Kalamazoo College Student Commission Constitution  
(Ratified April 15, 2009)

We, the students of Kalamazoo College, in order to provide a united student voice, do hereby establish this constitution for the government of the students of Kalamazoo College, to serve the student body by addressing the needs and concerns of educational and community life, and to promote the interest and general welfare of the student body in the policies and actions that affect us.

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. The government of the students of Kalamazoo College shall be known as the Kalamazoo College Student Commission.

A. Throughout this document, this organization shall be known as the Student Commission.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Student Commission shall be to act as the chief advocate and collective voice for the students of Kalamazoo College. The Student Commission shall represent the students to the faculty, administration, trustees, and the rest of the college community, and shall protect the welfare, well-being, and best interests of the student body. In all of this, the Student Commission shall abide by the policies of Kalamazoo College.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES AND POWERS

Section 1. The Student Commission shall have the power to:

A. Promote the general interests of the student body.

B. Advocate on behalf of the student body by serving on those committees which affect the welfare of the students.

C. Propose, endorse, and comment on those policies affecting the student body.

D. Allocate funds to students and their organizations.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall:

A. Be open to all persons who are enrolled at Kalamazoo College and able to be present at Student Commission meetings.
B. Be elected by the student body following the Student Commission Election Codes, or in specified cases appointed by the process enumerated in Article VI, Section 5 of this Constitution.

Section 2.

The Advisor to the Student Commission shall be designated by the Office of Student Development.

A. The Advisor shall not be a member of the Student Commission but shall serve as a consultant, assist with development of the organization, offer continuity for the organization, and aid the Student Commission in working with administrators.

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVES

The following members shall be considered Executives of the Student Commission and therefore serve as members of the Executive Committee as well as the Commission Assembly. They shall be elected during Spring Term of the academic year preceding their academic year in office. Upon being sworn into office, these members shall assume the active duties of their office. If a position is not won with a majority of the vote, a runoff election between the top two candidates shall take place one week after the initial election. These elections must follow the Student Commission Election Codes. If any of these positions is left vacant following the Spring Term election, the position shall be filled by an appointment made by the President-elect and confirmed by an affirmative vote by the majority of those individuals elected to the Executive Committee.

Section 1. President

The President shall:

A. Serve as the principle representative of the Student Commission to the faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees.

B. Serve as Chair of the Executive Committee and the Commission Assembly.

C. Vote only in order to break ties in the Commission Assembly.

D. Serve as an ex officio member of all subsidiary bodies of the Student Commission.

E. Make appointments in accordance with Article VI, Section 5 and 6 of this Constitution.

F. Create committees in accordance with Article VIII, Section 8 of this Constitution.

G. Have served at least two quarters on the Student Commission prior to assuming office.

Section 2. Vice-President

The Vice-President shall:

A. Assist the President in the administration of the Student Commission.

B. Serve as an ex officio member of all subsidiary bodies of the Student Commission.
C. Assume the duties of the President of the Student Commission in his/her absence, either permanently or temporarily.

Section 3. Secretary of Finance
The Secretary of Finance shall:
A. Serve as Chair of the Financial Policies Committee.
B. Ensure the execution of all financial decisions of the Student Commission.
C. Present an internal audit of the finances of the Commission at the end of each academic term.
D. Have served at least two quarters on the Financial Policies Committee prior to assuming office.

Section 4. Secretary of Records
The Secretary of Records shall:
A. Maintain the archives of the Student Commission.
B. Compose and distribute written minutes of all Commission Assembly meetings.
C. Serve as director of all Student Commission elections.

Section 5. Secretary of Public Relations
The Secretary of Public Relations shall:
A. Provide information to the student body and the college community regarding the Student Commission.
B. Chair the Public Relations Committee.

ARTICLE VI. COMMISSION ASSEMBLY

Section 1. The Commission Assembly shall be composed of the Executive Committee and five Commissioners elected from each class, totaling a 25-member body.
A. Class shall be designated by the expected graduation year of the individual.

Section 2. No less than a two-thirds quorum of the Commission Assembly shall be present in order for the Student Commission to conduct business.

Section 3. From the Commission Assembly, the following shall be year-long positions appointed in accordance with Article VI, Section 6, and the requirements enumerated in the Student Commission Bylaws:
A. Secretary of Athletics
B. Secretary of Educational Policies
C. Secretary of Experiential Education
D. Secretary of Information Services
E. Secretary of Student Affairs
Section 4. Commissioners, excluding the Executive Committee, shall be elected during Fall Term, and unless appointed to one of the positions in Article VI, Section 3, shall stand for election for Winter and Spring Terms. These elections shall follow the Student Commission Election Codes. The term in office for Commissioners ends with the completion of each academic term.

Section 5. The President shall make appointments to fill any vacancies on the Commission for the remainder of the term of that position, subject to a vote of confirmation in which two-thirds of the Commission Assembly votes in the affirmative.

A. Hereafter, two-thirds of the Commission Assembly shall refer to two-thirds of those Commissioners, excluding the President, present after a quorum is reached in accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of this Constitution.

Section 6. The President shall appoint representatives to committees both internal and external of the Commission, subject to a vote of confirmation in which two-thirds of the Commission Assembly votes in the affirmative.

Section 7. All members of the Commission Assembly shall have full voting rights on the business before the Commission Assembly.

ARTICLE VII. PROCESSES

Section 1. Meetings of the Commission Assembly shall follow Robert's Rules of Order except where they conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Commission.

Section 2. Legislation shall be presented to propose action for the Student Commission.

A. Legislation shall be initiated by any member of the Commission Assembly, excluding the President.

B. Any currently enrolled student shall have the ability to initiate legislation with the documented support of ten percent of the student body in the form of a petition.

C. Legislation, unless otherwise defined in this Constitution, shall be approved by a majority of those Commissioners present, excluding the President, after a quorum is reached in accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Commission Assembly voting in the affirmative.
ARTICLE VIII. STANDING COMMITTEES
The following shall be considered standing committees of the Student Commission. The Commission Assembly shall have supremacy over the actions of the committees of the Student Commission. Committees shall be required to have their own bylaws and hold regular meetings separate from the Commission Assembly while the Student Commission is in session, and keep the Commission Assembly informed of their work. If a committee has not adopted bylaws, the Student Commission Constitution and Bylaws shall serve as their guide.

Section 1. Athletic Committee
The Athletic Committee shall:
A. Be chaired by the Secretary of Athletics.
B. Consist of the Secretary of Athletics and two additional Commissioners appointed each academic term. Of the three total members, there shall be at least one male and one female.
C. Serve on the correlating committee that deals with Kalamazoo College Athletics.
D. Gather student sentiment on issues relating to student-athletes and college athletics.

Section 2. Constitutional Integrity Committee
The Constitutional Integrity Committee shall:
A. Have a chair appointed each academic term by the President who will assume the position of Commission Parliamentarian. This individual shall not be serving in one of the year long positions delineated in Article V or Article VI, Section 3.
B. Consist of the Commission Parliamentarian and two additional Commissioners appointed each academic term.
C. Ensure that the Student Commission Constitution, Bylaws, and other governing documents are strictly adhered to by the Commission Assembly.
D. Settle disputes on matters of constitutional interpretation, only to be overruled by two-thirds vote of the Commission Assembly voting in the affirmative.

Section 3. Educational Policies Committee
The Educational Policies Committee shall:
A. Be chaired by the Secretary of Educational Policies.
B. Consist of the Secretary of Educational Policies and two additional Commissioners to be appointed each academic term.
C. Serve as members of the correlating faculty committee in accordance with the requirements enumerated in the Bylaws.
D. Gather student input and concerns on issues of academic affairs.

Section 4. Experiential Education Committee
The Experiential Education Committee shall:
A. Be chaired by the Secretary of Experiential Education.
B. Consist of the Secretary of Experiential Education and one additional Commissioner appointed each academic term.
C. Serve on the correlating faculty committee in accordance with the requirements enumerated in the Bylaws.
D. Gather student input and concerns on issues of experiential education.

Section 5. Financial Policies Committee
The Financial Policies Committee shall:
A. Be chaired by the Secretary of Finance.
B. Consist of the Secretary of Finance and four additional Commissioners appointed each academic term.
C. Oversee the allocation of funds to the Student Commission and student organizations in accordance with the Bylaws.
D. Hear requests and appeals from student organizations on issues of financial revocation.

Section 6. Information Services Advisory Committee
The Information Services Advisory Committee shall:
A. Be chaired by the Secretary of Information Services.
B. Consist of the Secretary of Information Services and one additional Commissioner appointed each academic term.
C. Serve on the correlating faculty committee in accordance with the requirements enumerated in the Bylaws.
D. Gather student input and concerns on issues of information services.

Section 7. Joint Committee on Student Organization Recognition (JCSOR)
The Joint Committee on Student Organization Recognition shall:
A. From the Student Commission, consist of the Secretary of Finance, the Commission Parliamentarian, and one additional Commissioner appointed each academic term.
B. Meet with the Office of Student Activities for the purpose of recognizing and registering prospective student organizations.

Section 8. Public Relations Committee
The Public Relations Committee shall:
A. Be chaired by the Secretary of Public Relations.
B. Consist of the Secretary of Public Relations and two additional Commissioners appointed each academic term.
C. Update and inform the student body on the operations and actions of the Student Commission.
D. Gather student input and concerns on issues relating to the Student Commission.

Section 9. Student Affairs Committee
The Student Affairs Committee shall:
A. Be chaired by the Secretary of Student Affairs.
B. Consist of the Secretary of Student Affairs and one additional Commissioner appointed each academic term.
C. Serve on the correlating committee in the Office of Student Development.
D. Gather student input and concerns on issues relating to student life.

Section 10. Other Committees and Task Forces
A. Other Committees and Task Forces shall be created as deemed necessary by the President.
B. These Committees and Task Forces shall be deemed functional aspects of the Commission after meeting the requirements delineated in Article VI, Section 6 of this Constitution.

ARTICLE IX. REMOVAL AND RECALL
The processes for removal and recall shall be equally valid, neither superseding the other. In the event of simultaneous contradictory decisions, the Commissioner in question shall be dismissed.

Section 1. Removal
Member(s) of the Commission shall be removed if:
A. In general, prior to the removal process, the President, or the Vice-President in the case of the President being accused, has issued a written warning to the commissioner in question.
B. A motion for removal citing specific grievances and complaints is made, seconded, and immediately tabled to the following meeting of the Student Commission.
C. At that meeting, the member in question has the opportunity to address the Commission Assembly in his/her defense.
D. Following his/her statement, questioning, discussion and debate, the motion receives a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Commission Assembly.

Section 2. Recall
Member(s) of the Commission shall be recalled if:
A. A written petition for removal, specific per member, citing grievances, and containing the signatures of no less than ten percent of the Student Body is presented to the Commission Assembly.
B. Upon the confirmation of the validity of the petition, a member without a conflict of interest facilitates a recall election.
C. Polls are open to the Student Body for twelve hours and follow the Student Commission Election Codes.
D. A majority of votes cast in the election are in favor of said recall.
ARTICLE X.  BYLAWS AND ELECTION CODES

Section 1.  The Student Commission shall adopt bylaws to facilitate or define Student Commission positions and operations, with the purpose of complementing this Constitution.

Section 2.  The Student Commission Bylaws shall be amended by the approval of a majority of the Commission Assembly. All changes to the Bylaws shall be announced to the student body.

Section 3.  In the event of a conflict, the Constitution shall have legislative supremacy over the Student Commission Bylaws, Student Commission Election Codes, and the bylaws of all subsidiary bodies of the Student Commission.

Section 4.  Election Codes shall be adopted to detail the processes for Student Commission elections, ensuring a free and fair voting process.

Section 5.  The Student Commission Election Codes shall be adopted and amended by a majority of the Commission Assembly.

ARTICLE XI.  AMENDMENTS

Section 1.  Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed by:

A.  Any member of the Commission Assembly.
B.  Any currently enrolled student with the documented support of ten percent of the student body in the form of a petition.

Section 2.  Once proposed, amendments shall be made public for no less than two weeks, and be subject to a campus forum during that time.

Section 3.  Proposed amendments shall be approved by no less than two-thirds of the Commission Assembly.

Section 4.  Proposed amendments shall become valid and supersede this Constitution upon approval by a majority of those students voting in a referendum.

ARTICLE XII.  RATIFICATION AND REVIEW

Section 1.  This Constitution shall be approved by no less than two-thirds of the Commission Assembly.
Section 2. Upon approval by no less than two-thirds of the Commission Assembly, this document shall be considered ratified upon approval by no less than three-fourths of those students voting in a referendum.

Section 3. This Constitution shall be reviewed biannually or at the behest of the Constitutional Integrity Committee or the Commission Assembly.