

Constitution of the Westmont Student Government (Westmont College Student Association)

Preamble:

The students of Westmont College, in order to preserve the inherent powers of the student voice, do hereby establish Westmont Student Government (Westmont College Student Association). This vested power exists to represent student needs to the Westmont community and to pursue change in response to these needs. As an elected body of student officials, Student Government (WCSA) seeks to utilize a responsible leadership structure, an emphasis on academic and spiritual growth and community building activities as a source of meeting the responsibilities of representing the Westmont community.

Article I: The Assembly

The Assembly is the legislative body of Westmont Student Government (WCSA). All legislative power herein shall rest with this legislative body and deliberative assembly.

SECTION I: STRUCTURE, POWER, AND PURPOSE OF THE ASSEMBLY

1. The following officers shall be members of the Assembly :
 - 1.1. President
 - 1.2. Vice President
 - 1.3. Business Manager
 - 1.4. Communications Manager
 - 1.5. Academic Liaison
 - 1.6. Equity and Diversity Manager
 - 1.7. Hall Senators
 - 1.8. Other members determined by Assembly action.
3. The President shall be the presiding officer over the Assembly.
 - 3.1. The President shall vote only in the case of a tie.
 - 3.2. The President shall have the power to veto legislation.
4. The Assembly shall have the power to enact legislation in the interest of the student body.
5. The Assembly shall have the power to issue statements concerning college policy or action on behalf of the student body.
6. The Assembly shall have the power to adopt a budget at the beginning of each school year.
7. The Assembly shall have the power to allocate student fee dollars.
8. The Assembly shall have the power to overturn a Presidential veto with a 3/4 vote.
9. The Assembly shall have the power to amend the bylaws by a simple majority vote.

SECTION II: POWER AND PURPOSE OF THE EXECUTIVES

1. The Executives of the Assembly shall consist of the following officers:

1.1 President

1.1.1 The purpose of the President shall be to act as Chief Executive Officer and represent the entire student body to the faculty, staff, administration, Board of Trustees, alumni community, and the Santa Barbara Community. The President shall provide leadership over all student organizations and represent them collectively.

1.1.2 The President shall have the power to veto any vote of the Assembly within seven days of the initial vote.

1.1.3 The President shall from time to time give to the Assembly the State of the Students, and recommend to their consideration such measures and actions that he or she shall judge necessary and expedient.

1.2 Vice President

1.2.1 The Vice President shall be an advisor to the President in all decision-making and function as the President in the event that the President is unable to perform his or her constitutional duties. The Vice President shall support Student Government (WCSA) through administrative record keeping and follow through.

1.3 Business Manager

1.3.1 The purpose of the Business Manager shall be to oversee all revenue and financial outlays of all student fee dollars, including: proposing a semester budget, controlling funds, disbursing funds, and offering advice on the appropriation of finances with regard to proposals and daily activities of WCSA.

1.4 Communication Manager

1.4.1 The purpose of the Communication Manager shall be administrative as well as to ensure seamless communication between WCSA and the student body, faculty, the administration, and others.

1.5 Academic Liaison

1.5.1 The purpose of the Academic Liaison shall be to serve on the Academic Senate Committee as a student representative, and to communicate these matters back to WCSA.

1.6 Equity and Diversity Manager

1.6.1 The Equity and Diversity Manager is an elected member of the Westmont College Student Association Senate and represents underrepresented students (i.e. students of color, missionary, third culture, and international students). The Equity and Diversity Manager will strive to ensure that the needs, ideas, suggestions, and concerns of underrepresented students are communicated to the Westmont College Student Association as well as staff, faculty, administration, and various college committees.

1.6.2 The Equity and Diversity Manager shall be elected in the Spring of each year along with the Executives.

2. The Executives shall meet once a week, outside of the Assembly meeting time.

SECTION III: POWER AND PURPOSE OF THE SENATORS

1. Hall Senators

1.1. There shall be one elected Senator per Residence Hall. Senators represent the 7 Westmont residence populations. One Senator will be elected per residence hall, and one senator for “off-campus/Ocean View”. The primary responsibility of the Senators is to consult and work closely with residence hall students to improve the student experience, and represent their concerns to the Westmont Student Government (WCSA) Assembly

2. The Assembly may consist of additional at large Senators.

3.1. Additional at large positions shall be established by a 2/3 vote of the Assembly.

SECTION IV: QUALIFICATIONS

1. All Assembly members must meet the qualifications described in Article III.
2. All Residence Hall based Senators must live in the Residence Hall they represent.
3. The President must be in their third or fourth year at the commencement of their term.

SECTION V: DUTIES OF ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

1. All members of the Assembly shall fulfill their duties and responsibilities as described in the bylaws.

SECTION VI: PROCEDURE OF THE ASSEMBLY

1. All meetings of the Assembly shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order.
2. Each member of the Assembly shall have one vote, except the President who is the presiding officer of the Assembly.
3. No member may delegate his or her vote to anyone else.
4. A majority of the members of the Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
5. All meetings shall be chaired by the President.
 - 5.1. Should the President not be able to preside over a meeting of the Assembly, then the role of the presiding officer for that meeting shall be assumed by the Vice President, the Communication Manager, the Business Manager, in that order.
6. The President has the authority to commission and decommission standing and special Assembly Committees and appoint committee chairs.

SECTION VII: TERM OF OFFICE

1. The term of office for President, Vice President, Business Manager, Communication Manager, Academic Liaison, Equity and Diversity Manager, and Senators shall be one year.

1.1. The term for the new Assembly shall commence on the first Monday after spring graduation.

Article II: Purpose of the Executives

SECTION I

1. The purpose of the Executives (namely, the President, Vice President, Communications Manager, Business Manager, Academic Liaison, and Equity and Diversity Manager) shall be,
 - 1.1 To provide leadership and guidance to the Assembly.
 - 2.1 To provide analysis on bills and funding proposals in order that the Assembly members may better understand issues at hand more fully.
 - 3.1 To be liaisons to the Westmont College Executive Team members.
 - 4.1 To lead standing committees.
 - 5.1 To lead the student body and student organizations in times of unexpected circumstances or crises.
 - 6.1 The executives will meet once a week to determine issues that need to be discussed and considered in the Assembly.

Article III: Qualifications

SECTION I

1. In order for a student to service on Student Government (WCSA) , he or she must be:
 - 1.1. A registered, full-time student at Westmont College taking a minimum of 12 units.
 - 1.2. In good academic standing (meaning they are not currently on academic probation).
 - 1.3. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater.

Article IV: Elections

SECTION I: VOTING

1. Voting rules include, but are not limited to the following criteria:
 - 1.1. All elected officials must have received the largest student vote in their category.
 - 1.2. Voting for the Executives must be open to all current Westmont students.
 - 1.3. Students Voting for each Residence Hall based Senator must be open to all current Westmont students in their respective dorms.
 - 1.4. Voting procedure shall be set by the Assembly and governed by the bylaws.
 - 1.5. In the case of a tie, a runoff vote shall be executed in a timely manner; the winner of the run-off vote shall be appointed into office.

Article V: Recall

SECTION I: RECALL PROCEDURE

1. The recall process may be initiated by a member of the Westmont Student Government (WCSA) Assembly, or by the presentation to the Assembly of a petition bearing the signatures of one tenth of the student body.
2. For the recall to take place, a motion for recall must pass with a three-fourths vote of the Assembly.
3. If a recall motion passes, the member in question shall be dismissed from WCSA effective immediately.

Article VI: Ratification

SECTION I

1. The ratification of the Constitution shall become effective upon a simple majority affirmative vote of the student body.

Article VII: Procedure for Amendments

SECTION I: AMENDMENT PROCESS

1. Any full time student may propose a constitutional amendment to be considered by the Assembly.
2. The proposed amendment shall be presented at the next meeting of the Assembly.
3. The presented amendment must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Assembly.
4. Approved amendments must be submitted to the student body for ratification during the next election.
5. An amendment shall be considered ratified once it has been approved by a majority of voting students.