North Hennepin Community College STUDENT SENATE
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT SENATE
Presented on September 17, 2015
Ratified: [October 22, 2015]
History
Original Constitution: Ratified September 16, 1998 | Amended April 13, 2001 | Amended October 16,
2012
Presented November 27, 2012 | Ratified April 8, 2013
Presented April 17, 2014 | Ratified May 2, 2014 | Amended [date]
Presented September 17, 2015 | Ratified October 22, 2015 | Amended March 31, 2016
Amended September 22, 2016
Amended January 25, 2018
Amended October 10, 2019
Preamble
The Student Senate is the ultimate arbiter of its ratified Constitution and Bylaws.
Article I – Name
A. The name of this organization shall be the Student Senate of NHCC and hereafter referred to as
the Student Senate.
B. The Student Senate is a student organization at North Hennepin Community College (NHCC) and
is affiliated with the LeadMN.
Article II – Purpose
A. The Student Senate shall be the governing body of students at NHCC. As such, it will represent
the student body on issues of concern to the student body, especially (but not exclusively) in the
following areas:
1. Legislation Affecting Students
2. Student Grievance and Complaint Procedures
3. Code of Conduct Issues
4. Personnel
5. Curriculum
6. Facilities
7. General College Matters

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10. Diversity Initiatives
11. Amount and allocation of the Student Life/Activity Fees
B. Student Senate has an all-comers policy. Consequently, all students who are registered and
taking at least one credit at NHCC are allowed to participate regardless of their cultural or
religious beliefs. The Student Senate shall be committed to reflect the diversity of the student
body in its membership and policies.

Article III – Executive Board
A. The Student Senate shall include six Student Executive Board members hereafter called the
Executi

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1. All currently enrolled students are eligible to vote in elections.
2. Appeals for a recount may be made to the Student Senate. A final appeal may be made
to the Student Senate Advisor, who shall determine if a recount is necessary.
B. Only students who have completed one semester at NHCC and have a GPA can run for election.
1. Candidates shall be currently enrolled at NHCC with a minimum of six (6) credits.
2. Candidates shall have a minimum 2.5 overall NHCC GPA to run for election. The GPA to
run for election is higher than the GPA to maintain eligibility for office after election.
3. No student who is currently on academic probation or suspension shall be eligible to run
for Executive Board positions or Senator at Large.
4. No student will be barred from running who meets the eligibility requirements above.
5. Elections will be conducted by the Election Committee as defined in the Bylaws.
6. A first semester student may not submit an application without completing the New
Student Waiver Request. In order to be considered for the waiver, students must be
enrolled in at least 6 credits in the current semester. Students will submit the New
Student Waiver Form and then meet with the Director of Student Life (or designate
Liaison) or the Student Senate Executive Board designated members to discuss their
interest. The Executive Board would need full support with each eligible voting member
to approve the application to move forward with the appointment or in the election
process.
C. Special Elections
1. Special Elections will be held as determined by the Elections Committee.

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C. Student Senate members and Executive Board members may be removed from their positions
by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire Student Senate for any of the following reasons:
1. Failure to perform duties and responsibilities, in accordance with the Constitution and
Bylaws.
2. Being placed on suspension due to Code of Conduct issues.
3. Dishonesty or abuse of the position in accordance with the Code of Conduct of NHCC or
the LeadMN.

Article XI – Committees
A. Standing Committees
1. The standing committees of the Student Senate are the Elections Committee and the
Budget Committee.
B. Ad Hoc Committees
1. The Executive Board may establish ad hoc committees at any time deemed necessary.
2. Student Senate will appoint members to all ad hoc committees as determined by the
Bylaws.

Article XII – Student Senate Advisor and Student Senate Liaison
A. The NHCC Student Senate shall choose their own advisor(s) in consultation with the NHCC
President.
B. The Student Senate Advisor(s) shall attend meetings and serve as a mentor to Student Senate.

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themselves from voting. The Executive Board will have the power to enforce this
provision.
7. Any Student Senate member unable to be in attendance and who is excused from
attending a Student Senate meeting may proxy their vote after submitting a written
notification prior to the meeting in which a proxy is given.
8. Student Senate members may proxy their vote once per semester. The Senate
Secretary shall keep a record of all proxies.
9. No Student Senate member may hold more than one (1) proxy during a meeting.
10. The Student Senate may override a presidential veto with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the
entire Student Senate.

Article XIV – Ratification and Amendments
A. Ratification
1. The Student Senate of NHCC shall submit this constitution to the student body for
review no less than two weeks before ratification vote. This constitution shall become
effective upon a majority vote of the members of Student Senate.
2. The Student Senate shall annually review this constitution.
B. Amendments
1. Any NHCC student may submit an amendment in writing for the consideration of
Student Senate.
2. Any proposed amendment must be emailed by the Legislative Coordinator to the NHCC
community at least one (1) week prior to the Student Senate meeting in which the
amendment will be voted upon.
4. Amendments will be passed by a three-fourths (3/4, 75%) majority vote of the Student
Senate.
5. Newly enacted amendments will take precedence over this Constitution, if conflict
between such an amendment and this Constitution should arise.

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NORTH HENNEPIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BYLAWS OF THE STUDENT

SENATE

Ratified: [October 22, 2015]

Hist ory

P resented on October 16, 2012

Original C onstitution ratified September 1 6, 1998 and a mended April 13, 2001

Section I – Composition and Re sponsib ili tie s of Student S en ate A. Student Senate co nsists o f the Exe cutiv e Board, Senato rs at L arge, Student Club/Org Representatives, and Om buds.
B. All mem bers o f Student Senate shall maintain a minimum 2 .5 cumulative NHCC GP A to remain in Student Senate. The GPA requirement to remain in Student Senate is lowe r than the GPA requirement to run fo r election.
C. All m em bers of Student Senate shall abide by the NHCC Student Code o f Co nduct.

D . All mem bers of Student Senate shall be familiar with Robert’s Rules of Or der . E. All members of Student Senate, except the Ombuds, shall serve on at least one of NHCC’s
comm ittees.

1. The Student Senate shall have available descriptions of all the campus committees upon
request.

2 . Each member is responsible fo r choosing at lea st one comm ittee acco rding to interest and skills.
3 . Each member is responsible fo r presenting a written repo rt to the Student Senate(t)] R9Uitten repo3 . Ea

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6. Shall conduct campus climate polling/surveys to find student’s needs.
7. Shall work with the LeadMN Manager of Equity and Inclusion on the LeadMN initiatives
related to diversity and equity issues.

Section IV – Senators at Large
A. Each Senator at Large will work closely with one of the Executive Board members to assist with
the

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brought to the Student Senate Advisor and the NHCC President.
E. The Ombuds will not discriminate based on race, gender identity, religion, or any protected
class.

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a.Two students
b.One staff
c. One faculty
5. The Budget Committee will be co-chaired by the Student Senate Treasurer and the
administrator/director (designee made by the college).
6. The committee will maintain open channels of communication with the College
President, who is welcome to attend any and all committee meetings.
7. The committee will begin meeting at the start of Spring Semester. They will meet at
least twice, but no more than eight times during the semester.