

# Constitution of the Stevenson Student Council

## Ratified May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Article 1: Powers

**Section 1:** The Council of Associated Students of the University of California, Santa Cruz, affiliated with Adlai E. Stevenson College, hereinafter known as the Stevenson Student Council, shall be the voice of Stevenson students on college issues pertinent to the college, and shall reserve to itself all student legislative rights within the Stevenson community.

**Section 2:** All powers regarding recommendation to the College Administrative Officer of allocation of College Membership Fees shall be vested in the Stevenson Student Council. No expenditures shall be made without timely notification of the Council.

**Section 3:** All power to appoint Stevenson students to college communities, to appoint Stevenson representatives to the Student Union Assembly (SUA) and to other relevant committees, as well as the power to remove representatives from such committees, shall be vested in the Stevenson Student Council.

**Section 4:** Stevenson Student Council reserves the right to place a vote of *no-confidence* in the Provost, as well as in any faculty, staff, or administrative personnel affiliated with Stevenson College. Where deemed appropriate, the Council may also comment on the performance of any University administrative personnel.

**Section 5:** The Stevenson Student Council may make formal recommendations to the college regarding educational policy, administrative policy and procedures, budgetary items, college sponsored programs, capital improvement expenditures, and any other relevant subjects deemed appropriate.

### Article 2: Responsibilities

**Section 1:** The Stevenson Student Council shall be responsible for representing the views of Stevenson students, the ideals of the college, and the content of this constitution.

**Section 2:** The Stevenson Student Council shall be responsible for answering questions raised by any member of the college, offering solutions whenever possible to specific college problems, and watching over and preserving the well-being of the college in general.

**Section 3:** The Stevenson Student Council is responsible for either representing the college in all appropriate situations, and on all relevant committees, or electing or appointing college members to do so.

**Section 4:** The Stevenson Student Council is responsible for organizing and staffing all college-wide elections. Election guidelines and ballot and referenda procedures shall be set forth by Council in compliance with college rules and regulations.

**Section 5:** The Stevenson Student Council shall be responsible for holding outreach events to involve more students in Stevenson Student Council and may use Council funds where deemed appropriate for student outreach.

### Article 3: Organization

**Section 1:** The Stevenson Student Council shall be composed of representatives with voting rights from the houses, quads, apartments, and off-campus affiliated with Stevenson College. All representatives (herein known as *members* collectively) shall be registered students of the University of California, Santa Cruz and affiliated with Stevenson College, and are expected to be in good academic standing. In order to become an official active representative and obtain voting rights, Stevenson students must attend four consecutive Council meetings. Representative positions and voting rights will be forfeited from members who fail to attend more than two Council meetings per quarter unless special circumstances arise (considered at the discretion of the Chair). Representatives may regain voting rights by attending four consecutive Council meetings. The number for quorum is fifty-percent plus one of all voting members. These members shall serve for one year, unless otherwise specified at the time of election, and barring resignation, impeachment, or recall. In the event that a member is unable to serve for their full term, it is then their responsibility to find a suitable replacement for the rest of the term. There is no limit as to how many members the Council can have.

**Section 2:** The Stevenson Student Council shall elect by vote from its members one of each of the following officer positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Events Coordinator, and Outreach Coordinator. These officers shall be elected at the first or second Council meeting of Fall quarter or the last meeting of Spring quarter of the previous year in the case that the chair will not be present in the following year. They shall serve for one academic year. In the event that an officer cannot attend Council meetings for a specified duration, an alternate may be selected to carry out that officer's tasks or the Council can elect a new officer (in accordance with voting procedures in Article 3, Section 3). The Council shall also appoint two Stevenson representatives to the Student Union Assembly and representatives to other necessary college and campus committees (SCOC, SUGB, Core Council, Academic Senate, etc...) All representatives shall serve for one academic year, unless otherwise specified, barring resignation, impeachment, or recall. Representatives shall be elected by 2/3 vote of the Council during the first few weeks of the Quarter. In the event that a member is unable to serve for their full term, it is then the responsibility of the Student Council to elect a replacement for the rest of the term.

**Section 3:** The mode of operation of Council shall be consensus. Simple majority voting shall be the model of decision-making. Votes will be conducted by simple majority, except in cases where a 2/3 vote is specified by the Constitution. In those cases 2/3 of

voting members must vote Yea/Aye for the motion to pass. However, voting will be required in situations deemed necessary by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Council, or where specified by this constitution. Each representative shall have equal consensus/voting rights. Situations that require a 2/3 vote shall include, but not be limited to, Elections/Impeachment for Representatives, all Council appointed positions, such as the Student Union Assembly, Student Committee On Committees, the Student Union Governance Board, Core Council, Academic Senate, etc., all Stevenson Student Council Officer Positions, Interpretation of the Constitution, and bringing a Constitutional measure before the voters, and approval of the yearly Stevenson College budget.

**Section 4:** The Stevenson Student Council shall meet weekly during each academic quarter at a regularly scheduled and publicly notified time, and place to conduct business in a forum open to all. Fifty-percent plus one of all voting members shall be necessary to conduct business. Minutes shall be taken by the Secretary at each Council meeting, distributed to all members, and posted within 24 hours of the weekly meeting in an accessible view of members of the college. Agendas for the meetings of the Council shall be organized by the Chair, distributed to all Council members prior to each weekly meeting. The Chair shall serve as facilitator of weekly meetings and shall maintain correspondence with outside presenters, funding requestors, and other organization regarding the Council. The Treasurer shall be responsible for processing all approved funding requests and notifying requestors of the Council's funding decisions within 24 hours of the decision being made.

**Section 5:** The College Programs Coordinator, or other appropriate designees, shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Stevenson Student Council, and shall have no consensus/voting rights.

**Section 6:** The College Programs Coordinator, or other designee for the College Administrative Officer, shall know the rules and regulations, for the University, offer information, from previous experiences for informative reasons, present alternative opinions and positions, be able to answer questions posed by the Stevenson Student Council, allow the Stevenson Student Council to decide and plan their own events, provide constructive criticism and keep an unbiased point of view.

**Section 7: Subcommittees**

- A. If Stevenson affiliated students wish to form bodies to represent their views in specific areas, and/or discuss issues related to Stevenson College, which Student Council is not addressing, those bodies may become Subcommittees of Stevenson Student Council.
- B. A simple majority vote by Stevenson Student Council shall be sufficient to grant this status to a group of students. A 2/3 vote will be necessary to remove the status, unless the group has dissolved or revokes its own status.
- C. Each Subcommittee shall have a Subcommittee Chair on Stevenson Student Council. This Subcommittee Chair shall be appointed by the Subcommittee in a manner of their choosing. The Subcommittee Chair shall be the person responsible for communication between the Subcommittee and the Council.

The Subcommittee Chair is not required to attend every meeting of Stevenson Student Council, but should be present if business pertaining to the Subcommittee is being discussed.

- D. Subcommittee shall be empowered to make formal recommendation, reports, and requests, etc. to Student Council through their Subcommittee Chair.
- E. Subcommittees so constituted shall not be in violation of Article 1 (Powers), or Article 2 (Responsibilities) of the Stevenson Student Council Constitution.

## Article 4: Finance and Planning

**Section 1:** Under the powers delegated to it by the College Administrative Office, the Stevenson Student Council shall have absolute jurisdiction of two-thirds (2/3) of the College Membership Fees. Council may make any allocations it deems appropriate save only that such allocations fall within guidelines laid down by the Chancellor of the University. The College Programs Coordinator shall determine whether such allocations are legal and proper.

**Section 2:** A budget Subcommittee shall be formed within the Council to prepare and make recommended amendments to the Stevenson Student Council budget for the following academic year. The proposed budget must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote by members of the Council before the final meeting of the academic year.

**Section 3:** The Stevenson Student Council may make recommendations concerning the remaining one-third (1/3) of the Stevenson College Membership Fees to the College Programs Coordinator or his/her designees. Accounting of the use of these fees will be presented to the Council annually.

**Section 4:** The Stevenson Student Council's unspent and/or unallocated funds are placed, at the end of each fiscal year, in an account of accumulated balances known as the Prior Account. Expenditure by the college from the Prior Account must be for capital improvements in the areas of consultation with the Stevenson Student Council. The Council has the ability to access and use funds from the Prior Account for purposes it deems suitable by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

## Article 5: Removal and Replacement

**Section 1:** The performance of any member of the Stevenson Student Council, and Council appointed committee member, or any other student representative of Stevenson College, may be reviewed by the Stevenson Student Council, for any reason deemed appropriate, at the request of any member of the college. If *impeachment* is deemed appropriate, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Stevenson Student Council is thus requested, with the person(s) forfeiting all voting rights.

**Section 2:** Any Council member may be *recalled* by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the Council, or by two-thirds (2/3) vote of a majority of students affiliated with Stevenson College.

**Section 3:** In the event of vacancies through impeachment, recall or resignation, new representatives shall be appointed from the appropriate alternates. In the event no new alternates are available, new members shall be appointed via the process described in Article 3, Section 1.

## Article 6: Amending, Interpretation, and Adoption

**Section 1:** Any additions, alterations, rewording, or revision whatsoever of this document as it currently stands, which two-thirds ( $2/3$ ) of the Stevenson Student Council or fifty (50) students shall be put before them, and, if the number exceeds 15% of the registered students of UCSC affiliated with Stevenson College, the opinion of the majority of the voters shall be considered binding.

**Section 2:** In the event a question of interpretation of this constitution arises, a standing committee shall be called upon to recommend a solution to the issue in question. This committee shall be composed of at least three (3) Council members. The recommendations of the committee are not binding, and the Stevenson Student Council has the right, by a two-thirds ( $2/3$ ) vote, to make the final decision on any and all interpretations of this document.

**Section 3:** This constitution shall take effect, and supersede any previous constitution of the Stevenson Student Council, upon passage by a majority of the registered undergraduate UCSC students affiliated with Stevenson College, voting in a college-wide election in which 15% of the said students participate.