BGSU Firelands
Student Government Constitution

Article I: Purpose and General Intent

A. The purpose of the BGSU Firelands Student Government, as set forth in this Constitution, is to organize capable and responsible students to participate in BGSU Firelands campus life and activities and represent the interests and concerns of the students in all appropriate venues.

B. The general intent of this document is to establish the BGSU Firelands Student Government through which:

1. Students may have opportunities for responsible participation in the Student Government for the benefit of the BGSU Firelands community.

2. BGSU Firelands may gain the advantage of student deliberation and experience in arriving at the soundest possible policies and practices, with respect to matters that relate directly and uniformly to all enrolled students.

Article II: Jurisdictions

A. The BGSU Firelands Student Government shall recommend to the Dean of Firelands College policy and procedures for the benefit of the students of BGSU Firelands.

B. The executive officers and senators of Student Government shall execute the actions and decisions made insofar as specific powers and authority are delegated to such officers and agencies by the provisions of this Constitution.

Article III: Powers and Responsibilities

A. The Executive Branch

1. Executive Authority
   a. Executive actions shall be restricted to executive and administrative functions in carrying out the provisions of this Constitution and implementing any enacted legislation.
   b. The executive authority shall be vested in a President who shall hold the office for the term of one year beginning with the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Semester in which they are elected.

2. The President
   a. The President must be a full-time undergraduate student in good standing, as outlined in the Bowling Green State University Student Handbook, for the duration of their term.
b. The President must complete twelve credit hours at BGSU Firelands prior to holding office.

c. The President shall be responsible for upholding the BGSU Firelands Student Government Constitution.

d. The President shall be the official voice of the BGSU Firelands student body and shall work with members of both the College and University community and all constituent bodies on matters concerning the students.

e. The President shall preside over meetings of the BGSU Firelands Student Government, but shall only have a vote on legislative matters in the event of a tie.

f. The President shall set the agenda for the regularly scheduled meetings.

g. In the event that the office of the Vice President becomes vacant, the President shall appoint a successor, within two weeks of the vacancy, who must be approved by a simple majority vote of the Senate.

h. The President (or designee) shall be a Senator on the BGSU Faculty Senate.

i. The President (or designee) shall serve on the BGSU Firelands College Council.

j. The President shall work with the Coordinator of Student Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion on all budgetary matters.

k. The President shall nominate, with the advice and consent of the Senate, the following positions, which shall draw their authority from and report directly to the President:

1. Communications Director
2. Student Organization Liaison
3. Academic Affairs Liaison
4. Philanthropy and Social Activities Chair

3. The Vice President

a. The Vice President must be a full-time undergraduate student in good standing, as outlined in the Bowling Green State University Student Handbook, for the duration of their term.

b. The Vice President must complete twelve credit hours at BGSU Firelands prior to holding office.

c. The Vice President shall assist the President in their administrative duties.

d. The Vice President shall preside over Senate meetings if the President is absent, but shall only have a vote on legislative matters in the event of a tie while presiding.

e. In the event that the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice President is to assume the duties of the President.

B. The Legislative Branch

1. Legislative Authority
a. The Senate shall have the power to write and pass legislation or to take action by resolution.

b. The proceedings and actions of the Senate shall be restricted to such legislative matters.

c. Official actions and decisions of the Senate shall be valid only when determined by simple majority vote of the members of the Senate present at regularly scheduled meetings.

2. The Senate

a. The Senate shall be composed of Senators, elected by the student body as At-Large (3), Diversity Affairs (1), LGBTQ Affairs (1), Veteran Affairs (1), CCP (College Credit Plus) Affairs (1), and Post-traditional Affairs (1). There shall also be Senators representing the academic units, including Allied Health and Nursing (1-4), Business and Communication (1-2), Education and Human Services (1-2), and Technology (1-3).

b. A Senator may be a full-time or part-time undergraduate student in good standing, as outlined in the Bowling Green State University Student Handbook, for the duration of their term.

c. The CCP Affairs Senator may be a guest student enrolled in the College Credit Plus program at BGSU.

d. Each Senator shall be granted one vote in the Senate.

e. All members of the Senate shall have the authority to propose legislation.

Article IV: Student Government Elections

A. Nomination and Election

1. The executive officers and senators shall be elected by popular vote during the Spring Semester by the following nomination and election proceedings:

   a. All Candidates must have completed at least twelve credit hours at BGSU Firelands, be currently enrolled in BGSU classes, and be in good academic standing.

   b. All students registered at BGSU Firelands shall be eligible to vote in a campus-wide online election.

   c. Nominations for the executive and legislative positions shall be as follows:

      i. A student seeking office must be nominated through the online nomination system.

      ii. At the close of nominations, the nominee’s eligibility for office will be confirmed by the Student Government advisor(s).

      iii. If eligibility is confirmed, the nominee will receive a candidate petition. A petition for any executive or legislative position must have the signatures of at least twenty currently registered students.

   d. Elections for the executive and legislative positions shall be as follows:
i. Elections will be conducted online, and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall be elected.

ii. The candidate who is the runner-up to the candidate elected for each position shall be recorded by the current Secretary of Student Government. All such persons shall be considered as alternates for the purpose of filling vacancies in the offices during the ensuing year.

iii. In the event of a vacancy in any position or office, other than President and Vice President, during the ensuing year, the alternate shall be named to fill said vacancy.

iv. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the elected Vice President. A vacancy in the office of the Vice President shall be filled per Article III, Section A.2.f.

e. In the event of a tie vote for any office, a run-off election will be held.

Article V: Member Conduct, Censure or Removal from Office

A. Member Conduct

1. All members of Student Government shall be compelled to follow the Code of Conduct set forth by BGSU (https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/dean-of-students/Conduct/Code-Student-Conduct-Chapter.pdf), along with the following stipulations:

   a. All members of Student Government shall conduct themselves in a manner that, at minimum, does not negatively impact the image of the Student Government.

      i. Violating behavior includes committing any crime, on or off campus, and committing any form of academic dishonesty.

      ii. Violations should be reported to the advisor(s) of Student Government. Failure to disclose information to the advisor(s) shall result in the immediate impeachment of the violating Student Government member.

B. Censure

1. Any executive officer or senator may be given censure by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate. Censure shall serve as a resolution of disapproval by the Senate where such action does not merit removal from office.

C. Removal From Office

1. In the case of inexcusable absences or violation of the Code of Conduct, a member of the Student Government may be impeached from their office by way of the following procedure:

   a. The members of Senate, not including the member in question, must hold a hearing within three weeks of the offense to determine if impeachment is appropriate and will decide by a simple majority vote.
b. For the conduction of this hearing, the presence of the Dean or their designee shall be requested.

c. The member in question will have the opportunity to present their defense at this hearing, should they wish.

d. If there exists a tie vote, the Student Government advisor(s) may be called upon to vote as the tie breaker(s).

e. Once a decision has been reached, the member in question shall be notified of the results of the vote.

f. If the Senate votes to impeach, the member in question shall be removed from office and have their title revoked

g. The position will be filled in the manner expressed in Article IV. Section D.2.

Article VII: Committees

A. The Senate has the right to establish committees to serve the student body. The request for a committee may originate with an executive officer, a senator, or by any student, faculty or staff member. Any request must be introduced by a current senator to the floor for consideration.

B. Committee Types

1. Ad Hoc Committees are committees that are created to address a passing issue and then disbanded.
   a. The Senate has the right and responsibility to form ad hoc committees as they are needed, and may do so by a simple majority vote.
   b. Ad Hoc Chairpersons will be appointed by the President of Student Government.
   c. Ad Hoc Committees shall complete their work in a time period requested and approved during the committee approval process and then report back to the full Senate at the end of that term.
   d. Ad Hoc Committees can become standing committees if the Senate deems them necessary to continue in subsequent years. This will be determined by a simple majority vote of all senators at the end of the committee’s term.

2. Standing Committees are committees that are created to address on-going issues and have a stable membership.
   a. The Senate has the right and responsibility to form standing committees as they are needed, and may do so by a simple majority vote.
   b. Standing committees will have chairpersons that are elected in an all-campus vote.
c. The Chairperson of each standing committee shall be the liaison from the standing committee to the Senate. Likewise, the chairperson of each standing committee shall be the student representative for the related college level committee, if one exists.

d. In the case that there is no elected chairperson for any of the standing committees, the Student Government President shall appoint a chairperson for each of the standing committees left vacant from the existing Student Government officers.

Article VIII: Amendments

A. The Senate retains the right to amend this Constitution:

1. Any member of Student Government may propose an amendment to this Constitution.
2. All amendments must be proposed in writing and introduced on the floor of the Senate for debate.
3. At the conclusion of debate, the amendment must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the senators present.