shall file their names with the Secretary-Treasurer one week before the date of the election. The names of the candidates shall be posted and announced 24 hours before the close of filing, and shall again be announced and posted at the first opportunity after filing has been closed. In the respective elections, the candidates' names shall be placed alphabetically on the ballots which shall be distributed at a specified place and time convenient to the constituency. Each member of the Student Body shall have one vote. A roster of the constituents of each office shall be present at the distribution of ballots and an accurate tally of those given ballots shall be kept. Those conducting the election shall insure that every member of the constituency be given the opportunity to vote; however, no constituent may be required to exercise that opportunity. Any member of the constituency who does not receive a ballot, either because of absence from the election due to an official school obligation or due to an absence from school which is excused by the school, shall be sought and given an opportunity to cast a late ballot within the following 96 hours if the constituent is available on campus within that time. If such a situation should occur, the ballots already cast and the appropriate roster/s of constituents shall immediately be conveyed to the Dean of Students for safe keeping until each person eligible has been given the opportunity to cast a late ballot at the office of the Dean of Students. A student who is available to vote at the regular election time but does not at that time choose to vote is not eligible for the privilege of casting a late ballot. Ballots are not to be counted until all ballots have been cast. The first candidate to receive a majority of the votes (more than 50%) is then elected to the respective office. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, a run-off election will be held as soon as possible (and by the same rules as the original election) among those candidates remaining after the elimination from the ballot of those who received the least number of votes, the total of which, added to the votes received by the candidate with the greatest number, would constitute a majority.

Write-in votes are acceptable; however, write-in candidates shall have none of the privileges and all of the restrictions of the official candidates.

A faculty member shall be present at all Student Council elections. (Said faculty member will insure the maintenance of a fair election, a fair system for counting the ballots, and a fair system for determining the results of the election.) Should an exact tie occur in any Student Council election, after the candidates' constituency have voted a second time, the existing or retiring Council shall break the tie by a Full Council vote.

Vacancies created by resignation, expulsion, or withdrawal shall immediately be filled by an election as prescribed in the foregoing.

B. Cabinet

The President and the Vice-President shall be from the Sixth Form. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be from the Fifth Form.

Filing for Cabinet positions shall begin in the first seven days of April, and elections of the Cabinet shall begin on the fourteenth of April (or as immediately after that date as is necessary to avoid holding the election on a weekend) prior to the school year in which the officer is to hold office, and shall be held prior to the election of the Form Representatives and Sixth Form class officers. Any candidate who has filed for a Cabinet position shall have the option of publishing a campaign sheet and/or posters, and shall have the right to address the Student Body with a campaign speech at an assembly of the Student Body.

C. Representatives

Shortly after the election of the Cabinet, the following representatives shall be elected by their respective forms for the coming year: two representatives each from the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Forms and one day student representative. A third representative from the Fourth Form, two representatives from the Third Form and one day student representative shall be elected during the last two weeks of October of the school year in which they are to serve. The Prefect representative shall be elected by the Prefects at their earliest opportunity in the beginning of the school year in which he or she is to serve. Candidates for representative positions are allowed to publish a campaign sheet and/or posters but shall not have the right to make a campaign speech.

Article IV

Meetings

A. Council Meetings

1. The Council shall meet at the request of the Headmaster, the President, or a majority of its members at least once every two weeks.
2. The President or his constitutionally designated alternate shall preside at all meetings.
3. Each member is expected to attend each meeting unless specifically excused by the President prior to that meeting.
4. The Council shall reserve the right to hold closed meetings with the consent of the Headmaster or the Council Advisor. A closed meeting shall consist only of elected council members. The Council may request the presence of any student and /or faculty member at a closed meeting.
5. Anyone will be entitled to attend a Council meeting (with the exception of a closed meeting) with the permission of the Council Advisor, the President, or any member of the Cabinet.
6. A quorum consists of at least one of the faculty advisors or and a majority of the elected members of the Council which must include at least one Cabinet member, one Representative of each form, and one day student Representative, unless the faculty advisor has agreed that the meeting will be closed. In which case, a quorum will consist of a majority of the elected members of the Council which must include at least one Cabinet member, one Representative of each form and one day student Representative.
7. Questions concerning normal business of the Council shall be decided by a majority of those voting.
8. The faculty advisor or his representative shall attend all meetings unless a mutual agreement to the contrary has been previously reached by the President and the faculty advisor.

B. Student Body Meetings

1. With the consent of the Headmaster or his representative, the Student Body will be called together at the request of the President.
2. The President or his constitutionally designated alternate shall preside at all Student Body Meetings.
3. These meetings will be open to faculty members unless a mutual agreement to the contrary has been previously reached by the President and the Headmaster or his representative.
4. The Headmaster or his representative shall attend all meetings unless an agreement to the contrary has been previously reached by the President and the Headmaster or his representative.
5. Student attendance shall be required except as the President deems it unnecessary.

C. Form Meetings

1. With the consent of the Headmaster or his representative, the representatives may request meetings of their individual forms for discussion of complaints, needs, suggestions, or problems.
2. Form representatives shall hold meetings of their constituents at least twice each term, as well as when a meeting is directed by the Council. Any form member may present a request for a meeting of his form.
3. The representatives will convey the opinions of their forms to the first Council meeting following the form meeting.
4. At the request of the form representatives and with the consent of the Headmaster or his representative, these meetings may be held without a faculty member present.
5. The Headmaster or his representative may attend all meetings unless a mutual agreement to the contrary has been previously reached by the representatives and the Headmaster.
6. The representatives shall have the option of requiring attendance.

Article V

Duties

A. Members

1. President
 - (a) Shall call and conduct all Student Council meetings.
 - (b) Shall have only a tie-breaking vote.
 - (c) Shall oversee all elections in conjunction with a faculty member.
 - (d) Shall have the right to call and preside over Student Body meeting.
 - (e) Shall represent the Student Council or shall designate someone to represent the Student Council at those occasions which require the Student Council's presence.
 - (f) Shall remove money from the treasury only upon the consent of the majority of the Council.

2. Vice-President
 - (a) Shall assume the duties of the President in his absence or when called upon to do so.
 - (b) Shall coordinate all committees within the Student Council as well as all those set up by the Student Council within the Student Body with the exception of the Student Council Activities Coordinator.

3. Secretary
 - (a) Shall be responsible for recording the minutes of every Council meeting and for publishing them to the Student Body.
 - (b) Shall be responsible for the permanent record and file of the Council, including minutes and other publications.
 - (c) Shall be responsible for a report at the end of every term on the acquisition and use of the funds of the Council.
 - (d) Shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the other two Cabinet members or when called upon to do so.
 - (e) Under the oversight of a faculty member and the Student Council President, shall be responsible for conducting elections for Student Council positions.

- (f) Under the oversight of a faculty member, shall be responsible for conducting an election to fill any vacancy created by the removal or resignation of the President from office.

4. Representatives

- (a) The 4th Form Representatives shall be responsible for managing and operating the snack bar.

5. The Cabinet

- (a) The Cabinet shall have the right to represent Student Council opinions at faculty meetings, and may be permitted to participate in further discussion at the request of the Headmaster.
- (b) The Cabinet shall represent the Student Council in faculty meetings when requested by the Headmaster or his representative.
- (b) When called upon by the Headmaster's Management Team or any committee of the faculty, the Cabinet shall function in an advisory capacity.
- (c) At the beginning and end of each academic year, the Student Council shall present to the Board of Trustees, after it has been approved by a two-thirds majority of the Council and presented to the Headmaster, a report stating any Student Body concerns and any Student Council concerns and Student Council activities. Additional reports may be published during the year as the Council sees fit.

6. Full Council

- (a) The Student Council shall be responsible for naming a representative from the 4th, 5th or 6th form as the Student Council Activities Coordinator. The Student Council Activities Coordinator will have the power to appoint a committee to aid him/her in the duties which the Council designates for him/her.
- (b) The Council shall have the right to determine whether an issue shall be presented to the entire Student Body.