

The Associated Student Body Constitution

ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE, AND DUTIES

1. This organization will be called the Associated Student Government of St. John the Baptist Catholic School. It will consist of a Student Senate comprised of members from each voting class, a Student Council comprised of elected officers from the seventh and eighth grades, a Student Court for the continued observance of the due process of law and the non-voting Principal of St. John's School or a designee of the same.
2. The Associated Student Government will improve communication between the Student Body, Faculty and Administration of St. John's School by providing a place for students to voice their opinions and become actively involved in issues affecting their vested interest, encourage active participation in and Catholic understanding of the political and governmental process, develop leadership, organization and communication skills for its members and constituents.
3. The Associated Student Government has the duty to discuss concerns of the Student Body or any segment of it, and to take action on its behalf when appropriate, recommend and subsequently organize extracurricular activities, events and programs for the Student Body, work with accredited organizations to sponsor educational assemblies and otherwise enhance the supplementary educational and spiritual experience for the Associated Student Body and conduct elections each trimester for staggered seats in the Student Senate, each year for various offices of the Student Council and for any other position prescribed by the Principal or this Constitution.

ARTICLE II – SOURCE OF AUTHORITY

1. We recognize that our authority is granted through that of the Principal of St. John's School, granted through the Pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, granted through the Roman Catholic Bishop of Santa Rosa.
2. We recognize the authority of the Principal, and his or her right to veto any resolution duly passed by the Student Senate and Student Council as well as his or her right to declare invalid any motion or action the same or of the Student Court. We further recognize the right of the Principal to interpret this Constitution and to institute representation for the Parents of Students.
3. We recognize that only the Associated Student Body has the right to choose the representatives and officers of the Associated Student Government, and that no Faculty or Administrative approval is needed to become a member unless noted within this Constitution or through a necessary and proper action.

ARTICLE III – THE STUDENT SENATE

1. The Student Senate will include two elected senators from each grade, one boy and one girl student. Any member of the Student Body has the right to be elected as a senator, except as outlined in this Constitution or by necessary and proper action of the Principal; the Vice

President of the Associated Student Body as its chair, who will have a tie-breaking vote in instance of a tied vote and all members of the Student Council when in Joint Session, in that case presided over by the designee of the President of the Associated Student Body.

2. Senatorial Elections will be conducted by secret ballot in each grade. The boy and girl receiving the most votes in each class will become its senators. The ballots will be delivered to the sitting Student Council for counting. Senatorial Elections will be conducted on the second day of the new school year, and thereafter on staggered dates ending the first and second trimester. The Student Council will provide all candidates the opportunity to view the final vote counts for their grade but will not post, publish, or otherwise announce them unless prescribed by necessary and proper endeavor of the Principal. All ballots will be sealed and kept on record with the school.

3. The Student Senate will meet at least on the short Wednesday every month from the beginning of the school year through June, excluding December. Meeting times are to be determined by the Student Senate in its immediately preceding meeting. A meeting may also take place when the Student Senate is called into Emergency Joint Session by a three-quarters vote of the sitting Student Council. Upon the petition of one-quarter of the voting Associated Student Body or one-half of any grade level, it will be required to hold a Joint Session to consider their concern exclusively.

4. Any voting member of the Associated Student Body has the right to attend and speak, with necessary and proper restriction, before the Student Senate, but only its members may introduce, second, or cast a vote on any motion or resolution.

5. The Senate will elect from its membership the Speaker from the seventh or eighth grade, who will act in place of Vice President of the Associated Student Body in their capacity as Chair of the Senate when appropriate and have authority to ask another senator to preside when they and the former are not able to do so; the Leader of the Floor from the seventh or eighth grade, who will direct activities on the floor and be principally responsible for directing motions and introducing resolutions; and the Clerk for all record-keeping and related matters.

6. No motion or resolution may be voted on by the Senate without the chair filled and at least one more than half of its members present in the meeting room.

7. All meetings will follow modified parliamentary procedure, with *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* as the official reference. A parent or faculty representative must always be present for this purpose.

8. All meetings will include, but not be limited to, the Chair calling the meeting to order, the Clerk taking attendance and calling for the approval of the minutes of the last meeting, reports from those directed to make them, action on any old business from the last meeting, introduction and action on new business and a motion from the floor to adjourn.

ARTICLE IV – THE STUDENT COUNCIL

1. The Student Council will be chosen in a General Election of each grade. Each member must be in sixth or seventh grade when elected unless otherwise prescribed by necessary and proper means or within this Constitution. Candidacy must be filed for at least one week in advance of the election. The General Election takes place on the first regular Thursday in May, the results of which are counted by any authority prescribed by resolution.

2. All officers of the Associated Student Government must maintain a 2.7 grade point average or satisfactory grades where applicable, unless otherwise noted herein.

3a. The Student Council will consist of a President and Vice President, elected by direct voting, both of which will maintain a 3.0 grade point average. The President will preside over sessions of the Student Council and Joint Sessions of the Associated Student Government when appropriate. The President has primary veto over the actions of the Senate and Council. That veto may be overturned by a three-quarters vote in both bodies. The President will also appoint the members and chairs of special committees and the members of commissions with approval of the Senate, as well as be a regular member of these commissions and oversee their progress. The Vice President will be President of the Senate, and act as president when the duly-elected President cannot. The Vice President will also be a regular member of all aforementioned commissions. If the president is to resign or be impeached, the Vice President will become President and the Secretary will become Vice President. The candidate placing second in the election for Secretary would then become Secretary. If both the President and Vice President are unable to act as President at a meeting, the Treasurer will do so. If these three are unable to act as President at a meeting, the Secretary will do so. These officers also perform any necessary and proper duties prescribed by resolution. These succession rules are modified during the Joint Sessions established in Article V.

b. It will further consist of a Secretary elected by direct voting who will maintain a 3.0 grade point average. The Secretary is to assist the President and Vice President in various tasks as needed, keep accurate minutes of all Joint and Council meetings, principally direct all official writings of the Council, maintain records of attendance and correspondence and Joint Government and maintain a calendar of business before the Council and Joint Government. This officer also performs any necessary and proper duties prescribed by resolution.

c. It will further consist of a Treasurer elected by direct voting who will maintain a 3.0 grade point average. The Treasurer is to assist the President and Vice President in various tasks as needed, handle the funds of the Associated Student Body Account, prepare a report of the Student Government's finances to the Senate and Council and chair the Standing Organization Commission of five members. This officer also performs any necessary and proper duties prescribed by resolution.

d. It will further consist of a Spirit Commissioner elected by direct voting. The Spirit

Commissioner is to assist the President and Vice President in various tasks as needed, be principally responsible for rallies and the like, be the official representative to the Development Committee and chair the Standing Spirit Commission of five members. This officer also performs any necessary and proper duties prescribed by resolution.

e. It will further consist of a Public Relations Commissioner elected by direct voting. The Public Relations Commissioner is to assist the President and Vice President in various tasks as needed, be principally responsible for informing the Student Body of actions and chair the Standing Athletic Commission of five members. This officer also performs any necessary and proper duties prescribed by resolution.

f. Its ex-officio members will be the Chief Justice of the Student Court and The Speaker of the Senate, who may perform any necessary and proper duties prescribed by resolution.

g. If any vacancy is to occur in an office of the Student Government with no set succession, a by-election will be held for that position at the earliest and most easily consolidated time practicable.

h. The roles and responsibilities of the specific standing commissions are to be addressed in a separate document for each, The Statutes of Commissions. It is to be drafted by the sitting councilor most directly related to each commission chair.

4. The Student Government and administration may make necessary and proper restrictions on electioneering.

5a. All candidates will be given the opportunity to speak to the entire voting Student Body before the General Election. Speeches will be reviewed by the candidate's teacher at least a day in advance. If a tie occurs, a run-off will be held the following day. Each candidate must be notified of the election results within eight hours of the election, after which they will be announced at Assembly. Speeches are required for Council candidates, but not for Senate candidates.

b. The Principal will provide all candidates the opportunity to view the final vote counts, but will not post, publish, or otherwise announce them except to the current Student Council or other necessary and proper viewers.

ARTICLE V – JOINT SESSIONS

1. The divisions of the Student Government may hold a joint session in which they will deliberate as a single body. During these sessions the President will preside, if he or she is unable the Vice President will preside, followed by the Speaker of the Senate and the Chief Justice of the Student Court after which another member of the assemblage will be named chair.

2. Quorum in the Joint Session will be achieved when the two separate divisions achieve their

individual quorums, which is half plus one.

3. A joint session will take place when an emergency meeting of the Student Council votes by three-quarters to Call the Senate, at which point the President will leave for the office and send for all the senators. There will be a Joint Session through resolution whenever necessary and proper. A Joint Session will also take place whenever a new Senate is elected.

4a. No two meetings may occur simultaneously. Meetings of the Student Council are to take place on every regular other Monday, excluding those in December, unless otherwise prescribed.

b. The Student Government may fix a specific meeting place by resolution.

ARTICLE VI – THE STUDENT COURT

A Student Court is to be formed with the directly elected Chief Justice as its head. Further rules of procedure and place are to be set in the Statute of the Student Court, to be drafted by a Council designee. Until that point, the current Chief Justice will continue to discharge any duties assigned to him or her on the Student Council.

ARTICLE VII – IMPEACHMENT

1. If a member of the Senate or Council violates rules egregiously they may be impeached by a majority vote of the division of which they are a part following a motion to do so.
2. The division impeaching must submit, in writing, the reasons for impeachment to a Joint Session of the Associated Student Government. The Chief Justice will then initiate a trial with the rest of the Associated Student Government, excluding the object of impeachment and the mover of the motion to impeach, as the jury.
3. Trial will then proceed with the object of impeachment as the Perpetrator and the mover of the motion as the Complainant. Either may designate a member of the Associated Student Body as a counsel for their side. A two-thirds vote with consent of the Principal is required for removal from office under impeachment.

ARTICLE VIII – RATIFICATION, AMENDMENT AND SPECIAL ELECTION

1. To be ratified, this Constitution must be approved by a majority of the entire voting Student Body, following a three-quarters vote of the current Student Council.
2. This Constitution will not take effect until one week after its ratification. Afterward, it can be amended only as outlined in this Article.
3. If any part of this Constitution is found by the Principal, Pastor or Bishop to violate his or her stated policy only that individual part will be declared invalid, with all other parts of this Constitution to remain in place.
4. Only the Senate may propose Amendments to this Constitution, which will require a two-thirds vote of a Joint Session entire membership, followed by a school-wide majority vote.

5. No amendment may interfere with the second or eighth article of this Constitution.

6. A special election following all of the above rules will take place two weeks from this Constitution's approval by the Student Council for the purpose of seeking its ratification by the Student Body and electing the positions mentioned herein. Should any current Councilor lose a seat, they will be named a co-officer. If the Constitution is not ratified, the elections will be null and void. In the case of ratification, this clause will become dilatory after the election.

We, the Principal and Leadership Council of the 2004-2005 school year at St. John the Baptist Catholic School, do hereby enact this Constitution. We also submit it and recommend it to the Student Body in request of its majority approval and subsequent adherence. Done in the Old Faculty Room in the City of Napa on the eighteenth of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and five.

The signatories were:

Nicholas Ford
Sergeant-at-Arms

Jeffrey Gerlomes
Secretary

Andrew Haigh
Treasurer

Benjamin Molinari
Publicity Commissioner

Lauren Narlock-Hubbard
Chief Justice

Alexandra Schafle
Spirit Commissioner

Margaret Wessell
Vice President

Timothy Wilkens
President

Rae Lanpheir
Principal

Ratified by 198 yeses, and 10 noes

AMENDMENT I – SENATE TERM LIMITS (Katherine Pella, 2005)

Senators may not be elected more than once in a row in a single school year, except for the Speaker of the Senate, who will remain in the Senate all year. The class of the Speaker may, however, elect a third senator of the same gender.

AMENDMENT II – COMMISSION REQUIREMENTS (Katherine Pella, 2005)

Every appointed member of the Standing Organization, Athletic or Spirit Commission must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and be in either the seventh or eighth grade.

AMENDMENT III – COMMISSION REGULATION (Katherine Pella, 2005)

Rules of specific standing commissions are not required to be written, unless deemed necessary by the Administration.

AMENDMENT IV – ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY ACCOUNT (Katherine Pella, 2005)

The Treasurer will make a monthly report to the Student Council on the amount of money in the Associated Student Body Account and any expenditures of the Associated Student Government.

AMENDMENT V – SUCCESSION (Katherine Pella, 2005)

If any vacancy is to occur in an office of the Student Council without a set means of filling, the Council will elect a replacement for the office. If any vacancy is to occur in another office, the Student Court will decide the appropriate way to fill it.

AMENDMENT VI – UNICAMERAL JUNIOR HIGH AND RESOLUTIONS (Katherine Pella, 2005)

Resolutions only affecting the Junior High do not require passage by the Senate, although notice of their passage must be given to all bodies of the Student Government as well as the entire Faculty and Administration.

AMENDMENT VII – SENATE AGENDA (Katherine Pella, 2005)

No item or topic may be considered by the Student Senate unless any three of the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Senate, the Leader of the Floor of the Senate and/or the Clerk of the Senate allow such to be placed on the Agenda of the Senate.

AMENDMENT VIII – ELECTION REQUIREMENTS (Katherine Pella, 2005)

The Council and Court may set reasonable requirements for office in addition to those in this Constitution to ensure the suitability of all candidates for office.

AMENDMENT IX – MEETING DATES AND TIMES (Katherine Pella, 2005)

1. Meetings of different parts of the Student Government may take place at the same time as long as there are no scheduling conflicts created.
2. The Student Senate will hold a meeting at least every month, and the Student Council at least every two weeks, or more often if necessary.

AMENDMENT X – CONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION (Katherine Pella, 2005)

The President of the Associated Student Body, Vice President of the Associated Student Body and Chief Justice of the Student Court are to ensure that everyone concerned with this Constitution is well-educated in regard to it.

AMENDMENT XI – VOTE COUNTS (Katherine Pella, 2005)

All specific vote counts will be known only to those counting and to the Administration, and will be in no way posted, published or otherwise announced.

AMENDMENT XII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY (Katherine Pella, 2005)

All meetings will follow appropriately modified parliamentary procedure, with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* as the official reference.

AMENDMENT XIII – REPRESENTATION (Katherine Pella, 2005)

The Student Council will be charged with selecting Student Government representatives to outside bodies.

AMENDMENT XIV – COURT JURISDICTION (Katherine Pella, 2005)

In addition to those duties granted in this constitution and/or the Statute of the Student Court, the Student Court may be asked by the Council or Senate to impartially provide information on a particular matter.