

WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Article I – Name

Section 1 The name of this organization shall be the Student Council of Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School, Wittenberg, Wisconsin.

Article II – Purpose

Section 1 The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the general welfare of the school, improve school morale and participation in school activities, foster school spirit and tradition, promote student communication with administration, school board, parents and community and also represent students' interests on issues.

Article III – Membership

Section 1 A. The officers of the organization shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. All officers will be members of the executive committee.

B. Each class shall have their class president and vice-president on the council.

C. Each class will also be allowed up to one representative per 20 members in their class. *(approved 11/2013)*

Section 2 A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the council, call special meetings when necessary, and appoint all committees. In case of a tie, the President votes.

B. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence. The Vice President will be in charge of the Student Council office.

C. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Student Council meetings, handle all office correspondence, post all minutes for the student body to view, and make a report at all Student Council meetings.

D. The Treasurer shall have charge of all Student Council funds, maintain an accurate record of all such funds, and make a report at all Student Council meetings.

E. The Representatives shall make a report at all class meetings and must attend all Student Council meetings.

Article IV – Elections

- Section 1 Sometime during May, the Student Council will organize a slate of candidates for the Student Council.
- A. Each class shall have charge of electing their representatives to the Student Council.
 - B. The officers will be chosen by the entire student body.
 - C. There will be no restrictions as to qualifications of officers, except the President must be on Student Council one year prior to presidency and must be a senior. The Vice President must be an underclassman.
 - D. Campaign Regulations: Posters and various campaign materials maybe displayed after said material has been approved by the Student Council Adviser or Principal.
 - E. Each student running for office shall complete an application for membership, and write a paragraph explaining their qualifications for the office they are seeking, after which the election will take place. Voting will be by secret ballot in certain designated rooms.
 - F. A tally of votes and announcements of winners shall be made by the Student Council.
 - G. The term of office for each Student Council member shall be one year, beginning the first day of the school year.

Section V – Removal from Office

Section 1 Method of Removal: An officer, class president or representative may be removed from office for repeated failure to attend meetings; failure to represent his/her group properly and fairly; failure to carry out his/her duties as an officer, class president or representative; failure to abide by all school rules; failure of one or more classes; or for other actions which are harmful to the welfare and best interests of the school. The breaking of school rules is defined as a student's suspension or being sent to ALAC more than once.

Section 2 If an officer, class president or representative resigns or is removed from office, the Student Council shall be empowered to fill the vacancy, except in the case of the President of the Council; in this case the Vice President becomes the President. A two-thirds vote of the Council will be required for the removal of Student Council members.

Article VI – Committees

Section 1 Special committees may be organized as necessary.

Article VII – Time of Meetings

Section 1 The Student Council will meet at least once a month at a suitable time.

Article VIII – Sponsor

Section 1 Student Council members shall make suggestions to the principal and the principal shall appoint a member of the faculty, or himself/herself to serve as faculty sponsor to the Student Council. The sponsor shall serve as the adviser and does not vote.

Article IX – Parliamentary Authority

Section 1 In all matters not specifically expressed in this constitution, the parliamentary authority shall be Robert’s Rules of Order, revised.

Article X – Powers

Section 1 All powers of the Student Council are delegated to it by the school administration. Therefore, the principal has the right to veto any act of the Student Council. When the veto is sent back to the Council, a unanimous vote will carry the bill.

Article XI – Chartering Clubs and Other Organizations

Section 1 Any school group desiring to organize a club shall apply to the Student Council for a charter.

Section 2 At the time of application, each group shall state its purpose and must present a set of rules and regulations by which it proposes to govern itself.

Section 3 If the Council approves the request, it shall issue a charter until the organization or club no longer serves its purposes and functions.

Article XII – Amendments

Section 1 This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the Council.

By-Laws

The constitution shall become effective immediately after having been approved by a three-fourths vote of the Council.

By-Law I

The Student Council will give a \$25.00 memorial to a student who has a death in the immediate family. This will be done apart from any memorial by the student’s classmates or friends.

By-Law II

Section 1 Election of Class Officers: Sometime at the beginning of the school year, the Student Council will authorize homeroom meetings for the purpose of electing class officers. Candidates shall be nominated in homerooms and voting will be by secret ballot in certain designated rooms. A majority vote of the electorate will be needed to decide a winner. In the event of a tie, a re-vote will be taken.

Section 2 Recall of Officers: An officer may be recalled if in the eyes of the majority of the electorate he/she has failed to carry out his/her duties as an officer, or for any other actions which are harmful to the welfare and best interests of the class. If a class presents to the Council a petition of 51 percent of the electorate for the recall of an officer, a recall election will be held. The recall officer shall be placed on the ballot as the incumbent and nominations from the floor will be opened. A secret ballot will be used and a majority of the electorate will be required to win the election.

By-Law III

Section 1 Honorary Student Council Membership: Beginning with the 1997-98 school year, students may apply to become Honorary Members of the Student Council. Honorary members will be encouraged to share their ideas, and will be expected to participate in the Council activities, but will not have voting rights. Honorary members will be nominated by the adviser and approved by a majority vote of the council.

Section 2 Requirements for Honorary Membership: Applicants must have run for a class officer, class representative or Student Council officer position in the previous election. Applicants must submit one letter of recommendation from a community leader, employer, teacher or adviser within four weeks of the fall elections. Honorary members must complete five hours of Student Council and/or community service within two months of application registration (Service hours must be recorded and signed by an adviser).

By-Law IV

Section 1 In the case of a plurality or the event in which more than two candidates run, a primary election will be held. From this election, the two candidates with the most votes will advance to the final election, in which a majority must be obtained.

Section 2 A majority of votes is defined by 51 percent of the ballots cast for any election. A re-vote only occurs in the case of a 50-percent draw. In the case of a second tie, all Student Council members currently in office (including officers and class representatives) will determine the office. Hence, no co-officers shall be declared.

By-Law V

Section 1 Class Representatives Removal: In case of a class representative's removal, any honorary member from that class may run for that position. A standard election will be held within the Student Council.

Section 2 Class President's Removal: In case of a Class President's removal, the Vice President will fill the vacancy, and the Vice President slot will remain vacant until the following election.

Section 3 Student Council Officer's Removal: In case of a Student Council officer's removal, other than the president, the remaining three officers will nominate candidates from the student council, honorary or elected, to fill the position. This committee may not nominate more than two candidates. The entire Student Council will hold an election. If the President of Student Council is removed from office, the Vice President will fill the vacancy. In this situation, the Vice President slot will be filled by the above procedure.

Section 4 A two-thirds vote of the Student Council is required to fill a vacancy.