

WILLIAMS COLLEGE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION



Preamble

In order to organize as a valid collective, we, the students of Williams College, hereby establish the Williams Student Body. In addition to the responsibilities we have to ourselves as individuals, we recognize our responsibilities to the Williams community and to each other. By forming and upholding the Student Body, we assert our voice in the College community and our right to maintain an active role in the workings of the College. Through the Student Body, we hope to create a community to which every student belongs and in which every student participates.

Section A: Government

The Government of the Williams Student Body is the College Council (CC). The College Council is empowered to consider matters of interest to the Student Body and shall act as the voice of the Student Body in official matters. Every Williams student, as a member of the Student Body, is entitled to attend and speak at all Council meetings, except for in the case of Appointments when Council, after all non-Council members have spoken, orders an in camera session by a three-fourths majority vote for the duration of the Appointments.

Section B: Mission

The College Council shall serve as the official forum for the student opinion and the representative thereof. In order to carry out this function:

1. The Council serves as the voice of the Student Body to the Faculty, Administration, Staff, and Williamstown community. In this capacity, the Council may lobby for change in College and Town policy on behalf of the student body.
2. The Council establishes and supervises the membership of student committees.
3. The Council supervises the student membership of Student/Faculty/Administration committees.
4. The Council proposes and assists in the implementation of improvements to Williams College.

Section C: Taxation

The Council receives Student Activities Tax (SAT) funds from each student to promote student activities. In funding these activities, the Council shall budget and spend this Tax to benefit the Student Body by establishing priorities and approving all budgets before they take effect.

Section D: Disciplinary Powers

In protecting the interests of the community, the Council has the right to initiate disciplinary action against any residential house or campus organization, and may recommend to the Dean reconsideration of any disciplinary action they have taken against any of these groups.

Section E: Procedural Supervision

The Council is charged with supervising all Council elections and referenda.

Section F: Bylaws

The Council shall establish Bylaws for operations not enumerated in this Constitution by a two-thirds majority vote of Council, and adopt Rules of Order for procedure not enumerated in this Constitution by a majority vote of Council. Bylaws will remain in effect between terms. The Bylaws and the Rules of Order may be amended by a two-thirds vote and majority vote, respectively.

Article I

Composition

Section A: Membership

The College Council shall be composed of:

1. The Co-Presidents, or the President
2. The five Vice Presidents
3. The Treasurer
4. The Assistant Treasurer
5. The Parliamentarian
6. Four class representatives elected from each class

Section B: Voting

All members of the Council shall be voting members, with the exception of the Co-Presidents or President, who shall cast a single vote only in the case of a tie.

Article II

Terms, Elections, and Requirements

Section A: Terms

1. The Co-Presidents or President, the Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and the Parliamentarian serve year-long terms and will be elected at-large by an all-campus vote.
2. The class representatives and the Assistant Treasurer serve semester-long terms and will be elected in both the Spring and Fall elections.

Section B: Spring Elections

The Spring elections will take place no later than the end of the third week of the Spring Semester.

1. The Co-Presidents or President, the Vice Presidents, the Treasurer, the Parliamentarian, and the Assistant Treasurer will be elected at-large by an all-campus vote.
2. First-Year, sophomore, junior, and senior class representatives will be elected by an all-class vote.

Section C: Fall Elections

Fall elections will take place during the month of September.

1. The First-Year representatives will be elected from the following four housing units: Williams Hall, Sage Hall, Armstrong/Pratt Houses, and Mills/Dennett Houses.
1. The Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Class Representatives will be elected by an all-class vote.
2. The Assistant Treasurer will be elected by an all-campus vote.

Section D: Eligibility

To be eligible for election, candidates must be currently enrolled students at Williams College during the nomination period. No person may hold more than one seat on the Council simultaneously, though there are no limits to the number of times a person may run for election. A person may only run for election to one position in any given election.

Section E: Presidential Eligibility

The Co-Presidents or President shall be directly elected as a ticket from the rising junior and senior classes. The decision to run as President or Co-Presidents is left to the discretion of the particular candidates and must be announced upon declaration of candidacy.

Section F: Treasurer Eligibility

Candidates for the position of Treasurer must be, or have been, members of the Finance Committee, unless the Council, by a two-thirds majority vote, chooses to waive this requirement for an individual who demonstrates that they have equivalent experience.

Article III

Duties and Responsibilities

Section A: Class Representatives

Class representatives shall represent the interests of their respective constituencies, keep their constituents informed of Council proceedings, and serve and actively contribute on at least one committee.

Section B: President(s)

The President or Co-Presidents are the primary representative of student opinion to the College administration and the leaders of the Williams College Council. They chair the College Council and the Executive Committee, and sit as ex officio members of all College Council committees. The Co-Presidents set the agenda for the College Council, identify priorities for the Executive Committee, and direct the activities of the Williams College Council. They oversee and support all functions of the Williams College Council. The President or Co-Presidents call meetings of the Council, cast a vote in the case of a tie, and represent the Council and its decisions.

1. In the case of a single President, all duties and responsibilities of the Co-Presidents revert to the President. The President will chair the Executive Committee.

Section C: Vice President of Communications

The Vice President of Communications is responsible for managing all of College Council's digital and print communications and outreach. They chair the College Council Communications Team and provide oversight and guidance for the student members of all College committees that affect communications. The Vice President for Communications is responsible for updating and maintaining digital and print communications materials, including but not limited to: College Council website and social media platforms, physical or online newsletters and factsheets, and well as College Council promotional/ educational campaigns and advertisements. In addition, they lead new communications efforts to develop Council relations with students, faculty, and staff and perform such duties as the Executive Committee or Co-Presidents may assign.

Section D: Vice President of Academic Affairs

The Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for all College Council policy and programming initiatives in the area of academic and intellectual life. They serve on the Committee on Educational Affairs and provide oversight and guidance for the student members of all College committees that affect academic policy. They are responsible for building relationships with faculty, liaising with administrators on academic issues, crafting all College Council academic policy, representing the College Council in campus dialogue regarding the curriculum and academic program, and perform such duties as the Executive Committee or Co-Presidents may assign.

Section E: Vice President of Community and Diversity

The Vice President of Community and Diversity is responsible for all College Council policy and programming initiatives in the area of community life. They serve as Student Chair of the Committee on Diversity and Community, sit on the Finance Committee, and provide oversight and guidance for the student members of all College committees that affect community life. Under a joint agreement between College Council and the Minority Coalition, they also serve as a board member of the Minority Coalition. The Vice President for Community and Diversity is responsible for building relationships and liaising with faculty, staff, and administrators, serving as a resource to student organizations that focus on building community at the College, crafting all College Council policy on matters of community

and diversity, representing the College Council in campus dialogue regarding community and diversity, and perform such duties as the Executive Committee or Co-Presidents may assign.

Section F: Vice President of Student Affairs

The Vice President of Student Affairs is responsible for all College Council policy and programming initiatives in the area of student life. They serve as Student Chair of the Committee on Undergraduate Life and provide oversight and guidance for the student members of all College committees that affect student life. The Vice President for Student Affairs is responsible for building relationships and liaising with staff and administrators on issues of student life at the College, crafting College Council policy related to student life, providing specific programming to support College Council initiatives, and performing such duties as the Executive Committee or Co-Presidents may assign.

Section G: Vice President of Student Organizations

The Vice President of Student Organizations is responsible for managing all College Council policies related to club life and for collaborating with the Treasurer to support all student organizations financially and institutionally. They chair the Student Organizations Committee and sit as a member of the Finance Committee. The Vice President for Student Organizations, along with the Treasurer, is the College Council liaison to the Office of Student Life for matters that relate to student organizations, including, but not limited to: group re-registrations, Purple Key Fair registrations, Student Jamboree registrations, and the Fall Treasurer/Club Sport training sessions. They are responsible for overseeing all chartering, club support, and review processes, as well as maintaining and publishing a comprehensive list of student groups at Williams. They also perform such duties as the Executive Committee or Co-Presidents may assign.

Section H: Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the club funding process and for maintaining the Council's financial books. They chair the Finance Committee and sit as a member of the Student Organizations Committee. The Treasurer, along with the Vice President for Student Organizations, is the College Council liaison to the Office of Student Life and is the primary manager of the Student Activities Tax. The Treasurer reports on the budget and the status of College Council accounts to the Council, oversees the Assistant Treasurer, and performs such duties as the Executive Committee or Co-Presidents may assign.

Section I: Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer assists the Treasurer in maintaining Council's books. The Assistant Treasurer is a member of Finance Committee, and performs such duties as the Treasurer, Executive Committee or Co-Presidents may assign.

Section J: Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian is responsible for managing internal functions of College Council. They maintain parliamentary order during Council meetings, ensure proper accordance with specific by-laws and the Council Constitution, and record attendance records. In addition, the Parliamentarian organizes and distributes each week's agenda and meeting minutes and maintains a proxy list to accommodate Council absences.

Article IV Meetings

Section A: Calling of Meetings

Meetings shall be called either by the Co-Presidents or the President, or by a petition of one-third of the Council.

Section B: Quorum

The attendance of a majority of two thirds of voting members or their proxies plus one constitutes a quorum for all Council meetings.

Section C: Attendance

Attendance rules will be established in the bylaws and enforced by the Parliamentarian. All members are expected to attend all Council meetings and to adhere to the rules of attendance.

Section D: Expulsion

A member may be expelled from the Council for nonattendance or misconduct as defined by the Council Bylaws. After a motion to initiate expulsion proceedings has passed by majority vote, the member in question will have two weeks to present their case against expulsion to the Council. After two weeks, a vote to expel must be held, and the member may be removed by a two-thirds vote. In the case of any vacancy, the Co-Presidents or President may nominate an individual to fill the post, and the nomination must be approved by a majority vote of Council at least one week following the nominations.

Article V

Committees of the Council

Section A: Creation of Committees

The Council may create or abolish student committees, except for standing committees, at its discretion. All committees so created and the standing committees are under the direct jurisdiction of the Council, which has the right to veto any of their actions.

Section B: Standing Committees

1. Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Co-Presidents, or President, the five Vice Presidents, and the Treasurer.
- b. The Executive Committee will be chaired by one of the Co- Presidents or the President.
- c. The Executive Committee shall screen nominations for Council appointments, advise the Co-Presidents or President, and shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the College Council when the Council is in summer recess.

2. Finance Committee

- a. The Finance Committee shall be composed of the Treasurer and three to fifteen other members selected by the Executive Committee, with at least one member from each of the rising Senior, Junior, and Sophomore classes.
- b. The Finance Committee shall advise the Council in the distribution of the Student Activities Tax.

Section C: Student-Faculty and Student-Administration Committees

Student-Faculty and Student-Administration committees are established under the respective joint authority of the Council and Faculty and the Council and Administration. The Executive Committee shall set procedures for the election or appointment of students to the aforementioned committees and shall supervise the student membership of the aforementioned committees.

Section D: Removal of Committee Members

Any student member appointed by the Council to sit on a College committee may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.

Article VI

Student Assembly

Section A: Powers

The Student Assembly shall have the legislative powers set forth in this Constitution, provided a quorum of 250 Williams College students is in attendance. These powers shall include the reversal of a previous College Council decision. A Student Assembly decision may be overturned by a student referendum or by a two-thirds majority vote of Council.

Section B: Agenda

The organizers of the Student Assembly shall decide on an agenda and select a moderator. The College Council shall be responsible for monitoring the Student Assembly and authenticating its decisions.

Section C: Publicity

One week of publicity through most available channels must precede a Student Assembly.

Article VII

Referenda and Constitutional Amendments

Section A: Referenda

1. Referenda shall be conducted on a two-thirds vote of the Council, or upon specific petition of at least ten percent of the student body.
2. At least one-third of the students enrolled at the College must vote in a referendum for it to be valid.
3. Two weeks of publicity through all available channels is required before a referendum can come up for a vote. The Council is responsible for such publicity.
4. The Council may only overturn referenda with a three-fourths majority.

Section B: Constitutional Amendments

Constitutional amendments may be proposed by a four-fifths majority of the College Council and ratified by a two-thirds majority of the Student Body voting in a referendum. The College Council must take appropriate measures to inform and educate the Study Body about the changes proposed.

Article VIII

Dissolution

Section A: Vote of No Confidence

A vote of no confidence may be initiated upon the specific petition of at least twenty percent of the student body.

Section B: Publicity

Two weeks of publicity by the petitioners through all available channels will be required before such a vote. All voting tools of College Council will be made available to the petitioners.

Section C: Relinquishment of Office

Upon a vote of no confidence by a majority of the student body, all members of the College Council shall relinquish office. Each class year shall elect a representative to a temporary Elections Commission, which shall conduct elections according to the principles of representation set forth in this Constitution.

This Constitution was adopted by the Williams Student Body on September 05, 2012 and last amended on February 27, 2016.

Williams College Council