



Fairfield University Student Association

Constitution

“For the Students, By the Students.”



PREAMBLE

We, the undergraduate students of Fairfield University, hereby organize and establish the Fairfield University Student Association. As the governing association of the undergraduate student body, the Fairfield University Student Association shall be charged with the following roles: to represent and advocate student issues, needs and concerns; to promote a diverse array of social, educational and cultural programs and initiatives; to be a valuable partner in the administrative processes of the school; to aid in the development of student clubs and organizations; and to govern ourselves in a manner that is both respectful of individual rights and consistent with the needs of the University and the larger community. This Constitution seeks to create a governing association that is accessible and transparent to all students and consistent with Jesuit values.

ARTICLE I: TITLE

Section 1 - Name. The name of this organization shall be the Fairfield University Student Association, hereafter referred to as FUSA.

Section 2 - Logo. The below image is the official representative logo of FUSA. This logo shall serve as the only representative FUSA logo on all external communications.



ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 - General Members. All matriculated undergraduate students of both Fairfield University North Benson and Fairfield Bellarmine shall be general members of FUSA. This organization shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual

orientation, gender identification, age, disability, national origin, religious affiliation, or religious beliefs.

SECTION 2 - Officers. FUSA Officers shall consist of

SECTION 2.1. Elected Officers shall be elected by the General Membership.

SECTION 2.2. Appointed Officers shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

SECTION 2.3. Hired Officers shall be selected by the President or the Directors to hold positions on their respective boards, but are not confirmed by the Senate.

All Officers of FUSA shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this Constitution. The Oath of Office shall read:

I, *[insert name here]*, do solemnly [swear/affirm] to faithfully execute the [position/office] of FUSA *[insert position here]* to uphold and defend the Constitution of the Fairfield University Student Association and to serve the student body to the best of my ability (so help me God).

SECTION 3 - Eligibility. All FUSA Officers must be matriculated undergraduate students as determined by the University Registrar.

SECTION 3.1. No FUSA Officer shall hold more than one Office at a time.

SECTION 3.2. All members of the Executive Cabinet, Directors, Associate Directors, FUSA Court, and FUSA Senate must be full-time matriculated undergraduate students.

SECTION 3.2.1. FUSA Officers of the senior class that were full-time status in the fall semester may transfer to part-time status in the spring semester while maintaining their FUSA Office.

SECTION 3.2.2. Position dependent, FUSA Officers may be students that are enrolled in Fairfield Bellarmine.

SECTION 3.3. All FUSA Officers must be in good academic and social standing at the time of appointment or election.

SECTION 3.3.1. The phrase “good academic standing” is defined as a student who has earned a 2.5 cumulative grade point average or higher.

SECTION 3.3.2. The phrase “good social standing” is defined as a student who is not on disciplinary probation.

SECTION 4 - Funding. FUSA’s funding shall derive from the University’s General Fee.

Students who pay the General Fee have all privileges associated with being a general member for the remainder of that fiscal year, even if they drop down to part-time status. Students, who have not paid the General Fee, may be required to pay additional costs in order to enjoy the same benefits as those general members who have paid the General Fee. If the actual collection of fees exceeds the budget projection, FUSA shall receive its portion of the excess funds upon availability of funds. If FUSA overspends its annual budget, the deficit shall affect the following fiscal year.

SECTION 4.1. Students enrolled in Fairfield Bellarmine shall be granted the same privileges as general members of Fairfield's North Benson campus. Omission of the General Fee shall not result in any additional cost to Bellarmine students.

ARTICLE III: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1 - Executive Structure & Purpose. The Executive Branch is charged with overseeing and administering FUSA operations. The FUSA President, together with the Vice President, shall be vested with Executive Power. The Executive Branch consists of the Executive Cabinet, the Programming Board, the Club Operations and Student Organizations Board, herein referred to as COSO, the Marketing and Public Relations Board, the Treasury Board, the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Board, and the Health & Wellness Board.

SECTION 2 - Executive Membership. The FUSA President and Vice President are elected by FUSA general members. The Director of Programming, the Director of COSO, the Director of Marketing & Public Relations, the Director of the Treasury, the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and the Director of Health & Wellness shall be appointed by the FUSA President and FUSA Vice President. The Associate Director of Programming, the Associate Director of COSO, the Associate Director of Marketing & Public Relations, and Associate Director of the Treasury, the Associate Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and the Associate Director of Health & Wellness are appointed by the FUSA President upon recommendation from the Director of their respective board. Associates shall be appointed by the FUSA President following an application and interview process that is facilitated by the Director of their respective board. Presidential appointments to the Executive Cabinet are subject to confirmation by the Senate.

SECTION 2.1. The Programming Board shall be responsible for planning and implementing a diverse array of social, educational, and cultural events and programs that cater to and represent the interests of the entire student body.

SECTION 2.2. COSO shall act as the primary resource and administrative body for the collective representation of registered student clubs and organizations. All student led clubs and organizations shall comply with all COSO and University requirements. Clubs found in violation of these requirements are subject to suspension. COSO shall be responsible for maintaining transparent communication with club leaders and advisors.

SECTION 2.2.1 COSO's funding shall derive from the University's General Fee, separate from the FUSA budget. If the actual collection of fees exceeds the budget projection, COSO shall receive its portion of the excess funds upon availability.

SECTION 2.3. The Marketing & Public Relations Board shall serve as the official communicators of FUSA's goals, actions, and mission. The Marketing & Public Relations Board is responsible for both FUSA internal and external communication. Additional communication efforts may be required depending on current events. They shall include, but are not limited to, promoting events and initiatives through a variety of platforms while maintaining the overall

image of FUSA. The Marketing & Public Relations Board shall remain professional yet creative in their efforts.

SECTION 2.4. The Treasury Board shall be responsible for managing and balancing the FUSA budget. FUSA's budget shall be derived from the University's General Fee, separate from the COSO budget. If the actual collection of fees exceeds the budget projection, FUSA shall receive its portion of the excess funds upon availability of those funds.

SECTION 2.5. The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Board shall address the needs of underrepresented and/or marginalized students by implementing programs, dialogues, workshops, and policies. The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Board shall focus on campus and national issues that are of concern to the student body. The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Board shall liaise with Affinity Clubs and partner with other related organizations and departments.

SECTION 2.6. The Health & Wellness Board shall advocate for the well-being of the student body through programs and initiatives. The Health & Wellness Board shall focus on fostering the mind, body, and spirit of all students to develop a nurturing campus environment.

SECTION 3 - FUSA President. The FUSA President shall act as the liaison between the student body, the administration, campus partners, and the local community. The FUSA President shall advocate on behalf of the student body. The FUSA President shall present to the Board of Trustees and the University President. The FUSA President shall have the authority to review and deny any decisions made within each board in the Executive Branch.

SECTION 3.1. The FUSA President shall have the authority to appoint a Vice President in the event that the Vice Presidency is vacant, which is subject to a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the Senate to be confirmed. The FUSA President shall appoint Board Directors, Associate Directors, and Court Justices.

SECTION 3.2. The FUSA President shall either sign or veto any legislation passed by the Senate. If signed, the FUSA President must execute the respective laws. The President shall have the authority to call an Emergency Senate Meeting. Additionally, the FUSA President shall have the authority to issue Executive Orders to clarify existing laws and issue directives to FUSA.

SECTION 3.3. The FUSA President shall serve in a fiduciary capacity for the official FUSA budget, however, they cannot interfere with the fiduciary duties for the official FUSA organization at Fairfield University.

SECTION 3.3.1. The FUSA President-elect shall be responsible for proposing the FUSA budget for the upcoming academic year. The budget shall be subject to approval by the current Legislature.

SECTION 3.4. The FUSA President shall have the authority to create and dissolve boards, committees, task forces, and other bodies to address issues and concerns on campus. The President shall appoint FUSA members to sit on these respective entities.

SECTION 3.5. The FUSA President shall have the authority to inquire about matters external to FUSA.

SECTION 3.6. The FUSA President shall, in the time of crisis or emergency, make executive decisions and take appropriate action on behalf of the undergraduate student body.

SECTION 3.7. The FUSA President shall have the authority to enter into agreements with campus and community partners.

SECTION 3.8. The FUSA President shall have, or may delegate, the authority to appoint FUSA members to sit on campus committees.

SECTION 4 - FUSA Vice President. The FUSA Vice President shall assume the role of the FUSA President, in the event that the FUSA President cannot fulfill their duties. The FUSA Vice President shall assume delegated roles given to them by the FUSA President. The FUSA Vice President shall facilitate the day-to-day operations of the Executive Branch, under the direction of the FUSA President. The FUSA Vice President shall attend all Senate meetings and serve as the tie breaking vote on legislation.

SECTION 5 - Executive Succession. The Speaker of the FUSA Senate shall succeed the office until a special election is held for both the President and Vice President, of which no more than 30 days shall elapse. Should the Speaker be unable to succeed the president, the responsibility shall fall on the Directors of the executive boards in the order of their respective boards' creation until a special election is held for both the President and Vice President, of which no more than 30 days shall elapse.

ARTICLE IV: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1 - Powers. All legislative powers herein shall be vested in the FUSA Senate

SECTION 2 - Structure. The Senate shall be composed of twenty (20) Senators with five (5) Senators per class holding one vote each. Each Senator will be elected by their respective class year in which the University Registrar declares them a member at the time of their declaration. Of the 5 Senator-Elects, the Senator who receives the most votes will become the Class President for their respective class. Should the Senator with the most votes not accept the position of Class President, the Senator with the next most votes will become the Class President.

SECTION 3 - Duties and Powers of the Senate. The FUSA Senate shall be responsible for soliciting and deliberating upon student issues, using the legislative process as a means to advance or resolve such issues, and to serve and protect the interests of the student body. All members of the FUSA Senate have the ability to draft and present legislation.

SECTION 3.1. The Senate shall review and approve the President's appointments of Board of Directors, Associate Directors, and Court Justices by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. The Senate shall review and approve the annual FUSA budget submitted by the President.

SECTION 3.2. Any bill passed by the Senate may be vetoed by the President. The President has ten (10) academic days upon receiving the bill to veto. If no action is taken within ten (10) academic days, the bill becomes enacted. Bills that are vetoed by the President may be overridden with two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate.

SECTION 3.3. Resolutions passed by the Senate shall become the official position of the undergraduate student body.

SECTION 3.4. Upon the enactment of the legislation, the Speaker of the Senate, in conjunction with the FUSA President, shall be responsible for working with the University to ensure the recognition of the legislation.

SECTION 3.5. The Class Presidents shall be the chief representative of their respective classes.

SECTION 3.6. The Senate has the authority to investigate or inquire about matters both externally and throughout FUSA.

SECTION 3.7. The Senate has the authority to impeach any Elected or Appointed Officer of FUSA.

SECTION 3.8. The Senate has the authority to amend this Constitution.

SECTION 4 - Senate Leadership. The Speaker of the Senate shall preside over all General Senate Meetings and shall hold all these meetings according to Parliamentary Procedure set forth by Robert's Rules of Order. The Speaker of the Senate shall sit on the Executive Cabinet as an ex-officio member to report ongoing affairs within the Senate. The Speaker of the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Parliamentarian of the Senate shall retain all duties and responsibilities of a Class President or Senator.

SECTION 5 - Tie Breaking. In the event of a tied vote within the Senate, the FUSA Vice President shall cast the deciding vote.

SECTION 6 - Senate Succession. In the event of a vacancy in the Senate, a special election will be held within thirty (30) academic days of the vacancy. In the case that a seat becomes vacant outside of the Fall or Spring semesters, the special election must be held within the first thirty (30) academic days of the next Fall or Spring semester.

SECTION 7 - Senate Elect. After the Spring Senatorial elections, the Senators-Elect will nominate, and by secret ballot, vote for the Speaker of the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Parliamentarian of the Senate. The Vice President-Elect shall facilitate the election of the Speaker which must take place before the conclusion of the Spring semester.

ARTICLE V: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

SECTION 1 - The FUSA Court. All judicial power shall herein be invested in the FUSA Court.

SECTION 2 - Membership. The FUSA Court shall consist of one (1) Chief Justice and six (6) Associate Justices. The FUSA Court, following an application and interview process, shall be appointed to their respective offices by the FUSA President and shall be confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate.

SECTION 2.1. Justices of the FUSA Court shall serve in their offices until they graduate, are impeached, or fail to meet the eligibility requirements of which they are appointed. The Chief Justice shall be appointed by the FUSA President and confirmed by the FUSA Senate to serve for one year. In the event that a Chief Justice serves on term and is not reappointed, they may continue to serve as an Associate Justice.

SECTION 2.2. The Chief Justice shall oversee all meetings, proceedings, and cases of the FUSA Court. The Chief Justice shall sit on the Executive Cabinet as an ex-officio member to report ongoing affairs within the FUSA Court. The FUSA Court shall not have the ability to interfere in aspects of student conduct outside of FUSA and serves to function as an internal body.

SECTION 3 - Duties and Power of the FUSA Court. The FUSA Court shall determine the constitutionality of legislative and executive actions. The FUSA Court shall have the authority to hear cases regarding disputed disciplinary actions, probations and terminations, and have the authority to review cases regarding impeachment. The FUSA Court shall administer all FUSA Elections and shall be responsible for enforcing the Election Code. The FUSA Court shall maintain the collection of laws enacted by the legislature and the FUSA President.

SECTION 4 - FUSA Court Succession. The FUSA Court shall determine the constitutionality of legislative and executive actions. The FUSA Court shall have the authority to hear cases regarding disputed disciplinary actions, probations and terminations, and have the authority to review cases regarding impeachment. The FUSA Court shall administer all FUSA Elections and shall be responsible for enforcing the Election Code. The FUSA Court shall maintain the collection of laws enacted by the legislature and the FUSA President.

ARTICLE VI: THE EXECUTIVE CABINET

SECTION 1 - Structure. The Executive Cabinet shall serve as the official advisory body for the FUSA President. The role of the Executive Cabinet shall be to work with the FUSA President to oversee and execute the daily operations and functions of FUSA. All final decisions within the Executive Cabinet rest with the FUSA President. The members of the Executive Cabinet shall consist of the FUSA President, the FUSA Vice President, and the Directors of the boards of the Executive Branch. The Speaker of the Senate and the Chief Justice of the FUSA Court will serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Cabinet.

ARTICLE VII: DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, & EXPECTATIONS

SECTION 1 - Public Records. Members of FUSA shall have the right to request and obtain official FUSA records through the Director of Marketing & Public Relations. Official FUSA records include all documents that are considered public record according to the bylaws of each board and branch. Any disputes regarding public records may be appealed to the FUSA Court.

SECTION 2 - Meetings. FUSA meetings shall be open to the public except in instances when rules of procedure require that they be closed, or an executive session is called by the meeting chairperson. The closed session policies and procedures are further described in the bylaws of each board and branch of FUSA.

SECTION 3 - Conduct & Ethics. FUSA Officers agree to conduct themselves in a fashion that reflects the highest level of honesty and integrity and to execute their offices fully, faithfully, and in a manner consistent with the representation of the student body.

SECTION 4 - Accountability. Expectations for performance and attendance are to be clearly outlined in the bylaws of each board and branch. FUSA Officers shall not form private external, contractual, or formal agreements with University administration, campus partners, or community partners as it relates to their position on FUSA. Only the FUSA President may form external, contractual, or formal agreements with University administration, campus partners, or community partners on behalf of FUSA.

SECTION 5 - Advisors. The FUSA Advisors shall provide guidance to ensure that decisions made by FUSA Officers are best practice, and in line with the Jesuit values and University policies and procedures. The FUSA Advisors shall inform FUSA Officers of any changes to the University that will affect the undergraduate student body.

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS

SECTION 1 - Procedure. The Spring Presidential Election shall be held within the last seven days of February. The current First-Year, Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes shall be eligible to vote in the Spring Presidential Election. A student may run for more than one office in FUSA at a time. If a candidate is elected as FUSA President or Vice President, they may not run in the Spring Senatorial Elections. The Spring Senatorial Election shall conclude on the second Tuesday of April. Senators shall be elected to their rising Sophomore, Junior and Senior class offices in the Spring FUSA Senatorial Election for the upcoming academic year. The Fall

Senatorial Election shall conclude on the first Tuesday of October. The First-Year class shall elect their Senators in the Fall Senatorial Election. In the event that the designated election dates conflict with the University Calendar, the FUSA Court shall set the appropriate dates.

SECTION 2 - Election Commission. The FUSA Court shall be charged with the administration of all FUSA elections. Members of the FUSA Court upon declaration of candidacy in an upcoming election must immediately recuse themselves from the FUSA Court, in writing to the FUSA President and the Speaker of the Senate, for the remainder of that election. In the case that the Chief Justice has declared their candidacy for office, or they are unable to perform their duties, an acting Election Commissioner shall be chosen from the remaining Justices by the FUSA Court to serve for the remainder of that election.

SECTION 2.1. All FUSA elections shall be conducted in accordance with the FUSA Election Code, written by the FUSA Court. The election code must be finalized two weeks prior to the declaration of candidacy deadline. The election code must be approved by the FUSA President, Speaker of the Senate, and the Election Commissioner. In the event that a new election code is not approved by the declaration of candidacy deadline, the previous election code shall remain in effect. Once the declaration of candidacy deadline has passed the election code may not be changed until the election has concluded, except under extreme circumstances where the integrity of the election is compromised. Should this be the case, the revised election code shall be approved by the Election Commission and a committee of Senior Senators.

ARTICLE IX: IMPEACHMENT & REMOVAL

SECTION 1 - Impeachment. Articles of impeachment may be submitted in writing to the Speaker of the Senate against any Elected or Appointed FUSA Officer for non-performance, absence, misconduct, or a violation of this Constitution or Bylaws. The accused officer must be notified of the charges within twenty-four (24) hours of the submission by at least two methods of contact. The accused officer must be notified of the accusation as well as the accusing party. Both parties shall be given the opportunity to present their case to the Senate at an emergency meeting which shall be held within seven (7) academic days from when the articles are submitted. The Senate shall impeach officers by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. In the event that articles are submitted against a Senator, the Senator cannot count towards quorum or vote. In the event that the articles are against the Speaker of the Senate, the charges shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Senate and the Secretary shall assume the role of Speaker at the emergency meeting. Appeals of the decision based on the handling of the case shall be brought to the FUSA Court.

SECTION 2 - Removal. The FUSA President may remove any Appointed or Hired FUSA Officer within the Executive Branch for non-performance, absence, misconduct, or a violation of

this Constitution or Bylaws. Appeals of the decision of the removal shall be brought to the FUSA Court.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 - Amendments. Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed by a Senator to the FUSA Senate. Following the proposal of the amendment, the Senate shall facilitate an open forum for the General Membership. Upon seeking feedback during the open forum, the amendment must receive a three-fourths ($3/4$) majority vote of the Senate to be passed and a two-thirds ($2/3$) majority vote of all FUSA Officers to be ratified.

SECTION 2 - Conventions. Conventions for this Constitution shall be opened following a three-fourths ($3/4$) majority vote of the Senate and a subsequent two-thirds ($2/3$) majority vote of all FUSA Officers. Upon the approval of the new Constitution by the Convention, it must receive a two-thirds ($2/3$) majority vote of all FUSA Officers to be ratified.