

Southmoore High School Student Council Constitution

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Southmoore High School, desiring to provide better communication between the administrators and the students; to improve student-faculty relations; to provide for the representation of student interest in the affairs of the school; to establish necessary leadership; to set high standards of citizenship; to educate ourselves for future participation in a democratic society; to institute and coordinate school-wide activities; and to strive always for the improvement of school spirit, pride, and morale; do hereby ordain this constitution dedicating our efforts to student government and continuing improvement of Southmoore High School.

ARTICLE I NAME

The official name of this organization shall be “Southmoore High School Student Council”, simply referred to hereafter as “Student Council”.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of Student Council shall be to promote unity of school spirit, pride, and morale among the student body, faculty, and administration of Southmoore High School. Such purposes will be accomplished through the use of appropriate democratic processes and various activities which will enhance the diverse interests of all concerned parties.

ARTICLE III AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Section 1: GENERAL

The Student Council holds only such authority as it has been given by the Administration of Moore Public Schools and Southmoore High School. Its primary responsibilities are to plan and coordinate school-wide activities and to provide for representation of student interests to the faculty and administration.

Section 2: VETO POWER

The Administration and/or Sponsors shall have the authority and responsibility to veto any action of the Student Council which they feel is:

1. Outside of the authority of the Student Council or
2. Is not in the best interest of Southmoore and/or the community at large.

ARTICLE IV
MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Student Council shall be comprised of the following:

1. Student Council Executive Board comprised of:
 - a. Student Council Officers
 - b. Two Faculty Sponsors selected by the Administration
2. Class Senators
3. Class Officers
4. Leadership Class students

Unless otherwise noted within this Constitution or within Student Council's By-Laws, Class Officers and students enrolled within the Leadership Class will be more specifically governed by their individual organizational by-laws.

ARTICLE V
STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS

Section 1: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The officers of Student Council shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Parliamentarian, and Freshman Representative-at-Large.
- B. All officers shall assume the duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Student Council By-Laws and should place the mission, purposes, and goals of Southmoore High School above personal interests or desires.
- C. All officers must be enrolled within the Leadership Class during the duration of their term of office.
- D. All officers must attend regularly scheduled meetings of the Executive Board.
- E. Additional responsibilities for each specific office will be detailed within the Student Council By-Laws.

Section 2: QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN FOR OFFICE

- A. All candidates for Student Council office must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00.
 - a. Additionally, all candidates must be passing each class in which he or she is enrolled at the time of the campaign/election. Candidates must submit a copy of the most recent academic progress report with their application for office.
 - b. If the academic standard as outlined in this constitution is not maintained during the time between the election and the installation into the newly elected office, the officer-elect will forfeit the Student Council office.

- B. All candidates for President must be a Senior during the elected term of office.
- C. All candidates for Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer must be a Junior or a Senior during the elected term of office.
- D. All candidates for Reporter and Parliamentarian must be a Sophomore or a Junior during the elected term of office.
- E. All candidates for Freshman Representative-at-Large must be a Freshman during the elected term of office.

Section 3: NOMINATION PROCESS

- A. It is strongly recommended that any student considering the possibility of becoming a candidate for Student Council office attend one of the scheduled informational meetings. Informational meetings will be scheduled on multiple days with before and after school options will be offered.
- B. To officially become a candidate after attending the informational meeting, the student must submit an application during the designated filing period.
- C. The candidate application packet shall contain the following:
 - 1. Signature of the Southmoore Registrar with cumulative grade point average,
 - 2. Copy of most recent academic progress report,
 - 3. Signature of Parent/Guardian as permission to become a candidate, and
 - 4. Signature of the candidate.

Section 4: ELECTION PROCESS

- A. Election rules, responsibilities, and procedures will be developed by the Election Committee and/or Sponsors and will be communicated during the informational meetings as noted in Article V, Section 3 above.
- B. With the exception of Freshman Representative-at-Large, all elections will be held after Spring Break during the semester preceding the school year for the term of office. The election for Freshman Representative-at-Large will be held within the first three weeks of the school year for the term of office.
- C. There shall be a specified period of time and additional rules for campaigning.
- D. Elections will be conducted by secret ballot.
- E. With the exception of Freshmen Representative-at-Large all Southmoore students, other than Graduating Seniors, are eligible to vote in Student Council Officer elections. Only Freshmen shall be eligible to vote for the Freshmen Representative-at-Large.

- a. Class Officer elections occur simultaneous with established Student Council Officer elections. Only members of the specific academic class are eligible to vote for a specific slate of Class Officer candidates.
- F. Winners will be based upon a plurality of votes cast. The candidate receiving the most votes, even if not the majority of votes cast, shall be declared the winner.
- G. The term of office for each Student Council Officer will be one academic year.

Section 5: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- A. Any Officer, whose behavior is considered flagrant or inappropriate to the standards of Southmoore High School and/or Student Council, may be called in front of the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board may vote to dismiss any Officer, without prior warning, if deemed necessary and appropriate. A majority vote by the Advisory Board is required to dismiss an Officer.
 - a. The Advisory Board shall be comprised of five faculty members selected by the Head Principal with input from the Sponsors. The selection of members to the Advisory Board shall take into consideration the diversity of the faculty with regard to content area instruction and the four grade levels at Southmoore High School. A majority vote by the Advisory Board shall be necessary for any decision.
- B. Any officer who fails to meet the academic/grade point average requirements shall be placed on probation for three weeks or until the next academic progress report is made available. At the end of this time he or she shall be removed from office if he or she still fails to meet the academic requirements. Only one such probationary period will be allowed per officer.
- C. Any officer who fails to meet the requirements, duties, and responsibilities of his or her office (other than academic requirements as noted above) shall be subject to disciplinary action initiated by the Sponsors. If this becomes necessary, the following steps will be taken:

Step One: Written Reprimand signed by Sponsors and Officer. One (1) copy each will be kept on file by the Sponsors and Grade Principal and one (1) copy given to Officer for his or her personal records.

Step Two: Written Reprimand as noted in Step One and Parent/Guardian contact.

Step Three: Two week probationary period, Parent/Guardian contact, and meeting with Sponsors and Principal(s). During the probationary period the officer must meet the requirements, duties, and responsibilities for the office or be dismissed. Only one probationary period will be allowed for each officer.

Step 4: Step Four: Referral to the Advisory Board for removal from office. A majority vote by the Advisory Board is required to dismiss an Officer.

- D. If the Advisory Board notes that dismissal is warranted, the officer and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed in writing of the dismissal action and the reason(s) for such. The dismissed officer may appeal the decision by following Moore Public School District's appeals process as outlined in the Student Handbook.
- E. Impeachment proceedings against any Officer may be filled by a petition of students and submitted to the Student Council Sponsors. The petition must clearly state all charges against the officer and the reasons for the charges. The Sponsors will appoint a committee to hear the charges. The Officer in question will have the right to respond to all charges. A decision will be made by the Executive Board and appointed committee to keep or to remove the Officer in question. Action for removal will take place as a result of a two-thirds favorable vote by the Student Council.

Section 6: REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS

- A. In the event of the dismissal, impeachment, resignation, or other incapacitation of any office other than President, a replacement shall be elected by the Student Council Senators.
- B. In the event of the dismissal, impeachment, resignation, or other incapacitation of the office of President, the Vice President, if eligible, shall succeed to the office of President. If for any reason the Vice President is not able or eligible to succeed (i.e. if the Vice President is not a Senior), the following will be the order of succession provided that the officer is able and eligible to succeed: Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Parliamentarian. The succeeding officer must meet the guidelines for the vacant President's office. If the position cannot be filled by the Student Council Officers, the replacement shall be elected from the pool of eligible Student Council Senators.

ARTICLE VI **STUDENT COUNCIL SENATORS**

Section 1: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all Student Council Senators to perform the following duties:

1. Uphold and promote the goals and objectives of Student Council,
2. Attend all Student Council meetings,
3. Function as an active member of the assigned committee(s),
4. Insure the best representation possible for the student body, and
5. Maintain a minimum 2.00 grade point average during the term of office.
6. Earn a minimum of five merit points per nine weeks. Point opportunities will be advertised throughout the school year.

Section 2: QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY

All applicants to serve as a Student Council Senator must meet the following criteria:

1. Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 and
2. Accept the duties and responsibilities of being a Student Council Senator.

Section 3: SELECTION

- A. Senator applicants must complete and submit an application to the Sponsors by the established deadline.
- B. The selection procedure shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 4: DISMISSAL

Any Senator may be removed from office if he or she fails to maintain the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of a Student Council Senator. The decision to remove a Senator from office will be made by the Sponsors.

ARTICLE VII **MEETINGS**

Section 1: REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Student Council shall be held at least once per month. The date, time, and location shall be designated by the Administration, Sponsors, and/or Officers.

Section 2: SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Administration and/or Sponsors.

ARTICLE VIII **QUORUM**

A quorum consisting of two-thirds of the Student Council members must be present to conduct business.

ARTICLE IX **BY-LAWS**

There shall be a set of By-Laws in addition to this Constitution to serve as a procedural outline for the operation of Student Council. The By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the Student Council.

ARTICLE X
AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Student Council members present at a regular or special meeting. Proposed amendments must be prepared and submitted in written form to the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall determine by majority vote whether the amendment shall be presented to the Student Council for its consideration.