PREAMBLE
The Carleton Student Association, hereafter referred to as “the CSA,” is established to advocate for student interests and to allow active participation in the governance of the College. This Constitution serves to provide structure for the CSA.

ARTICLE I - Rights and Responsibilities of the CSA
Every current student of Carleton College shall be a member of the CSA.

We believe that as students, we have a right and obligation to maintain the highest standards of educational integrity at the College. We believe that:

Students should have the best faculty, courses, and administration possible. Towards this end, students have the responsibility to maintain an atmosphere conducive to a liberal arts education.

As members of the College community, students have both the right and duty to participate in the formation of College policy.

Students have the liberty to write, speak, organize, and otherwise advocate their beliefs in such a manner that comports with the educational atmosphere of the College.

ARTICLE II - General Meetings and Referenda
Section 1: General Meetings
The ultimate authority of the CSA rests with the General Meeting of its members. General Meetings can be convened to discuss any issue pertaining to the CSA or to the campus as a whole. Decisions and actions of CSA governing bodies can also be reconsidered in General Meetings. General Meetings shall be convened and conducted in accordance with the applicable CSA Bylaws.

Section 2: Referenda
The authority of the CSA may also be asserted through a referendum of the student body. A referendum may be called by a majority vote of the Senate, or may alternatively be called by the President upon receipt of a petition containing an actionable question signed by twenty percent of the CSA. A referendum requires ballots from at least twenty-five percent of the CSA to be valid, and any referred proposal, except amendments to this Constitution, requires a majority of the valid ballots cast to pass.

ARTICLE III - Senate
Section 1: Generally
The Senate shall consist of eighteen Senators, including Committee Liaisons, plus three Officers, all elected at-large from the CSA. Only members of the CSA may serve as Senators.

Section 2: Mission of the Senate
The mission of the Senate is to enhance the quality of student life by officially recognizing and supporting student groups and activities, and by assuring student representation within the College governance structure and in other decisions pertaining to the student life. The Senate's principal duties include the following:
A. Serving as the voice of the CSA by guaranteeing the representation of student values, concerns, and ideas to the Board of Trustees, College Council, administration and faculty. All students shall have the right to attend and speak before the Senate on any issue of importance to the well-being of the campus.

B. Supporting the activities, initiatives, and interests of students through chartering, funding, and supporting CSA Chartered Organizations and creating opportunities for communication and cooperation among these organizations.

C. Appointing student members to College advisory committees and empowering them to fulfill their duties and responsibilities to the Senate and to the student body.

Section 3: Legislative Powers
The legislative power of the CSA shall be vested in the Senate unless exercised by a General Meeting of the CSA.

Section 4: Elections and Appointments
A. Senators shall be elected in the Winter and Spring Terms as outlined in the CSA Bylaws. Senators elected in regular elections shall assume office at the beginning of the next academic term and shall serve for three academic terms.

B. Within three days of learning about a vacancy on the Senate, the President shall call for written applications for the vacant seat. After accepting application for a minimum of five days, the President and two Senators shall conduct interviews and make a recommendation of appointment to the full Senate. This recommendation must then be approved by majority vote of the Senate.

C. Appointed Senators shall assume office immediately and shall serve until the end of the academic term in which the next election for the seat is held, at which point an elected Senator shall fill the seat.

D. A Senator may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Senate or General Meeting by procedures outlined in CSA Bylaws.

E. All students must complete one academic term before they may run in a general election. All students running must be able to serve two-thirds of their term in office.

Section 5: Meetings
The Senate shall meet at least twice every full month the College is in session and upon the request of the President. When so requested by a petition signed by five members of the Senate, the President shall call a meeting within three days. Voting members of the Senate constituting ten votes shall be a quorum, and a majority of votes cast shall be sufficient to pass legislation, unless otherwise provided.

Section 6: Powers Reserved to General Meeting
Any decision of the Senate may be overruled by a majority vote of the CSA in a General Meeting or Referendum as prescribed in Article II.

ARTICLE IV - Senate Officers

Section 1: Generally
The Officers of the CSA shall be a President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. These Officers must be members of the CSA.
Section 2: Elections and Terms
The Officers shall be elected at-large by the members of the CSA during Winter Term. Their terms shall begin the following Spring Term.

Section 3: President
A. The President shall be elected as a junior.
B. The President shall preside over General Meetings of the CSA and be President of the Senate; recommend legislation to the Senate; deliver to the proper authorities all resolutions and legislation; be responsible for the functions of any office described in this Article that is temporarily vacant; but shall have no vote except when the President’s vote would change the outcome of the vote.

Section 4: Vice-President
A. The Vice-President shall be elected as a sophomore or junior.
B. The Vice-President shall be a voting member of the Senate except in the temporary absence of the President when he or she shall perform the duties of the Office of the President. The Vice-President will serve as chair of those committees specified in the CSA Bylaws.

Section 5: Treasurer
A. The Treasurer shall be elected as a sophomore or junior.
B. The Treasurer shall be a voting member of the Senate; administer all CSA funds according to the CSA Financial Regulations stipulated in the CSA Bylaws; shall present a budget, prepared in conjunction with Budget Committee and officers of CSA chartered organizations, to the Senate for approval each academic year; and shall publish a statement of the financial status of the CSA three times a year as required by the College.

Section 6: Vacancy and Removal from Office
A. Any vacancy in these elected offices of the organization shall be filled by a special election to be held within twenty class days of the occurrence of the vacancy.
B. Elected Officers of the CSA may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Senate or a General Meeting by procedures outlined in CSA Bylaws.

ARTICLE V - Constitutional Amendments

Section 1: To Constitution
Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of the Senate, or by petition of one-fourth of all on-campus members of the CSA. Amendment proposals must be published for at least one week and then approved by two-thirds of those voting in an all-school referendum, or by two-thirds of those attending a General Meeting during the same academic term in which the amendment is proposed, to take effect.

Section 2: To Bylaws
Amendments to the CSA Bylaws may be proposed and adopted by the same procedures as defined in Section 1, or may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, but not before such proposed amendments have been published for at least one week.

ARTICLE VI - Constitutional Ratification
This Constitution shall be ratified by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of those voting in a
CSA referendum as described in Article II, Section 4, and shall take effect immediately upon passage.