



STUDENT CONSTITUTION

OF

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SHANGHAI

Table of Contents

- I. PREAMBLE
- II. DEFINING TERMS
- III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- IV. AD HOC COMMITTEES
- V. GLOBAL STUDENT COUNCIL
- VI. SENATOR
- VII. VOTING PROCEDURE
- VIII. ELECTIONS BOARD & ELECTIONS
- IX. CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY
- X. REVISION CLAUSE
- XI. NEW LEGISLATION AND AMENDMENT CLAUSE
- XII. RESIGNATION POLICY
- XIII. IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
- XIV. ADVISOR

Preface

To the student body,

The following document contains the Constitution for New York University Shanghai. We, the Parliamentary Board, amended this document on behalf of the entire student body, which ratified it on April 21st, 2016. We hope that this Constitution will provide a simple yet extensive framework by which the Student Government will operate. As stated within, this document can be further revised and amended if necessary.

Thank you to everyone who helped advise and guide us in this process.

Respectfully,
The Parliamentary Board

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I: Preamble

The Student Government at New York University Shanghai is hereby created as a tool to serve and unite the student body. The Student Government is obligated to represent the needs and rights of the students at NYU Shanghai. It will act as the students' voice to the administration, promote overall welfare, and create welcoming communities. This Constitution outlines the rights, responsibilities, and regulations that the Student Government will uphold and abide by.

II: Defining Terms

- I. "Student Body"
 - A. The Student Body consists of:
 1. All students whose home campus is NYU Shanghai, hereafter referred to as the "student body." During voting procedure, those that participate in the vote are referred to as "the voting student body."
 2. All NYU students currently studying away in Shanghai.
- II. "Student Government"
 - A. "Student Government" refers to all members of the Student Government both elected and appointed. This includes the Board of Directors, Assistant Directors, and Ad Hoc Committee members.

III: Board of Directors

- I. The Board of Directors will consist of:
 - A. President
 - B. Vice President
 - C. Director of External Affairs
 - D. Director of Global Affairs
 - E. Director of Student Life and Residence
 - F. Director of Student Organizations
 - G. Director of Student Events
 - H. Class Representatives
- II. The Board of Directors discusses all issues presented to the Student Government. This includes but is not limited to: academics, community building, outside liaisons and relationships, student life and residence, club development, and event planning.
- III. The Board of Directors is responsible for organizing and attending regular Board of Directors Meetings.
- IV. All members of the Board of Directors, excluding the President, have the equivalent of one vote.
 - A. The President may not vote on Board of Directors decisions.
- V. The Board of Directors must provide regular opportunities for the student body to meet with them.
- VI. Executive Power
 - A. The executive power shall be vested in a President and Vice President elected by the Student Body on a **joint ticket**.
 - B. Together, the President and Vice President will be the official representatives of the NYU Shanghai Student Government and the Student Body of NYU Shanghai.

- C. The President and Vice President make themselves available to hear the concerns of the student body.
- D. The President
 - 1. The President is responsible for attending regular meetings with the University Leadership.
 - 2. The President is responsible for representing the Student Government during official events.
 - 3. Board of Directors Meetings
 - a) The President sets the agenda for the Board of Directors Meetings
 - b) The President will preside over these meetings.
 - c) In the case of a vote, the President cannot vote, but can veto any decision. However, if a 2/3rds majority of voting members on the Board of Directors agree, they reserve the right to overturn a Presidential Veto.
- E. The Vice President
 - 1. The Vice President maintains a vote on the Board of Directors.
 - 2. The Vice President presides over and creates the agenda for the Presidential Committee.
 - 3. The Vice President is responsible for distributing the funding for the NYU Shanghai Student Government.
 - 4. The Vice President will act as the President's temporary replacement in the case of the President's absence or inability to attend.
 - 5. The Vice President will be responsible for being the liaison between the Presidential Committee and the Board of Directors.
- F. The Presidential Committee
 - 1. All members of The Presidential Committee must be appointed by the Vice President with the approval of the President.
 - 2. Appointees to the Presidential Committee must be confirmed by a 2/3 vote on the Board of Directors.
 - 3. The President and Vice President must appoint the following positions to the Presidential Committee through a fair, blind, and standardized selection process to aid in the Secretarial, Treasury, and marketing duties related to Student Government:
 - a) Press Secretary
 - (1) The Press Secretary is responsible for the public face and marketing of the NYU Shanghai Student Government.
 - (2) The Press Secretary is responsible for meeting with student publications on campus to update them about what is happening within Student Government.
 - (3) The Press Secretary is responsible for creating and distributing physical and online advertisements for Student Government events.

b) Financial Assistant

- (1) The Financial Assistant serves as an assistant to the Vice President in terms of fiscal issues.
- (2) The Financial Assistant is responsible for compiling the financial reports of the Board of Directors and Clubs into a readable report.
- (3) The Financial Assistant will receive and check quarterly reports of all financial activities of the standing committees.
- (4) The Financial Assistant will collect and keep the invoices of all expenditures of both the Student Government and clubs. These invoices will be made available to any member of the Student Government upon request.
- (5) The Financial Assistant will present to the Vice President financial reports on a regular basis and will communicate to the President and Vice President any and all budgeting concerns, and actively try to suggest remedies to these problems.

c) Chief of Staff

- (1) The Chief of Staff is responsible for note taking at meetings of the Presidential Committee and Board of Directors, as well as at Student Forums.
- (2) The Chief of Staff is responsible for making general meeting minutes available to the Student Body within one week.
- (3) The Chief of Staff is responsible for collecting and organizing the documentation of internal operations of the Board of Directors to aid in successful transitions between administrations.

VII. Directors

- A. The Directors term is set according to the academic year.
- B. The Directors serve as consultants and support to the President.
- C. The Directors make themselves available to hear the concerns of the student body.
- D. There are no nationality requirements to run for any Director position.
- E. Board of Directors Meetings and Student Forums
 1. The Directors assist the President in presiding over Board of Directors and Student Forums.
 2. The Directors assist the President by filling up the agenda for meetings and forums, updating their daily work, and contributing points of discussion to the meetings and forums.

VIII. Director of External Affairs

- A. The Director of External Affairs is responsible for building the relationships of NYU Shanghai Student Government with outside parties such as, but not limited to: local universities, alumni relationships, outside businesses etc.

- B. External Affairs Committee
 1. The Director of External Affairs may establish the External Affairs Committee to assist them in their responsibilities. The Committee may consist of up to four (4) Assistant Directors, that the Director of Internal Affairs will select at their discretion through a fair, blind, and standardized selection process.
 2. Assistant Director nominations must be validated by a 2/3 vote on the Board of Directors.
- IX. Director of Global Affairs
 - A. The Director of Global Affairs will be the head representative of New York University Shanghai on the Global Student Council.
 - B. The Director of Global Affairs is responsible for managing the Global Affairs Committee in implementing global initiatives across the New York University global network.
 - C. The Director of Global Affairs' role and responsibilities are delineated further in the "Global Student Council" section.
 - D. Global Affairs Committee
 1. The Director of Global Affairs may establish the Global Affairs Committee to assist them in their responsibilities. The Committee may consist of up to four (4) Assistant Directors, that the Director of Global Affairs will select at their discretion through a fair, blind, and standardized selection process.
 2. Assistant Director nominations must be validated by a 2/3 vote on the Board of Directors.
 3. The Global Affairs Committee supports the Director of Global Affairs with Shanghai-specific tasks related to the global NYU network.
 4. The Director of Global Affairs will chair Committee meetings.
- X. The Director of Student Life and Residence
 - A. The Director of Student Life and Residence is responsible for managing the Student Life and Residence Committee and abiding by the specific constitution governing the Committee.
 - B. The Director of Student Life and Residence is responsible for representing student body interests in regular meetings with relevant administrative departments such as, but not limited to: Residential Life, Campus and Facilities, Public Safety, etc.
 - C. Student Life and Residence Committee (SLR)
 1. The Director of Student Life and Residence may establish the Student Life and Residence Committee to assist them in their responsibilities. The Committee may consist of up to four (4) Assistant Directors, that the Director of Student Life and Residence will select at their discretion through a fair, blind, and standardized selection process.
 2. Assistant Director nominations must be validated by a 2/3 vote on the Board of Directors.
 3. The Director of Student Life and Residence will chair Committee meetings.
- XI. The Director of Student Organizations
 - A. The Director of Student Organizations is responsible for managing the Student Organizations Committee and abiding by the specific constitution governing the Committee.

- B. The Student Organizations Committee
 - 1. The Director of Student Organizations may establish the Student Organizations Committee to assist them in their responsibilities. The Committee may consist of up to four (4) Assistant Directors, that the Director of Student Organizations will select at their discretion through a fair, blind, and standardized selection process.
 - 2. Assistant Director nominations must be validated by a 2/3 vote on the Board of Directors.
 - 3. The Student Organizations Committee is responsible for the recognition, development, and funding of student clubs.
 - 4. The Director of Student Organizations will chair Committee meetings.
- XII. The Director of Student Events
- A. The Director of Student Events is responsible for managing the Events Committee and abiding by the specific constitution governing the Committee.
 - B. Events Committee
 - 1. The Director of Student Events may establish the Events Committee to assist them in their responsibilities. The Committee may consist of up to four (4) Assistant Directors, that the Director of Student Events will select at their discretion through a fair, blind, and standardized selection process.
 - 2. Assistant Director nominations must be validated by a 2/3 vote on the Board of Directors.
 - 3. The Committee will organize campus-wide activities that endeavor to strengthen the bonds between members of the NYU Shanghai community.
 - a) After an event has been planned, the Events Committee will notify the Student Government of the event's purpose, location, and time.
 - b) The Events Committee must provide the Vice President with a detailed financial report for all events hosted by the Committee.
 - c) The Committee may organize fundraisers to pay for events.
 - (1) The Events Committee must consult with the Vice President for the authorization to launch a fundraiser.
 - 4. The Director of Student Events will chair Committee meetings.
- XIII. Class Representatives
- A. Each graduating class of NYU Shanghai will have one Class Representative, who will serve as a liaison between the Student Government and his or her graduating class.
 - B. Class Representatives will be selected each year in closed elections by each respective graduating class.
 - 1. Each Class Representative may establish a Committee to assist them in their responsibilities. The Committee may consist of up to two (2) Assistant Class Representatives, that the Class Representative will select at their discretion through a fair, blind, and standardized selection process.

2. Assistant Class Representative nominations must be validated by a 2/3 vote on the Board of Directors.
3. If a Class Representative requires additional Assistant Class Representatives beyond the permitted two (2), they may appeal to the Board of Directors for review. The Board of Directors such requests through a 2/3 vote.
4. Assistant Class Representative nominations must be validated by a 2/3 vote on the Board of Directors.
5. The Class Representative term is set according to the academic year.
6. The Class Representative will chair their respective Committee meetings.

IV: Ad Hoc Committees

- I. The creation of an Ad Hoc Committee may be proposed by any member of the Student Government, and it will be discussed and voted on by the Board of Directors.
 - A. Ad Hoc Committees are created to focus on specific issues or goals of Student Government.
- II. Ad Hoc Committees will work under the supervision of a designated member of the Board of Directors.
- III. Board of Directors will impose a deadline for the Committee's dissolution at the time of the Ad Hoc Committee's creation.
- IV. An Ad Hoc Committee may not exist for longer than one semester without review by the Board of Directors.
- V. The Board of Directors has the final authority for all Ad Hoc Committee decisions.
- VI. Ad Hoc Committees may consult with the Vice President for a budget.

V: Global Student Council

- I. The Global Student Council (GSC) is recognized as an entity for coordination between the three New York University portal campuses to deliberate on and develop its global network.
- II. The GSC is comprised of a Core Team, the Global Affairs Committee, and the Site Ambassadors.
- III. The three Global Directors (Director of Global Affairs, Global Vice Chair, Global Vice President, or the people holding the corresponding role at each NYU campus) comprise the Core Team. At NYU Shanghai, the role of Global Director is occupied by the Director of Global Affairs.
- IV. The three portals will each have a Global Affairs Committee led by the Global Director or equivalent of their site.
- V. The Site Ambassadors serve the Global Student Council in an advisory capacity.
- VI. The GSC will introduce any proposed policies to each portal campus through the three Global Directors or their equivalents.
- VII. All policies and services must be approved by all three Student Governments at each portal campus through the processes of their respective rules and bylaws before implementation.
- VIII. All policies and services may be vetoed by each respective Board of Directors and Student Government by due process.
- IX. Global Director

- A. There are three Global Directors, one from each portal campus; they comprise the Core Team.
 - B. The Global Director will serve on the Board of Directors or the equivalent executive committee of their campus' Student Government.
 - C. The title of 'Global Director' is maintained for the Board of Directors members from each portal campus within the Global Student Government context.
 - D. The title of the three Global Directors may differ from 'Global Director' in the context of each respective portal campus, but must be consistent with the titling system of their Board of Directors or Executive Committee.
 - E. Each Global Director may only serve on the Board of Directors of their respective portal campus
 - F. The Global Director and the GSC hold no policy proposing authority until the Student Government of each respective portal campus approves the GSC Charter.
 - G. The Global Director is elected by due process at their respective portal campus.
 - H. Global Directors are responsible for identifying both challenges and projects across NYU's global network.
 - I. The Global Director is responsible for communicating weekly meeting minutes from the GSC to the NYU Shanghai Student Government and making them publicly available to the student body.
 - J. The three Global Directors are responsible for the prompt and orderly execution of all policies passed and adopted by the GSC as they pertain to their particular NYU campus.
 - K. The Global Director may refer administrative concerns to the appropriate individuals, groups, and/or departments at their portal campus.
 - L. The Global Director is responsible for producing a publicly available quarterly report on the progress of the GSC.
 - M. The Global Director's term is one academic year.
- X. Selection and Role of GSC Chair
- A. The Chair will be appointed and rotated amongst the three portal campus on a year-to-year basis, and serves a one-academic year term.
 - B. The Chair rotation cycle will follow from Shanghai to Abu Dhabi to New York; further details, including the starting point, will be decided by the Global Directors.
 - C. The selected Chair represents the host portal campus for the upcoming yearly Student Government Summit.
 - D. In unforeseeable circumstances where a portal campus is unable to host the Student Government Summit, the Global Directors will decide on an alternate location.
 - E. No portal campus may host the Chair for more than one consecutive Academic Year.
 - F. The Chair sets the annual vision and mission for the Global Student Council.
 - G. The Chair sets weekly meeting agendas amongst the Core Team.
 - H. The Chair may delegate action items in each of the portal campuses through their respective Global Directors.

- I. The Chair coordinates the Student Government Summit in conjunction with the Core Team.
 - J. The Chair calls and presides over all meeting of the GSC, directs the minutes to be taken, and administers all meetings in accordance with these Rules.
- XI. Site Ambassadors Program
- A. Site Ambassadors serve in an advisory capacity to the Global Directors, with each site's Ambassadors reporting to their home campus' Global Director.
 - B. Site Ambassadors report on the quality of academics, community life, and other aspects of the study away experience to identify cross-global network challenges and projects.
 - 1. Site Ambassadors first report to the relevant administrators of their home campus as well as the Student Government with complaints and concerns at their study away site.
 - C. Site Ambassadors are responsible for relaying information from the Global Council (through constant communication between Ambassadors and Global Directors) to their study away sites and home campus.

VI: Senator

- I. The Senator will be the official representative of the NYU Shanghai student body and Student Council to the University Senate, Student Senators Council, and University Committee on Student Life, and will participate in the respective functions of each.
- II. The Senator will be responsible for informing and surveying the student body and Student Government on matters they or their respective constituencies determine pertinent and necessary for university governance.
- III. The Senator will act as a liaison between the NYU Shanghai Student Government and student body and the Student Senators Council, and will report back to the NYU Shanghai Student Government regarding the activity of the Student Senators Council.
- IV. The Senator will assume all duties and positions assigned by the University Senate or the Student Senators Council.
- V. The Senator will be an active participant in the NYU Shanghai Student Government, and will participate in discussions to the extent that it is reasonable given location and time differences.
- VI. The Senator is responsible for attending all relevant University Senate, Student Senators Council, and University Committee on Student Life meetings, which are required to be held on Thursdays from 2pm-7pm EST.
- VII. As outlined in Section VIII.VIII, there will be two senators elected: a Fall Senator and a Spring Senator.
- VIII. A Senator must be an NYU Shanghai student studying away in New York for the semester that they will serve in the Senator role.
- IX. If a candidate will be in New York for both semesters, they are allowed to run for both the Fall and Spring Senator position.

VII: Voting Procedure

- I. Voting Power

- A. For all decisions involving a vote, all elected members have one vote each, excluding the President, while Assistant Directors and members of the Presidential Committee have no votes.
- II. Board of Directors
 - A. Each member of the Board of Directors, excluding the President, has one equal vote.
 - B. Two-thirds of the Board of Directors must be present for a quorum.
 - C. A 50% majority is required to pass a motion. In the event of a tie vote, the President's vote is counted to break the tie.
 - D. The President may veto any decision.
 - E. A Presidential veto may be overturned by a two-thirds majority vote of Board of Directors.
 - F. Members of the Board of Directors may not abstain from voting during Board meetings.

VIII: Elections Board & Elections

- I. The Elections Board will be composed of three members appointed in the Spring Semester. Applications for election board positions will be open at the same time as student government positions. Members of NYU Shanghai administration will select students for the Elections Board by an application process. Results of election board positions will be announced together with student government positions.
- II. After being appointed in the spring, members of the Elections board will serve throughout the following academic year.
- III. Members of the Elections Board are not eligible to hold a position in the Student Government at the time of their term or to run for a position in Student Government in an elections they facilitate.
- IV. The Elections Board will facilitate the general elections every year.
 - A. In the case of unusual circumstances or unexpected vacancies within Student Government, the Elections Board will facilitate special elections.
- V. The Elections Board will enforce fair election policies.
- VI. The Elections Board determines candidate eligibility based on the Constitutional Standards of Section VIII.
- VII. The Elections Board may recruit volunteers to help facilitate elections. These volunteers may not run for office or hold a position in the Student Government.
- VIII. Elections
 - A. Spring Elections are to be conducted by the Election Board in the following manner:
 - 1. Elections for the President and their running mate Vice President, as well as the Directors and the Fall Senator will start in the Spring Semester of the previous academic year.
 - 2. The Spring elections must meet the following requirements:
 - a) For the election of Fall Senator and members of the Board of Directors, if no candidate garners more than 50% of the vote in the first preliminary round of elections, a second and final round of elections will be held between the top two candidates from the preliminaries for each position.
 - b) For the election of the President and Vice President, if no candidate pair garners more than 50% of the vote in the

first preliminary round of elections, a second and final round of elections will be held between the top two candidate pairs from the preliminaries.

- c) For each position, elections should not exceed two rounds in total.
 3. Once a candidate for a position has garnered over 50% of the vote, elections for that position will end, while subsequent elections for other positions may need to continue.
 4. The total duration of the election process should be no longer than two weeks.
 5. Election results cannot be announced until all positions are filled.
- B. Fall Elections are to be conducted by the Elections Board in the following manner:
1. Elections of the Class Representatives and Spring Senator will start in the Fall Semester of the academic year
 2. The Fall Elections must meet the following requirements:
 - a) The election for the Class Representatives and Spring Senator must start at the same time.
 - b) Results of positions of the Fall Election must be announced at the same time.
 - c) If no candidate garners more than 50% of the vote in the first preliminary round of elections, a second and final round of elections will be held between the top two candidates from the preliminaries for each position.
 - d) For each position, elections should not exceed two rounds in total.
 - e) The total duration of the election process should be no longer than two weeks.
- IX. The Elections Board will be disbanded at the academic year's conclusion.

IX: Candidate Eligibility

- I. All candidates must be students whose home campus is NYU Shanghai.
- II. No candidate may participate in study abroad during the term of office for which they are running with the exception of the Junior Class Representative, and students taking J-term and Summer courses.
- III. All candidates must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- IV. All candidates must provide a valid explanation of any disciplinary issues they have faced.
- V. Candidates must notify the Elections Board a reasonable time before the election of their intention to run for a position.
- VI. Candidates may not run for more than one position per election.

X: Revision Clause

- I. This Constitution must be revised by the Board of Directors of the Student Government in the spring of every odd-numbered year.
- II. The Board of Directors must hold at least 1 open meeting for the entire student body to discuss the revisions.

- III. Revisions must be completed in a reasonable time before the end of the academic year.
- IV. Revisions must be agreed upon by a simple majority of the voting student body who participate in the vote.

XI: New Legislation and Amendment Clause

- I. Any member of the Student Government may propose new legislation or an amendment to the Constitution.
 - A. New Legislation Proposals must include a completed Amendment proposal outlining the proposed legislation and rationale. This may only be presented at a Student Government meeting.
 - 1. This proposal will be made public and open to comments from the student body for a minimum of five days before the Board of Directors holds a vote.
 - B. Amendment Proposals must include a completed Amendment Proposal Form outlining the change(s), and may only be presented at a Student Government meeting.
- II. Any proposed legislation or amendment must be seconded by another member of the Student Government.
- III. Amendments and Legislation must be agreed upon by a simple majority of the voting student body who participate in the vote.

XII: Resignation Policy

- I. Any Student Government member who wishes to resign from their position must provide a three-week written notice to the Student Government.

XIII: Impeachment and Removal from Office

- I. Impeachment of Elected Officials
 - A. Any member of the Board of Directors may propose to impeach an elected official. Proposals must take place at meetings of the Board of Directors and must be seconded by another member.
 - B. Closed impeachment trials will be held by the Student Government. If two-thirds of the Board of Directors agree, the official will be removed from office immediately.
 - C. In the case that the President is impeached or resigns, the Vice President will assume the title and roles of the President. A new Vice President will be elected through a special election run by the Elections Board.
 - D. In the case that a Director is impeached or resigns, a new Director will be appointed within the Director's committee by the President, and must be confirmed by a 2/3 vote on the Board of Directors.
 - E. In any other cases of vacancy where there is not an acting assistant role to take the place of the vacated officer, there will be a special election run by the Elections Board to select a replacement.
- II. Removal of Appointed Officials
 - A. Any Director may propose to remove an appointed official within their committee. Proposals must take place at meetings of the Board of Directors and require approval of the Board of Directors in order to go to trial.
 - B. Closed trials will be held by the Board of Directors.

- C. If the official is removed from office, the Director may re-open the application process for the open position and appoint a replacement officer within a reasonable time.

XIV: Advisor

- A. The Student Government will have an appointed advisor from the Office of Student Life.
- B. The role of the advisor will be to provide support and serve as a liaison between the staff and the Student Government.
- C. The advisor may attend all open meetings of the Student Government.
- D. The advisor will attend regular Board of Directors meetings.