

Constitution of the Midland College Faculty Senate

Preamble

The success of any educational institution depends on effective interaction between the administration, the faculty, and the students. The faculty carries out the institution's primary function, the education of students. Moreover, the proximity to both students and administration puts the faculty in an advantageous position to align student needs with institutional success. Therefore, it is prudent and necessary that the faculty be engaged in the institution's planning, policy-making, and decision-making processes.

In order to promote the cause of education, fulfill the mission and goals of the college, improve communication among the faculty members, and maintain professional relations with the administration, the faculty of Midland College hereby establish the Midland College Faculty Senate.

Article 1: Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Midland College Faculty Senate, which will hereafter be referred to as the Senate.

Section 2: The Senate provides a systematic means for the effective participation of faculty in the affairs of the college and adequate channels for the administration of the college to seek the judgment and counsel of the faculty about matters of mutual concern. The Senate will provide a formal organization to accomplish the following:

- Promote academic excellence, professional integrity, and success within the college and community;
- Serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information;
- Cultivate cooperation, unity, and understanding among faculty;
- Provide a channel for raising, discussing, and promoting resolution of faculty issues;
- Support the rights and responsibilities of all faculty;
- Represent the interests of the faculty in their relations with the college administration;
- Ensure a channel of reciprocal communication between the faculty and administration;
- Make recommendations to the administration on policies that affect the welfare of the faculty;
- Offer a conduit of communication with other constituencies of the college.

Article 2: Duties and Responsibilities of the Senate

Section 1: The Senate shall be called into session in accordance with the bylaws of the Senate to accomplish the objectives set forth in Article 1, Section 2 and to conduct faculty business including but not limited to:

- Take the necessary and appropriate actions to ensure the accurate expression and communication of faculty opinion, including but not limited to surveys and referenda;
- Accept matters of concern from faculty, review the concern and, if necessary, make recommendations to resolve the concern;
- Establish sub-committees in accordance with the bylaws of the Senate to deliberate, research, and evaluate concerns and topics of interest to the Senate;
- Examine and direct issues to the appropriate sub-committee of the Senate. If an issue does not fall under the duties and responsibilities of any of these committees, then an ad hoc committee may be formed;
- Take the necessary and appropriate actions to ensure that the faculty is informed on matters of open discussion and study by the administration and the Senate.

Section 2: The Senate shall consult on matters concerning the college's mission, goals, or policies at the request of the administration.

Section 3: The Senate shall represent and act for the faculty in all matters of general policy affecting the welfare of the college and act in an advisory, planning, and consultative capacity to the administration.

Section 4: The Senate shall conduct elections, impose censures, and remove Senators and Officers according to the Senate's bylaws.

Section 5: The Senate shall have the power to adopt and operate under bylaws and rules of procedure consistent with this constitution.

Article 3: Membership of the Senate

Section 1: Members: All persons employed by the college in a position of student instruction shall have membership in the Senate with the rights of presentation, counsel, and redress before the Senate.

Section 2: Senators: The voting body of the Senate shall be comprised of Senators elected in accordance with the bylaws of the Senate.

Each duly elected Senator shall:

- Have the full duties and privileges of representation within the Senate;
- Attend all meetings of the Senate, or send an alternate representative;
- Participate in discussions and debates of issues before the Senate.
- Inform and advise the constituency from which they are elected of the Senate's business;
- Serve on, or chair, a minimum of one committee of the Senate;
- Have one vote in matters of governance, procedure, and the execution of resolutions, referenda, and motions taken by the Senate. Senators shall make decisions and cast votes in the interest of their constituency and the college.

Section 3: Officers: The Senate shall nominate its own Executive Officers according to Article 4 and the bylaws of the Senate.

Section 4: Guests: Guests of the Senate may address and advise the Senate on specific policies and issues with the approval of the presiding officer.

Article 4: Executive Officers of the Senate

Section 1: Executive officers of the Senate shall be President, Vice President, and Secretary/Parliamentarian.

Section 2: To be eligible for service as an executive officer of the Senate, a person shall meet the following qualifications:

- Have a minimum of two years of service as a full-time faculty member of the college;
- Must be a current senator, or executive officer, in good standing with the Senate;
- Shall hold no more than one executive Senate office concurrently;
- Shall not hold an executive Senate office and serve as a Senator concurrently;
- Shall not hold an administrative appointment within the college resulting in a conflict of interest.

Section 3: Each term of office shall be one (1) year. Officers may serve for unlimited numbers of terms, though only two (2) terms consecutively, with one full (1) year between these terms.

Section 4: Executive officers shall not vote in matters of Senate business unless explicitly prescribed in this constitution. The executive duties of Senate officers shall be:

President:

- Call, and preside over, all sessions of the Senate;
- Prepare meeting agendas;

- Chair the Executive Committee of the Senate;
- Appoint ad-hoc committee chairs with the consent of the Senate;
- Represent the Senate in an executive capacity with the administration of the college and community;
- Call for votes on motions, recommendations, and resolutions before the Senate.

Vice-President:

- Serve as presiding officer of the Senate in the absence of the President;
- Maintain financial records of the Senate;
- Chair the Membership Committee of the Senate;
- Cast tie-breaking votes in the Senate;
- Perform all other duties as may be assigned by the President.

Secretary/Parliamentarian:

- Maintain the history and records of the Senate;
- Record and distribute minutes of Senate meetings;
- Rule on all matters of parliamentary process and procedure of the Senate;
- Chair the Communications Committee of the Senate;
- Perform all other duties as may be assigned by the President.

Section 5: In the event of the death, resignation, or removal of an executive officer, the Senate shall fill the vacancy in accordance with the bylaws of the Senate.

Article 5: Dues

Section 1: No dues shall be assessed for the purpose of membership in the Senate.

Section 2: Voluntary contributions may be solicited annually by the Senate.

Article 6: Amendments and Ratification

Section 1: Amendments to this constitution shall be proposed by any Senate member in writing and submitted to the presiding officer of the Senate.

Amendments shall be referred to the appropriate committee for review before presentation to the general Senate for debate. Amendments shall not remain in review for longer than one calendar month.

Proposed amendments shall be presented, debated, and revised as necessary during regularly scheduled meetings of the Senate. Upon a majority vote of the Senate, Proposed amendments shall be presented for ratification by the Senate members.

Amendments shall be ratified by two-thirds of the votes cast by the members of the Senate in a special election.

Section 2: Ratification of this Constitution shall require the approval of two-thirds of the votes cast by the members of the Senate.

Upon ratification, this constitution shall become effective immediately as the document of authority for the Senate.