

# *Constitution of the Student Government of the University of Scranton*

## **Preamble**

We, the students of The University of Scranton, desiring to support the Ignatian mission of The University of Scranton by promoting the teachings and examples of Jesus Christ in all aspects of student involvement through a commitment to leadership and service to others; to provide a means for responsible and effective student participation in the organization and in the operation of student formation and campus life; to provide a forum for the expression of student views and interests; to maintain academic freedom, academic responsibility, and student rights; to sustain and improve campus culture; to develop better student educational standards, facilities, and teaching methods; to help promote national and international understanding and fellowship at the student level; to organize and mobilize student involvement in seeking solutions to the serious problems facing the community, the nation, and humankind; and to promote the recognition of students' rights and responsibilities to the university, the community, and humanity; do hereby establish this Constitution of the Student Government at The University of Scranton.

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Name and Membership**

#### Section 1. Name

- a. This organization is hereby named the Student Government of The University of Scranton.

#### Section 2. Membership

- a. The University of Scranton Student Government shall serve all undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences, the J.A. Panuska College of Professional Studies, and the Kania School of Management.
- b. Every undergraduate student shall enjoy equal rights of voting under this government.
- c. Membership in Student Government shall be open to all students in accordance with The University of Scranton's non-discrimination policy.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Executive Branch**

#### Section 1. The Executive Branch

- a. The membership of the Executive Branch of Student Government shall consist of the President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Executive Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Communication and Director of Technology.
- b. The Executive Branch shall:
  1. Serve as the coordinating body of communication and cooperation between the branches of Student Government and the various student organizations of the university.

2. Make recommendations on activities undertaken by Student Government or by any of its committees.
3. Manage the Student Government budget for submission to the Student Senate for approval.
4. Coordinate the training of Student Government personnel, including but not limited to summer training for all Senators.
5. Manage all affairs of Student Government.
6. Address concerns arising from the deliberations of the Student Government.
7. Be chaired by the President of Student Government.
8. Faithfully execute this Constitution.

## Section 2. The Executive Officers

- a. The President of Student Government shall be the elected executive officer of Student Government. The President shall:
  1. Serve as the official representative of the Student Body.
  2. Sit as an ex-officio member of the Student Senate.
  3. Appoint temporary executive committees and executive assistants as he/she deems necessary to the Executive Branch, and to abolish such bodies and assistants at his/her discretion.
  4. Veto those enactments of the Student Senate to which he/she takes strong exception and to present vetoes to the Student Senate. Upon failure to take action after the duration of ten business days from the presentation of the enactment by the Vice President of Student Government, such legislation shall be approved.
  5. Appoint a Chief of Staff, Executive Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Communications and Director of Technology of Student Government for approval by a two-thirds majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting provided quorum is met.
  6. Appoint student representatives to all campus-wide committees, except where the appointments are made through a screening process.
  7. Attend meetings of the Student Senate.
  8. Serve as a member of the University Governance Council and any other committees as requested by The University.
- b. The Vice President of Student Government shall be an elected officer of Student Government. The Vice President shall:
  1. Serve as the Chair of the Student Senate, voting only in the case of a tie.
  2. Ensure that the enactments of the Student Senate are properly communicated to the community.

3. Coordinate the agenda of the Student Senate with the other Executive Officers.
  4. Call special meetings of the Student Senate.
  5. Coordinate personnel training for Senators.
  6. Make reports to and assist the President.
  7. Create and dissolve, with the approval of the Student Senate majority, any Senate committees and commissions that he/she deems necessary.
  8. In the absence or removal of the President, assume the duties of the President following the process described in the *Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*.
  9. Aids student groups in petitioning the senate for new club petitions for charter.
- c. The Chief of Staff of Student Government shall:
1. Be appointed by the President and approved by a two-thirds majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting provided quorum is met.
  2. Sit as an ex-officio member of the Student Senate and serve as Parliamentarian.
  3. Serve as the coordinator for all senior staff duties and assignments.
  4. Advise the President on matters related to Student Government
  5. Serve as the Executive liaison for Student Government when the President or Vice President are unable to do so.
  6. Oversee special Executive Committees as appointed by the President.
  7. Serve as a direct liaison between Club Council and Student Government.
- d. The Executive Treasurer of Student Government shall:
1. Be appointed by the President and approved by a two-thirds majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting provided quorum is met.
  2. Sit as an ex-officio member of the Student Senate.
  3. Advise the Appropriations Committee.
  4. Be responsible for making regular reports to the Executive Officers and the Student Senate regarding the Student Government budget.
  5. Prepare financial summaries at the beginning and end of each fiscal year to file in the Student Government office.
  6. Advise in the allocation and distribution of Student Government funds to student organizations.
  7. Assist student organizations with regard to University paperwork and procedures.

- e. The Secretary of Student Government shall:
1. Be appointed by the President and approved by a two-thirds majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting provided quorum is met.
  2. Sit as an ex-officio member of the Student Senate.
  3. Take minutes at all meetings of the Executive Officers and the Student Senate.
  4. Keep a record of attendance of Student Senate meetings.
  5. Keep a record of votes taken during Senate meetings.
  6. Assist the President in supervision of all ongoing Student Government activities and projects.
  7. Coordinate meetings of the Executive Officers and the Student Senate.
  8. Be responsible for contacting Student Government members about meetings.
- f. The Director of Communication of Student Government shall:
1. Be appointed by the President and approved by a two-thirds majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting provided quorum is met.
  2. Sit as an ex-officio member of the Student Senate.
  3. Direct and facilitate fall and spring elections. Appoint Two Election Commissioners. This appointment must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting provided quorum is met.
  4. Assist in advertising to fill vacancies on the Student Senate should any occur during the year.
  5. Lead the planning and implementation of the fall and spring Street Sweep service events.
  6. Facilitates publicity for all Student Government sponsored events.
  7. Submit updates to the Director of Technology in the organization and creation of The Governance newsletter.
- g. The Director of Technology of Student Government shall:
1. Be appointed by the President and approved by a two-thirds majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting provided quorum is met.
  2. Sit as an ex-officio member of the Student Senate.
  3. Maintain and handle the online ballots for fall and spring elections.
  4. Maintain and update the Student Government website.
  5. Assist clubs with the creation/updates of club websites.
  6. Assist the Director of Communication in the organization and creation of The Governance newsletter.

7. Assist the Executive Treasurer in the technical management of the Budget System.

### ARTICLE III

#### Legislative Branch

##### Section 1. The Student Senate

- a. The Student Senate shall participate in the discussion of policies regarding areas of primary interest to student members of the University community, including but not limited to those related to the regulation of student conduct, student housing, food services, student activities and organizations, and non-academic student facilities. These discussions will be made in consultation with and subject to final actions by the President and the Board of Trustees of The University of Scranton.
- b. The Student Senate has the authority and/or responsibility to:
  1. To recommend the University charter any student organization by a two-thirds majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting.
  2. To approve, by a two-thirds majority of the number present at a Student Senate meeting, the Presidential appointments for Chief of Staff, Executive Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Communications, and Director of Technology.
  3. To have the power to remove members of the Executive Branch and the Student Senate.
  4. To adopt and amend the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton* as provided for in the *Constitution of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*.
  5. To approve annually the *Student Government Election Rules and Procedures* by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate prior to the second meeting of the spring semester.
  6. To take all actions which shall be necessary and proper for carrying out its functions.
  7. To override, by a three-fourths majority of the number present, a Presidential veto.

##### Section 2. Representatives

- a. The Student Senate shall be composed of the following:
  1. Four Senior Class Representatives.
  2. Four Junior Class Representatives.
  3. Four Sophomore Class Representatives.
  4. Four First-Year Class Representatives.
  5. Two Commuter Representatives.
  6. Three Resident Representatives.
  7. Two Off-Campus Representatives.

## 8. One International Student Representative.

## Section 3. Meetings

- a. The Senate shall meet every other week when classes are in session, and any additional times at the request of the Vice President or pursuant to a petition signed by one third of the Student Senate members.
- b. A majority of the Senate members shall constitute a quorum. When a vacancy exists, the number needed for a quorum shall be changed accordingly.
- c. Student Senate meetings are mandatory for Student Senate members. Senators must attend 75% of the Student Senate meetings. Failure to do so shall constitute grounds for removal.

**ARTICLE IV****Elections, Appointments, and Terms of Office**

## Section 1. Elections

- a. The Executive Branch will determine when the Spring Elections shall be held each academic year as deemed appropriate, bearing in mind the academic calendar.
- b. The Student Senate will approve a proposed Election Timeline prior to the start of the fall semester that will determine when the Fall Elections shall be held.
- c. The Fall Student Government Elections shall be held between Labor Day and Fall Break each year.
- d. The Student Government Elections shall be governed by the *Student Government Elections Rules and Procedures*.
- e. Election of President, Vice President and Senators will occur as outlined in the *Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton* and the *Student Government Elections Rules and Procedures*.
- f. The Student Senate will approve the Spring Election Commissioners at the next Senate meeting, immediately following the appointment made by the President of the Student Government.
- g. The Election Commissioner, appointed by the Director of Communications, shall be approved by the Student Senate by the first meeting of each year.
- h. Special elections shall be held in the event of both the President and Vice President vacating their positions.

## Section 2. Appointments

- a. The President of Student Government shall be responsible for making all appointments and soliciting applicants for all appointed positions.
- b. All appointed positions will be advertised campus wide through appropriate media.
- c. All appointments must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of those Senators present, quorum provided.
- d. Appointments of Representatives and other Student Government members will occur as necessary, provided that the appointee is eligible in accordance to *The Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*.
- e. All appointees will present credentials to Student Senate.

- f. Appointments of Representatives and other Student Government members will occur as outlined in the *Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton* and the *Student Government Elections Rules and Procedures*.

### Section 3. Term of Office

- a. All elected and appointed members of Student Government shall serve concurrent one-year terms commencing at the first official Senate meeting of the newly elected Executive Branch's term.
- b. First-Year Student Senate members shall serve a term beginning at the first Student Senate meeting after Fall elections, terminating at the last official Senate meeting of that Executive Branch's term.

## ARTICLE V

### Vacancies and Removal from Office

#### Section 1. President

- a. Should the Office of the President of Student Government become vacant, the Vice President of the Student Government shall succeed to the Presidency.
- b. The new President will remain in office for that term.

#### Section 2. Vice President

- a. Should the Office of the Vice President of the Student Government become vacant, the President of Student Government will nominate a Student Government member to assume the office. The appointment then must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.
- b. The new Vice President will remain in office for that term.

#### Section 3. Chief of Staff

- a. Should the Office of the Chief of Staff of Student Government become vacant, the President of Student Government shall make a new appointment subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.
- b. The new Chief of Staff will remain in office for that term.

#### Section 4. Executive Treasurer

- a. Should the Office of the Executive Treasurer of Student Government become vacant, the President of Student Government shall make a new appointment subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.
- b. The new Executive Treasurer will remain in office for that term.

#### Section 5. Secretary

- a. Should the Office of the Secretary of Student Government become vacant, the President of Student Government shall make a new appointment subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.
- b. The new Secretary will remain in office for that term.

#### Section 6. Director of Communication

- a. Should the Office of the Director of Communication of Student Government become vacant, the President of Student Government shall make a new appointment subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.
- b. The new Director of Communication will remain in office for that term.

#### Section 7. Director of Technology

- a. Should the Office of the Director of Technology of Student Government become vacant, the President of Student Government shall make a new appointment subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.
- b. The new Director of Technology will remain in office for that term.

#### Section 8. Student Senate Members

- c. Vacancies in Student Senate positions will be filled by nominations that must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate.
- d. New Senators will remain in office for that term.

#### Section 9. Appointments

- a. The President of Student Government will fill vacancies of appointed representatives.
- b. Newly appointed representatives will remain in office for that term.

#### Section 10. Removal from Office

- a. Removal from office of elected and appointed officers shall occur by the process outlined in the *Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*.

### ARTICLE VI

#### Parliamentary Authority

##### Section 1. Process

- a. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Student Government in all cases to which they are applicable, and as deemed necessary by the Parliamentarian, and the Chair.

### ARTICLE VII

#### Moderator

##### Section 1. Moderator

- a. The Dean of Students shall serve as the Moderator for Student Government.
- b. The Moderator shall be present but not vote during Student Senate meetings.
- c. The Moderator shall have all other rights as assigned to Student Senate members.
- d. The Moderator shall have the responsibility of assuring that Student Government acts in compliance with University regulations.
- e. The Moderator shall be responsible for working with student organizations in coordination with Student Government.

### ARTICLE VIII

#### Amendments

##### Section 1. Amendments to the *Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*

- a. Any Student Government member can bring a proposed amendment before the Student Senate.
- b. The proposed amendment must be considered according to the procedure outlined in the *Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Enabling and Ratification**

#### Section 1. Enabling

- a. The *Constitution of the Student Government of The University of Scranton* shall supersede any and all previous Constitutions of Student Government as of the date of ratification of this Constitution indicated below.
- b. The *Constitution of the Student Government of The University of Scranton* shall become effective after approval by two-thirds majority of the number present, quorum provided, at a Student Senate meeting.
- c. The *Constitution of the Student Government of The University of Scranton* shall be reviewed by the Executive Officers with the assistance of a special committee appointed from the Student Senate on an as needed basis.

# *Bylaws of the Student Government of the University of Scranton*

## ARTICLE I

### Officers

#### Section 1. Members of Student Government Eligibility Criteria

- a. Eligibility for all elected and appointed Student Government officers shall include:
  1. A cumulative GPA of 2.5.
  2. Full-time undergraduate student status as indicated by the current edition of *The University of Scranton Undergraduate Catalog*.
  3. Good standing, meaning not on academic or disciplinary probation.
  4. An understanding that Senators serve for an entire year, forgoing any plans to study abroad that conflict with the term.
  
- b. Elected Student Government officers will be chosen as established in the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton* and the *Student Government Election Rules and Procedures*. Additional eligibility requirements for elected officers are listed below.
  1. The President and Vice President of Student Government must have completed three semesters at the time of election.
  2. Class Representatives must meet social class standing requirements as stated by the current edition of *The University of Scranton Undergraduate Catalog* for their terms of office.
  3. Commuter Representatives must be commuter students, as defined by The University of Scranton, throughout their entire terms of office.
  4. Off-campus Representatives must be off-campus students, as defined by The University of Scranton, throughout their entire terms of office.
  5. Resident Representatives must be residential students, as defined by The University of Scranton, throughout their entire terms of office.
  6. The International Student Representative must be either an exchange student pursuing a full-time, non-degree seeking program or a student with an F1 or J1 student visa taking on-campus, full-time, credit-bearing courses.

#### Section 2. Moderator

- a. The Moderator of Student Government will be responsible for monitoring these requirements for candidates and Student Government officers.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Elections**

#### Section 1. Executive Elections

- a. Election of the President and Vice President of Student Government shall be conducted as outlined in the *Student Government Election Rules and Procedures*.

#### Section 2. Legislative Elections

- a. The *Student Government Election Rules and Procedures* shall govern the elections of Student Senate members.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Removal of Officers**

#### Section 1. Executive Removal

- a. The President of Student Government, Vice President of Student Government, Chief of Staff, Executive Treasurer, Executive Secretary, Director of Communications, or Director of Technology may be removed for blatant neglect of duty, disregard of rules and regulations, violation and disregard of Student Government directives, changed disciplinary or academic standing such that they are ineligible to hold their position, and/or willful and intentional violation of the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*. To remove an officer:
  1. A written request must be submitted to the Vice President of Student Government so that he/she may place it on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting. Upon failure to do so, a majority vote of those Senators present shall force him/her to call the question.
  2. An affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the number present, with quorum, at a Student Senate meeting is necessary for removal.

#### Section 2. Senator Removal

- a. Senators may be removed for blatant neglect of duty, disregard of rules and regulations, violation and disregard of Student Government directives, changed disciplinary or academic standing such that they are ineligible to hold their position, and/or willful and intentional violation of the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*. To remove a Senator:
  1. A written request must be submitted to the Vice President of Student Government so that he/she may place it on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting. Upon failure to do so, a

majority vote of those Senators present shall force him/her to call the question.

2. An affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the number present, with quorum, at a Student Senate meeting is necessary for removal.

## ARTICLE IV

### Student Senate Standing Committees

Section 1. These shall be the standing committees of the Student Senate:

- a. **Academic and Scholastic Affairs** – Shall work to maintain and improve academic and scholastics at the University. It shall serve as liaison between the student body and the offices necessary to facilitate the improvement and stability of these conditions. The necessary offices include, but are not limited to, Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Kania School of Management, Panuska School of Professional Studies, Office of International Student and Scholar Services Weinberg Memorial Library, Office of the Provost, and The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence.
- b. **Appropriations and Student Development** – Shall consider all the funding requests or concerns and make necessary recommendations to the Student Senate. Shall work to maintain and improve the development of students at the University. It shall serve as liaison between the student body and the offices necessary to facilitate the improvement and stability of these conditions. The necessary offices include, but are not limited to Admissions, Center for Student Engagement, Career Services and the Alumni Office.
- c. **Athletics and Programming** – Shall work to maintain and improve athletics and programming at the University. It shall serve as liaison between the student body and the offices necessary to facilitate the improvement and stability of these conditions. The necessary offices include, but are not limited to, The University of Scranton Programming Board, The Aquinas, Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Recreational and Club Sports, WUSR, and Community Relations.
- d. **Student Life and Dining Services** - Shall work to maintain and improve the quality of student life and food services at the University. It shall serve as liaison between the student body and the offices necessary to facilitate the improvement and stability of these conditions. The necessary offices include, but are not limited to, Performance Music, University Players, Center for Health and Education Wellness, Cross Cultural Centers, Residence Life and Off Campus and Commuter Student Affairs.
- e. **Safety, Justice, and Service** – Shall work to maintain and improve safety, justice, and service at the University. It shall serve as liaison between the student body and the offices necessary to facilitate the improvement and stability of these conditions. The necessary offices include, but are not limited to, Cross Cultural Centers, Campus Ministries' Center for Service and Social Justice, Campus Ministries, University Police, Office of Equity and Diversity and the Jesuit Center.

- f. Standing committees may be added or disbanded and current committees may be altered to better serve the student body by amendment to these, the *Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*.

Section 2. Other committees of the Student Senate may be created or abolished as deemed necessary by the Student Senate. The President of Student Government, or three Senators, may recommend creation or abolition of ad hoc committees. A two-thirds majority vote in the affirmative at a Student Senate meeting is required for approval.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Financial Code**

Section 1. These shall be the accounts of Student Government;

- a. Student Activities
- b. Student Government Expenditures
- c. Student Government Operations

Section 2. The Student Activities Fee Account is a revenue-only account into which all Student Activities Fees are deposited.

Section 3. The University Programming Board (USPB) and all officially chartered requesting clubs are funded out of the Student Government Expenditure Account in addition to major Student Government Expenses.

- a. All transactions regarding the Student Government Account must be approved by a majority vote of the Student Senate
- b. Once appropriated, all club funds shall be budgeted and remain in the Student Government Account. No further Student Senate approval is necessary for the spending of these monies. The Executive Treasurer of Student Government, working in conjunction with the Dean of Students, will execute and monitor all club expenditures.

Section 4. The Student Government Operations Account is generated from the General Fund of the University. The Student Government Operations Account funds the daily operations of Student Government. The Executive Officers shall determine the appropriate expenditures of these monies.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Student Club and Organization Funding**

Section 1. In order for a club or organization, including Student Government, to be eligible for and receive appropriated funds the following criteria must be met:

- a. The organization must be officially chartered with a funded status.
- b. The organization must have a constitution on file with the Office of Clubs and Organizations.

- c. The organization must have an updated roster and completed registration form on file with the Office of Clubs and Organizations.
- d. The organization must have the minimum required community service activities completed and on file in the Office of Clubs and Organizations.
  - 1. All funded clubs and organizations must complete a minimum of three service activities per academic year. All unfunded clubs and organizations must complete a minimum of one service activity per academic year.
    - a. A community service activity constitutes an event approved by the Center for Service and Social Justice at which twenty-five percent of the members of the club must be present. In lieu of an event, a significant monetary donation from funds raised by the club may serve as an official community service activity for one of the three requirements.
  - 2. Community service deficiencies will result in a percent deduction of the initial amount appropriated to the organization as follows:
    - a. Two activities completed results in a one third deduction.
    - b. One activity completed results in a two thirds deduction.
    - c. No activities completed results in ineligibility to apply for funding for the academic year.
  - 3. Funded clubs that have not completed any service will be put on probation:
    - a. Failure to complete at least two service projects for each of the three years while on probation will allow student government to revoke the club's charter.
- e. The organization must maintain a zero or positive balance in their agency account.

Section 2. The following guidelines govern the appropriation of funds to student organizations with an unfunded status

- a. Clubs with an unfunded status cannot receive funding.
- b. Clubs with an "unfunded" status may have their funding status changed to funded if approved by a majority at a Student Senate Meeting provided quorum is met.

Section 3. The following guidelines govern the appropriation of funds to student organizations.

- a. The following can be funded by Student Government:
  - 1. Programs and/or projects that are educational in nature and benefit the Undergraduate Student Body of The University of Scranton.
  - 2. Social events open to the entire University community.
  - 3. Travel expenses necessary for intercollegiate events, conferences and club trips.
  - 4. Equipment and clothing only when an organization can demonstrate a programmatic need for such items (these items

must remain with the organization and not become the property of individuals).

5. National/Regional/Local conferences.

Section 4. Funds are to be expended only for the purpose outlined in the appropriation letter.

Under no circumstances can funds be used for other purposes without prior approval from the Student Senate.

Section 5. Funds to be appropriated to clubs for the following academic year will be voted on by the Student Senate at the first Student Senate meeting after April fifth of that year.

Section 6. In keeping with University fiscal policy regarding the expenditure of University funds, final approval of all budgetary allocations is made by the divisional Vice President (Vice President for Student Affairs). As such, once the President of Student Government signs the appropriation legislation, that legislation will be sent to the Vice President for Student Affairs as a recommendation. The VSPA will review the legislation and either approve or send back to the Student Government with revisions.

Section 7. Student Organization Appeal of Allocated Budget

- a. If a Student Organization or Club feels Student Government is not justified in denying any part of their annual budget request, the club holds the right to appeal the specific part of their budget in question.
- b. Appeals must be approved by the second meeting of the Fall Semester.

Section 8. New Initiative Funding Request

- a. On the rare occasion a club has an unforeseen expense after the budgeting process has been completed a club may request New Initiative Funding.
- b. The unforeseen cost must fit with the appropriations guidelines above.
- c. The unforeseen cost must not be part of the club's annual budget request.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Student Senate Guidelines**

Section 1. Business of the Student Senate

- a. The Student Senate shall meet during academic terms, as defined by the University's Academic Calendar.
  1. Neither the Student Senate nor any Committees shall meet on Official University holidays.
  2. During Periods of final examination, the Student Senate shall not meet; during these periods, it shall be at the discretion of each Committee to hold a meeting.
- b. Special Sessions
  1. The Vice President of Student Government, Chairperson of the Student Senate, may call Special Sessions, provided that each Senator receive twenty-four (24) hours notice of such a meeting, by memorandum, signed by the Vice President of Student Government.

2. The Executive Secretary shall clearly note the exact time of day and date of dissemination on each memorandum. This memorandum shall be disseminated to the Senators via Student Government Mailbox or electronic mail.
  3. The memorandum shall include the following: date, time and meeting location of the Special Session, the subject matter and/or intent of the Special Session.
  4. The Vice President of Student Government must call a Special Session if requested to do so by written petition of a majority of the Student Senate. Each Senator must personally affix his/her name to the petition.
  5. No other business shall be entertained during a Special Session.
- c. Minutes of the Student Senate
1. The Executive Secretary shall record, in the minutes, the official proceedings of the Student Senate, both-in-session and out-of-session; the minutes shall run meeting to meeting.
  2. The minutes shall be published at the time of the publication of the agenda.
  3. At each session, the Minutes shall be corrected and approved.
  4. After the Minutes are corrected and approved, the Minutes shall be the “official record” of the meeting, and a motion to “expunge” shall not be entertained by the Chairperson of the Student Senate.

## Section 2. Special Rules Governing Motions

- a. Procedure and Reading of Bills Before the Student Senate
1. All bills must be submitted for review to the Chairperson of the Student Senate at least four days prior to the Student Senate meeting. The flexibility of this time frame is at the discretion of the Chairperson.
  2. Bills on First Reading: When a bill is brought before the Student Senate for the first time it shall be placed on “First Reading.” The First Reading shall serve as a period of initial editing regarding spelling, grammar, and syntax. Amendments may be suggested by any Senate member not included in the sponsorship of the bill. Amendments may be contested by the author(s) of the bill, in which case a two-thirds vote will approve the amendment.
  3. Bills on Second Reading: The Second Reading shall serve as a period of debate and amendment regarding substance and context of the bill. Amendments may be suggested by any Senate member not included in the sponsorship of the bill.

Amendments may be contested by the author(s) of the bill, in which case a two-thirds vote in the affirmative will approve the amendment.

### Section 3. Decorum and Debate on the Floor of the Student Senate

#### a. The Floor of the Student Senate

1. The Chairperson of the Student Senate may recognize any person who is not a member of the Student Senate to speak before the Student Senate on issues germane to the measure of discussion on the floor at that time.
2. The Chairperson of the Student Senate or the Student Senate, by majority vote, may order the Student Senate chamber be cleared of any disruptive person who is interfering with the “orderly transaction of business.”
3. Any person speaking on the floor of the Student Senate pertaining to a measure that concerns a student organization or special interest group shall state any affiliations that he or she may have with said organization or special interest group.
4. Senatorial courtesy must be observed and Senators shall confine themselves to motions under debate.
5. In order to conduct business in a formal and professional manner, Senators are expected to dress in business casual attire.

#### b. Gaining the Floor and Limitations for Debate

1. When any Senator desires to speak or deliver any matter to the Student Senate, the Senator shall raise his or her hand and wait to be recognized by the Chairperson of the Student Senate.
2. When two or more Senators wish to speak at once, the Chairperson of the Student Senate shall rule on the order in which they shall speak.
3. When a Senator gains the floor, all points of discussion must be addressed to the Chairperson of the Student Senate.
4. Introducers of legislation shall not be allowed to move to have the same legislation put to an immediate vote during his/her introductory presentation.
5. The President of Student Government will advise the Chairperson of the Student Senate of time during debate.

### Section 4. Voting Guidelines for the Student Senate

#### a. Procedure for Voting

1. The Secretary shall produce a roll-call vote for the motion on the table, and each Senator shall respond in the affirmative “Yea” or “Nay.”

2. If a Senator chooses to abstain, the Senator shall respond “abstention.”
  3. The roll-call shall proceed in the order of position.
  4. The Secretary shall record the votes. All votes are to be published in the minutes and to be made available to the campus community.
- b. Restriction on Voting in Cases with a Conflict of Interest
1. When a conflict of interest arises, a Senator shall voluntarily abstain, and if the Senator fails to abstain and votes, the Senator’s vote shall be removed from the roll-call, and the Senator shall be given a warning by the Parliamentarian.
  2. If a Senator repeatedly votes where conflicts of interest arise, and if the Senator fails to heed warnings, the Senator’s actions shall be considered grounds for calling their seat into question.

#### Section 5. Repeal of a Resolution

1. The process of repealing a Resolution should only be proposed after serious deliberation and investigation.
2. A Bill shall be introduced that details the reasons for proposing the repeal of a previous Resolution.
3. All parties to the Resolution in question shall be allowed to defend the Resolution before the Student senate.
4. By a two-thirds majority, the Resolution repealing the previous Resolution shall be passed, and the previous Resolution thus repealed.
5. The President of Student Senate may veto the repeal. Should a veto occur, Student Senate may override the veto with a three-fourths majority.

### **ARTICLE VIII**

#### **Amendments**

Section 1. Any member of the Student Senate may propose amendments to the *Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*.

Section 2. Amendments shall become effective after approval by a three-fourths vote, quorum provided.

### **ARTICLE IX**

#### **Constitution**

Section 1. The Constitutional rights and roles of the Student Senate are explained in the *Constitution of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*.

Section 2. The *Constitution of the Student Government of The University of Scranton* supersedes the authority of the *Bylaws of the Student Government of The University of Scranton*.