

I vote to amend the Constitution by deleting all sections of the current Constitution and adding the sections presented here.

Preamble

In order to organize as a valid collective, we the students of Williams College hereby establish the Williams Student Body. In addition to the responsibilities we have to ourselves as individuals, we recognize our responsibilities to the Williams community and to each other. By forming and upholding the Student Body, we assert our voice in the College community and our right to maintain an active role in the workings of the College. Through the Student Body, we hope to create a community to which every student belongs and in which every student participates.

I. Government

The Government of the Williams Student Body is the College Council. The College Council is empowered to consider matters of interest to the Student Body and shall act as the voice of the Student Body in official matters. Every Williams student, as a member of the Student Body, is entitled to attend and speak at all Council meetings **unless, in the case of appointments, Council, after all non-Council members have spoken, orders an in camera session by a three-fourths majority vote for the duration of the appointments.**

II. Functions

Section A. The College Council shall serve as the official forum for the student opinion and the representative thereof. In order to carry out this function:

- 1. The Council serves as the voice of the Student Body to the Faculty, Administration, Staff, and Williamstown community. In this capacity, the Council may lobby for change in College and Town policy on behalf of the Student Body.**
2. The Council establishes and supervises the membership of student committees.
3. The Council supervises the student membership of Student-Faculty/Administration committees.

Section B. The Council receives student activities tax funds from each student to promote student activities. In funding these activities, the Council shall budget and spend this Tax to benefit the Student Body by establishing priorities and approving all budgets before they take effect.

Section C. In protecting the interests of the community, the Council has the right to initiate disciplinary action against any residential house or campus organization, and may recommend to the Dean reconsideration of any disciplinary action he or she has taken against any of these groups.

Section D. The Council is charged with supervising all College elections and referenda.

Section E. The Council shall establish Bylaws for operations not enumerated in this Constitution by a two-thirds majority vote of Council, **and adopt Rules of Order for procedure not enumerated in this Constitution by a majority vote of Council.**

1. **Bylaws will remain in effect between terms.**
2. **The Co-Presidents, or President and Vice-President, must present the Rules of Order to the Council to be adopted or amended as the first order of business each semester.**

III. Representation

Section A. The Members of Council shall be:

1. A number of housing representatives **comprising at least a simple majority of the voting members of Council, exempting the First-Year Council representative.**
 - a. **One housing representative shall be elected from and by the Junior Advisors after their selection during Sophomore year to serve on Council for the following academic year.**
 - b. At least one housing representative shall be elected from each housing unit, by the residents of that housing unit, at the beginning of each semester.
 - c. Housing units shall be defined by the Council based upon the considerations of equality of representation and proximity.
 - d. The Council may review the definition of a housing unit only during the spring semester prior to the room draw. Changes will take effect at the beginning of the following academic year.
2. **Two representatives elected at-large with a specific focus toward minority concerns during the second full week of spring semester.**
3. Four representatives elected at-large during the second full week of spring semester.
4. One representative from each of the rising Senior, Junior, and Sophomore classes, elected from and by their respective class during the second full week of spring semester.
5. Four officers, who shall be two Co-Presidents, or a President and Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the Council, elected during the second full week of spring semester.
6. One representative shall be elected from and by the First-Year Council during the Fall semester to serve on Council **until the rising Sophomore class representative is elected in the second full week of Spring semester.**

Section B. **All Members must be currently enrolled students at Williams College.**

Section C. **No Member will hold more than one seat on Council.**

Section D. All Members of Council shall be voting members, with the exception of the Co-Presidents, or President and Vice President, who shall cast a single vote only in the case of a tie.

Section E. Duties

1. Members shall represent the interests of their respective constituencies and keep their constituents informed of Council proceedings.
2. **The two representatives elected at-large with a specific focus towards minority concerns shall maintain ties with and represent the interests of the student minority organizations.**
3. Members' duties not enumerated here shall be determined by the Council in the Bylaws.

Section F. Any vacancy of a position shall be filled by a two-thirds majority vote of Council. In the case that the Council is unable to reach a two-thirds majority, the position shall be filled by an election of the representative constituency.

Section G. Consideration of removal of a Member of Council

1. **A motion by any voting Member of Council initiates the removal of a Member of Council.**
2. **A specific petition brought before the Council of at least twenty percent of the constituency that elected that member initiates the removal of a Member of Council.**

In both cases, a two-thirds vote of the Council at a meeting at least one week after the motion or petition is brought before Council is required to remove the member.

IV. Officers

Section A. Requirements

1. The Co-Presidents, or President and Vice President, shall be directly elected as a ticket from a field of the entire rising Senior and Junior classes. The decision to form a ticket as Co-Presidents, or President and Vice President, is left to the discretion of the particular candidates and must be announced upon declaration of candidacy.
2. Candidates for the position of Treasurer must be or have been members of the Finance Committee, **unless the Council, by two-thirds majority vote, makes other candidates eligible.**

Section B. Duties

1. The four officers of the Council form the Officers' Committee. The Committee shall:
 - a. Set the agenda for meetings according to concerns of the Council and the Student Body.
 - b. Meet with and advise the College administration, the faculty, **and other leaders of the College community.**
 - c. Represent the Council and its decisions.
 - d. Bring official business before the Council for approval.
2. The President shall:
 - a. Call meetings of the Council.
 - b. Chair Council meetings.
 - c. Cast a vote in the case of a tie.

- d. Call in Deans, Faculty, and other leaders of the College community when appropriate.
- 3. The Vice President shall:
 - a. **Chair the Appointments Committee.**
 - b. Assume the duties of the President when the President is absent.
- 4. In the case of Co-Presidents, they shall divide the duties of the President and the Vice President between themselves.
- 5. The Secretary shall:
 - a. Record the proceedings of all Council meetings, maintain those records, distribute them to all Council members and the Dean of the College, and make them available to the student body.
 - b. Receive, maintain, and make available to the College community all reports of committees associated with the Council.
 - c. Maintain an attendance record for all Members of the Council.
 - d. Assume the duties of the President when both the President and Vice President, or both Co-Presidents, are absent.
- 6. The Treasurer shall:
 - a. Chair the Finance Committee.
 - b. Report on the budget to the Council and be responsible for the maintenance of the Council's books.
 - c. Advise the Finance Committee on the budget priorities established by the Council and work to maintain them.
 - d. Assume the duties of the President when the President and Vice President, or both Co-Presidents, and the Secretary are absent.

V. Meetings

Section A. Meetings shall be called either by the Co-Presidents or President of the Council, or by a petition of one-third of the Council.

Section B. The attendance of two-thirds or more of voting members or their alternates constitutes a quorum for Council meetings.

Section C. The Council has the power to set attendance rules in the Bylaws or Rules of Order. Violations of these attendance rules may be subject to separate procedures for removal than those stated in this Constitution.

VI. Committees

Section A. Student-Faculty and Student-Administration committees are established under the respective joint authority of the Council and Faculty and the Council and Administration. The Council shall set procedures for the election or appointment of students to the aforementioned committees and shall supervise the student membership of the aforementioned committees.

Section B. Committees of the Council

1. The Council may create or abolish student committees, except for standing committees, at its discretion. All committees so created and the standing committees are under the direct jurisdiction of the Council, which has the right to veto any of their actions.
2. Standing committees:
 - a. Appointments Committee
 - i. The Appointments Committee shall be composed of the Vice President, the rising Senior, Junior, and Sophomore class representatives, the four representatives elected at-large, and the two representatives elected at-large with a specific focus towards minority concerns.
 - ii. **The Vice President shall chair the Committee, and cast a vote in the case of a tie.**
 - iii. The Committee shall screen nominations for Council appointments.
 - b. Finance Committee
 - i. The Finance Committee shall be composed of the Treasurer and three to eight other members chosen by the Council through the Appointments Committee, with at least one member from each of the rising Senior, Junior, and Sophomore classes.
 - ii. The Committee will be chosen as soon as the Officers take office.
 - iii. The Committee shall assist the Council in budgetary matters.

Section C. Any student member appointed by the Council to sit on a College committee may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

VII. Student Assembly

Section A. The Student Assembly shall have the legislative powers **set forth in this Constitution**, provided a quorum of 250 Williams College students is in attendance. These powers shall include the reversal of a previous College Council decision. A Student Assembly decision may be overturned by a student referendum or by a two-thirds majority vote of Council.

Section B. The organizers of the Student Assembly shall decide on an agenda and select a moderator. The College Council shall be responsible for monitoring the Student Assembly and authenticating its decisions.

Section C. One week of publicity through all available channels must precede a Student Assembly.

VIII. Referenda and Constitutional Amendments

Section A. Referenda

1. Referenda shall be conducted on a two-thirds vote of the Council or upon specific petition of at least ten percent of the student body.

2. **At least one-third of the students enrolled at the College must vote in a referendum for it to be valid.**
3. Two weeks of publicity through all available channels is required before a referendum can come up for a vote. The Council is responsible for such publicity.
4. **The Council may only overturn referenda with a three-fourths majority vote.**

Section B. Constitutional Amendments

1. To amend the Constitution, those voting for the amendment must comprise **at least one-third of the students** enrolled at the College and a two-thirds majority of those voting.
2. Amendments shall be offered to the student body through the same procedures as referenda, except that petitions to amend require twenty percent of the student body.

IX. Dissolution

Section A. A vote of no confidence may be initiated upon the specific petition of at least twenty percent of the student body.

Section B. Two weeks of publicity by the petitioners through all available channels will be required before such a vote. **All voting tools of College Council will be made available to the petitioners.**

Section C. Upon a vote of no confidence by a majority of the student body, all members of the College Council shall relinquish office. Each housing unit shall elect a representative to a temporary Elections Commission, which shall conduct elections according to the principles of representation set forth in this Constitution.

X. Adoption

This Constitution may be implemented only with the approval of the Williams Student Body. If approved, it will take effect on the first day of classes in the Fall semester of 2003. For that time, the Council shall approve new Bylaws and Rules of Order.