

Student Senate Constitution

Richland Community College

Ratified: 3/14/08



Preamble

WE THE STUDENTS OF RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NUMBER 537, in order to form a unified student voice to protect student rights, interests, and opinions, hereby sanction the creation of the Richland Community College Student Senate.

The purpose of the Student Senate shall include the following items:

- Represent the student rights, interests and opinions to the Faculty, Staff and Administration of Richland Community College.
- Promote the development of students' skills in leadership, program organization, promotion, communication, initiative and self reliance.
- Promote the core values of Richland Community College of commitment, respect, excellence, accountability and diversity.
- Support student clubs and organizations activities and programs that benefit the student body academically, socially, intellectually, spiritually, physically and culturally.
- Support the development of community spirit and student involvement on campus and within the community.

Article I: Student Senate

Section 1: Name

The name of the organization established by this Constitution shall be the Student Senate.

Section 2: Membership

All students who are registered and have paid academic fees are defined to be a member of the Richland Community College Student Body.

Section 3: Advisors

The Richland Community College administration shall assign one advisor to the Student Senate. The advisor shall be responsible for safeguarding the organization and advising its Executive Board in their responsibilities. In the event the Executive Board fails to follow the guidelines set forth in the Student Senate Constitution, Student Senate policies and procedures, the assigned advisor may appoint a disciplinary committee to review the actions of the Executive Board member(s). The Executive officers may, from time to time, by majority vote, attain more advisors for advisement over a particular committee.

Section 4: Distribution of Powers

The Student Senate shall be composed of three distinct branches: the Executive (defined in Article II), the Senate (defined in Article III) and the Student Council (defined in Article IV). No person or collection of persons being in one of these departments shall exercise any power properly belonging to either of the others, except as hereinafter expressly directed or permitted.

Article II: Student Council

Section 1: Description

The Student Council shall consist of all eligible members of the Student Body who participates in the advancement of the goals and purpose of the Student Senate.

Section 2: Function

The Student Council shall identify issues affecting the Student Body and serve as a liaison with the Student Senate. Participate in committee assignments to meet the goals of the Student Senate.

Section 3: Qualifications

1. All members of the Student Body with a G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher are eligible for appointment by the Student Senate on the Student Council and must maintain the requirement during term of appointment. First semester students are eligible until a formal G.P.A. can be reviewed.
2. Be in good standing, not on academic probation or suspension at Richland Community College while serving on the Student Council.

Section 4: The Student Council is empowered:

By majority vote, Student Council members shall call upon the Student Senate for meetings and/or hearings regarding actions that violate this constitution or purpose of the Student Senate in which the Student Senate Advisor shall conduct said meeting.

Article III: Student Senate

Section 1: Description

The Student Senate shall consist of eleven (11) Senators, one (1) Student Trustee and one (1) Student Body President.

Section 2: Function

Allocate funding to Student Clubs and Organizations. Conduct legislation for all matters pertaining to the purpose of the Student Senate. Each Senate member present shall have a right to speak to any issue properly before the Executive Officers at least once prior to a vote being cast. Serve as chair roles in all committee assignments involving the Student Council.

Section 3: Qualifications

1. All members of the Student Body with a G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher are eligible for appointment as a Student Senator (with the exception of Student Trustee and Student Body President who must have a 2.5 G.P.A. or higher) and must maintain the requirement during term of appointment.
2. First semester students are eligible until an official G.P.A. can be assessed by Richland Community College.
3. Be in good standing, not on academic probation or suspension at Richland Community College while serving on the Student Senate.

Section 4: Elections

1. The Student Senate shall provide for the holding of elections and shall enact an Election Code thereof.
2. Student Trustee and Student Body President shall be elected by a majority vote of members of the student body; elections shall have been completed by the end of March each year.
3. Senate positions shall be elected by majority vote of members of the student body.
4. Vacancies shall be filled by action through the Student Senate.

Section 5: Meetings

1. Times, places, and procedures for meetings shall be set by the Student Senate and/or Senate Advisor.
2. All meetings of the Student Senate shall be open to all members of the Student Body. Executive Sessions of the Senate shall be held only for debate involving removal of a Student Senate member. The formal vote, following the said debate, shall be taken in open sessions.
3. Quorum: A majority of the members of the Student Senate shall constitute a quorum.
4. Vote: A quorum majority vote must be cast in order to conduct business and make decisions. Senate decisions shall be made by a majority of Senators and voting unless otherwise specified.

Section 6: The Student Senate shall be empowered:

1. To have authority to make recommendations over all matters of policy affecting student welfare under this Constitution.
2. To enact any legislation necessary to implement the powers or to fulfill the purpose of this Constitution as set forth in the Preamble, except where such jurisdiction shall be denied by the College Policy and Procedures code.
3. To call a College administration representative before the Senate for a hearing.

Section 7: Committees

The Senate shall establish standing, special, and select committees as from time to time deemed necessary and expedient.

Section 8: Removal of Senators

1. Members of the Student Senate may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the Student Senate. Malfeasance, neglect of duty, or improper conduct shall constitute reason for removal. Persons whose removal is being considered shall be entitled to an open hearing before the Senate.
2. Any committee member may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the Senate. Reasons for dismissal include malfeasance, neglect of duty, or improper conduct.

Section 9:

All bills, excepting Constitutional Amendments and Standing Rules of the Senate, passed by the Student Senate must be signed by the Student Body President within a period of two weeks of class time following his receipt of said bills before they can be enacted or considered valid. Any bill not signed or vetoed within this specified period of time shall be considered approved by the President. If the President vetoes a bill, for the veto to be effective, he shall send a message in writing to the Senate for inclusion in the Senate Journal records. The veto message must be submitted to the Senate during its first meeting following the specified two week period of Presidential initiative. Any veto by the President may be overridden by a 2/3 Senator Vote.

Section 10: Installation

1. The President, upon installation by the outgoing President, shall take the following oath: "I do hereby solemnly swear that I shall faithfully execute the duties of the office of Student Body President of the Student Senate. I shall to best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the Student Senate of Richland Community College, and the regulations which may be made in pursuance thereof."
2. All Executive Board members, shall take the following oath, to be administered by the incoming President: "I do hereby solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the duties of my office and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the Student Senate of Richland Community College and regulations which may be made in pursuance thereof."

Article III: Executive Board

Section 1: Description

The Executive Board will include the Student Trustee, Student Body President, and Five Student Senators defined by title as Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Coordinator, and Historian.

Section 2: Function

The Executive Board will be responsible for establishment of policies and procedures, consistent with the Constitution, with the policies and procedures of Richland Community College operations. The Executive Board will be the forum for debate on issues affecting the general welfare of the Student Body; Each Executive Board member present shall have a right to speak to any issue properly before the Executive Officers at least once prior to a vote being cast. Legislative business is conducted in the manner following 'Robert's Rules of Order'.

Section 3: Qualifications

1. All members of the student body with a G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher are eligible for the Student Trustee and Student Body President positions.
2. Student Trustee candidates must have completed a minimum of six hours of 100 level or higher courses at Richland Community College prior to the date of election and have not had a felony conviction in any state and be a resident of Richland Community College District 537.
3. Other executive board positions must have and maintain a G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher.

Section 4: Elections

The Student Council/Student Senate shall select by majority vote the following positions of the Executive Board: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Coordinator, and Historian.

Section 5: Duties of the Student Trustee

1. Represent student rights, interests, and opinions to the Richland Community College Board of Trustees.
2. Serve as a liaison between the Student Senate and the Richland Community College Board of Trustees.
3. Be present for at least eight (8) monthly meetings of the Richland Community College Board of Trustees, summer meetings included.
4. Serve as the representative to Illinois Community College Board-Student Advisory Committee.

Section 6: Duties of the Student Senate President

1. The Student Senate President shall be the head and official spokesperson and representative for the Richland Community College Student Body. The Student Senate President shall have authority, with advice, consent and approval from the Student Senate, to enter into agreements of governance affairs.
2. Authority of ad-hoc committee formation
3. Coordinate the summer Student Executive Board retreat.
4. Oversee all Student Senate activity.
5. Serve on the Student Judicial Board.
6. Serve as the representative to Illinois Board of Higher Education-Student Advisory Committee.

Section 6: Duties of the Vice-President

1. Serve as a designated Senate Chairperson over a Standing Committee.
2. Shall assume all roles and responsibilities of the Student Body President in the absence or incapacity of the President.
3. Preside over meetings of the Student Senate.

Section 7: Duties of the Treasurer

1. Shall assume the duties of the aforementioned Senator in absence of the Student Body President.
2. Serve as a designated Senate Chairperson over a Standing Committee.
3. Shall be responsible for the budget and financial reports to the Student Senate.
4. Shall assist with student funding requests.

Section 8: Duties of the Secretary

1. Shall assume the duties of the aforementioned Senator in absence of the Student Body President.
2. Shall prepare agenda items, take minutes and prepare final minutes for public viewing.

Section 9: Duties of the Communications Coordinator

1. Shall assume the duties of the aforementioned Senator in absence of the Student Body President.
2. Shall be responsible for the display materials of the Student Senate Bulletin Board.
3. Shall be responsible for distribution of all official notifications to the Richland Community College community.

Section 10: Duties of the Historian

1. Shall assume the duties of the aforementioned Senator in the absence of the Student Body President.
2. Shall keep a record of all Student Senate Events.

Article IV: Amendment

Section 1: Proposal

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed either by a 2/3 vote of the Student Council or by a petition signed by 10% of the Student Body. Proposed amendments shall be published in their entirety at least twice in the student newspaper before their submission to the Student Senate for action.

Section 2: Adoption

An amendment may be adopted by a 2/3 vote of the members of the Student Senate.

Article V: Bill of Rights
