

WONGU University of Oriental Medicine Student Association Constitution

CONSTITUTION

of the

WONGU Student Association

of the

WONGU University of Oriental Medicine

PREAMBLE

We, the students of WONGU University of Oriental Medicine do hereby establish and ordain this document as the sole constitution, and bylaws, which shall provide for the self-government of the WONGU Student Body in an effort to represent the interests of the students and establish a concrete and functional medium for open and civil communication among all WONGU constituencies guided by the WONGU President and Faculty in accordance with prevailing law, and through the governing organization hereinafter referred to as the WONGU Student Association (WSA). Our mission is to establish relationships between the faculty and student body, create a unified community at WONGU, and empower students to be successful practitioners and visionaries amongst a growing field.

NAME, FRAMEWORK, DEFINITIONS, AND AUTHORITY

1. The name of this body shall be the WONGU University of Oriental Medicine Student Association or WONGU Student Association (WSA)
2. Whenever the term “College” or “WONGU” is used it shall be understood to mean *WONGU University of Oriental Medicine*.
3. No line item contained in this constitution has severability unless otherwise amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the WSA Officers.
4. The authority of this Constitution and the WSA defers to the authority of Federal, State, and Local law where applicable; and to College policy, except where such policy is deemed by the WSA simple majority to be inconsistent with student rights.
5. This Constitution shall have precedence over the Bylaws and the Bylaws precedence over resolutions and/or code.
6. A Quorum will be considered present as no less three (3) members.
7. With the exception of Advisor, the WSA shall be comprised of students only for all deliberative processes concerning internal affairs, legislation, or suggestions to the WONGU faculty.
8. If any part of this Constitution is deemed in conflict with another part, or prevailing Laws, it is expected the intention of democratic process be preserved in accordance with this preamble.

OBJECT OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The object of the WONGU Student Association (WSA) shall be to consider all matters that may concern the general interest of the student body, as set forth in the Preamble above:
 - a. Promote academic freedom and scholarly inquiry;
 - b. Maintain an open and democratic forum for the expression of student opinion;
 - c. Seek to open and maintain communication with all levels of College Administration through Student only led deliberation and intercourse; notwithstanding the provision of Advisor.
 - d. Otherwise enhance the quality of life of all students during their matriculation

ARTICLE I Membership

1. The membership in this organization shall include all students enrolled at the WONGU University of Oriental Medicine.
2. Officers of the WSA shall be all student-elected Representatives: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Community Liaison.
3. The *voting membership* of the Governing Officers shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Community Liaison.
4. The *non-voting membership* of the WSA shall be one Faculty Advisor, requested by WSA Officers
5. Neither membership in nor services provided by the WSA shall be denied to anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental handicap, age, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, medical condition, or political opinion.
6. Election to membership shall be according to the rules and regulations set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE II Officers

1. The **President** shall be directly elected by the Student Body.
 - a. The term of office shall be one (1) term (four (4) quarters), or until properly replaced.
 - b. The President shall chair all full meetings of the WSA.
 - c. The President shall have one vote that may be exercised in the case of a tied WSA vote.
 - d. The President shall be elected in the Winter Quarter according to the rules and regulations set forth in the Bylaws, and shall have all the powers and duties therein written.
 - e. The supreme executive power and the responsibility for the faithful execution of the resolutions of the WSA and the directives of this constitution.
 - f. The power to call special meetings of the WSA.
 - g. The discretionary power to alleviate situations that require immediate attention in the event the WSA cannot convene.
 - h. The responsibility for preparing (or approving) a budget for approval by the WSA

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before the end of the Quarter in which s/he takes office; if such fiduciary activities are otherwise enacted, and a Treasurer appointed.

- i. The power to veto any item of legislation originating in the WSA.
 - j. Qualifications of a candidate for the office of the President shall:
 - (1) Be able to serve as president for a full term of four (4) quarters, or until properly replaced by election, impeachment, or incapacity.
 - (2) Have completed 1 academic year prior to the Quarter in which s/he is elected.
 - (3) Have attended a minimum of three (3) meetings/teleconferences.
2. The **Vice President** shall be voted in by the Student Body election process.
- a. The term of office shall be one (1) term (four (4) quarters) or until properly replaced.
 - b. The Vice President shall have one vote, which shall be relinquished upon assuming the chair on behalf of the President, at which time the voting rights of the President devolve upon the Vice President. However, the Vice President shall also have one vote and veto authority in all legislation arising from subordinate subcommittees.
 - c. The Vice President may choose to assume a position as a member of any subordinate subcommittee.
 - d. The office of the Vice-President shall:
 - (1) Serve as presiding officer of the WSA in the event of the President's absence, resignation, or removal from office.
 - (2) Serve as Election Commission Chair and supervise all elections held during his/her tenure in office.
 - e. Qualifications of a candidate for the office of the Vice-President shall:
 - (1) Be able to serve as vice-president for a full term (four (4) quarters) or until properly replaced by election, impeachment, or incapacity.
 - (2) Have completed one academic year in the quarter in which s/he is elected.
 - (3) Have attended a minimum of three (3) meetings/teleconferences.
3. The **Secretary** shall be elected by the student body.
- a. The term of office shall be one (1) term, (four (4) quarters), or as determined by the Executive President.
 - b. The Secretary shall have one (1) vote.
 - c. The Secretary shall account for the minutes of all WSA activities.
 - d. The Secretary shall be the final arbiter of legislative processes, in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, School Policy, and prevailing laws.
 - e. Qualifications of a candidate for the office of the Secretary shall be:
 - (1) The Secretary shall have completed one academic year in the quarter in which s/he is elected.
4. The **Community Liaison** shall be elected by the student body.
- a. The term of office shall be one (1) term (four (4) quarters), or as determined by the Executive President.
 - b. Qualifications of a candidate for the office of the Community Liaison shall be:
 - i. The Community Liaison shall have completed one academic year in the quarter in which s/he is elected.
 - c. The Community Liaison shall have one (1) vote.
 - d. The Community Liaison shall work with WONGU staff and organize events hosted by the WSA and/or WONGU for the student body and/or the public.
5. The **Treasurer** shall be elected by the Student Body.
- a. The term of office shall be one (1) term (four (4) quarters), or as determined by the President.

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- b. Qualifications of a candidate for the office of the Treasurer shall be:
The Secretary shall have completed one academic year in the quarter in which s/he is elected
- c. The Treasurer shall have one (1) vote.
- d. The Treasurer shall ensure that all monies collected, held, and distributed comply with applicable laws and ethics, to include periodic auditing and transparency. The Treasurer, alone or with the consent of the President, shall incur no debt on behalf of the WSA. The Treasurer is a fiduciary of the Student Body.

ARTICLE III WSA

1. Objectives of the WSA:
 - a. The creation of WSA policy, procedures/code.
 - b. The discussion of proposed legislation.
 - c. The implementation of passed policy, procedures/code.
 - d. The designation of committee work and the assignment of committee tasks.
 - e. The support of events and projects of the WSA.
2. Public forum for the College:
 - a. The WSA shall serve as a public forum for discussion of student issues and concerns.
 - b. Any student, faculty, or staff member of WONGU University of Oriental Medicine wishing to speak at a WSA meeting should notify the WSA Secretary at least two days in advance in order to be placed on the WSA meeting agenda.
 - c. Forum speakers will not be given WSA member rights at any time.
 - d. If forum speakers are present, they will be recognized according to placement on the agenda.
3. The WSA shall be vested with:
 - a. All legislative powers, referendum, and advice and consent of and to WONGU.
 - b. The power to fill vacancies in its membership by nominating and approving by simple majority a candidate, other than an expelled or resigned member.
 - c. The power to override a presidential veto by a two-thirds majority.
4. Qualifications for service in the WSA shall be:
 - a. Able to serve as an Officer for a full term.
 - b. Oriental Medicine or Acupuncture Student so selected by originating class peer group.
5. The WSA shall make all its meetings public, except for those calling for executive session to deal with personnel matters.
6. The WSA shall be governed by Bylaws established within the limits defined by this Constitution.
- 7. Advisor:**
 - a. At least one Faculty member shall be requested/appointed to serve as an Advisor to the WSA (Faculty Member or Teacher) by the WSA, with the Consent of WONGU.
 - b. Faculty Advisor shall serve a four (4) quarter term and until properly relieved by WSA appointed replacement.
 - c. The Advisor is expected to offer counsel to WSA concerning student rights, the views of the Faculty and Administration regarding issues of importance to

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the WSA, and other affairs as the President deems necessary.

- d. The Advisor may not vote on any WSA business.
- e. If requested Advisor is unable to accept appointment an alternative shall be suggested. If two requested Advisors are unable to accept appointment, WSA shall be requested to justify this action. WONGU should choose the Advisor, with consent.
- f. With the exception of the solicitation from the Advisor, all Student deliberations, negotiations, and legislation shall be comprised of students exclusively.

ARTICLE IV Elections

1. The Election Commission shall supervise and execute all election procedures in accordance with applicable State Law.
2. Election guidelines shall be that:
 - a. The WSA Officers shall be voted for in a general election by the student body.
 - b. A plurality of votes cast is necessary for election in the general election.
 - c. Referendums may be placed on the ballot for general election.
 - d. The general election shall be held by ballot on or before March 31 of the current year, and every term, four (4) quarters thereafter.
3. Protest of elections shall be done in the following manner:
 - a. Protest of all Student Government Association elections must be made in writing within 24 hours of the announcement of the final results of the election in question.
 - b. Any member of the student body may protest an election.
 - c. Any protest must be made before the WSA and all evidence must be presented to the WSA.
 - d. The WSA shall render a decision on the dispute in a timely manner or as soon as practical. Recalling of an election shall only result from a two-thirds vote of the Student Body.

ARTICLE V Petition and Referendum, Process

1. Students have the right to petition the WSA for action on matters of general interest to the college community. Five percent of the current quarters enrollment of the student body may present their signatures to the WSA, who then must act upon the item in question as a regular piece of business, within the next two meetings.
2. Students have the right to present a referendum petition to the WSA to gain approval for presentation of an item to the student body for their approval. This shall occur in either the general or special election. This petition must contain signatures of five percent of the current quarter's enrollment.

Amendments

1. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may be presented to the WSA at any time, and if approved by a two-thirds majority of the Student Body, shall be submitted in the next general or a special election for approval by the electorate. This must be met by two-thirds majority of those voting on the issue.

Impeachment & Removal

1. Impeachment and removal procedures for the Officers are that:
 - a. The WSA may initiate impeachment proceedings against the President by a simple majority.
 - b. There must be a specific list of the charges in both cases provided to the parties impeached and the Officers.
 - c. A formal hearing will be held in a special session of the WSA.
 - d. The President can only be removed by a three-fourths vote of the Student Body.
 - e. A Special Election shall be called in the instance of Presidential Impeachment or Removal; the election shall be for the remainder of the term, three (3) quarters, only.
2. Any member wishing to call for the removal of a WSA officer shall present formal written charges to the WSA.
 - a. Impeachment procedures shall follow *Robert's Rules of Order*.
 - b. Any member who is removed from office shall be ineligible for any WSA position for the current term and the next term.
3. Members may be notified of Probation following three consecutive absences from meetings. If, on the third (3rd) meeting a Member does attend, the balance is zero (0) missed meetings.
4. If a member misses four (4) consecutive meetings impeachment must be voted at the fourth (4th) missed meeting and the Class notified to elect/appoint a new Officer. Notification means is at the discretion of the President.
5. Any impeachment proceeding will remain in the record of minutes as standard activity but not otherwise posted. Under no circumstances shall impeachment be viewed as to extend beyond the Student Government, into the classroom, or larger community. All Members will always be treated in light of the burden that WSA Membership entails, and the gratuity for having served.
6. Impeachment is not be viewed/used as a penalty rather it is solely a means to ensure the continuity of student Government.
7. Members may request to be officially relieved of duties without prejudice.

Amendments to General Provisions

1. These provisions may be amended by two-thirds vote of the WSA. Amendments must be voted on after proposal in a *prior* regular meeting of the WSA.

Parliamentary Order

1. The President, using *Robert's Rules of Order*, shall be the advisor to the WSA. *Robert's Rules of Order* (the most currently revised) shall be the final authority on all questions of procedures and parliamentary law not otherwise defined in the constitution. The Parliamentarian shall be the sole and final authority on such questions. The WSA shall obey whatever decision is rendered.

ARTICLE VI Meetings

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1. Meeting types and provisions:
 - a. Meetings shall consist of the Officers and faculty as per schedule
 - b. Whoever calls a special meeting shall preside as Speaker.
2. Quorum:
 - a. Quorum shall consist of no less than three (3) members.
 - b. If quorum is not present, no business shall be discussed and the meeting shall be called to adjournment. If, after two consecutive sessions a quorum is not present, the following session a quorum shall be deemed present by quorum of the delegate body present.
3. Voting:
 - a. All Officers of the WSA will be given voting rights.
4. Decorum:
 - a. Regional, State, National, or International politics or affairs shall not be discussed in any WONGU duly constituted meeting, except in cases where *Traditional Chinese Medicine* (TCM) is the issue.
 - b. Religion, philosophy, and vexing social issues should be avoided at all duly Constituted WONGU meetings, except in cases where *Traditional Chinese Medicine* (TCM) foundations, intent, and meaning are deliberated.

ARTICLE VII Parliamentary Authority

1. Parliamentary authority shall follow the WSA Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII Amendments to the Bylaws

1. Procedure:
 - a. Amendments to the Bylaws shall require a three-fifths majority for approval.
 - b. Amendments shall be presented in the form of a resolution.

ARTICLE IX Rules

1. Rules of Order/Business:
 - a. Any legislation submitted to the WSA Officers shall be tabled for two weeks before being voted on. In unusual circumstances the WSA may waive this requirement by simple majority vote.
 - b. A proper motion to suspend the rules must be made and approved by two-thirds vote of the WSA in order for a non-member of the WSA to speak.
 - c. Proper Notice and Agenda for Meeting: All meetings must be preceded by proper notice. Proper Notice is generally one week but may in unusual circumstances, by direction of the President or Vice-President, be as little as 24 hours. Notice may include any or all of the following means: Voice, Digital, Posting, Scheduled.
 - d. Meetings shall be for the sole purpose of action on stated agenda; unless otherwise specified under suspension of rules or open floor. Otherwise: Call to Order, Motions, Debate Motions, Vote.

ARTICLE X
Ratification

1. This Constitution shall be deemed ratified when, following notification as defined within this Constitution, a Quorum of Officers votes in favor of ratification.
2. Within fourteen (14) days following ratification all WSA members shall have the opportunity to sign this Constitution. However, the signing shall be ceremonial only and all members may sign.
3. This Constitution is deemed operative following ratification.

We, members of the convention to form a constitution for the WONGU University of Oriental Medicine which is to be submitted to the people for their adoption or rejection, do hereby declare this to be the constitution formed by us, and in testimony thereof, do hereunto set our hands, this tenth day of May, anno domini, two thousand and twelve.

Shawheen Alavi-Moghaddam
Roberto Irawan
Sarah Mulligan
Renaë Haldeman
Stephanie Tanner
Karin Moeller
Rachel Ong