

This Constitution is effective as of February 16, 2014.

Last modified: March 24, 2018

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. 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 respects the educational atmosphere of the College.

ARTICLE II - General Meetings and Referenda

Section 1: General Meetings

The ultimate authority of the CSA rests with a 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 or overruled in General Meetings.

- A. Convening a General Meeting:** A General Meeting may be called by a majority vote of the Senate. Alternatively, upon receipt of a petition signed by twenty percent of the CSA, the President must call a General Meeting within one week.
- B. Quorum for a General Meeting:** A quorum for a General Meeting shall be twenty-five percent of the CSA. Each member of the CSA shall have one vote. A majority of votes cast shall be sufficient to pass any proposal presented, except amendments to this Constitution and certain procedural motions as prescribed in the 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. Alternatively, a referendum must be called by the CSA President upon receipt of a petition containing an actionable question and signed by twenty percent of the CSA. A ballot containing a referendum question requires ballots from at least twenty-five percent of the CSA for the referendum to be considered valid. Any referred proposal, except amendments to this Constitution, requires a majority of the valid ballots cast to pass.

ARTICLE III - Senate

Section 1: Structure

The Senate shall consist of Committee Liaisons, plus three CSA Executives, 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, faculty, and staff. The senate functions to disseminate information about college policy and business to the CSA. 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. The senate shall assist in creating opportunities for communication and collaboration 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 CSA President shall call for written applications for the vacant seat. After accepting applications for a minimum of five days, the CSA President and two Senators shall review applications and make a recommendation for 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 on campus for at least 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 CSA President. When so requested by a petition signed by five members of the Senate, the CSA 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: Officer Titles

The Officers of the CSA shall be a CSA President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. These Officers must be members of the CSA.

Section 2: Elections and Terms

The members of the CSA shall elect the Officers at-large during Winter Term. Their terms shall begin the following Spring Term.

Section 3: CSA President

The CSA President shall be elected as a junior. The CSA President shall serve as the Student Liaison on the Board of Trustees Student Life Committee; 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 a tied vote must be broken.

Section 4: CSA Vice-President

The CSA Vice-President shall be elected as a sophomore or junior. 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

The Treasurer shall be elected as a sophomore or junior. 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

Any vacancy in these elected offices of the senate shall be filled by a special election to be held within twenty class days of the occurrence of the vacancy. 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 - 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 on the referendum question 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 V, Section 1 of the 2004 version of the Constitution, and shall take effect immediately upon passage.