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THE CONSTITUTION OF THE BETHEL COLLEGE STUDENT BODY

We, the students of Bethel College, in order to promote a closer relationship and better understanding among the administration, faculty, staff, alumni and students, and to enhance our intellectual, social and spiritual maturity, do establish this constitution of the Student Body of Bethel College.

Eric Oglesbee 11/19/09 2:25 PM
Comment: The idea behind the constitution is to create the general framework for student representation. The bylaws provide the specifics for executing the constitution.

9 **Article I. The Bethel College students shall collectively be referred to**
10 **as the Bethel College Student Body.**

11 **Article II. The purpose of the Bethel College Student Body shall be to**
12 **strive for spiritual, professional, mental, physical, emotional, and**
13 **social growth both during, and after, their time at Bethel College.**

14 **Article III. Any person who is currently enrolled part time or full time**
15 **at Bethel College shall be a voting member of the Bethel College**
16 **Student Body.**

17 **Article IV. Student Council**

18 **Section 4.01 The leading student administrative authority within the Bethel College**
19 **Student Body shall be the Student Council (StuCo).**

20 **Section 4.02 StuCo shall purpose to:**

- 21 (a) **Plan, promote, and assist in the supervision of Student Body activities.**
- 22 (b) **Build a closer relationship and better understanding between the administration,**
23 **faculty, and Student Body.**
- 24 (c) **Advance student and college community interests.**
- 25 (d) **Provide a liaison between the alumni association and the Student Body.**
- 26 (e) **Support efforts to serve the greater community outside of Bethel College.**

27 **Section 4.03 Membership**

- 28 (a) **StuCo is composed of:**
 - 29 (i) ***Executive Officers***
 - 30 (ii) ***Upperclass Officers***
 - 31 (iii) ***Underclass Officers***
 - 32 (iv) ***Residential Representatives***
 - 33 (v) ***Chairs of Established Committees***

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Comment: A total of 22 voting representatives; 14 elected by students.

34 (b) Eligibility for membership is determined according to the current bylaws.

35 **Section 4.04 StuCo shall have the power to:**

36 (a) Establish and dissolve such committees as deemed necessary for the efficient
37 operation of the council, upon approval from the faculty of Bethel College.

38 (b) Determine the rules of its proceedings, discipline its members for inappropriate
39 behavior, and with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member for inappropriate
40 behavior.

41 (c) Judge the elections, returns and qualifications of candidates running for any elective
42 office of StuCo.

43 (d) Issue writs of election to fill vacancies in elective offices of StuCo and class councils.

44 (e) Charter organizations within the Student Body.

45 (f) Appoint and remove members of committees of StuCo.

46 (g) Lay and collect fees from the Student Body to carry out the purposes of the StuCo,
47 upon approval from the faculty of Bethel College.

48 (h) Draw money from the treasury, but only in consequence of appropriations made by
49 StuCo.

50 (i) Exercise such legislation that shall be necessary and proper for the carrying into
51 execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution in
52 the Student Council, or in any department or officer thereof.

53 **Section 4.05 Executive Officers**

54 (a) The purpose of the Executive Officers of StuCo is to provide direction for the council.

55 (b) As a group, the Executive Officers reserve the following power(s):

56 (i) *Act on the behalf of StuCo when necessary between meetings of the council,*
57 *understanding that the council may reverse any decision.*

58 (ii) *Approve faculty/staff nominated chairpersons of the permanent committees on*
59 *StuCo.*

60 (c) There shall be four Executive Officers: president, vice president, secretary, and
61 treasurer.

62 (d) Specific powers and responsibilities for Executive Officers:

63 (i) **President**

64 1) Call Student Body and StuCo meetings

- 65 2) Preside as moderator at Student Body, StuCo, and Executive Officer meetings.
66 3) Serve as a liaison between the students and administration and faculty.
67 4) Authorize fund disbursements in the absence of the treasurer.
68 5) Perform responsibilities as assigned by StuCo.

69 **(ii) Vice President**

- 70 1) Assume the responsibilities of the Executive President in the absence of the
71 president.
72 2) Perform responsibilities as assigned by StuCo.

73 **(iii) Secretary**

- 74 1) Keep accurate and authentic minutes of all Student Body, StuCo, and Executive
75 Officer meetings.
76 2) Preserve documents of the Student Body.
77 3) Announce the calling of Student Body, StuCo, and Executive Officer meetings to the
78 members of those groups.
79 4) Perform responsibilities as assigned by StuCo.

80 **(iv) Treasurer**

- 81 1) Be charged with the supervision of the Student Council treasury, authorizing
82 disbursements in accordance with the budget, keeping a complete and accurate
83 account of the receipts and expenditures, reporting the financial situation and
84 recording Student Council fund-raising projects.
85 2) If necessary, be responsible for auditing the financial accounts of any organization
86 receiving funds from StuCo.
87 3) Perform responsibilities as assigned by StuCo.

88 **Section 4.06 Upperclass Officers**

- 89 **(a) The purpose of the Upperclass Officers of StuCo is to represent the interests of juniors**
90 **and seniors within the Student Body.**
91 **(b) As a group, the Upperclass Officers reserve the following power(s):**
92 **(i) The authority to disburse funds allocated to the Upperclass Officers.**
93 **(c) There shall be five Upperclass Officers: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer,**
94 **and member-at-large.**

95 (d) Eligibility and responsibilities for the Upperclass Officers shall be determined
96 according to the StuCo bylaws.

97 **Section 4.07 Underclass Officers**

98 (a) The purpose of the Underclass Officers of StuCo is to represent the interests of
99 freshmen and sophomores within the Student Body.

100 (b) As a group, the Underclass Officers reserve the following power(s):

101 (i) *The authority to disburse funds allocated to the Underclass Officers.*

102 (c) There shall be five Underclass Officers: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer,
103 and member-at-large.

104 (d) Eligibility and responsibilities for the Underclass Officers shall be determined
105 according to the StuCo bylaws.

106 **Section 4.08 Residential Representatives**

107 (a) The purpose of the Residential Representatives of StuCo is to represent the interests
108 of students according to residence affiliation.

109 (b) As a group, the Residential Representatives reserve the following power(s):

110 (i) *The authority to disburse funds allocated to the Residential Representatives.*

111 (c) There shall be a maximum of five Residential Representatives selected according to
112 the guidelines within the StuCo bylaws.

113 **Section 4.09 Chairs of Established Committees**

114 (a) The chairs of the following student committees shall be voting members of StuCo

115 (i) *Student Spiritual Life*

116 (ii) *Student Social Life*

117 (iii) *Student Multicultural Life*

118 (iv) *Student Media*

119 (b) The chair of each committee reserves the following power(s):

120 (i) *The authority to disburse funds allocated to his/her committee.*

121 (c) Eligibility, selection, and responsibilities of the Committee Chairs shall be determined
122 according to the StuCo bylaws.

123 **Section 4.10 Meetings**

- 124 (a) The Student Council shall assemble at least twice per month during the regular school
125 year.
- 126 (b) A simple majority of members present shall constitute a quorum to do business.
- 127 (c) Minutes shall be kept of all proceedings, and from time to time published, excepting
128 such parts that may in the council's judgment require confidentiality; and the "yeas"
129 and "nays" of the members on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those
130 present, be entered on the minutes.
- 131 (d) Each member present, or represented by proxy, shall have one vote, excepting the
132 moderator (Executive President), who shall have no vote unless the council is equally
133 divided.
- 134 (e) The president of StuCo shall call all meetings, and must do so, upon petition of one-
135 fifth of the members of the council.
- 136 (f) Members of the Student Body, the administration, or the faculty may visit council
137 meetings and have voice when recognized by the chair. They have no vote and may be
138 requested to leave for closed session.

139 **Section 4.11 Advisors**

- 140 (a) StuCo shall choose two advisors from among the administration, faculty, and staff of
141 Bethel College, with at least one advisor selected from among the administration or
142 faculty to represent the said group at meetings of the Student Body and StuCo.
- 143 (b) Each advisor has no vote, but is to offer advice to the council and Student Body on
144 matters that arise.

145 **Article V. The Student Council, whenever two-thirds of either the**
146 **Student Council or the Student Body shall deem it necessary, shall**
147 **propose amendments to this constitution, which shall be valid to all**
148 **intents and purposes, as part of this constitution, when ratified by the**
149 **faculty of Bethel College and three-fourths of the Student Body.**

150 **Article VI. The ratification of three-fourths of the Student Council and**
151 **the faculty shall be sufficient for the establishment of this**
152 **constitution.**