

Student Association

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

It is recognized that the University of Central Oklahoma is an institution of higher education supported by and responsible to the state of Oklahoma. As the President of the University of Central Oklahoma is responsible to the Board of Regents of Oklahoma colleges and universities for the administration of the University, the University of Central Oklahoma Student Association recognizes the legal authority and responsibility and that of delegated representatives. Therefore, it is acknowledged that no action of the Student Association or any student organization is final until approved by the President of the University of Central Oklahoma.

We, the students of the University of Central Oklahoma, in order to establish a representative student government for the purpose of promoting development of student leadership; unifying social conditions; working with faculty and administration to further academic excellence and establish closer communication; improving student welfare; recommending and taking such steps as may be advisable and necessary to support and implement policy which further the excellence of our University, do hereby ordain and adopt the following Constitution.

ARTICLE I

Name

SECTION 1. The purpose of the UCOSA shall be to create, establish, and model a representative student government.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

SECTION 1. The purpose of the UCOSA shall be to create, establish, and model a representative student government.

SECTION 2. The purpose of the UCOSA shall be to enable the students, faculty, and administration of the University of Central Oklahoma to strive for the betterment of the University and for the welfare of all concerned.

ARTICLE III

Membership

SECTION 1. Every currently enrolled student of the University of Central Oklahoma shall be a member of the UCOSA.

SECTION 2. Membership shall be open to any qualified person without regard to race, color, age, sex, national origin, religion, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or any other forms of discrimination.

SECTION 3. All officers of the Executive and Legislative, branches and their appointees must meet the membership requirements listed throughout this Constitution, in respect to their position.

SECTION 4. The membership of the Executive and Legislative, of the Student Association shall be responsible for upholding this Constitution and all rules and regulations passed under it, and the execution of the policies as determined by this Constitution.

SECTION 5. The members and officers of this organization agree to abide by the rules and regulations, as stated in the University of Central Oklahoma Code of Student Conduct.

ARTICLE IV

Legislative Branch

SECTION 1. All legislative powers of the UCOSA shall be vested in a Legislative Branch which shall consist of a Student Congress (hereinafter referred to as ‘Congress’). Congress shall represent the University of Central Oklahoma in matters of the students’ general concern and serve as the official representative of the University’s student community in expressing official opinions and interests to appropriate faculty, administrative, and student entities.

SECTION 2. Congressional Membership

1. Members of the Student Congress shall be elected on the basis of their academic college and residential situation. The membership of the Congress shall also include student organizations and other entities deemed necessary and proper by the Congress. An individual may only fill one publicly elected representative seat at a time. Only one person may represent a student organization or entity at a time.
2. Publicly elected representatives shall serve until the next general election for their office. The timeline of elections for all Congressional Senators shall be determined by Statutory Law. Elections for Congressional Senators shall occur annually.
3. Student Congress vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the Congress By-Laws.
4. The Student Congress shall elect its executive officers. The three executive officers’ responsibilities and roles shall include that of Chair, Vice-Chair, and secretary to be detailed in the Congress By-laws. The executive officers shall serve as at-large voting representatives of the Congress not counting toward the total membership.
5. Congress shall consist of forty-eight publicly elected representatives with the addition of representatives from the Council System. Apportionment of all Congressional membership shall be determined by an internal act of the Congress requiring three-fourths of present and voting members for passage.

SECTION 3. Congressional Authority

1. The Legislative Branch shall make campus-wide student rules and regulations, and appropriate revenues of the UCOSA and shall have the power to take any actions which are necessary and proper for the continuance of student government including the power to govern all student organizations and entities as Acts of Legislation.
2. The Legislative Branch will, by a majority vote, confirm or deny such nominations as the UCOSA President or Vice President shall from time to time be called upon to make.
3. The Legislative Branch shall administer the Student Activity Fee allocated for UCOSA general and emergency appropriations; the disbursement of any Student Activities Fees shall begin in the Student Congress. Upon approval by the Congress, the request shall be forwarded to the UCOSA President for their veto.
4. If the UCOSA President vetoes any bill or financial resolution, then it will be returned to the Legislative Branch for reconsideration and will be enacted if two-thirds of the present and voting membership votes to pass it. The legislative body will have until the next meeting to overturn a veto (typically one week). Resolutions and internal acts of procedure do not require presidential approval to be enacted.
5. The Legislative Branch may establish reasonable qualifications, prerequisites, or conditions for any elected or appointed office.

SECTION 4. No person shall serve simultaneously in any legislative, executive, or judicial office of the UCOSA.

SECTION 5. The Legislative Branch shall be the judge of qualifications of its members and a majority shall constitute a quorum to do business. The Legislative Branch may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as the Legislative Branch may provide.

SECTION 6. Congressional Power of Impeachment

1. The Legislative Branch shall have the right of impeachment and removal within all branches and entities under UCOSA.
2. The Legislative Branch may commence impeachment proceedings or matters related to impeachment proceedings, with a three-fourths vote of the current Congressional membership.

ARTICLE V

Executive Branch

SECTION 1. The Executive Branch of the UCOSA shall consist of the President and the Vice-President, in addition to any executive appointees confirmed by the Congress.

SECTION 2. The President

1. Shall be popularly elected by a majority vote of the ballots cast at a time and in a manner as determined by Statutory Law. Such an election shall occur annually. In such case that no candidate shall receive a majority, the two candidates having received the greatest number of votes shall stand in a runoff election no later than one week after the primary election, with the candidate receiving a majority being elected.
2. Shall be responsible for upholding this Constitution and all rules and regulations passed under the Constitution and to execute the policies determined by the Congress.
3. Shall be known as the University of Central Oklahoma Student Association President, or Student Body President.
4. Shall have the power to appoint temporary commissions and task forces with the approval of Congress.
5. Shall make appointments to authorized faculty, college, and university committees with the approval of Congress.
6. Shall submit a budget request for the UCOSA for the next academic year to Congress
7. Shall recommend consideration of such measures judged necessary and proper to Congress.
8. Shall give a “State of the Campus” address each term to a session of Congress.
9. Shall have the power to veto, in its entirety or by line item-veto, all congressional bills and financial resolutions passed by Congress that are not internal acts of procedure.
10. The President shall return the vetoed act to the UCOSA Congress with written objections. The President must render a decision to Congress within one week of final consideration by Congress or the act shall be considered passed.

SECTION 3. The Vice President

1. Shall be popularly elected by a majority vote of the ballots cast at a time and in a manner as determined by Statutory Law. Such an election shall occur annually. In such case that no candidate shall receive a majority, the two candidates having received the greatest number of votes shall stand in a runoff election no later than one week after the primary election, with the candidate receiving a majority being elected.
2. Shall be known as the University of Central Oklahoma Student Association Vice President, and, or Student Body Vice President.
3. If the President is temporarily unable to perform the duties of the President, the Vice President shall perform the President’s duties and any other duties delegated by the President.
4. If a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall become President. The vacated position shall be filled by Presidential appointment with two-thirds consent of Congress.

SECTION 4. The Congress may by Statutory Law provide for the case of removal, resignation, inability, or vacancy, of both the Student Body President and Vice President, declare what officer shall act accordingly, until a regular election shall be commenced, or the inability have been removed.

ARTICLE VI

General Article

SECTION 1. UCOSA Oath of Office

1. All officers of the UCOSA shall take the following Oath of Office before beginning to execute the duties of their respective offices:

I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the duties and responsibilities entrusted to me by virtue of my office as (office) and will to the best of my ability preserve and enforce the Constitution of the University of Central Oklahoma Student Association and the Constitution of the State and Federal Governments.

1. The advisor of the UCOSA shall administer the UCOSA Oath of Office.

SECTION 2. Advisors

1. Advisors shall be selected by the University President to serve as advisors to the UCOSA.

SECTION 3. Monies

1. Monies collected and dispersed for the UCOSA shall be deposited and handled through the Student Activity Fee budgetary process.

SECTION 4. Election Commission

1. The Election Commission shall consist of five students; one to be appointed by the Chair of Student Congress, one appointed by the Vice-Chair of Student Congress, one appointed by the Secretary of Student Congress, one appointed by the President of the UCOSA, and one appointed by the Vice-President of the UCOSA.
2. All election dates, times, and polling places, and any other miscellaneous election activity, shall be determined by the Election Commission upon majority approval of the UCOSA Congress present and voting.
3. No candidate for any office in a UCOSA election may serve as a member of the Election Commission.

SECTION 5. Meetings

1. Each branch of the UCOSA shall schedule respective regular meetings at the beginning of each school year on a scheduling application. Called meetings, guest speakers, etc., must also be scheduled at least seven days in accordance with the University of Central Oklahoma Student Handbook.

SECTION 6. UCOSA Budget

1. The UCOSA Budget shall be divided by UCOSA Statute, with managers of funds specified.
2. All expenditures both in the UCOSA Budget and expenditures made by any student organization funded by UCOSA shall be public record.

SECTION 7. Auxiliary Bodies

1. UCOSA shall have the authority to establish auxiliary bodies independent of any one branch of the UCOSA. UCOSA shall have the authority to alter or remove the auxiliary body.
2. If any entity, independent of any one branch of the UCOSA, is to be modified, altered, or removed from the UCOSA, the entity shall be informed of possible changes fifteen business days before consideration of the change by the UCO Student Congress. If this timeline is not followed, the change shall be considered invalid.

ARTICLE VII

Petition and Recall

SECTION 1. Any member of the UCOSA may initiate legislation by petition provided that the proposed legislation bears the valid signatures of three-fourths the amount of UCOSA members in the previous Presidential vote. The Chair of the UCO Student Congress shall be required to schedule a vote of the initiated legislation, with the UCO Student Congress, within two weeks after receiving the legislation and after the signatures are validated. The signatures shall be validated with the University.

SECTION 2. The members of the UCOSA may recall any elected UCOSA if the petition providing for recall election be signed by three-fourths the amount of UCOSA members in the previous Presidential vote. The question to be placed on the ballot shall be, “Shall (name) be retained as (name of office)?”.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments and Adoption

SECTION 1. Process

1. Amendments to the UCOSA Constitution shall be proposed by a petition of three-fourths the amount of UCOSA members in the previous Presidential vote, or by a resolution from the UCOSA Congress. Constitutional Amendments shall be proposed to the entire UCOSA for a vote on a date and in a manner as determined by Statutory Law. Proposed constitutional amendments shall be scheduled for presentation and vote at least one day each year.

SECTION 2. Petition

1. Petitions to amend the UCOSA Constitution shall be presented to the Chair of the UCOSA Election Commission. Upon verification of three-fourths the amount of UCOSA members signatures in the previous Presidential vote, the Election Commission shall schedule a vote in accordance with UCOSA Statutory Law.

SECTION 3. Resolution

1. A Congressional Resolution to amend the UCOSA Constitution shall be presented to the UCOSA Congress in a regular meeting and publicized for at least one week before a vote is taken.
2. If the resolution receives a two-thirds vote of the members present of Congress, it shall be presented to the UCOSA Election Commission so that a vote might be scheduled in accordance with UCOSA Statutory Law.

SECTION 4. Ratification

1. The UCOSA Constitution shall be amended by two-thirds affirmative vote cast at a campus-wide election.
2. After the UCOSA Constitutional amendment has been ratified by a campus-wide vote, the UCOSA Constitutional amendment shall be forwarded to the University President by the UCOSA Election Commission.
3. After the UCOSA Constitutional amendment has been approved by the University President, the UCOSA Constitution shall be amended.



Amended \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_, 2020

Todd Lamb, President of the University of Central Oklahoma

Lauren Harman, President of the University of Central Oklahoma Student Association

Izzi Barry, Chair of the University of Central Oklahoma Student Congress