

University of Minnesota – Duluth Student Association

Constitution

Preamble

We, the members of the University of Minnesota Duluth, in order to effect an organization for the student body for the purposes of university governance involvement for the improvement of student life conditions; to actively promote the goals of the University; to organize and coordinate programs of co-curricular nature; to promote better coordination of the rights and responsibilities of students to and between colleges, schools, departments, administrations, and the community; to effectively reflect student opinion on all matters affecting students in their role as students; and to cooperate effectively with faculty, administrators, and community in areas common to all as a university community; do hereby establish this Constitution.

Article I. Name

Section 01 The name of this organization shall be the University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association, herein and after referred to as the UMDSA.

Section 02 The governing document of UMDSA shall be this Constitution.

Article II. Membership

Section 01 All regularly enrolled students of the University of Minnesota Duluth who pay the student services fee shall be ex-officio members of UMDSA. (Any reference to members in this document shall refer to congressional and executive members as defined below.)

Section 02 Voting members are those defined in this constitution.

Article III. Rules

Section 01 UMDSA shall operate under Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except as defined in the Bylaws.

Section 02 Rule interpretation is delegated to a standing committee as defined in the Bylaws.

Article IV. Powers of UMDSA

Section 01 The UMDSA shall be the official voice of the University of Minnesota Duluth student body and shall have all powers and duties as designated by this Constitution, Bylaws, Duluth Campus Assembly, and the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Section 02 The UMDSA shall be the official voice and representative to any and all campus-wide assemblies and/or governance systems.

Section 03 The UMDSA Senators shall be the official voice and at-large representation to any and all collegiate assemblies and/or governance systems.

Article V. The President

Section 01 The chief administrator and executive of the UMDSA shall be the President, who will be elected yearly by a direct vote of the student body for a one year term. Any currently enrolled student having earned a passing grade in a minimum of thirty (30) credits in attendance at UMD, and carrying at least the minimum number of credits to be considered a full-time student at the time of election as well as the duration of each semester of the presidency, shall be eligible to run.

Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities

- A.** The President shall recommend from Congress, to the extent possible, nominations and removal of Executive Officers, Directors, and Professional Student Personnel.
- B.** The President shall hold authority over and be responsible for all Vice Presidents, Executive Officers, Directors, and Professional Student Personnel.
- C.** The President shall have the power of veto over all acts passed by the UMDSA Congress.
- D.** The President shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.
- E.** The President shall nominate all student members to any and all campus, Special, and Advisory Committees or other bodies as designated by the Administration.
- F.** The President shall make recommendations and consult with Congress concerning membership on Congressional Committees.
- G.** The President shall have the power to nominate or appoint any fee-paying student to any director position as designated in the bylaws. These appointments are subject to Congressional approval.
- H.** The President will be one of the student members nominated to serve on the Executive Committee of the Campus Assembly.
- I.** The President fills any requests and/or nominations for students to committees and other bodies. If there are requests pending prior to the first congressional meeting of the year, these are to be filled one week following the first congressional meeting.
- J.** The President shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution, UMDSA Bylaws and/or as directed by Congress.

Section 03 Presidential Succession

- A.** The order of succession shall be: Vice President of Administration and Finance, Vice President of Student Affairs, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President of External Affairs, and then the Chair of Congress.
- B.** The above offices shall perform the duties of the President in the case that the President is unable to discharge the duties of the office by reason of disability, impeachment, resignation, or long-term illness.
- C.** When, for any reason, a vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the above offices shall serve as acting President, in order of succession, until the end of the immediate academic semester. A special election of the student body shall be held within 4 weeks according to bylaws to fill the vacancy.

Article VI. Vice President of Student Life

Section 01 The chief administrator and executive of the UMDSA student affairs shall be a Vice President, who will be elected yearly by a direct vote of the student body for one Congressional year. Any currently enrolled student having a minimum of twelve (12)

credits in attendance at UMD, and carrying at least the minimum number of credits to be considered a full-time student at the time of election as well as the duration of each semester of the vice presidency, shall be eligible to run.

Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities

- A. The Vice President shall hold authority over and be responsible for the directors listed in the bylaws.
- B. The Vice President shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.
- C. Shall chair the UMDSA Student Life committee
- D. Shall be one of the student members nominated to serve on the Campus Assembly Student Affairs Committee.
- E. The Vice President shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Article VII. Vice President of Academic Affairs

Section 01 The chief administrator and executive of the UMDSA academic affairs shall be a Vice President, who will be elected yearly by a direct vote of the student body for one Congressional year. Any currently enrolled student having a minimum of twelve (12) credits in attendance at UMD, and carrying at least the minimum number of credits to be considered a full-time student at the time of election as well as the duration of each semester of the vice presidency, shall be eligible to run.

Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities

- A. The Vice President shall hold authority over and be responsible for the directors listed in the bylaws.
- B. The Vice President shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.
- C. Shall chair the UMDSA Academic Affairs Committee.
- D. Shall be one of the student members nominated to serve on the Campus Assembly Education Policy Committee.
- E. The Vice President shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Article VIII. Vice President of Administration and Finance

Section 01 The chief administrator and executive of the UMDSA administration and finances shall be a Vice President, who will be elected yearly by a direct vote of the student body for one Congressional year. Any currently enrolled student having a minimum of twelve (12) credits in attendance at UMD, and carrying at least the minimum number of credits to be considered a full-time student at the time of election as well as the duration of each semester of the vice presidency, shall be eligible to run.

Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities

- A. The Vice President shall hold authority over and be responsible for the directors listed in the bylaws.
- B. The Vice President shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.
- C. Shall chair the UMDSA Fund Allocations Committee.

- D. The Vice President shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution and Bylaws.
- E. Shall be one of the student members nominated to serve on the Campus Assembly Budget Committee.
- F. Shall be responsible for filing a copy of UMDSA's Student Service Fee request each year.
- G. The Vice President shall submit a semester variance report to UMDSA Congress at least once per semester.

Article IX. Vice President of External Affairs

Section 01 The chief administrator and executive of the UMDSA external affairs shall be a Vice President, who will be elected yearly by a direct vote of the student body for one Congressional year. Any currently enrolled student having a minimum of twelve (12) credits in attendance at UMD, and carrying a minimum of twelve (12) credits at the time of election, shall be eligible to run.

Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities

- A. The Vice President shall hold authority over and be responsible for the directors listed in the bylaws.
- B. The Vice President shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.
- C. The Vice President shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution and Bylaws.
- D. Shall be the chief administrator of the Legislative Certificate Program.
- E. Shall be one of the student members nominated to serve on the Campus Assembly Budget Committee.
- F. Shall be responsible for advocating on behalf of students of UMD on local, state, and federal levels of government.

Article X. Freshman President

Section 01 The chief administrator and executive of the UMDSA freshmen and housing residents shall be the Freshman President. The President will be elected yearly by a direct vote of the freshman class as defined by UMD Administration of the student body. Any candidate carrying at least the minimum number of credits to be considered a full-time student at the time of election as well as the duration of each semester of presidency shall be eligible to run.

Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities

- A. The Freshman President shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.
- B. Shall chair the UMDSA Freshman Committee.
- C. The Freshman President shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Article XI. Student Congress

Section 01 The legislative body of UMD students shall be vested in the Student Congress.

Section 02 Membership

- A.** The voting membership of the Student Congress shall be the Vice Presidents, Senators, Representatives at Large, Freshman President, Freshman Vice President, Freshman Representatives, Directors, the Representative to the Board of Regents, and Professional Student Personnel.
- B.** The officers of the UMDSA Congress shall be the Chair and Vice Chair, to be elected at the first regular meeting of the UMDSA congressional year.
- C.** Representatives and Senators shall be members of at least one UMDSA standing committee, one campus standing committee, and carry out duties as defined in this Constitution and Bylaws.
- D.** Senators shall be UMDSA's official voice to and from their respective collegiate units as well as fulfilling duties assigned by Congress.
- E.** Freshman Vice President and Freshman Representatives are the official representatives of the freshman class to UMDSA and shall carry out duties as defined in this Constitution and Bylaws and as assigned by Congress.

Section 03 Congressional Powers and Responsibilities

- A.** To formulate ideas and goals with respect to the University Senate, any campus assembly/governance system, the Board of Regents, and all other collegiate and student organizations and to discuss issues relevant to the above institutions.
- B.** To formulate committees and councils in respect to campus concerns and issues.
- C.** Power of disapproval of executive decisions and to terminate any program, project, or service associated with and/or funded by UMDSA. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of voting membership of UMDSA Congress is required for the above action.
- D.** To approve semester budgets and any variance thereof, submitted by the Vice President of Administration and Finance at least once per semester.
- E.** The power of impeachment by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership of the UMDSA Congress as defined in Article XII of this document.
- F.** Power to override a Presidential veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership of the UMDSA Congress.
- G.** Power to initiate any such programs they may deem necessary, and to direct the President, Vice Presidents, and Directors to administer same.
- H.** To carry out all duties as designated in the Bylaws.
- I.** Congress shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the UMDSA Congress and make them available to all students, faculty, staff and administration of the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Section 04 Chair of Congress

- A.** Shall be chosen from the Congress-elect by the Congress-elect.
- B.** Shall be responsible for conducting and certifying all votes taken in Congress.

Article XII. Impeachment

Section 01 Any UMDSA member shall be subject to impeachment.

Section 02 Grounds for impeachment shall exist when there is evidence of misfeasance or non-feasance conduct to the UMDSA, the University of Minnesota Duluth, criminal conduct, any violation of the student conduct code, or violations of the attendance policy as decided at the first congressional meeting of the year.

Section 03 All impeachment proceedings will progress in the following order:

- A. Petitions for impeachment shall be presented in writing to the UMDSA
 - B. Shall consist of the signatures and ID numbers of not fewer than 10% of the number of students that voted in the previous election. This rule does not apply to violations of the attendance policy.
 - C. All impeachment petitions presented to the UMDSA shall be read and discussed at the next congressional meeting.
 - D. The petition shall be reviewed by a special Ad Hoc congressional committee and presented to congress at the following congressional session.
 - E. After at least one week since the Ad Hoc presents its findings on the petition, Congress may vote. The vote must pass by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all voting UMDSA Congress members.
- Section 04** Upon impeachment the impeached member is considered to be removed from UMDSA.

Article XIII. Amendments

Section 01 All amendments shall be presented at one Congress meeting, discussed, and then tabled for one week before being voted upon at that time.

Section 02 The amendment shall pass upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Congress and ratification by a majority vote (50% + 1) of the students who vote on the amendment in a campus-wide election.

Approved by UMDSA Congress: 2-22-2012

Ratified by UMD Student Body: 4-10-2012