

## Executive Summary

### Changes to Student Council (StuCo) Constitution and Bylaws

In Spring 2009, StuCo attempted to revise its Constitution and bylaws in an effort to address the following issues:

- Low levels of student participation
  - Representatives running unopposed
  - Large number of vacancies
  - Ineffectiveness of dorm representation system
- Lack of distinct service niche

Due to some concerns raised by faculty, the proposed amendments were not put into effect.

Based on feedback from the failed attempt to amend the constitution and bylaws, as well as additional consultation with major stakeholders on campus, the 2009 – 2010 StuCo has drafted a new constitution and set of bylaws that seeks to address the systemic issues the are contributing to the ineffectiveness of StuCo. Some key features of the new constitution and bylaws<sup>1</sup>:

- Class representation changed to an upper/underclass system.
  - Upperclass = Juniors and Seniors<sup>2</sup>
  - Underclass = Freshmen and Sophomores
- All elections and appointments to permanent committees moved to the Fall semester, with the exception of the following:
  - Executive Officers.
  - Chairs of Student Spiritual Life, Social Life, Multicultural Life, and Media Committees.
- Residential representative system is revised.
  - RDs select four residential representatives from the pool of RAs.
- The number of voting members of StuCo is reduced.
- StuCo's role in overseeing student clubs/organizations is emphasized.

Although the new constitution and bylaws incorporate substantial pieces of the current constitution and bylaws, because of the number and types of changes, the proposed documents are not presented in a side-by-side comparison format.

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<sup>1</sup> See attached comparison chart for the current form of student government, the failed proposal from Spring 2009, and the current proposal.

<sup>2</sup> Under/Upperclass distinction based off of completed credit hours and number of semester enrolled at Bethel College.

<b>“Current” Structure</b>	<b>Failed Spring 2009 Proposal</b>	<b>Fall 2009 Proposal</b>
<p>Executive Council (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President</li> <li>• Vice-President</li> <li>• Treasurer</li> <li>• Secretary</li> </ul> <p>Class Officers (16; 4 voting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshman president</li> <li>• Sophomore president</li> <li>• Junior president</li> <li>• Senior president</li> <li>• NOTE: No other class officers can vote</li> </ul> <p>Committee Chairs (7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Public Relations and Promotions Committee</li> <li>• Social Life Committee</li> <li>• Student Media Committee</li> <li>• Student Spiritual Life Committee</li> <li>• Student Academic Service Committee</li> <li>• Student Multicultural Life Committee</li> <li>• Student Judiciary Committee</li> </ul> <p>Dorm Representatives (12+?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presidents of residential units</li> </ul> <p>Total of at least <b>39</b> people, with at least <b>27</b> voting members.</p>	<p>Executive Council (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President</li> <li>• Vice-President</li> <li>• Treasurer</li> <li>• Secretary</li> </ul> <p>Class Officers (8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshman Representatives (2)</li> <li>• Sophomore Representatives (2)</li> <li>• Junior Representatives (2)</li> <li>• Senior Representatives (2)</li> <li>• NOTE: One of each class representative selected by faculty.</li> </ul> <p>Committee Chairs (7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Public Relations and Promotions Committee</li> <li>• Social Life Committee</li> <li>• Student Media Committee</li> <li>• Student Spiritual Life Committee</li> <li>• Student Academic Service Committee</li> <li>• Student Multicultural Life Committee</li> <li>• Student Judiciary Committee</li> </ul> <p>Total of <b>19</b> voting members</p>	<p>Executive Council (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President</li> <li>• Vice-President</li> <li>• Treasurer</li> <li>• Secretary</li> </ul> <p>Class Officers (10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underclass (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ President</li> <li>○ Vice-Pres. (F)<sup>3</sup></li> <li>○ Treasurer</li> <li>○ Secretary</li> <li>○ At-Large (F)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Upperclass (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ President</li> <li>○ Vice-Pres.</li> <li>○ Treasurer</li> <li>○ Secretary</li> <li>○ At-Large (S)<sup>4</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Appointed Committee Chairs<sup>5</sup> (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Life Committee</li> <li>• Student Media Committee</li> <li>• Student Spiritual Life Committee</li> <li>• Student Multicultural Life Committee</li> </ul> <p>Dorm Representatives (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RAs selected by Residential Life staff</li> </ul> <p>Total of <b>22</b>, with <b>22</b> voting members.</p>

<sup>3</sup> Denotes that this position must be filled by a freshman

<sup>4</sup> Denotes that this position must be filled by a senior

<sup>5</sup> The following committees are still a part of StuCo: public relations, judiciary, and academic services. Instead of appointing chairs for these committees from outside StuCo, elected members will serve as chairpersons.