

Student Council Constitution

NorthStar Academy

Article I

The name of this organization shall be the NorthStar Academy Student Council, acting under the direct administration of NorthStar Academy (NSA) and henceforth referenced as the “StuCo” or the “Council”.

Article II

Section I: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to maintain a welcoming, entertaining, and spiritually edifying atmosphere for the student population of NSA. In producing various activities and projects, the StuCo must set an active example of godly leadership in accordance with the governing documents¹ and the Bible.

Section II: Mission

The Student Council seeks to maximize the use of resources and connections available through NorthStar Academy to promote creativity and invest in the student body through community engagement, spiritual emphasis, and personalized relationships between the staff and student body.

Section III: Vision

The vision of the Student Council shall be established annually by the President, Vice President, Secretary, and StuCo Advisors (collectively referenced as “StuCo Administration”).

Article III

All students legally enrolled in a minimum of three credits at NorthStar Academy shall be considered for membership in the Student Council, discriminating against no individual party for any personal reason, including age, race, or religious beliefs. However, limitations on grade or other factors may be imposed upon certain positions as outlined in Article IV.

¹ Governing documents include the Constitution, the Teams & Roles Document, the ESOs (Expected Student Outcomes), and the Community Norms.

Article IV

Section I: Members

The NSA Student Council consists of the following members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Outreach Team, Communications Team, and Representatives.

The body of representatives shall consist of one each for high school grades, one for middle school, and one for elementary school as defined by NorthStar Academy. If two students wish to be co-representatives for a certain grade, the StuCo Administration may make an exception. All members who are not representatives, but on Student Council, shall be referenced as “officers.”

No student may hold more than one position on Student Council. Exceptions may be made by the StuCo Advisors.

Section II: Eligibility

The office of the President, Vice President, and Secretary requires a minimum of one year of experience on Student Council in any officer position; previous experience must directly precede the intended term. This requirement may be overlooked in the event that a suitable candidate for the StuCo President cannot be found; see Article VI, Section I.

The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Outreach Team, and Communications Team must be in grades ten through twelve during the entirety of their Student Council term.

High school representatives shall be elected from their individual grades. The middle school and elementary school representatives may be in any of the grades they represent for the duration of their term. Exceptions may be made by StuCo Administration if no eligible candidate is found.

All grades levels for StuCo purposes may be determined according to the number of completed course credits.

Section III: Academic Eligibility

In order to be *academically* eligible to run for a position on the NSA student council, students must have/be:²

- C or above in all courses in the previous year
- On pace with completing courses (no paid extensions in previous 2 semesters)
- No disciplinary infractions

² Exceptions can be made by the StuCo Advisor(s).

- Enrolled in at least 3 courses and/or planning to earn a diploma from NorthStar Academy.

Article V

The StuCo Advisor(s) oversees the Student Council and advocates for StuCo among the faculty and staff. The StuCo Advisor(s) will work closely with StuCo and function as an integral part(s) of the StuCo Administration. Other responsibilities are detailed throughout the governing documents, but the Advisor(s) may assign any of their responsibilities to another staff or Student Council member.

Article VI

Section I: Elections

Student Council elections shall be conducted by the StuCo Advisor(s) or their designate(s) in the final quarter of each term. The Student Council may submit recommendations to the Advisor(s), and all parties must cooperate respectfully, observing the limitations of online elections.

The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Outreach Team, Communications Team, and Representatives are elected positions and shall be decided by the student body. The NSA Advisor(s) reserve the right to decline a nomination for any reason. All nominees are required to approve their acceptance by attending a meeting with at least one StuCo Advisor and, when possible, one member of the Student Council Executive Team (President, Vice President, or Secretary); furthermore, all students are required to be certain of their return to NorthStar Academy in the following academic year. If a candidate for President with Student Council experience cannot be found, the StuCo Advisor(s) will appoint a qualified member or members of the student body prior to elections; the candidate(s) will continue through elections as normal. A period of official campaigning shall last for a minimum of one week, after which time the ballots will be opened for an additional week. All students may vote for elected officers; students may only vote for the representative of their class. The nominees with the most votes for their respective positions win, and the results shall be announced via a mass email to the entire school. If another tie occurs, the StuCo Administration will decide among the candidates.

Section II: Appointed Positions

In the event that no eligible student runs for any given position, the StuCo Administration may appoint one or more members to fill that position.

Article VII

Section I: Calendar

The Student Council's calendar shall operate according to that of NorthStar Academy. All holidays and weekends are to be observed unless a project demands otherwise. The Student Council may remain in operation through the typical summer holiday if needed.

Section II: Meetings

Bimonthly meetings shall be scheduled at the discretion of the president to review the student council's progress and important business and are mandatory for all members. Any member may call unofficial meetings for any StuCo purpose with one week of notice, or sooner if the participants agree, or sooner if the participants agree. If the scheduling of the meetings conflicts with a members' regular schedule, they may discuss alternative requirements with the StuCo president and advisors.

Section III: Timeliness

Though conflicts of time are inevitable, all members are encouraged to prioritize the Student Council as necessary to attend meetings and fulfill their responsibilities. All members must remain respectful of time zones and personal schedules, but sacrifice may be necessary. Other guidelines for timeliness are detailed throughout the governing documents.

Section IV: Absences

Both planned and unplanned absences are unavoidable, but consistent or lengthy absences may be detrimental to the council's performance. An absence is defined as any substantial length of time as determined by the StuCo Administration during which a member does not actively participate in discussion or activities within the Student Council. One may remain active socially but be considered absent from the student council. See Article VIII.

Article VIII

Section I: Reasons for Removal

Any Student Council member, with the exception of advisors, may be considered for removal with appropriate justification within one of the following categories.

1. Failure to fulfill responsibilities and expectations as outlined in the Student Council's governing documents.

2. Behavior that violates the governing documents, NSA handbook, or the Bible.
3. Absences according to Article VII, Section IV.
4. Inability to maintain a minimum “C” average in all classes.

Section II: Process of Resignation

If a Student Council member becomes unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities or cannot otherwise remain active in the council, he/she should notify the StuCo Administration with an email outlining their motivations for resignation. If the advisors deem the reasons legitimate, the Administration accepts the resignation of the StuCo member. Replacement of the resigned member will take place as outlined in Article VIII, Section III.

Section III: Aftermath of Removal or Resignation

In the event of the removal or resignation of an elected member, the StuCo Administration will decide to either hold a public election or appoint a new member. The open position should be filled within four weeks.

Article IX

Section I: Appeals

Ideas, conflicts, and other issues may be brought to the President. The appeal must be fully described in an email to the President. He/she may immediately close the issue with a decision that is approved by the StuCo Administration, or present it to the Student Council for a vote as described in Article IX, Section II. If the President is incapable of action or is involved in the conflict, the appeal may be taken directly to the Advisors.

Section II: Votes

Any member may request a Student Council vote; when a vote becomes necessary, both the positive and the negative must be clearly expressed in a conversation in the Student Council Team. Discussion will remain open for a minimum of three business days. At the decision of the initiator, voting may occur publicly in the Student Council Team or privately through an online voting system. Voting will be open for one week or as long as necessary to obtain a majority vote. The initiator will then take action according to the majority vote; if a majority vote is not decided, discussion and voting will repeat as necessary.

After the discussion period, voting may also be conducted in a meeting, but absent members must also get a chance to vote before a decision is made.

Section III: Amendments

Any member may propose amendments to this constitution by sending an email to the StuCo Administration or creating a post in the StuCo Team detailing the amendment. Discussion shall remain open for a minimum of three days and shall not exceed four weeks. When the amendment has been adequately discussed, the President will request a vote as outlined in Article IX, Section II, including any variations or additional amendments presented during discussion. The amendment passes when approved by 70% of the StuCo officers. The President may then veto the amendment or present it to the advisors. If vetoed by the President, the amendment may once again be presented according to the guidelines in Article IX, Section IV. The advisors may approve or veto the amendment. If the amendment is vetoed, no further action will be taken; if approved, it may be inserted into this constitution.

Section IV: Vetoes

The President and Advisors are permitted to veto any vote, amendment, or project with appropriate justification presented in an email to the Student Council or the necessary member(s) or post in the StuCo Team. The Advisors' veto is final.

Amendments

I. Student Council Projects

A Student Council project constitutes any ongoing or annual event, activity, or pursuit in the interest of the student body that seeks to directly fulfill the mission statements of both NorthStar Academy and the Student Council. All Student Council projects fall under the immediate jurisdiction of a StuCo officer or a representative as delegated by the StuCo administration or the governing documents of the Student Council. Delegates responsible for these projects are accountable either directly or indirectly to StuCo and NorthStar Academy Administrations; a delegate's failure to fulfill the written expectations of either administrative party may result in their removal from the project or another consequence as determined by the StuCo Administration.

Full Constitution Revised February 2024