

# **Mount Sinai High School**

## ***Student Council Constitution***

### ***Preamble***

*We, the students of Mount Sinai High School, in order to promote a superior educational system, to promote our goals as a harmonious student body, and to maintain open communication among students, faculty, and administration have established this Constitution for the Mount Sinai High School Student Council.*

### ***Article 1 Official Name***

The official name of this organization shall be the Mount Sinai High School Student Council.

### ***Article 2 Authority***

The Student Council, with the consent of the building administration, shall have the necessary authority and power to fulfill its purpose as the governing body for student activities and affairs. The principal and assistant principal shall have the authority to review and overturn the decisions of the Student Council. In such cases, every effort will be made to consult with the Council members and the faculty advisors.

### ***Article 3 Purpose of the Student Council***

The purpose of this organization shall be to:

- Assist the faculty and administration in the governing of student activities and affairs.
- Promote a forum for student participation in the operation of Mount Sinai High School.
- Encourage and coordinate inter-class activities
- Serve as a builder of school spirit and promote participation in school activities.
- Promote student leadership
- Initiate service projects for the betterment of the school and community.
- Raise funds to maintain and carry out Student Council activities.

### ***Article 4 Membership***

The members of the Student Council shall be selected from the student body of Mount Sinai High School and will consist of a four-member Executive Board and a twelve-member Student Senate. The four-member executive board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Executive Board members are elected to a one-year term. The Student Senate shall consist of three representatives from each grade. Student Senate members are selected through homeroom nominations and review by a faculty council. Student Senators serve until graduation unless they vacate their seat, are elected to an Executive Board office, or are removed by impeachment. The current members of the Student Advisory Council will be granted a position in the Student Senate.

## **Article 5**                    **Duties of the Executive Board**

The duties of the Executive Board Officers of the Mount Sinai High School Student Council are set forth as follows:

### **President**

The duties of the President shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- To serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Student Council.
- To preside over all Student Council Meetings.
- To cast the deciding vote on any matter upon which the Council is equally divided.
- To utilize correct parliamentary procedure.
- To represent the Student Council at official functions.
- To prepare the agenda for Student Council meetings.
- To serve as an *ex officio* member of all Student Council Committees.
- To cast a ballot on all issues voted upon by the Student Council.

### **Vice-President**

The duties of the Vice-President shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- To take over and perform the duties of the President in his/her absence or in the event that the President is removed from office by impeachment.
- To assist the President in the performance of his/her duties.
- To serve as an *ex officio* member of all Student Council Committees.
- To oversee the activities of any Student Council Committees and to assist the committees in the completion of their assigned responsibilities.
- To cast a ballot on all issues voted upon by the Student Council.

### **Secretary**

The duties of the Secretary shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- To keep and publish accurate minutes of all Student Council meetings.
- To maintain attendance records for all Student Council meetings and events.
- To publicize all Student Council activities.
- To assist the President in the preparation and distribution of the agenda for each meeting.
- To maintain all official files and records of the Student Council.
- To cast a ballot on all issues voted upon by the Student Council.

### **Treasurer**

The duties of the Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- To take care of all financial matters related to the Student Council.
- To collect and disburse all Student Council funds upon authorization of the Council.
- To maintain accurate accounting records of all financial matters and to prepare and present a year-end report to the Council.
- To oversee all Student Council fundraising activities.
- To cast a ballot on all issues voted upon by the Student Council.

## **Article 6**                    **Duties of the Student Senate**

The duties of the Student Senate of the Mount Sinai High School Student Council are set forth as follows:

- To serve as the chief interpreter of this Constitution.
- To enforce parliamentary procedure.
- To serve as the presiding officers and jury at any impeachment proceedings.
- To solicit the opinions and ideas of their classmates and to faithfully represent the student body in all Council issues.
- To cast a ballot on all issues voted upon by the Student Council.

## **Article 7**                    **Elections**

Elections shall be held in June of each year for officers who will serve their term the following year (July 1 - June 30). Candidates must submit a petition with twenty-five student signatures and the signature of each of his/her teachers in order to be placed on the ballot. Any student who is declared ineligible by the school's academic and/or disciplinary eligibility policy may not run for Student Council office. In addition, any student who does not submit a valid petition with the approval and signature of each of his/her teachers will be excluded from the ballot.

Any students running for President or Vice-President must be on schedule to be a Junior or a Senior in the year they serve their term in office. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer are open to students who will be in their Sophomore, Junior, or Senior year when they serve their term in office.

Prior to the elections, an assembly will be held and candidates for each office will be given three minutes to make a speech to the student body. Candidates may hang campaign posters in approved areas of the building and may pass out campaign literature. The faculty advisors to the Student Council must approve all speeches, campaign posters, and campaign literature. Making an unapproved speech or hanging/distributing unapproved materials will result in removal from the ballot.

The elections will be held in homeroom and the ballots will be tallied by members of the Student Senate under the supervision of the faculty advisors and/or a building administrator. The results of the elections will be made available after the results have been certified by the faculty advisors and the principal.

## **Article 8**                    **Voting**

All members of the Student Council are eligible to vote on issues that come before the Council and are brought to a vote. All votes (Executive Board members and Senate members) count equally. In the event of a tie, the President will render the final decision. All votes, with the exception of impeachment and amendment votes, will be decided by a simple majority.

The quorum necessary for all votes will be sixty percent of the total Council membership. No formal Student Council business shall take place in the absence of a quorum.

The Secretary shall be responsible for conducting and recording all votes of the Student Council.

## **Article 9**                    **Meetings**

Student Council meetings shall be held on the first and third Wednesday of each month from September to June at a time approved by the faculty advisors and the administration. Summer meetings will be scheduled as needed. Attendance at all meetings is considered a basic responsibility of all Student Council members.

## **Article 10**                    **Impeachment**

All members of the Student Council are subject to impeachment under the following conditions:

- Conduct unbecoming a Council member
- Failure to attend a minimum of 75% of all Student Council meetings
- Suspension from school

In the event that an impeachment hearing is necessary, the member will be notified in writing of the reason for impeachment. A hearing shall be held and the impeached Council member will be given an opportunity to state his/her case to the Council. A 2/3 majority vote of the Council will result in dismissal from office.

A member will be immediately dismissed by the school administration if he/she is declared ineligible under the school's academic and/or disciplinary eligibility policies.

## **Article 11**                    **Amendments to the Constitution**

This Constitution may be amended in the following manner:

Any member of the Student Council may submit, in writing, a proposal for a Constitutional Amendment. The proposed amendment will be reviewed and voted upon at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council. The Constitution shall be amended if a 2/3 majority votes in favor of the proposed amendment. All amendment proposals are subject to review by the faculty advisors and school administration.

## **Article 12**                    **Vacancies in the Student Council**

In the event of a vacancy within the Student Council, the following procedures shall be followed:

- If the Office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice-President shall assume the Presidency for the remainder of the school year.
- If the Office of the Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer becomes vacant, candidates will be solicited from the student body and will be required to submit petitions. Those candidates shall be given an opportunity to make a three-minute speech to the Student Senate. The members of the Student Senate will vote in a special election and the vacant seat will be filled by a simple majority vote. The winner of the special election will hold the office for the remainder of the school year.
- In the event that a seat in the Student Senate becomes vacant, that seat shall be filled by administrative appointment. The newly selected Senator will serve until graduation or until he/she vacates the seat, is elected to the Executive Board, or is removed by impeachment.

## **Article 13                      Class Officers**

Each class at Mount Sinai High School will continue to elect class officers. Class officers will be encouraged to take an active role in the Student Council and will be considered non-voting members of the Council.

### **Amendment 1**

This is an amendment to Article 4 of the Mount Sinai High School Student Council Constitution:

#### **The Student Assembly**

- A. The purpose of the Student Assembly is
  - 1) To give recommendations to the executive board.
  - 2) To form committees to assist all Student Government events.
- B. The Student Assembly shall consist of volunteer members. Membership is open to any student enrolled at Mount Sinai High School.
- C. Student Council Officers will preside over Student Assembly meetings
- D. Members of the Student Assembly must attend at least six meetings each year.
- E. A Senator may be a member of the Student Assembly

### **Amendment 2**

This is an amendment to Article IV of the Mount Sinai High School Student Council Constitution:

The members of the Student Council shall be selected from the student body of Mount Sinai High School and will consist of a four-member Executive Board and an eighteen-member Student Senate. The four-member executive board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Executive Board members are elected to a one-year term. The Student Senate shall consist of four representatives from each grade. . Student Senators serve until graduation unless they vacate their seat, are elected to an Executive Board office, or are removed by impeachment. There are also two additional at-large members from any grade. The at-large positions shall serve a one year term. Student Senate members are selected through an application process, interview, and review by the faculty advisor (s).

### **Amendment 3**

This is an amendment to the duties of the President, listed in Article 5 of the Mount Sinai High School Student Council Constitution:

- To recommend a committee.
- To nominate students to a position within a committee.

### **Amendment 4**

This is an amendment to the duties of the Student Senate, listed in Article 6 of the Mount Sinai High School Student Council Constitution:

- To approve with majority vote any committees recommended by the President.
- To approve with majority vote any student nominated to a position within a committee by the President for a one year term for the duration of the school year

### **Amendment 5**

This is an amendment to amendment 2 of the Mount Sinai High School Student Council Constitution:

The members of the Student Council shall be selected from the student body of Mount Sinai High School and will consist of a four-member Executive Board and an eighteen-member Student Senate. The four-member executive board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Executive Board members are elected to a one-year term. The Student Senate shall consist of four representatives from each grade. Student Senators serve until graduation unless they vacate their seat, are elected to an Executive Board office, or are removed by impeachment. There are also two additional at-large members from any grade. **If there are not enough applicants for a particular grade level, at large appointments may be made from the remaining applicants. If an additional at large position is established, he/she may be reappointed. The number of at large positions will remain over the constitutional limit until that person graduates or can be placed in a vacant position.** The at-large positions shall serve a one year term. Student Senate members are selected through an application process, interview, and review by the faculty advisor (s).

### **Amendment 6**

This is an amendment to amendment 5 of the Mount Sinai High School Student Council Constitution:

The members of the Student Council shall be selected from the student body of Mount Sinai High School and will consist of a four-member Executive Board and a **twenty-two** member Student Senate. The four-member executive board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Executive Board members are elected to a one-year term. The Student Senate shall consist of **five** representatives from each grade. Student Senators in good standing serve until graduation unless they vacate their seat, are elected to an Executive Board office, or are removed by impeachment. There are also two additional at-large members from any grade. If there are not enough applicants for a particular grade level, at large appointments may be made from the remaining applicants. If an additional at large position is established, he/she may be reappointed. The number of at large positions will remain over the constitutional limit until that person graduates or can be placed in a vacant position. The at-large positions shall serve a one year term. Student Senate members are selected through an application process, interview, and review by the faculty advisor (s). **Newly selected members will serve an initial one year probationary period. Their status as a member in good standing will be reviewed by the faculty advisor(s). At the end of that year, they may be permanently placed or removed as a senator by the faculty advisor(s).**

***The provisions of this Constitution are superseded by the policies of the Mount Sinai Board of Education and the administrative policies of Mount Sinai High School. The actions of the Student Council and its individual members are subject to review by the faculty advisors and the high school administration.***

This Constitution was officially adopted by a vote of the Student Advisory Council of Mount Sinai High School. In witness whereof, the parties have hereunto set their hand and seal on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2001.

Members of the Student Advisory Council:

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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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Peter H. Ferez  
Principal

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Michael R. Radday  
Assistant Principal