**Morningside Student Government**

**Morningside College**

**2019-2020**

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**Constitution of Morningside Student Government**

**Morningside College**

Preamble:

We, the students of Morningside College, do adopt this Constitution establishing a student government to provide and establish student self-government in order to represent the students in matters pertaining to student welfare, student activities, and student participation in Morningside College planning and administration. All Students enrolled in Morningside College shall enjoy the benefits, responsibilities, and protection of the Student Government, as sent out in this Constitution and its By-laws, unless otherwise specified in the official Morningside College bulletins.

Article I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be called the Morningside Student Government of Morningside College; hereafter referred to as “MSG”

Article II. PURPOSE

MSG seeks to promote ethical leadership and civic responsibility by providing opportunities of self-governance in all matters pertaining to the wellbeing of students within the college community.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the MSG shall consist of an elected Executive Council and Student Senators

Article IV. EXECUTIVE BRANCH

## Section 1 Description

The Executive Branch of MSG will be known as the Executive Council. The Executive Council will administer the Student Constitution and By-laws, propose student committees for approval by the Senate, present proposals at Senate meetings, and preside over the Student Senate meetings.

**Section 2 Executive Council Members**

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The executives of the MSG shall consist of six members: President, Vice President, Vice President of Student Life, Treasurer, Secretary, and Director of Communications. The Ex-Officio member includes the MSG Adviser.

## Section 3 Requirements of the Executives

All officers of MSG, both elected and appointed, must have at the time of election/appointment, a GPA of 3.0 and maintain while in office, a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above. All Executive Council members will be required to hold a minimum of five set office hours per week, with the exception of the President who holds a minimum of seven set office hours. They will report to the Student Senate each meeting summarizing relevant current business.

**Section 4 Duties of the Executives**

**4.1 President:** the duties and powers of the president shall be:

1. Serve as head officer of MSG.
2. Serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors of Morningside College
3. Serve as a member of the alumni board.
4. Call and preside over all meetings of the Executive Council and Student Senate.
5. Serve as a non-voting member of all committees within MSG.
6. Be responsible for the selection of student representatives on faculty, student, and joint committees.

**4.2 Vice President:** the duties and powers to the Vice President shall be:

1. Represent student interests and concerns on the Executive Council.
2. Be responsible for gathering and responding to student concerns, comments, and suggestions.
3. Serve as Constitutionalist for MSG.
4. Act as parliamentarian for the Executive Council and Student Senate.
5. Counsel students on their rights and responsibilities in academic or disciplinary disputes including referrals to appropriate campus offices.
6. Supervise and ensure order and fairness in all elections as directed by the Constitution and By-Laws respectively.
7. Organize internal educational events concerning the Student Senate.
8. Act as President in the absence of the President

**4.3 Vice President of Student Life:** the duties and powers of the Vice President of Student Life shall be:

1. Serve as President of the Morningside Activities Council (MAC).
2. Regularly report business activities concerning MAC to the Student Senate.
3. Facilitate or delegate appropriate and necessary duties as designated by the President, Executive Council, or Student Senate.

**4.4 Treasurer**: the duties and powers to the Treasurer shall be:

1. Organize, supervise, and direct the finances of MSG.
2. Maintain an accurate system of records concerning MSG finances.
3. Ensure that MSG financial records are available to any interested party.
4. Countersign all requisitions to be drawn on MSG funds.
5. Regularly report on financial matters to the Student Senate.
6. Present all outstanding bills for approval of payment when necessary or requested by Student Senate.
7. Use the business office of Morningside College as the repository of all MSG funds.

**4.5 Secretary**: the duties and powers of the Secretary shall be:

1. Maintain the official minutes of the Executive Council and Student Senate.
2. Organize an official agenda for every scheduled Student Senate meeting.
3. In capacity as attendance overseer:
4. Maintain all internal publications, documents, and correspondence.
5. Oversee and maintain necessary MSG office supplies.
6. Oversee the selection process of all paid and appointed positions outside of the Executive Council.

**4.6 Director of Communications**: the duties and powers of the Director of Communications shall be:

1. Promote MSG through the use of social media pages, campus publications, and/or emails to the Student Body.
2. Manage the MSG website and social media accounts.
3. Be responsible for external communications, publications, and marketing.
4. Distribute all campus-wide MSG emails.
5. Publicize the mission and purpose of MSG to students.
6. Oversee public branding and advertising of MSG.
7. Create and maintain relationships with student organizations.
8. Oversee groups’ registration process.

## Section 5 Executive Term of office

All student members of the Executive Council will remain in office for one (1) year beginning with the informal installation which will follow the MSG election in the spring and ending the following year after the formal installation and submission of their respective final reports. If qualified, an officer may seek re-election

Article V. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

**Section 1 Description**

The legislative branch of Morningside College MSG will be known as the Student Senate. A quorum being present, the Senate will initiate and consider legislation, all appointments, and expenditures, from various committees, carry out all other duties, and have such other powers as are necessary for the proper and efficient functioning of the MSG and make decisions representing the best interests of the Student Body.

**Section 2 Senate Membership**

The Legislative Branch of MSG shall be comprised of fifteen (15) students enrolled in nine, or more, credit hours at Morningside College. Four students from the Freshmen, Sophomore, and Junior classes as well as three students from the Senior class will comprise the Student Senate.

**Section 3 Duties and Requirements**

Each Student Senator will have the following duties:

1. Attend all Student Senate meetings.
2. Utilize the right to vote at senate and committee meetings.
3. Serve on assigned committee(s).
4. Represent the best interests of the constituency being served.
5. Serve minimum of one office hour per week in the MSG Office.
6. Participate in a minimum of one (1) MSG offered volunteering event each semester they are in office.
7. Maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average through the duration of term. Freshmen will be given a grace period of one (1) semester before a 2.0 grade point average will be maintained.

**Section 4 Vacancies of Senators**

The voting unit will be responsible for the filling of a vacancies that may occur. If a vacancy is not filled by the voting unit represented within two (2) weeks of the day the vacancy occurs, the President may fill that vacancy with two-thirds (2/3) consent of the Student Senate. It is the President’s responsibility to make the Council aware of all vacancies.

Article VI. MEETINGS, PROCEDURES, AND RULES

**Section 1 Texts**

The rules contained within the current edition of the Robert’s Rules of Order are adopted as governing MSG meeting, Executive Board meetings, and committee meetings; and in all other cases applicable except when they are inconsistent with this document, and any By-laws MSG may adopt. Black’s Legal Dictionary will define terminology in this document.

**Section 2 Constitutional Suspension**

This constitution may be suspended upon 2/3 majority vote of the floor.

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## Section 3 Quorum

A quorum will consist of more than half of the voting membership of the Senate and a quorum must be present before a Senate meeting may be called to order.

## Section 4 Ad/Hoc Committees

Ad/Hoc Committees may be created at any MSG meeting by simple majority of the voting membership. Ad/Hoc committees shall file a report, upon completion of task, with the President. Reports shall include purpose of creation, activities, and recommendations.

## Section 5 Veto

The Executive Council by four-fifths (4/5) vote may veto legislation passed by the Senate within forty-eight (48) hours of its passage and notify all individual Senators immediately of the veto. The Senate may pass over the veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

## Section 6 Meeting Call

The Senate will meet at least twice during each full month of the academic year and at the request of the President, upon the petition of ten (10) Senators, or upon the petition of twenty-five (25) qualified voting members of the Student Body. Upon presentation of each petition to any member of the Executive Council, a Senate meeting must be called within three (3) school days.

## Section 7 Observers

## All Student Senate meetings will be considered “open meetings.” Observers at MSG meetings will not be allowed voice in the meetings unless they are on the agenda, invited specifically to speak by the Student Senate, or recognized by the President. Observers will be removed from Student Senate meetings if these stipulations are violated.

Article VII. INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, RECALL

## Section 1 Initiative and Referendum

The rights of statutory initiative, referendum, and recall may be exercised by the Student Body upon petition of fifteen (15) percent of the qualified voting members of the Student Body. If a valid petition as devised by the Vice President is presented, the MSG will order a student election supervised by the Vice President within two (2) weeks of the receipt of the petition. By majority vote of those participating in the election, a statutory initiative will become part of the Constitution or By-laws of MSG. Further, by majority vote of those participating in the election, any action demanded by a student referendum will be carried out insofar as MSG is lawfully able.

## Section 2 Recall

Recall of a representative of the MSG may be accomplished be a majority vote of the constituency of the representative or of an executive in an election supervised by the Vice President. If the office of the Vice President is in question, a committee selected and approved by the majority of the Student Senate will supervise the recall vote.

Article VIII. AMENDMENTS AND REVISION

## Section 1 Constitutional Amendments

**1.1** Proposal

 An amendment must be presented in writing by an Executive and/or a Student Senator to the full MSG voting members to be up for consideration.

**1.2** Senate Approval

 After an amendment has been presented, it must be tabled until the following full Student Senate meeting. At this time, the Student Senate can approve the amendment with a two- thirds (2/3) majority vote of voting members.

**1.3** Ratification

 Upon the amendment being approved by the Student Senate, it must be ratified by a majority of the students voting in referendum in which at least two hundred (200) members of Student Body participate.

**Section 2** **By-Laws**

By-laws and policies may be established or modified upon a 2/3-majority vote of MSG voting membership. Proposed By-laws and policies modifications shall be issued at an MSG meeting and voted upon at the following MSG meeting.

## Section 3 Reporting

## Any proposed changes must be posted publicly immediately following the vote and must contain the results thereof.