

Wichita State University

Student Government Association

S.B. 67-183

Short Title:	<i>Amendment to the Student Bill of Rights</i>
Primary Sponsor:	<i>Senator Andrew Hatch</i>
Co-Sponsor (s):	<i>Annie Wasinger, Chairperson Adriana Owens, Speaker Victoria Owens, Senator Katrina Henley, Vice President Phan, Student Body President Kylee Hower</i>
Introduced:	March 28, 2025
Read 1 st Time	April 2, 2025
Referred to Committee	<i>Diversity, Empowerment, and Inclusion</i>
Committee Action	-
Read 2 nd Time	April 23, 2025
Senate Action	Unanimous Consent
Presidential Decision	Decided by the President

Amendment to the Student Bill of Rights

IN THE STUDENT SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLED

Senator Andrew Hatch introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Diversity, Empowerment, and Inclusion for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee concerned

As Clerk of the Senate, I hereby certify this vote was conducted in a free and fair manner pursuant the Association's Rules and Regulations

Noah Carter

Clerk of the Student Senate

Victoria Owens

Speaker of the Senate

Kylee Hower

Student Body President

Act 1. Suggest Faculty Senate amend the Student Bill of Rights to contain protections against discrimination and promote accessibility on campus. The edits will read as follows:

The Student Bill of Rights

Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students

Approved and Enacted by the Student Senate, by the Faculty Senate, and by the President of the University on 2012-08-08. Amended from the Student Bill of Rights previously approved and enacted in 04-1968 and on 2000-05-04.

Preamble

All students of this University have a guaranteed safeguard for their rights as members of this Association: these rights exist because they are held to be the means through which mankind achieves its greatest fulfillment. A bill of rights exists to prevent encroachment upon this freedom.

This relationship should be no less for the academic community which seeks to promote similar ideals and associations. Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students and the general well-being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals.

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community. Students should exercise their freedom with responsibility.

To ensure that all students of the academic community of Wichita State University have access to the opportunities for growth and learning, this enumeration of the safeguard is intended. To ensure that this freedom is not betrayed, safeguards are incorporated that protect its permanence and create a responsible attitude in the minds of the students enjoying this liberty.

Article I: Classroom Freedom

Section 1. Protection of Freedom of Expression

Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.

Section 2. Protection Against Improper Academic Evaluation

Students are responsible for maintaining standards for academic performance established for courses in which they are enrolled. At the same time, they should have protection against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation. To provide this protection, the Court of Student Academic Appeals is empowered to review all cases of academic dispute that arise; request all information and witnesses' necessary to render a decision; and have the final authority in all such cases.

Section 3. Protection Against Improper Disclosure

Information about student views, beliefs, and political associations which professors acquire in the course of their work as instructors, advisors, and counselors should be considered confidential according to the guidelines laid out in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Protection against improper disclosure is a serious professional obligation. Judgment of ability and character may be provided under appropriate circumstances, but only with the knowledge and consent of the student.

Article II: Student Records

Section 1. Maintenance of Records

To minimize the risk of improper disclosure of student records, academic and disciplinary records shall be separate, except in rare cases, and the conditions of access to each shall be set forth in an explicit policy statement. Transcripts of academic records shall contain only information about academic status.

Section 2. Access to Student Records

Information from disciplinary or counseling files shall not be available to unauthorized persons on campus, or to any person off campus without the express consent of the student involved except under legal compulsion or in the cases where the safety of persons or property is involved in following with FERPA.

Section 3. Excluded Records

No records shall be kept which reflect the political activities or beliefs of students unless such information is of vital interest in Conduct Hearing records per the University Code of Conduct.

Section 4. Periodic Elimination of Records

Provision shall be made for periodic routine destruction of non-current disciplinary records according to the University's Records Retention Schedule policy. Administrative staff and faculty members must respect confidential information about students which they acquire in the course of their work.

Article III: Student Affairs

Section 1. Freedom of Association

Students bring to the campus a variety of interests previously acquired and develop many new interests as members of the academic community. They should be free to organize and join associations to promote their common interests.

Clause 1. The membership, policies, and actions of a student organization will be determined by vote of only those students who hold bonafide membership on the college or university community.

Clause 2. Affiliation with an extramural organization does not of itself disqualify a student organization from institutional recognition.

Clause 3. If campus advisors are required, each organization shall be free to choose its own advisor. Campus advisors may advise

organizations in the exercise of responsibility, but they do not have authority to control the policy of such organization.

Clause 4. Campus organizations, including those affiliated with an extramural organization, shall be open to all students without respect to race, creed, **gender, sexual orientation, disability,** or national origin, except for religious qualification which may be required by organizations whose aims are primarily sectarian.

Clause 5. No officially recognized campus organization shall be deprived of that recognition for reasons other than violations of the criteria set forth in the preceding five (5) clauses, or criteria established by Student Government Association Statutes.

Section 2. Freedom of Inquiry and Expression

Clause 1. Students and student organizations shall be free to examine and to discuss all questions of interest to them, and to express opinions publicly and privately. They shall be free to support causes by orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and essential operations of the University. At the same time, it must be made clear to the academic and the larger community that in their public expressions or demonstrations students or student organizations speak for themselves.

Clause 2. Students shall be allowed to invite and to hear any person of their own choosing.

Those routine procedures required by the University before a guest speaker is invited to appear on campus shall be designated only to ensure that there is orderly scheduling of facilities and adequate preparation for the event, and that the occasion is conducted in a manner appropriate to an academic community. University control of campus facilities shall not be used as a device of censorship. It must be made clear to the academic and larger community that sponsorship of guest speakers does not necessarily imply approval or endorsement of the views expressed, either by the sponsoring group or the University.

Section 3. Student Participation in University Government

As constituents of the academic community, students shall be free, individually and collectively, to express their views on issues of University policy and on matters of general interest of the student body; and this right participation shall be outlined by the Wichita State University Student Code of Conduct.

Section 4. Freedom of Student Communications

Clause 1. The student press and radio shall be free of censorship and advance approval of copy.

Clause 2. Editors and managers of student communications shall be protected from arbitrary suspension and removal because of student, faculty, administrative, or public disapproval of editorial policy or content. Only for proper and stated causes shall editors and managers be subject to removal. The agency responsible for the appointment of editors and managers shall be the agency

responsible for their removal, such action shall be subject to the Vice President of Student Affairs' ratification.

- Clause 3.* All University published and financed student communications shall explicitly state on the editorial page or in broadcast that the opinions that are expressed by them are not necessarily those of the college, University, or student body.
- Clause 4.* For the expression of contrary views, equal time and space should be allowed for those wishing to express their views according to the Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures manual of the University.
- Clause 5.* A student or student organization has the right to publish and distribute written materials on campus without the approval of the administration; further, the administration shall make no effort to suppress such publication unless their distributions disrupt the regular and essential operations of the University. The student press and radio shall be free of censorship and prior approval of copy, except that radio station and University rules and policies concerning radio operations shall comply with all applicable federal statutes, rules, and regulations.
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Article IV: Student Citizenship

Section 1. Exercise of Rights of Citizenship

College and university students are both citizens and members of the academic community. As citizens, students shall enjoy the same freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and right of petition that other citizens enjoy and as members of the academic community, they are subject to the obligations which accrue to them by virtue of this membership.

Section 2. Faculty and Administration Restraint

Faculty members and administrative officials should ensure that University powers are not employed to inhibit such intellectual and personal development of students as is often promoted by their exercise of the rights of citizenship both on and off campus.

Section 3. University Penalties

Students who violate the law may incur penalties prescribed by civil authorities. Only where the University's interests as an academic community are distinctly and clearly involved should the special authority of the institution be asserted.

Section 4. Incidental Violations

The student who incidentally violates University regulations in the course of their off-campus activity shall be subject to no greater penalty than should normally be imposed. Institutional action shall be independent of community pressure.

Article V: Standards in Disciplinary Proceedings

Section 1. Standards of Conduct Expected of Students

Wichita State University has an obligation to clarify those standards of behavior which it considers essential to its educational mission and its community life. Disciplinary proceedings shall be instituted only for violations of the University's Student Code of Conduct.

Section 2. Investigation of Student Conduct

Students detected or arrested in the course of serious violations of University regulations, or infractions of ordinary law, should be informed of their rights. No form of harassment should be used by University representatives to coerce admissions of guilt or information about conduct of other suspected persons.

Section 3. Status of Student Pending Final Action

Pending action on the charges, the status of a student shall not be altered, or their rights to be present on the campus and to attend classes suspended, except for reasons delineated in the Student Code of Conduct such as those relating to their physical or emotional safety and well-being, or for reasons relating to the safety and well-being of students, faculty, or University property.

Article VI: Universal Protections

Section 1. Discrimination

No student shall be precluded from full participation or discriminated against in any way at Wichita State University, ~~nor discriminated against in any way~~, including within the domains of funding, participation, evaluation, registration, advising, attending, housing, or any other aspect of University life. Protected classes include, but are not limited to, race, ethnicity, nation of origin, culture, religion, creed, or lack thereof, age, veteran status, gender, sexuality, or disability. Discrimination against people with disabilities includes, but is not limited to, failure to provide reasonable accommodation for said disability, or failure to make Wichita State University accessible to students with disabilities. Accessible means a person with a disability is afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same ~~interactions~~ activities, and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an equally effective and substantially equivalent ease of use.

Act 2. Send the suggested changes to the Student Bill of Rights to Faculty Senate for approval.