Greenfield Community College
Student Senate Constitution

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Senate of Greenfield Community College.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

A. To encourage and promote interest and participation among and between students of Greenfield Community College.

B. To develop and maintain a spirit of cooperation within the College community.

C. To provide for the general welfare of the student body.

Article III – Organization

Section 1 – Organization of the Senate

The Senate shall be organized as is outlined in this constitution, which may be amended following the approval of three-fourths (3/4) of those present and voting at a meeting of the Student Senate, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been introduced or notification of the nature of an amendment to be introduced shall have been given at the preceding meeting or at the meeting before the preceding meeting.

Section 2 – Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 3 – Election of Executive Board

The President of the Student Senate will be elected by the entire student body. Candidates will be required to personally collect signatures of 10% of the student body for nomination papers. The election will take place in March of the preceding academic year.

The Vice President of the Student Senate will be elected by the entire student body. Candidates will be required to personally collect signatures of 10% of the student body for nomination papers. The election will take place in October of each academic year.
The Secretary and Treasurer will be elected by and from the membership of the Student Senate following the October elections.

Vacancies which occur in the Executive Board during the academic year shall be filled by and from the membership of the Student Senate.

Section 4 – Representatives

Representatives at large – Eight day students will be elected at large from the student body. To be eligible to hold Senate office, Senators must have paid a Student Activity Fee, and be in good standing with the College (i.e., maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average). Elections for four representatives will take place in October and four representatives in March of the preceding academic year. Any person while staffing the Student Senate election ballot box shall not express any opinion of the candidates who are running for office.

Candidates will be required to personally collect signatures of 10% of the student body for nomination papers.

Vacancies which occur in the representative body during the academic year may be filled by elections by and from the student body, or by appointment by the Student Senate from the student body. Students elected or appointed in this manner shall serve until the election of the Senator whom they replaced. If the Senate appoints a Senator, the student body has the right to oppose through petition the Senate’s appointment. This must be done within two weeks, and the petition shall consist of the same number of signatures as the Senate nomination papers. Ten per cent of the petitioners shall come before the Senate to oppose the appointment. The Senate shall then vote on the appointment.

The terms of Senators shall run from election to election yearly, incumbent and newly elected Senators attending all meetings and having voting rights. The terms of graduating incumbent Senators and Executive Board Members shall run until the end of the semester.

Section 5 – Advisor

The President of the College shall appoint an advisor to the Student Senate.

The advisor will meet briefly with students who wish to run for a Student Senate office. At that time, the advisor will review procedures, rules, issues, requirements, et cetera, relevant to the position.

Additional faculty may be selected by the Student Senate.
Article IV – Duties of Officers

Section 1 – President

Let it be the power and position of the President to:

A. Call and preside over all meetings of the Student Senate to keep order and continuity.

B. Make all necessary appointments with the approval of two-thirds of the Student Senate.

C. Be able to raise questions, comment upon, and present recommendations and motions.

D. Have vote in case of a tie.

E. Represent the Student Senate.

Section 2 – Vice President

Let it be the power of the Vice President to:

A. Preside at all meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall assist the President at the latter’s request.

B. Assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in case of the death or resignation of the President, or in the event the President is unable to perform the duties of that office. The Vice President shall perform such duties and bear such responsibilities until the next regularly scheduled election.

Section 3 – Secretary

Shall be responsible for the keeping of accurate minutes of all meetings of the Student Senate and for posting the minutes in designated places within 48 hours of the completion of each meeting, and shall be responsible for Student Senate correspondence.

Section 4 - Treasurer

Shall make recommendations for budget allotments based on the Senate’s current financial status, and sign expenditure vouchers.
Article V – Student Senate Meetings

Section 1 – Meetings of the Student Senate

Shall be held at least once per month during the months of October through May inclusive. The Senate will also meet upon the direction of the President, or upon written request of 3 members of the Student Senate. An agenda must be posted at least 24 hours prior to meetings.

Section 2 – Quorum

Fifty percent plus one of membership shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3 – Unexcused Absences

Three unexcused absences per term will be deemed grounds for investigation by the Senate Review Committee, and if the Committee so finds, grounds for censure or expulsion.

Section 4 – Excused Absences

All excused absences will be cleared by a motion, second, and majority vote from the Senate, excluding absences caused by personal or confidential reasons which will be cleared by the Advisor and/or President of the Senate.

Section 5 - Resignations

The Secretary of the Student Senate must be notified in writing of all resignations.

Article VI – Parliamentary Authority

The rules of parliamentary practice contained in Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the Student Senate in all cases to which they are applicable, and are not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Student Senate.

Article VII – Standing Committees

Section 1 – Finance Committee

Shall consist of the entire Student Senate with the Senate President presiding, for budgeting purposes.
Section 2 – Activities Council

A. The Council is a standing committee of the Student Senate as well as a faculty-student committee of the College.

B. The Council may have its own Constitution, which must be approved by the Student Senate.

C. The function of the Committee shall be to coordinate the activities of all student organizations; plan and schedule programs of a general nature for the student body as a whole; and maintain liaison with other College Program Committees.

D. The Activities Council shall have one Student Senator sit on it as a committee member, and said student may report to the Senate if necessary.

Section 3 – Senate Review Committee

A. Shall consist of three Student Senate members. If investigating a member of the Committee, that member shall be replaced by another Senator.

B. Members shall be selected in the fall of each year by Presidential appointment.

C. The duties of the Committee shall be to review the conduct of Senators as it pertains to Senate affairs, and to provide a recommendation regarding whether to censure, expel, or take no action to the Senate no later than the following meeting. Additionally, if a student is found to have cheated in any academic program or in a function related to the Student Senate, the Senate Review Committee shall investigate, to determine whether or not the member ought to be censured or expelled.

D. Grounds for censure or expulsion shall be in accordance with Article VI (referring to parliamentary authority), and with the Senate Constitution.

E. To censure or expel a member, a formal motion to censure or expel must be made, seconded, and voted upon in a Senate meeting. In order for said motion to pass, at least three-quarters of the Senate must approve it.

F. Expelled members shall immediately and permanently relinquish their Senate membership and right to sit upon Student Senate Committees.

G. The Senate Review Committee shall recommend an appropriate form of censure for the censured individual, subject to the discretion of the Student Senate.

H. No member shall be investigated a second time for the same offense.
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Amendments

**Article III – Organization, Section 3** – Election of Executive Board and Section 4 – Representatives:

Both write in and nominated Student Senate candidates must garner a minimum of 2% of the student body’s votes in order to be elected.

(Revised 10/22/01)

**Article V – Student Senate Meetings, Section 3** – Unexcused absences

If a Student Senator and/or Senate Executive member does not appear within 5 minutes of a designated meeting time, the lateness will be deemed an unexcused absence. The Student Senate President and/or Senate Advisor can determine if there are extenuating circumstances that will negate this revision.

(Revised 3/7/05 and again 3/28/05)

**Article III Organization - Section 3 (Election of Executive Board) and Section 4 (Representatives)**

“All student with the intent to run for office within the Student Senate shall submit a nomination application to the Office of Student Life along with the signatures of a minimum of fifty (50) currently enrolled GCC students, as verified by the Coordinator of Student Life.”

Replaces: “Candidates will be required to personally collect signatures of 10% of the student body for nomination papers.”

(Approved 2/6/12)