

# Constitution of the Westmont College Student Association

## **Preamble:**

The students of Westmont College, in order to preserve the inherent powers of the student voice, do hereby establish the Westmont College Student Association. This vested power exists to represent student needs to the Westmont community and to pursue change in response to these needs. As an elected body of student officials, WCSA seeks to utilize a responsible leadership structure, an emphasis on academic and spiritual growth and community building activities as a source of meeting the responsibilities of representing the Westmont community.

## **Article I: Executive Branch**

### *SECTION I: STRUCTURE, POWER, AND PURPOSE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH*

A. The Executive Council shall consist of the following officers:

#### 1.1 President

- 1.1.1 The purpose of the President shall be to act as Chief Executive Officer and represent the entire student body to the faculty, staff, administration, Board of Trustees, alumni community, and the Santa Barbara Community. The President shall provide leadership over all student organizations and represent them collectively.
- 1.1.2 The President shall have the power to veto any vote of the Senate within seven days of the initial vote.
- 1.1.3 The President shall from time to time give to the Senate the State of the Students, and recommend to their consideration such measures and actions that the or she shall judge necessary and expedient.

#### 1.2 Vice President

- 1.2.1 The purpose of the Vice President shall be to act as the Chief Operating Officer of the Senate and represent the collective voice of the Senate. The Vice President shall be an advisor to the President in all decision-making and function as the President in the event that the President is unable to perform his or her constitutional duties.

#### 1.3 Business Manager

- 1.3.1 The purpose of the Business Manager shall be to oversee all revenue and financial outlays of all student fee dollars, including: proposing a semester budget, controlling funds, disbursing funds, and offering advice on the appropriation of finances with regard to proposals and daily activities of WCSA.

#### 1.4 Communication Manager

- 1.4.1 The purpose of the Communication Manager shall be administrative as well as to ensure seamless communication between WCSA and the student

body, faculty, the administration, and others.

#### 1.5 Academic Liason

1.5.1 The purpose of the Academic Liaison shall be to serve on the Academic Senate Committee as a student representative, and to communicate these matters back to WCSA.

2. The Executive Board shall have the power to accept ambassadors from student organizations or other sources to meet regularly.
  - 2.1 Ambassadors shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - 2.1.1. Westmont Activities Council (WAC) Ambassador
    - 2.1.2. Intercultural Programs (ICP) Ambassador
    - 2.1.3. Ministries and Mission Ambassador
  - 2.2 The collective body of Executive Board members and Ambassadors shall be known as the Executive Council.
  - 2.3. The Executive Council shall advise the Senate on any matter at the request of the Vice President.
3. The Executive Board shall have the power to disburse funds in the absence of a fully elected Senate.
4. The Executive Board shall have the power to allocate funds in the absence of a quorum within a Senate meeting.
5. The Executive Board shall have the power to propose legislation to be considered by the Senate.
6. The following members of the Executive Council Shall be voting members in all Executive meetings:
  - 6.1. President
  - 6.2. Vice President
  - 6.3. Business Manager
  - 6.4. Communications Manager
  - 6.5. Academic Liaison
7. All Executive Board and Executive Council meetings shall operate under Robert's Rule of Order under the operating leadership of the President.

#### *SECTION II: QUALIFICATIONS*

1. All members of the Executive Board must meet the qualifications described in Article III
2. The President must be in their third or fourth year at the commencement of their term.

#### *SECTION III: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES*

1. All members of the Executive Board shall fulfill their duties and responsibilities as described in the bylaws.

#### *SECTION IV: TERM OF OFFICE*

1. The term of office for the WCSA President, WCSA Vice President, Business Manager, Academic Liaison, and Communication Manager shall be one year.
  - 1.1. The term shall commence on the first Monday after spring graduation.

#### *SECTION V: EXECUTIVE AMBASSADORS*

1. Each organization in the Campus Life office shall submit an ambassador to

represent their organization to the Executive Board.

## **Article II: Senate**

### *SECTION I: STRUCTURE, POWER, AND PURPOSE OF THE SENATE*

All legislative power herein shall be rested in the legislative body to be known as the Senate.

1. The following officers shall be members of the Senate:
  - 1.1. President
  - 1.2. Vice President
  - 1.3. Business Manager
  - 1.4. Communications Manager
  - 1.5. Senators
  - 1.6. Other members determined by Senate action
2. The following members of the Senate shall be voting members:
  - 2.1. Senators
  - 2.2. Vice President
    - 2.2.1. The Vice President shall vote only in the case of a tie.
3. The Vice President shall be the Chief Operating officer over the Senate
4. Designation of Senators
  - 4.1. The Senate shall consist of one elected Senator per Residence Hall.
  - 4.2. The Senate shall consist of additional at large Senators.
    - 4.2.1. Additional at large positions shall be established by a 2/3 vote of the Senate.
5. The Senate shall have the power to enact legislation in the interest of the student body.
6. The Senate shall have the power to issue statements concerning college policy or action on behalf of the student body.
7. The Senate shall have the power to adopt a budget at the beginning of each school year.
8. The Senate shall have the power to allocate student fee dollars.
9. The Senate shall have the power to overturn a Presidential veto with a 3/4 vote.
10. The Senate shall have the power to amend the bylaws by a simple majority vote.

### *SECTION II: QUALIFICATIONS*

1. All Senators must meet the qualifications described in Article III.
2. All Residence Hall based Senators must live in the Residence Hall they represent.

### *SECTION III: DUTIES OF SENATORS*

1. All members of the Senate shall fulfill their duties and responsibilities as described in the bylaws.

### *SECTION IV: PROCEDURE OF THE SENATE*

1. All meetings of the Senate shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.
2. Each voting member of the Senate shall have one vote.
3. No voting member may delegate his or her vote to anyone else.
4. A majority of the voting members of the Senate shall constitute a quorum.
5. All meetings shall be chaired by the Vice President.
  - 5.1. Should the Vice President not be able to chair a meeting of the Senate, then the role of the Chair for that meeting shall be assumed by

the President, the Communication Manager, the Business Manager, in that order.

6. The Vice President has the authority to commission and decommission Senate Committees and appoint committee chairs.

## **Article III: Qualifications**

### *SECTION I*

1. In order for a student to service on WCSA in either the Executive Board or Senate, he or she must be:
  - 1.1. A registered, full-time student at Westmont College taking a minimum of 12 units
  - 1.2. In good academic standing (meaning they are not currently on academic probation)
  - 1.3. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater.

## **Article IV: Elections**

### *SECTION I: VOTING*

1. Voting rules include, but are not limited to the following criteria:
  - 1.1. All elected officials must have received the largest student vote in their category
  - 1.2. Voting for the Executive Board must be open to all current Westmont
  - 1.3. Students Voting for each Residence Hall based Senator must be open to all current Westmont students in their respective dorms
  - 1.4. Voting procedure shall be set by the senate and governed by the bylaws
  - 1.5. In the case of a tie, a runoff vote shall be executed in a timely manner; the winner of the run-off vote shall be appointed into office.

## **Article V: Recall**

### *SECTION I: RECALL PROCEDURE*

1. The recall process may be initiated by a member of the WCSA Executive Council or Senate, by the VP of Student Life, or by the presentation to the Senate of a petition bearing the signatures of one tenth of the student body.
2. For the recall to take place, a motion for recall must pass with a three-fourths vote of the Senate.
3. If a recall motion passes, the member in question shall be dismissed from WCSA effective immediately.

## **Article VI: Ratification**

### *SECTION I*

1. The ratification of this Constitution shall become effective at noon on March 3, 2014 upon a simple majority affirmative vote of participating student body voters.

## **Article VII: Procedure for Amendments**

### *SECTION I: AMENDMENT PROCESS*

1. Any full time student may propose a constitutional amendment to be considered

by the Senate.

2. The proposed amendment shall be presented at the next meeting of the Senate.
3. The presented amendment must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Senate.
4. Approved amendments must be submitted to the student body for ratification during the next election.
5. An amendment shall be considered ratified once it has been approved by a majority of voting students.