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# Constitution of The University Student Senate of The New School 2024-2025

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*Adopted by the Senate on the  
May 10th General Meeting of 2024 by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  +1 majority*

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## PREAMBLE

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*We, the students of The New School, in order to form a representative student government; to better unify student voices and facilitate interactions across the divisions; to provide for a mutual and beneficial forum of discussion with members of the faculty, staff, and leadership; to enrich our educational, social, and cultural experiences; and to advocate for our needs and flourishing through engagement and participation with the various University decision- and policy-making bodies; establish this Constitution of University Student Senate of the New School.*

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## ARTICLE I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

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### **Section 1. Name.**

- (a) The name of the organization which shall carry out the goals of the preamble shall be ‘University Student Senate of The New School,’ henceforth referred to as ‘The University Student Senate,’ or ‘USS.’

### **Section 2. Authority.**

- (a) The authority of this constitution is the basis for all business of the USS. The USS or any members thereof shall not act in any way that is contrary to this constitution.
- (b) The University Student Senate’s authority to organize is derived from the Administration and the Board of Trustees of the New School. The University Student Senate shall follow the policies and procedures governing the conduct of student organizations set out by the Administration and the Board of Trustees at The New School.
- (c) The University Student Senate shall encourage the establishments of, and recognize the individual Divisions, Departments, and Programs of The New School.

### **Section 3. Mission.**

- (a) The University Student Senate is a student-elected shared-governance body composed of student representatives from CoPA, Lang, NSSR, SPE, and Parsons. We work to better unify the voices of the diverse New School students and to foster a sense of belonging for all students, regardless of social marginalization, through the enrichment of our educational, social, and cultural experiences and through the advocacy of our needs and flourishing with the decision- and policy-making bodies of The New School.

#### **Section 4. Non-Discrimination Clause.**

- (a) This Constitution recognizes the dignity of all persons and their right to respect, justice, and a welcoming environment. We do not discriminate on the basis of personal attributes, these include but are not limited to: race, color, ethnicity, nationality, age, sex, gender, sexuality, difference in ability, religion, veteran status, socioeconomic status, marital status, and pregnancy status.

#### **Section 5. Membership.**

- (a) Every degree-, diploma-, certificate-, and credit-seeking student of The New School is encouraged to attend Senate meetings as a non-voting member of the Senate.
  - (i) These members will be able to observe, speak, and share their ideas, but will not be granted an official vote.
- (b) Every student needs to be in good academic standing and without disciplinary probation to be eligible to run as a voting member of the Senate, or a Senator
  - (i) “Good academic standing” means a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher for undergraduate students and 3.0 or higher for graduate students.
  - (ii) Every student must be registered for a full time course load to be eligible to run as a voting member of the senate, or a Senator
- (c) Any student who is enrolled in more than one division will be asked to select one division to represent as a Senator.
- (d) Any student removed from their Senatorship shall be ineligible to serve as a Senator for the following academic year.
- (e) Advisors without voting power will be appointed by the New School Administration to assist the University Student Senate with legal and procedural concerns as needed.

#### **Section 6. Composition.**

- (a) Two (2) Senators shall be elected to represent a Division with less than two-hundred (1-200) students.
- (b) Three (3) Senators shall be elected to represent a Division with two-hundred-and-one students to four-hundred (201-400) students.
- (c) Four (4) Senators shall be elected to represent a Division with four-hundred-and-one students to one-thousand (401-700) students.
- (d) Five (5) Senators shall be elected to represent a Division with one-thousand-and-one students to fifteen-hundred (701-1100) students.
- (e) Six (6) Senators shall be elected to represent a Division with fifteen-hundred-and-one to twenty-two-hundred (1101-1600) students
- (f) Seven (7) Senators shall be elected to represent a Division with more than twenty-two-hundred (1601+) students.
- (g) The number of Senators within the USS for a given academic year will be determined by the enrollment of the spring semester of the previous academic year.

## **Section 7. Structure.**

- (a) The University Student Senate shall be composed of five standing Committees: the Communications Committee, the Finance Committee, the Advocacy Committee, the Engagement Committee and the Executive Board.
- (b) The Communication Committee shall be composed of one Director of Communications, committee members, and non-voting advisors as necessary
- (c) The Finance Committee shall be composed of one Director of Finance, committee members, and non-voting advisors as necessary
- (d) The Advocacy Committee shall be composed of one Director of Advocacy, committee members, and non-voting advisors as necessary
- (e) The Engagement Committee shall be composed of one Director of Engagement, committee members, and non-voting advisors as necessary
- (f) The Executive Board shall be composed of one Chair, one Vice Chair (VC), one Director of Operations, one Director of Advocacy (DoA), one Director of Engagement (DoE), one Director of Communications (DoC), and one Director of Finance (DoF).
- (g) The Representative Board shall be composed of all Senators not on the Executive Board.

## **Section 8. Conflict of Interest Clause.**

(a). Senators who hold leadership positions within University organizations, including but not limited to administrative roles, department heads, or representatives of other governing bodies, are subject to restrictions regarding conflicts of interest. They must recuse themselves (abstain during voting) on financial policies, resolutions, proposals, and other such decisions directly affecting their organization to ensure impartiality, transparency, and maintain the Senate as an independent organization.

- a. Leadership positions shall be defined as any position other than member;
- b. University organizations shall be defined as any organization other than the USS primarily made up of New School Students regardless of affiliation.

(b) Additionally, senators holding leadership positions are prohibited from advocating for or influencing decisions on behalf of their department or area of responsibility during Senate deliberations or discussions. They must recuse themselves from any discussions where a conflict of interest arises and refrain from attempting to sway the opinions or votes of other senators on matters that directly affect their area of jurisdiction.

- c. However, this will not prevent them from introducing proposals pertaining to their organization.

(c) In the event of a potential conflict of interest, the member in question must truthfully declare their conflict prior to any discussion or voting on relevant matters if requested by a fellow Senator.

(d) This Conflict of Interest Clause shall be clearly communicated to all members and potential members of the Senate to ensure awareness and compliance with its provisions. Senators are expected to uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct and transparency in their service to the University community.

(e) Senators who hold an executive position within University organizations or are subject to non-disclosure agreements with University organizations shall be prohibited from serving as Chair.

- d. Executive position shall be defined as the highest full-time position or positions within a University organization.
- e. University organizations shall be defined as any organization other than the USS primarily made up of New School Students regardless of affiliation.
- f. Student workers employed by University departments that do not hold other leadership positions shall be exempt from this clause.

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## **ARTICLE II: POWERS AND DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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### **Section 1. Chair of the University Student Senate.**

- (a) There shall be one Chair for the University Student Senate.
- (b) A Senator who has served on the USS for at least one full academic year will have the opportunity to run for Chair. If there are no candidates that fulfill this requirement or if a Chair cannot be elected for any other reason during the Executive Board elections, this requirement shall be suspended and the candidacy pool shall be opened to all elected Senators.
- (c) A Senator may not be elected as the Chair for more than two consecutive academic years.
- (d) Propose objectives for their Senate in collaboration with the VC for the academic year, which may be presented at the first general meeting of each semester.
- (e) The Chair shall ensure the efficient and effective operation of the USS, presiding over and directing its activities
- (f) Shall set the agenda, call for, moderate, attend and facilitate all General meetings, Executive Board meetings, and other special sessions.
- (g) Act as the liaison to The New School Administration, including the Board of Trustees, the Chair's Leadership Team, the Deans of each School and University governance organizations including the University Faculty Senate, University Staff Senate, as well as any other applicable New School governing, representative, and advisory bodies.

- (h) Strive to achieve student involvement in the policy, decision-making, as well as other operational processes of the University and further the goal of shared governance
- (i) Facilitate Senate official votes, either in-person or online in conjunction with the VC and DoO
- (j) Receive and review reports from Directors and Chairs regarding ongoing projects, making them available on the USS Cloud Storage for Senators.
- (k) Receive the monthly reports from each senator in collaboration with the VC
- (l) Make best efforts to attend other USS-related meetings and events
- (m) Meet with USS advisor and VC weekly and delegate tasks to other members of the Executive Board and Representative Board accordingly to achieve USS goals
- (n) Offer operational support to all senators
- (o) Fostering a positive and inclusive environment, promoting teamwork and collaboration on the Executive Board and wider Senate, ensuring all actions taken on behalf of the USS are in compliance with the Constitution
- (p) Report to the Executive and wider Senate on important developments regarding University-related affairs, updates to major USS projects, and meetings involving Administration officials in a timely and transparent manner to the best of their ability, especially during emergency situations
- (q) Familiarize themselves with their role and responsibilities using transition documents created by their predecessor(s) and the Constitution as the basis
- (r) Plan and facilitate the Orientations and Retreats in collaboration with the VC and DoO
- (s) Create transition documents for the next Senator taking on their position and ensure the incoming Chair is aware of ongoing major USS initiatives and projects
- (t) Review and be responsible for major projects and initiatives of the previous Senate from transition documents
- (u) As the Chair represents the entire student body, the runner-up candidate for their original position shall be automatically considered elected as Senator and informed by the DoO, if the runner-up is unable to fulfill that position for any reason, a special election shall be held pursuant to Article VIII, Section 4.
- (v) Upon the resignation, impeachment, or if the Chair is no longer able to fulfill their constitutional duties for any other reason, the VC shall automatically become Chair. If the VC is unable to fulfill this role for any reason, a Special Executive Board election for Chair shall be held pursuant to Article VIII Section 7.
- (w) A Chair wishing to resign as Chair but remain a Senator shall be permitted to do so, upon which they shall hold the position of a Senator and shall be required to carry out all corresponding Senatorial duties, unless they choose to resign from their Senatorship as well.

## **Section 2. Vice Chair of the University Student Senate**

- (a) There shall be one Vice Chair (VC) for the University Student Senate.
- (b) A Senator must have served on the USS for at least one full academic year in order to run for VC; if no candidates that fulfill this requirement, or if a VC cannot be elected



for any other reason during the Executive Board elections, this requirement shall be suspended and the candidacy pool shall be opened to all elected Senators.

- (c) A Senator may not be elected as VC for more than two consecutive years.
- (d) Maintain decorum and ensure that Gnarl's Rules as well as the Constitution are being followed at all times during General, Executive Board, and all other applicable meetings.
- (e) Compile and send out the General and Executive Board Meeting Agenda to the Senate at least 24 hours before each meeting according to templates established by the DoO.
- (f) Communicate strikes according to attendance records provided by the DoO and strike and non-strike related suspensions in accordance to the Constitution and in consultation with the Chair and USS Advisor
- (g) Call for, moderate, attend and facilitate all General meetings, Executive Board meetings, and other special sessions, facilitate official Senate votes, either in-person or online, in the absence of the Chair
- (h) Review and familiarize the USS Constitution, its framework and essential articles, and be a resource for the USS on constitutional issues and help resolve any conflicts with the guidance of the advisor and Chair in an efficient and prudent manner
- (i) Coordinate, and offer operational support to the activities of the Committee Directors
- (j) Meet with the Committee Directors and the DoO weekly
- (k) Fostering a positive and inclusive environment, promoting teamwork and collaboration in the Representative Board and wider Senate, ensuring all actions taken on behalf of the USS are in compliance with the Constitution
- (l) Receive and review monthly reports from Senators, creating a compiled document to be made available to other Senators on the USS Cloud Storage
- (m) Support the objectives set by the Chair for the Senate for the academic year, aid the duties of the Chair and Committee Directors, and meet with other University stakeholders on behalf of the USS when necessary
- (n) Be a resource for the Senate on RSOs, which shall include but are not limited to: informing all RSOs of the election of a new Senate prior to the beginning of the funding period through a welcome email; creating and maintaining a list of all currently existing RSOs as well as collecting the contact info of one point person for each active RSO on the USS Google Drive; as well as devising strategies for more efficient governance of RSOs in collaboration with the DoF and DoE.
- (o) As the VC represents the entire student body, the runner-up candidate for their original position shall be automatically considered elected as Senator and informed by the Director of Operations, if the runner-up is unable to fulfill that position for any reason, the next runner up shall be contacted. If all runners up are exhausted, a special election shall be held pursuant to Article VIII, Section 4.
- (p) Create transition documents for the next senator taking on their position and ensure that the incoming VC is familiar with the Constitution as well as Gnarl's Rules

- (q) Upon the impeachment, resignation, or incapacity of the Chair, the VC shall become Chair and assume all roles and responsibilities for the remainder of the academic year. A Special Executive Board Election for a replacement VC shall be held.
- (r) A Vice Chair wishing to resign as Vice Chair but remain a Senator shall be permitted to do so, upon which they shall hold the position of a Senator and shall be required to carry out all corresponding Senatorial duties, unless they choose to resign from their Senatorship as well.

### **Section 3. Director of Advocacy.**

- (a) There shall be one Director of Advocacy (DoA) for the University Student Senate.
- (b) A Senator may not be elected for the DoA position for more than two consecutive years.
- (c) A Senator must have served on the USS for at least one semester in order to run for DoA; if there are no candidates that fulfill this requirement, or if a DoA cannot be elected for any other reason during the Executive Board elections, this requirement shall be suspended and the candidacy pool shall be opened to all elected Senators.
- (d) Shall attend and facilitate all Advocacy Committee meetings, at least twice a month
- (e) The DoA shall direct the activities of the Advocacy Committee, facilitating any voting that may take place
- (f) Gather, review, and respond to committee member reports once per month, and provide monthly Chair reports to the Chair and VC
- (g) The DoA shall be attentive and proactive in staying informed on current and emerging areas of student concerns and advocacy issues.
- (h) Collaborate with the Advocacy Committee in formulating and making appropriate adjustments to effective Advocacy campaigns to address student concerns and advocacy issues, envisioning all possible steps involved based on projects, initiatives, proposals, applications, data collection and analysis, strategic planning, collaboration and funding
- (i) Coordinate and provide aid to Advocacy Committee members on their advocacy projects, helping members brainstorm ideas and assigning projects to members without projects where needed, particularly at the beginning of each semester
- (j) Bringing student concerns and advocacy issues to the awareness of appropriate members of the Executive Board and the Senate in a timely manner
- (k) Setting Advocacy goals for the Advocacy Committee and the Senate in collaboration with the Executive Board and providing updates at each General Meeting
- (l) Meet with staff of established offices of the New School administration and any other applicable members of the New School at least twice per semester to push for a permanent shared governance solution to address student concerns and advocacy issues
- (m) Ensure USS representation, typically in the form of an Undergraduate and Graduate USS representative, by informing the Senate of and facilitating appointments to fill vacancies in collaboration with the Chair.
- (n) Participate in the organization of Town Halls, proposing topics, setting Advocacy agendas, prioritizing urgent needs, under addressed issues, and underserved colleges

in collaboration with appropriate members of the Executive Board and particularly the Engagement and Communication Committees

- (o) Collaborate with the Engagement and Communications Committee on advocacy-related issues
- (p) Engage advocacy groups at the University and take steps towards coalition building
- (q) Fostering a positive and inclusive environment, promoting teamwork and collaboration in the Advocacy Committee and wider Senate, ensuring all actions taken on behalf of the USS are in compliance with the Constitution
- (r) Offer additional operational support, assign projects, and delegate responsibilities to Advocacy committee members when necessary.
- (s) Offer Advocacy recommendations and other related operational support to Senators
- (t) Appoint, dismiss, and meet with Advocacy advisor(s) as needed
- (u) Delegate a committee member to take attendance and minutes at committee meetings to be made available to other Senate members.
- (v) Ensure the preservation of major advocacy campaigns of their term and all related documentation on the USS Cloud Storage for future Senates
- (w) Create transition documents for the next senator taking on their position, ensuring they are aware of ongoing advocacy campaigns

#### **Section 4. Director of Operations**

*Responsibilities under this section are currently being undertaken by the Chief of Staff by a vote of the 2024-2025 Senate.*

- (a) There shall be one Director of Operations for the University Student Senate.
- (b) A Senator may not be elected as the Director of Operations for more than two consecutive years.
- (c) A Senator must have served on the USS for at least one semester in order to run for Director of Operations; if there are no candidates that fulfill this requirement or if a Director of Operations cannot be elected for any other reason during the Executive Board elections, this requirement shall be suspended and the candidacy pool shall be opened to all elected Senators.
- (d) The Director of Operations shall coordinate and maintain a schedule of office hours for all Senators
- (e) Meet with other Committee Directors, and the VC bi-weekly
- (f) Monitor, enrich, and facilitate the usage of the USS Office in a prudent and effective manner, taking responsibility for its cleanliness, organization, and possible future expansion
- (g) Ensure the availability of relevant supplies for the USS Office and all other USS-related meetings and events in collaboration with Chairs, Senate members, and the USS Advisor including the procurement of New School related merchandise at least once per semester
- (h) Take General and Executive board meeting minutes in an organized and coherent fashion to be made available to Senators within a reasonable time before the next

Senate meeting, as well as any high-level inter-organization meetings according to their availability

- (i) Record and tally votes for each General, Executive, and any other applicable meeting in a transparent manner, carrying out the parameters and format of each vote as decided by the Senate and according to the Constitution, making the results available as soon as voting ends, as well as aiding any Senator(s) in clarifying the wording of their motion prior to a vote, transmitting a voting form through email for online votes.
- (j) Take and maintain the records of the attendance of each General, Executive, and any other applicable meeting in a fair and responsible manner.
- (k) Maintaining and making available all minutes, agendas, vote tallies, attendance records, an inventory of supplies and USS-related items in the USS office, as well as Senator reports created during the academic year to other Senators on the USS Cloud Storage
- (l) Generate and compile a monthly report of the highlighted activities of the USS, including the Boards and various Committees, with a copy to be sent to the Chair and VC
- (m) Senators may request for minutes, votes, and attendance to be taken at other USS-related meetings, which the Director of Operations may agree to at their discretion
- (n) Maintaining a template for agendas to be used by the Senate for the duration of their term
- (o) Add and amend items on the agenda at the request of the Senator(s) responsible for the agenda item in a fair and responsible manner
- (p) Be familiar with, facilitate and schedule all space-related requests for USS-related meetings and any applicable events primarily hosted by the USS in collaboration all relevant staff and Senate members, beginning with Senator orientations in conjunction with the Chair and VC and including but not limited to General Meetings, Events, and Town Halls in an expedient and timely manner
- (q) Provide aid to Committee Directors when necessary
- (r) Aid senators in their individual projects including hosting division-specific town halls and tabling for projects and events
- (s) Ensure the USS is represented at important University events including the Involvement Fair, Orientation, and any other applicable spaces
- (t) Coordinate Senate-wide tabling for major events such as elections and other initiatives by request
- (u) Maintaining impartiality and fairness in carrying out secretarial duties on behalf of the USS, ensuring all actions taken on behalf of the USS are in compliance with the Constitution
- (v) Create transition documents for the next senator taking on their position and ensuring their successor understands how to carry out their duties

## **Section 5. Director of Engagement**

- (a) There shall be one Director of Engagement (DoE) for the University Student Senate.
- (b) A Senator may not be elected as the DoE for more than two consecutive years.

- (c) A Senator must have served on the USS for at least one semester in order to run for DoE; if there are no candidates that fulfill this requirement, or if a DoE cannot be elected for any other reason during the Executive Board elections, this requirement shall be suspended and the candidacy pool shall be opened to all elected Senators.
- (d) Shall attend and facilitate all Engagement Committee meetings, at least twice a month
- (e) The DoE shall direct the activities of the Engagement Committee, facilitating any voting that may take place
- (f) Gather, review, and respond to committee member reports once per month, and provide monthly Chair reports to the Chair and VC
- (g) Meet with other Committee Directors and the VC
- (h) The DoE shall be attentive and proactive in staying informed on current and emerging issues related to community building and the betterment of student life at the New School.
- (i) Collaborate with the Engagement Committee in formulating and making appropriate adjustments to effective Engagement campaigns to better student life and build community at the New School, envisioning all possible steps involved based on events, data collection and analysis, strategic promotion, collaboration and funding
- (j) Collaborate with Engagement Committee members on USS-led events and Engagement initiatives, helping members brainstorm ideas and assigning events and initiatives to members where needed, particularly at the beginning of each semester
- (k) Bringing issues related to the betterment of student life and community building at the New School to the awareness of appropriate members of the Executive Board and the Senate in a timely manner
- (l) Setting Engagement goals for the Engagement Committee and the Senate in collaboration with the Executive Board and providing updates at each General Meeting
- (m) Meet with appropriate staff members of the New School administration to push for shared governance solutions that build community and better student life
- (n) Collaborate with the Office of SLI and the Student Activities Board on hallmark events such as Narwhal Spirit Week and Block Party, ensuring USS involvement and representation at these activities
- (o) Ensure USS involvement and sponsorship of any other major event that might contribute to community building and the betterment of student life, collaborating with appropriate departments and parties and informing the Senate in a timely manner
- (p) Participate in the organization of Town Halls, proposing topics related to community building and student life, setting and coordinating Engagement plans, prioritizing RSO involvement and student turnout in collaboration with appropriate members of the Executive Board and particularly the Advocacy and Communication Committees
- (q) Ensure and increase student turnout at all other public-facing USS activities such as participatory meetings and tabling in collaboration with the Communication Committee
- (r) Collaborate with the Advocacy and Communications Committee on Engagement-related issues

- (s) Take steps to increase outreach to student organizations in collaboration with the VC, including working with student organizations on initiatives and projects and being a resource for RSOs navigating the administrative structure of the New School.
- (t) Provide aid and operational support to Senators in their process of organizing events such as division-specific town halls and university wide projects
- (u) Fostering a positive and inclusive environment, promoting teamwork and collaboration in the Engagement Committee and wider Senate, ensuring all actions taken on behalf of the USS are in compliance with the Constitution
- (v) Appoint, dismiss, and meet with Engagement advisor(s) as needed
- (w) Delegate responsibilities to committee members where necessary as well as delegating a committee member to take attendance and minutes at committee meetings to be made available to other Senate members.
- (x) Create and maintain a roster of all Senate sponsored events as well as all Engagement related documentation on the USS Cloud Storage for future Senates
- (y) Create transition documents for the next senator taking on their position, ensuring they are aware of major Senate events and Engagement efforts

## **Section 6. Director of Finance**

- (a) There shall be one Director of Finance (DoF) for the University Student Senate.
- (b) A Senator may not be elected as the DoF for more than two consecutive years.
- (c) A Senator must have served on the USS for at least one semester in order to run for DoF; if there are no candidates that fulfill this requirement, or if a DoF cannot be elected for any other reason during the Executive Board elections, this requirement shall be suspended and the candidacy pool shall be opened to all elected Senators.
- (d) Direct the activities of the Finance Committee
- (e) Gather, review, and respond to committee member reports once per month, and provide monthly Chair reports to the Chair and VC
- (f) Meet with other Committee Directors and the VC
- (g) Be familiar with the RSO funding guidelines issued by the Office of SLI
- (h) Coordinate the allocation of the USS budget with the New School Administration
- (i) Review Senate funding guidelines and the annual budget at the beginning of each academic year and as necessary, in consultation with the Senate, USS Advisors, and transition documents
- (j) Create a budget rubric for the semester in line with the funding guidelines, making it and any ensuing changes to it available to the public on the USS Website as well as other members of the Senate
- (k) Present the budget at the first General Meeting of each semester for approval by majority quorum vote. No additional allocation of USS funding of any purpose shall take place after that date unless the budget has been presented by the DoF and approved.
- (l) Identify and make recommendations to the Senate about the annual budget, funding guidelines and other priorities during the academic year as well as for future Senates
- (m) Oversee the USS funding process and the USS budget in a fair, transparent responsible manner

- (n) Make every effort to ensure that information regarding USS funding is available to RSOs, Senators, and any other parties in a timely and coherent manner, particularly during periods of emergency funding needs
- (o) Act as the liaison on finance related issues with the Office of SLI
- (p) Review the RSO funding guidelines in conjunction with SLI to takes steps to ensure that USS funding is a distinct and independent process in line with University guidelines
- (q) Collaborate with the VC to devise strategies to ensure smoother governance of RSOs
- (r) Shall attend and facilitate bi-weekly Finance Committee meetings and regular Funding Meetings according to the funding schedule as well as any votes that may take place
- (s) Appoint, dismiss, and meet with Finance Advisor(s) as needed
- (t) Ensure that the USS logo is present on all advertising documents of approved proposals in a prominent manner
- (u) Delegate responsibilities to committee members as needed
- (v) Delegate a committee member to take attendance and minutes at committee meetings to be made available to other Senate members
- (w) Fostering a positive and inclusive environment, promoting teamwork and collaboration in the Finance Committee and wider Senate, ensuring all actions taken on behalf of the USS are in compliance with the Constitution
- (x) Ensure the USS is represented during University budget related discussions
- (y) Create and maintain a list of alternative funding opportunities for students and RSOs in collaboration with DoE
- (z) Create transition documents for the next senator taking on their position and ensure they reach out to the USS advisor to better understand their roles and responsibilities

## **Section 7. Director of Communications.**

- (a) There shall be one Director of Communications (DoC) for the University Student Senate.
- (b) A Senator may not be elected as the DoC position for more than two consecutive years.
- (c) A Senator must have served on the USS for at least one semester in order to run for DoC; if there are no candidates that fulfill this requirement, or if a DoC cannot be elected for any other reason during the Executive Board elections, this requirement shall be suspended and the candidacy pool shall be opened to all elected Senators
- (d) Direct the activities of the Communications Committee.
- (e) Shall attend and facilitate all Communications Committee meetings at least twice per month as well as any votes that may take place
- (f) Gather, review, and respond to committee member reports once per month, and provide monthly Chair reports to the Chair and VC
- (g) Meet with other Committee Directors and the VC bi-weekly
- (h) Manage and oversee all official social media, website, University/college-wide emails, and other applicable content, communications, and associated promotional activities of the USS in an efficient, timely, and responsible manner, which includes but is not limited to: designing posters and flyers, coordinating its distribution, as well as sharing important University, USS and event announcements.

- (i) Maintaining and managing all aforementioned communications related materials of the current Senate term to be made available for other Senators on the USS Google Drive
- (j) Restore and maintain a minimum presence of USS accounts on Twitter and Facebook until a more permanent social media plan can be developed regarding these websites
- (k) Coordinate representation of the USS in newsletters and other promotional spaces at the University
- (l) Requesting corrections on information related to the USS is reflected accurately in non-official USS media outlets such as University announcements and news articles when necessary
- (m) Ensure coherence and consistency of communication on all official USS channels.
- (n) Devise a social media strategy for the academic year with goals for growth and engagement targets, making progress reports and recommendations to the Senate at the end of each semester
- (o) Create a social media budget in collaboration with the DoF if necessary
- (p) Respond to inquiries, messages, and any other applicable communications on official USS social media channels and/or redirect them to appropriate senate members at least twice a week.
- (q) Maintain an environment on official USS social media channels pursuant to Article 1 Section 4
- (r) Provide additional promotional support to members of the Senate on an as needed basis in a fair and responsible manner
- (s) Fostering a positive and inclusive environment, promoting teamwork and collaboration in the Communications Committee and wider Senate, ensuring all actions taken on behalf of the USS are in compliance with the Constitution
- (t) Appoint, dismiss, and meet with Communications Advisors as necessary
- (u) Delegate responsibilities to committee members as needed
- (v) Delegate a committee member to take attendance and minutes at committee meetings to be made available to other Senate members
- (w) Create transition documents for the next senator taking on their position and ensure they have access to all official USS social media accounts

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## **Article III: POWERS AND DUTIES OF REPRESENTATIVE BOARD**

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### **Section 1: General Powers and Duties**

- (a) Uphold the mission of the University Student Senate as outlined in the Preamble.
- (b) Attend all USS General, Committee, Emergency, and other necessary Meetings.
- (c) Participate in one (1) USS committee.
- (d) Actively engage in promoting legislation, policies, and initiatives that enhance student experiences at the New School.



- (e) Advocate for the students of the division(s) to the rest of the USS and the administration.
- (f) Co-Host at least one (1) town hall, each semester with senators from the same Division for designated school constituents.
- (g) Represent the USS and the interests of the student body during meetings with constituents, administration, faculty, staff, and the press.
- (h) Send a one page minimum document to the Chair, VC, and Director of their committee once a month consisting of sections divided as follows: Senator Report, Lead Report, and Committee Member Report as an update on the fulfillment of their duties
- (i) Hold office hours regularly, as coordinated by the DoO
- (j) Execute all duties, both explicit and implicit, in good faith while being respectful to others.
- (k) All Senators must staff at least one (1) event a year organized or co-sponsored by the USS.
- (l) Create transition documents for the next senator taking on their position

## **Section 2. Specific Powers and Duties of Communication Committee Members**

- (i) There shall be (at least) three members of the Communication committee
- (ii) The Director of Communications and the Communication Committee cannot assume their duties without setting a regular bi-weekly meeting time for the whole committee
- (iii) Participate in delegating duties among Communication Committee members, and creating a schedule for the below duties
- (iv) Oversee and manage the USS social media accounts based on a set schedule, including posting on stories, creating posts, and drafting graphics
  - (1) Update the account to reflect the current activity of the USS, student organizations, and other activities inside The New School.
  - (2) Actively engage with the New School community and respond to comments, messages, and questions on social media
- (v) Create visual materials, including but not limited to infographics and posters to support USS online and offline engagements with the TNS community.
- (vi) Those visual materials shall include, but not limited to the following categories:
  - (1) USS meetings schedules and events
  - (2) University Policies
  - (3) University Finances
- (vii) Draft university-wide emails, including, but not limited to the following categories:
  - (1) Issue-specific updates
  - (2) General USS and committee updates,
  - (3) Student resources information
  - (4) USS events and town hall schedules

- (5) Election related updates
- (viii) Maintain and update the website and NarwhalNation content, including, but not limited to the following categories:
  - (1) Meeting minutes and agendas, weekly
  - (2) Future meeting dates and agendas, weekly
  - (3) Student organizations funded, bi-weekly
  - (4) Senate events, as needed
  - (5) Senator profiles, as needed
  - (6) TNS updates and policies, as needed
- (b) Common Duties and Responsibilities of the Committee members:
  - (i) Create contents in cohesive styles that aligns with USS values and promotes engagement with students
  - (ii) Keep records of USS-related documents and external meetings notes
  - (iii) Report to the DoC bi-weekly on the progress of their work

### **Section 3. Specific Powers and Duties of Advocacy Committee Members**

*Please note that this section of the constitution was suspended by the Interim 2023-2024 Senate with the specification that new clauses on Lead Roles for all committees shall be drafted.*

### **Section 4. Specific Powers and Duties of Finance Committee Members**

Common Duties and responsibilities of the Committee members:

- (i) There shall be four members of the Finance Committee.
- (ii) Review in advance all proposals that are being presented.
- (iii) Have a full understanding of the funding guidelines in order to make sound decisions.
- (iv) Attend all funding meetings
- (v) Use the funding rubric in order for decisions to be quantified.
- (vi) Participate in the production of an end-of-year report (audit) that will reflect all the USS expenses of the academic year
- (vii) Keep an up-to-date and detailed financial statement of USS spending and operational budget for the academic year
- (viii) Update funding requests by date, organization (event, project, etc) names, amount requested, and amount awarded in the annual financial statement.
- (ix) Update the archive of financial statements at the end of each academic year
- (x) Advise the USS on internal spending and budget allocations for external projects and events
- (xi) Report to the DoF monthly on the financial status of the USS
- (xii) Support student organizations and interested students in understanding the USS funding process and funding parameters

- (xiii) Help student organizations, interested students and Senators to prepare their budget presentations and itemized budget to USS funding meetings
- (xiv) Support USS-funded student organizations and students in utilizing their funds
- (xv) Support USS-funded students organizations and students to prepare for their end-of-semester or end-of-year audit reports
- (xvi) Help Senators to prepare the budget they may need to carry out their projects, events, and initiatives
- (xvii) Help senators to prepare for their audit reports
- (xviii) The Director of Finance and Finance Committee Members cannot assume their duties until they have met with the appropriate USS Advisors and set up a bi-weekly regular meeting time.

## **Section 5. Specific Powers and Duties of Engagement Committee Members**

*Please see Section 3 of this Article.*

## **Section 6. Online Student Representation.**

- (a) All online students are represented through the Senator of the division at which they are enrolled.

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# **ARTICLE IV: MEETING PROCEDURE**

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## **Section 1. Parliamentary Procedure**

- (a) The University Student Senate utilizes Gnarl's Rules, a set of parliamentary procedures based on precedent and adapted partially from Robert's Rules, in addition to community agreements made at the fall Orientation every new academic year.

## **Section 2. Meeting Procedure**

- (a) There shall be one general meeting every week, at 3 pm on Fridays. Attendance at these meetings is mandatory to maintain senator status.
  - (i) They must be announced in advance both to Senators and The New School community.
  - (ii) They must be determined at the beginning of each academic semester (Fall and Spring)
- (b) The regularity of Executive Board meetings shall be determined by the Board each semester, but must happen at least once per month
- (c) The Chair will call the meeting to order at the predetermined time for the meeting.

- (d) They shall start the meeting with pertinent reports that they deem necessary for the meeting members.
  - (i) If any Senator thinks that a discussion is necessary, they shall motion for a discussion of the contents of the reports in accordance with the adopted parliamentary procedure outlined and voted on by the Senate.
  - (ii) These reports may be moved to Slack or the preferred communication channel in the interest of time, if necessary, but should generally be conducted during the meeting.
- (e) Then, all items on the Agenda shall be discussed.
  - (i) Emergency items should require the immediate attention of the Senate due to its time-sensitivity, gravity, or other reasons that the Chair or designated moderators deem important.
  - (ii) Old items were on previous agenda but were not decided on prior to the adjournment of previous meetings.
  - (iii) New items are topics of discussion or decisions newly added to the Senate agenda.
- (f) Meetings shall adjourn when the allotted time for the meeting is over and/or the agenda items have all been discussed.
  - (i) Any Senator may call for the adjournment of the meeting using one of the above two conditions if the motion is recognized by the Chair and seconded by another Senator.
- (g) Items not sufficiently discussed on the agenda after adjournment shall be discussed in the next meeting unless motioned to be tabled by the Chair.
- (h) All constitutional amendments, declarations, and bylaws shorter than one page must be read by a Senator at the Senate meeting they are introduced. The document may be voted on at the next General Meeting after its introduction to ensure sufficient discussion. The Senate may suspend the discussion period through a 2/3rds majority quorum vote.
- (i) All constitutional amendments, declarations, and bylaws longer than one page must be published at least a week prior to the Senate meeting they are introduced in order to be discussed. A summarized version of the document may be read at this Senate meeting.
- (j) Emergency meetings can be called for any time by the Chair or a simple majority vote of the Executive Board.
- (k) Senators requiring to attend meetings virtually are permitted with cause and notification to the Chair or VC within twenty-four (24) hours.
- (l) Executive Sessions, requiring the recusal of all non-voting members on an as needed basis, may be called by the Chair or Vice Chair during meetings, or requested by Senators on an as needed basis.
- (m) The term “bi-weekly” shall be interpreted as once every two weeks.

### **Section 3. Voting Procedures.**

- (a) All voting shall require a simple majority of quorum ( $\frac{1}{2} + 1$ ) unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.

- (b) A quorum exists when  $\frac{2}{3} + 1$  of the total non-suspended, qualified Senators are in attendance either in person or calling in.
- (c) Voting of a decision can happen either in person during a meeting, or online.
  - (i) Any urgent item that must be resolved before the next General Meeting may go to an online vote if motioned by the Chair.
    - (1) The DoO will send the online voting form to all Senators through email, and the votes will be tallied within 24-72 hours, depending on the specificity.
    - (2) In the absence of the DoO, the Chair and/or VC shall send the measure to all Senators on their behalf.
    - (3) All results of online votes shall be announced to the Senate
    - (4) Voted shall be collected in the order of “in favor”, then “opposed”, then “abstaining”
  - (ii) Where a vote is required, an abstention vote shall have no effect on the outcome of the vote.
- (d) If a meeting occurs without a quorum, any proposed vote, if urgent, will be voted online.
  - (i) Non-urgent items shall be voted on again in subsequent meetings where quorum is met.
- (e) There is no proxy voting.

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## **ARTICLE V: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, BY-LAWS AND DECLARATIONS**

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### **Section 1. Amendments**

- (a) An amendment to this Constitution may be presented to the Senate by any member of the Senate or through a motion at general meetings.
- (b) Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be approved by a  $\frac{2}{3}+1$  majority of the quorum.
- (c) If multiple changes to the Constitution are made, they are considered separate amendments, and shall be moved on separately.
- (d) If amendments are adopted, the amended Constitution shall be published within twenty-four (24) hours.

### **Section 2. By-laws and Declaration**

- (e) Bylaws of the University Student Senate are additional binding rules that help the Senate to fulfill its duties and objectives as listed in this Constitution.
  - (i) They may be introduced by any Senator during a General Meeting.
  - (ii) They may be adopted, amended, or repealed by a simple majority ( $\frac{1}{2}+1$ ) approval of the quorum.

- (iii) If an adoption, amendment, or repeal of a bylaw takes place within a General Meeting, they shall be published within twenty-four (24) hours.
- (iv) Bylaws are effective until they are repealed by the Senate.
- (f) Declarations of the University Student Senate express the official opinion of the Senate.
  - (i) They may be introduced by any Senator during a General Meeting.
  - (ii) They may be adopted as official opinions by a simple majority (1/2+1) approval of the quorum.
  - (iii) If adopted, they shall be published and reported to the New School Community and the appropriate recipient of the opinion within twenty-four (24) hours.
  - (iv) They expire upon the new election of the Executive Board.

### **Section 3. Constitutional Review**

- (a) The USS constitution is an evolving document, as such, a constitutional review shall take place every other year, beginning with the Senate's 2023/2024 term.
- (b) The constitutional review shall be a distinct process from Article V Section 1
- (c) A constitutional review may also take place during an off year by a 2/3 majority quorum vote of the Senate.
- (d) During constitutional review, a Constitutional Review Task Force (CRTF) must be formed.
- (e) The CRTF is co chaired by the VC and a member of the Representative Board
- (f) The composition of the CRTF shall be approved by a ½ majority quorum vote of the Senate
- (g) Constitutional amendments introduced by the CRTF must follow the below procedure:
  - (i) All constitutional amendment(s) must first be introduced at a CRTF meeting, where the draft text of the constitutional amendment(s) must be published;
  - (ii) At the following designated CRTF meeting, a reading of the constitutional amendment(s) shall take place, which consists of a discussion of the text followed by a simple majority vote of the committee members present to either table or refer the constitutional amendment(s) to be voted on by the wider Senate at the next General Meeting;
  - (iii) All constitutional amendments referred to the Senate by the CRTF shall be organized into bills.
  - (iv) The Senate shall vote to finalize the text of each bill introduced by the CRTF by approving the constitutional amendments according to each section of the Constitution they belong to through ½ quorum majority votes;
  - (v) After this, the Senate shall vote to adopt the bill by a ⅔+1 majority of the quorum. All amendments within the adopted bills shall be published in the Constitution within 24 hours.
  - (vi) At the end of the Constitutional Review process, the CRTF shall produce a document summarizing the changes made to the constitution and its reasoning during this year for future Senates

## ARTICLE VI: FISCAL POLICY

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### Section 1. General Guidelines.

- (a) Mandatory Student Senate Fee, as fixed by the University and the University Student Senate, shall be collected and held in the USS account.
- (b) The student Senate Fee shall be a separately itemized fee on each student's bill for both the fall and spring semesters.
- (c) The University Student Senate fiscal year shall coincide with the University's fiscal year and extend from July 1st to June 30th.
- (d) Student Senate Fee may be used for, but shall not be limited to, the following purposes:
  - (i) Social events, seminars, workshops, retreats, and conferences.
  - (ii) Equipment, supplies, and materials required for the operation of student programs and activities.
  - (iii) Travel and accommodation for students and professional staff members participating in student programs and activities.
  - (iv) Compensation to senators serving in official capacities
  - (v) In the event of an emergency, (v) In the event of an emergency, the Student Senate Fee may be used to aid students in dire need. The determination of what constitutes a "dire need" will be at the discretion of a senate-wide discussion, and, if needed, a majority vote of the quorum.
- (e) The Finance Committee will be required to create an internal and external USS budget at the beginning of each academic semester, both of which will be shared with the broader campus community.
- (f) Executive Board members shall only make budget requests on behalf of their committee and/or in the areas outlined in their constitutional duties. A vote of the Finance Committee shall determine the final amount. The Finance Committee cannot deny a budget request if it is made on behalf of a committee and/or falls within an Executive Board member's constitutional provisions unless there are extenuating financial circumstances, specifically, a shortage of available funds; however, the Finance Committee can veto the requested amount and suggest alterations. The Finance Committee must communicate its reasoning to the rest of the Senate in an appropriate manner.
- (g) Allocation of the Student Senate Fee, whether internally or externally, can only be approved through a vote by members of the Finance Committee. While the Finance Committee has the right to determine the final amounts of budgets, it cannot deny a committee a budget unless there are extenuating circumstances.

## Section 2. Internal Financial Structure

- (a) An Internal Financial Structure (IFS) shall be established and maintained by the University Student Senate (USS) to guide all internal spending decisions, promote fiscal responsibility, and ensure transparency in the use of student funds.
  - (i) This structure will include the following: a submission form, a regularly maintained spreadsheet, and ease of access to see advisor-completed purchases.
- (b) All proposed expenditures by the USS internally, including those related to a passed budget, must first be submitted via the form to the Finance Committee for review prior to the disbursement of funds.
- (c) It is the responsibility of the Finance Committee to review submissions on a weekly basis during the academic year, and on a bi-weekly or as-needed basis during the summer budget period. Approval of any expenditure requires confirmation by at least three committee members. If this review process is not followed, the Finance Committee may be subject to review by the Student Senate, and appropriate measures will be taken following the outlined warning and strike system to ensure accountability and adherence to financial protocols.
  - (i) For purchase reports under an approved budget **only**, if there are fewer than three members at a Finance Committee meeting, two members may sign off, or the Director of Finance may sign in lieu of members.
    - (1) If there is no Finance Director, an interim member of the committee shall be appointed to hold the position. If there is no Finance Committee, the responsibility will fall to the Chair and Vice Chair to recruit members of the Senate to serve as interim members or permit senators to serve on multiple committees to serve as a temporary or as-needed Finance Committee.
  - (ii) Failure to sign off (approval or denial) on requests weekly without just cause (i.e., requiring more information) will result in consequences for members of the Finance Committee. At the first offence, members of the committee will incur a warning, and the following offences will follow the structure of the strike system outlined in [Article VII: Removals and Impeachment](#).
- (d) The purpose of this financial review is to promote transparency. If a request is presented under an approved budget, the Finance Committee should not deny the purchase without just cause and explanation. Once reviewed, all purchases will be received by our advisor and initiated. If members of the Senate believe the purchase denial was unjust, an appeal process will be initiated by means of a formal notice via email to the Senate advisor, with a vote open to the broader Senate. The Senate advisor shall serve as the point of contact for an appeal, which will be presented in the



subsequent Senate meeting and voted on. The Senate advisor will then add this notice and vote to the subsequent general meeting's agenda to be passed via majority.

- (e) No Senate funds shall be distributed or spent internally before an approved submission. If a senator attempts to go above the financial infrastructure, the penalties are as listed below:
  - (i) The spending policy shall follow the strike system under [Article VII: Removals and Impeachment](#).
  - (ii) If a senator spends \$100 or less without approval, they will receive a warning as a first offence, and a strike if there are multiple offences.
  - (iii) If a senator spends \$100 to \$500 without approval, they will receive one strike.
  - (iv) If a senator spends \$500 to \$1,000 without approval, they will receive two strikes.
  - (v) If a senator spends over \$1,000 without approval, they will receive three strikes in tandem with suspension.
    - (1) If a senator receives three strikes in regards to inappropriate fund usage, an escalation and request of a conduct charge shall be initiated.
- (f) A record of reviewed, approved, and pending proposals shall be maintained and accessible to Senate members. A record of approved proposals shall be accessible to the Student Body.
- (g) The Finance Committee shall present a semesterly summary of internal expenditures to the full Senate to promote transparency and accountability.
- (h) In regards to Senate Initiatives exceeding \$10,000, a whole senate presentation must be given with a vote determined via majority.

### **Section 3. External Financial Structure**

- a) An External Financial Structure (EFS) shall be established and maintained by the University Student Senate (USS) to guide all external spending decisions, promote fiscal responsibility, and ensure transparency in the use of student funds.
  - i) This structure will include the following: a regularly maintained spreadsheet and a log of notes.
- b) In meetings with students and student organizations to discuss budget proposals, a minimum of two committee members or the Director of Finance must be present.
  - i) Finance Committee members must attend a minimum of three meetings each semester, unless extenuating circumstances are considered by the committee as a whole. Failure to do so will result in a strike.
- c) At least one committee member must take detailed notes at every meeting with an external group seeking funding, as well as track this information in an organized manner (e.g., a spreadsheet with meeting dates).

- d) All external budgets must be voted on by a minimum of three members of the finance committee, including the Director of Finance, within a week of the budget proposal meeting.
  - i) If there are only two members of the Finance Committee present or if the Director of Finance is absent, an advisor may step in, provided this is documented. If Finance Committee members or the Director of Finance are unable to attend, other members of the senate may volunteer to step in with documentation and approval of the DoF and committee.
  - ii) Upon a student or student organization's budget being approved, denied, or partially funded, an email must be sent out cc'ing the relevant parties and advisors.
- e) For every academic year, a spreadsheet must track every budget proposal meeting that is held, including the following information:
  - i) Proposal Name
  - ii) Date of meeting
  - iii) Type of organization (for example, RSO, sports, etc.)
  - iv) Requested budget amounts
  - v) Actual budget allocation
  - vi) Contact status regarding their budget approval, denial, or partial funding
- f) The Finance Committee must reach out to students and student organizations for a middle and end-of-semester check-in regarding spent funding.
- g) A minimum of 60% of the budget each semester must be allocated externally.

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## **ARTICLE VII: REMOVALS AND IMPEACHMENT**

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### **Section 1. Attendance Policy.**

- (a) Senators will receive a "strike" if they have failed to attend a General Meeting, Committee Meeting, Executive Board Meeting, and other Senate-related obligations without excuse nor notice, including:
  - (i) Monthly reports required of each senator detailing their individual activity, sent to the Chair, VC, and Committee Director(s)
  - (ii) Meetings required based on individual lead positions as specified above
- (b) Senators must receive written communication from the VC about each strike within one week of its occurrence. If the VC fails to do so, the strike will not be counted. The Chair may also communicate strikes in the absence of the VC.
- (c) Upon reaching three strikes, the Senator will be suspended for 14 consecutive days.

- (d) In order for suspended Senators to be reinstated, they must schedule a review meeting with the Chair and/or VC during the suspension period.
  - (i) If no such meeting takes place during the suspension period, an automatic impeachment hearing will be triggered for the Senator.
- (e) During a review meeting, the suspended Senator in conjunction with the Chair and/or VC, will develop a binding continued participation plan for the suspended senator together. If such a plan cannot be developed, an automatic impeachment hearing will be triggered for the Senator.
- (f) If a continued participation plan has been developed, the suspended Senator shall be reinstated at the end of their Suspension Period.
- (g) Any violations of the continued participation plan shall be counted as one additional strike
- (h) If a reinstated Senator receives one additional strike after their reinstatement, an automatic impeachment hearing will be triggered for the Senator.
- (i) In case that a Senator is not impeached and removed from office due to strikes, their fifth strike will remove them from office automatically.
- (j) Suspended senators must meet with the Chair and/or VC pursuant to clauses (d)-(f) prior to becoming eligible for running for elections.

## **Section 2. Impeachment.**

- (a) All current and former members of the University Student Senate may be subject to the penalty of impeachment.
- (b) Any direct violation or disregard of any part of this constitution or bylaws may be a just cause for impeachment.
- (c) The Chair must ensure the anonymity of the petitioning and sponsoring Senator(s) until the receipt of charges by the Senator subject to impeachment proceedings.
- (d) The impeachment process shall proceed according to the following:
  - i. Any non-suspended Senator or enrolled student may request an investigation of a Senator for impeachment.
  - ii. A petition with signatures of at least one-fifth of the non-suspended Senate must be presented to the Chair to accompany such a request.
  - iii. In the case of a petition to impeach the Chair, the Vice Chair will certify the charges and oversee the trial.
  - iv. Upon the presentation of a petition for impeachment, all evidence supporting the impeachment charges must be submitted, along with a list of any and all witnesses that will, or might, be called upon to testify in the impeachment hearing.
  - v. The Chair shall certify the charges' constitutionality, which shall take place

no more than 3 days after the receipt of charges, before taking action on the said charges.

- vi. When, and if, the Chair provides their approval to the charges, non-suspended Senators shall hold an impeachment hearing at a special meeting. Senators must be notified of this meeting 72 hours in advance.
- vii. If the impeachment charges are certified by the Chair, the potential impeached senator will be in a temporary suspension until the impeachment trial is completed. During a suspension period, the senator's responsibilities listed in their position description are still expected until the impeachment trial is completed.
- viii. The petitioning Senator and sponsoring Senator(s) may introduce motions for additional limitations to be applied during this suspension period, which can include but are not limited to:
  - 1. Removal from committee assignments
  - 2. Removal as Committee Director or Executive Board Position and the election of an interim replacement
  - 3. Restrictions of access to USS spaces to the extent that it does not hinder access to evidence
  - 4. Restrictions on acting as a representative of the USS
- ix. Additional limitations may be approved by a majority quorum vote of the Senate. Violations of these limitations shall be counted as an additional strike(s) against the Senator subject to impeachment proceedings
- x. Impeachment meetings will not be open to the student body.
- xi. The potential impeached senator and senator(s) who requested the investigation are required to attend the impeachment hearing and be able to further testify or give additional information during the impeachment trial. They may not vote, or witness the vote of conviction.
- xii. A conviction shall consist of a  $\frac{2}{3}$  +1 affirmative vote of quorum.
- xiii. If an impeached Senator receives a conviction, the individual shall be removed from their senatorship pursuant to Article 1, Section 5-f and relieved of all USS-related duties immediately.
- xiv. The impeachment proceedings shall take place over the course of two weeks from the Chair's certification of the charges. The Senator presenting the charges and the Senator subject to impeachment proceedings must make every effort to make themselves available during this period.
- xv. If the petitioning Senator consistently fails to make good faith efforts to make themselves available for impeachment proceedings during this period, the charges shall be made null and void at the end of two weeks.
- xvi. If the Senator subjected to impeachment proceedings consistently fails to make good faith efforts to make themselves available for impeachment

- proceedings during this period, they shall be automatically impeached at the end of two weeks.
- xvii. Impeachment proceedings may be extended by the Chair at the end of the two-week period.

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## **ARTICLE VIII: VACANCIES AND ELECTIONS**

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### **Section 1. General Elections.**

- I. General Elections of the University Student Senate shall take place before the end of each academic year.
- II. Eligible students can nominate others as well as themselves to run as a Senator. Nominations must be received by the Election Committee before candidate registration ends, and shall be sent by the nominating student from their personal New School email address to the official USS Email.
- III. General Elections shall be overseen by the Election Committee
- IV. An Election Committee shall be formed in February to oversee the process of the general elections.
- V. Senators not seeking to re-run and graduating Senators must volunteer to contribute to the Election Committee.
- VI. The Election Committee shall be chaired by the DoO, if the DoO is seeking to re-run, it shall also be chaired by a non-returning member of the USS.
- VII. The Chair(s) of the Election Committee shall decide the policy of the General Election pursuant to the Constitution
- VIII. The membership of the Election Committee is subject to a two-thirds (2/3) majority approval of the Senate quorum.
- IX. The Election Committee shall work with the DoC and DoE to publicize and promote the Election, and delegate responsibilities to committee members accordingly.
- X. The Election Committee shall, by a simple majority vote, establish a period of candidate registration and nomination gathering, followed by a period of campaign and publicity, followed by a period of voting. Each period shall last at least one week and must not overlap.
- XI. The Chair(s) of the Election Committee may, at their discretion and in consultation with the wider Senate, extend each period of the election by the appropriate amount of additional time needed provided that the next period has not begun.
- XII. After a sufficient amount of time for candidate registration and nomination gathering, the Election Committee shall publicize the Senatorial candidates.

- XIII. After a sufficient amount of time for the candidate publicity, the Election Committee shall establish an accessible voting platform and a voting deadline.
- A. Each enrolled student shall cast one (1) vote for each vacancy in their Divisions. Students may also choose to write-in a candidate of their choice instead as a vote for any vacancy. However, any write-in candidate ineligible for Senatorship pursuant to Article 1 Section 5 may be disqualified at any time by the Elections Committee. Should the write-in candidate be elected, they will have the option to refuse their candidacy.
  - B. The vote shall be facilitated by the DoO according to instructions agreed upon by the Election Committee, who shall tally the votes and announce the results in a transparent and efficient manner. If the DoO is seeking to re-run, the Election Committee Director(s) shall carry out these duties instead.
  - C. The top candidates with most votes from their Divisions, counting up to the number of vacancies, shall be announced as winners of the election. Candidates with a vote count of no more than 1 shall not be eligible for a vacancy in this process or be considered a runner-up. Candidates suspended by the USS who have not developed a binding participation plan prior to the end of their Senate term shall not be eligible for a vacancy in this process or be considered a runner-up and shall additionally be considered removed from office pursuant to Article 1 Section 5 Clause (e).
  - D. The announcement must take place at least one week before the last Senate Meeting of the academic year.
  - E. In case of a tie for the last seat in any given division, the seats for that division will increase by the number of ties minus 1 for that given academic year to accommodate the tied candidates.
- XIV. The winners of the election shall assume office during the last Senate Meeting of the academic year after they take their oaths.

## **Section 2. Executive Board Elections.**

- (a) Executive Board Elections shall take place during the last General Meeting of each academic year.
- (b) After taking their oaths, the newly elected Senators shall nominate candidates for the positions of the Executive Board.
  - (i) Senators can nominate other Senators as well as themselves.
  - (ii) Each Senator shall cast one (1) vote for each Executive Board position.
  - (iii) Membership to the Executive Board is subject to a simple majority vote of the Senate.
  - (iv) The Election of the Chair shall be first and overseen by the outgoing Chair of the University Student Senate. If the previous Chair is running for re-election, the election shall be overseen by any non-re-running member of the previous Executive Board. If all members of the previous Executive Board are running for re-election, the election shall be overseen by a member of the wider Senate not running for re-election, advised by the previous DoO on procedural matters.

- (v) The rest of the Executive Board elections shall be overseen by the newly elected Chair in collaboration with the DoO of the outgoing Senate
- (vi) The order of the executive board election shall be Chair, VC, DoO, DoA, DoE, DoF, DoC.

### **Section 3. Vacancies**

- (a) In the event of a vacancy, the Chair may reach out to the runner-up for the division to fill the position. If the runner-up does not accept the position, or does not respond within 48 hours, the Chair may contact the next runner-up, until runner-ups are exhausted or vacancies filled.
- (b) In the event of a vacancy where runner-ups from the same division have been exhausted, the USS may solicit petitions from eligible students in the said division to join the Senate with fifty student signatures from their division.
  - (i) The petition shall be approved by a simple majority of the Senate quorum during a general meeting following sufficient discussions.
  - (ii) If approved, the petitioned student may take their Oath and join the Senate for the remainder of the academic year.
- (c) In the event that both runner-ups are exhausted and solicitation of petitions has failed, the Executive Board may appoint a willing student to join the Senate for the remainder of the academic year.
  - (i) The appointment shall be approved by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  +1 majority of the Senate quorum during a general meeting following sufficient discussions

### **Section 4. Special Elections.**

- (a) A special election may be triggered at the Chair's discretion or by a motion sponsored by at least three Senators if there are more than 3 vacant Senate positions without runner-ups and petitions,
- (b) A special election must take place if:
  - (i) There is an entire division left unrepresented without runner ups or petitions
  - (ii) The non-suspended Senators are less than a simple majority of the Senate capacity. Special elections triggered under this clause shall be regulated by the USS on a case by case basis.
  - (iii) The offices of Chair and Vice Chair are both vacant
- (c) A special election is only permitted once per semester, and should ideally be carried out within the first two months of the semester.
- (d) Special Elections shall be overseen by the executive board, following elections procedures specified within Article VIII.S.1, unless a state of Extraordinary Circumstances has been declared.

**Section 5. Terms of Office.**

- (a) All Members of the Representative Board shall assume their offices during the last General Meeting of each academic year after they take their oaths.
  - (i) Their term shall continue, barring voluntary terminations, impeachments, or other possibilities, until the last General meeting of the next academic year, where new Members of the Representative Board take their oaths.
- (b) All Members of the Executive Board shall assume their office during the last General Meeting of the academic year after they are elected by the newly formed Senate.
  - (i) Their term shall continue barring voluntary terminations, impeachments, or other possibilities, until the last General meeting of the next academic year, where the new Members of the Executive Board are installed.

**Section 6. Role Transition.**

- a. Any Senator who does not run for re-election for the following year must compose a one-page transition document at the end of the academic year in collaboration with the USS Primary Advisor. This document should outline their roles, responsibilities, and any unfinished projects to provide insight for future Senators.
  - i. This includes graduating Senators.
- b. Any Executive Board Member who does not plan to run for re-election must meet with the USS Primary Advisor to draft a more comprehensive transition document. This document should include:
  - i. Roles and responsibilities of the position,
  - ii. A summary of ongoing projects,
  - iii. Relevant staff and faculty contacts,
  - iv. Passwords to any subscriptions or online platforms used,
  - v. Any other pertinent information for their successor.
- c. The USS Primary Advisor will ensure that the transition documents are provided to the incoming Senators or Executive Board Members at the beginning of their term.
- d. The creation and submission of these documents must be completed no later than the final day of the outgoing Senator's term.

**Section 7. Special Executive Board Elections.**

- a. If at least one month remains before the end of the academic year, a Special Executive Board Election (SEBE) must be triggered upon the announcement of an Executive Board Member's resignation at a General Meeting. This election must take place by the next General Meeting, unless the resigning member is the Chair.
- b. In the event of the resignation of any other Executive Board Member, the Associate Director of the respective position will become the Interim Director of that position until the SEBE, whereupon they will have the option to decline the role or be



confirmed by the Senate as the official Director of their Committee. If declined, the position will remain vacant until filled through the SEBE process..

- c. SEBEs will be facilitated by the Chief of Staff. If the Chief of Staff is the resigning member, the Vice Chair will take on the responsibility of facilitating the SEBE, following the same eligibility criteria outlined in the position description of the role.
- d. The process for electing a replacement for the resigning Executive Board Member, or the SEBE is as follows:
  - i. The role will first be offered to the Associate Director of the respective position, who must be confirmed by a majority quorum vote of the entire Senate.
  - ii. If the position does not have an associate, such as the Vice Chair, or the Chief of Staff, the role will be offered to candidates from the wider Senate, pending confirmation by the Chair of the eligibility criteria of that position.
  - iii. If the Associate Director wishes to run, or open the candidacy pool to the wider Senate, that decision shall be at their own discretion.
  - iv. If the Associate Director is not confirmed (due to failing to reach the majority vote threshold or declining the role), the position will be opened to the wider Senate and/or relevant committee members, allowing any eligible member to run.
  - v. All candidates must receive a majority quorum vote to be confirmed in the role.

## **Section 8. Summer Periods.**

- (a) A summer period shall be triggered if there are less than 13 Senators elected at the conclusion of the Spring General Elections.
- (b) This summer period shall last until the conclusion of the Fall Special Elections.
- (c) During this summer period, the Senate shall consist of two committees, the Special Finance Committee and the Special Elections Committee, and shall only execute powers pertaining to these areas or the facilitation of these areas in the constitution.
- (d) The Special Finance Committee shall carry out the initial spring funding period and any additional finance duties in accordance to Article 6, previous semester Funding Guidelines, as well as the Marie Kondo Act of 2023, and shall be led by an interim Director of Finance, who shall carry out duties in accordance with Article II, Section 6, modified to suit the limitations of the USS during the summer period.
- (e) The SFC must produce a budget for the summer period, establish a working relationship with the appropriate finance Staff Advisor and make all good faith efforts to establish a funding period most conducive to enriching campus life during the first weeks of the Fall Semester.

- (f) The interim DOF shall monitor and maintain the USS Finance email and respond prudently to all finance related emails.
- (g) The Special Elections Committee shall focus on preparing for the Fall Special Elections in accordance to applicable sections of Article 8 and shall be led by the Interim Director of Operations, who shall execute duties according to Article 2, Section 3, modified to suit the current limitations of the USS.
- (h) The Special Elections Committee shall establish a working relationship with the appropriate Staff Advisor and commit to holding special elections no later than the second week of the Fall Semester.
- (i) Certain members of the SEC shall be designated through collective committee consensus as the Senators responsible for posting content to USS social media and the official website pertaining to Summer break, summer Period, Finance, and Special Election related matters.
- (j) A designated member of the SEC shall create a forum of communication between all Senators such as via Slack.
- (k) The interim DoO shall monitor the USS email and respond to any queries prudently, as well as facilitate any official USS communications pertaining to Summer break, the summer period, USS Finance, and special elections in conjunction with the appropriate Staff Member.
- (l) The Interim DoO shall also lead the organization of the Fall Orientation.
- (m) Both special committees shall consist of at least 3 Senators, if the number of elected Senators is below 7, they shall be split evenly between the two committees.
- (n) Only an election for the interim DoF and DoO shall be held during the summer period, whose terms shall end on the day of the Executive Board Elections.
- (o) The summer period cannot begin until an agreed upon bi-monthly meeting time for both committees has been established.
- (p) The Interim DoF and DoO shall jointly hold the position of interim Co-Chairs of the USS, who shall be the designated leaders of the USS during this period. This title shall be symbolic for the purposes of providing the Senate with a point person during the summer and helping facilitate clauses (q) to (v).
- (q) For emerging University matters that require a response utilizing USS powers outside of those outlined in this section, the interim Co-Chairs shall call for a full meeting of the summer Senate and may transform a committee meeting into one such session.
- (r) During full meeting sessions, the summer Senate shall devise a course of action related to the emerging matter by consensus that must be adhered to by all Senators.

- (s) If a full Senate meeting cannot be held within one week or before any external deadlines where the input of the Senate must be provided, whichever is earlier, the interim Co-Chairs are authorized to represent the Senate in accordance to the constitution while keeping in mind the limitations of the USS during the summer period. However, minutes must be provided to all Senators within 48 hours of any meetings they participate in.
- (t) All meetings during the summer period shall operate on a consensus of all senators present instead of quorum based voting.
- (u) Any unexcused absences at meetings during the summer period shall count as a regular strike accrued during the relevant Senator's regular term.
- (v) Interim Co-chairs must hold bi-weekly check-ins during the summer period.
- (w) No constitutional amendments, bylaws, Declarations, and sensitive USS communications may be passed while regular academic year classes are not in session.
- (x) The summer period does not constitute a full term.
- (y) If the number of Senators elected at the end of the Spring General Elections is four or less, the University Administration is allowed to run elections on behalf of the USS and conduct restructuring to ensure increased participation.

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## **ARTICLE IX: OATHS OF OFFICE**

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### **Section 1. General Procedure.**

- (a) All oaths shall be recited in front of all New School members present during the General Meeting when newly elected Senators assume office.
- (b) Newly elected Chair shall recite their oaths first, overseen by the outgoing Chair.
- (c) The rest of the newly elected senate shall recite their oaths second, overseen by the new Chair.

### **Section 2. Senator Oath.**

- (a) I, (name of Senator), do swear that I will execute the position of Senator of the University Student Senate of The New School; that, exercising my highest ethic, I will, to the best of my ability, represent the voices of fellow New School students, and enhance our individual and collective experiences through advocacy and engagement; that I take this obligation freely; and, that I will faithfully carry out the duties of the office which I am about to enter.

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## **ARTICLE X: ADDITIONAL USS POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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### **Section 1. Declaration of Extraordinary Circumstances.**

- (a) The Chair may, at their discretion, make a Declaration of Extraordinary Circumstances during exceptional periods that severely impact the effective and efficient running of the University Student Senate such as: during times of emergency, collective action, or significant vacancies on USS Committees.
- (b) This Declaration shall establish a period of extraordinary circumstances, during which the Chair may make temporary constitutional changes restricted to the Special Election/vacancy process, Senate committee structure, Senate funding schedule, and attendance policy with the advice of the USS Advisor and relevant Executive Board Members.
- (c) The Senate and USS advisor must be informed of these changes in a timely and coherent manner, and consulted before the declaration is made, upon which a simple majority vote shall be required at the earliest upcoming Senate meeting. A quorum will not be required for this vote.
- (d) Any temporary changes enacted by the Chair must follow the normal procedure for Constitutional Amendments as outlined in the constitution in order to become permanent.
- (e) This declaration shall automatically expire at the end of the semester should no more than 3 vacant Senate positions remain unfilled. Otherwise, Declarations of Extraordinary Circumstances may be rescinded at the discretion of the Chair or by a simple majority vote of the Senate requiring quorum.

### **Section 2. Landmark Decisions**

- (a) As the representative body of New School students, the USS must reflect the will of students. The Senate shall be required to hold a simple majority quorum vote of endorsement or abstention for any major decisions affecting New School students, which include but are not limited to: tuition raises, insurance changes, major restructurings, bargaining decisions, bargaining agreements, appointments and contracts. For particularly major decisions such as the signing of collective bargaining agreements, the vote must also be accompanied by a brief report published by the USS, which shall be coordinated by the Chair, VC, and DoO, divided into the following: majority, dissent, and concurrences (if any).

- (b) Relevant Senators serving on external committees shall be responsible for bringing landmark decisions to the attention of the Senate in a timely manner.
- (c) The vote must take place within the timeframe of the closest General Meeting before or after the announcement of the associated decision, and shall be non-binding pending advancements in shared governance.

### **Section 3. Role and Responsibilities of the USS Advisor**

- (a) This section clarifies the role and responsibilities of the USS advisor as outlined in Article 1, Section 5-(g)
- (b) The appointment of the USS Advisor must originate from an appropriate New School Department that is familiar with student life, student involvement, and student advocacy, and must be announced to the USS in advance.
- (c) Advisor appointments can be rejected by the USS by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority quorum vote
- (d) The USS Advisor shall:
  - (i) Advise the USS on New School policy and procedure, as well as the constitutionality of its actions
  - (ii) Aid the USS in reaching out to University staff, administration officials, as well as the administration of each college
  - (iii) Be a resource for the USS in any other applicable manner and take on any additional temporary responsibilities as appropriate
  - (iv) Be available to Senators during working hours to the best of their ability, especially during emergencies
  - (v) Provide advice on constitution related matters at the request of the Chair or any member of the Senate
  - (vi) Uphold the principles of constitutionalism, shared governance, non-interference, and respectful, open discussion to the best of their ability
  - (vii) Inform the Chair or Chair of any USS-related meeting of their anticipated attendance in a timely and appropriate manner
  - (viii) Propose or sponsor initiatives and projects for the USS to support in a timely manner
  - (ix) Inform the Senate of the status of any shared governance committee such that require the participation of the USS including but not limited to: open positions, contact person information, and active/inactive status in a timely manner
  - (x) Ensure the Senate continues to be represented on shared governance committees and has a say in the creation and/or disbandment of any such committee to the best of their ability
  - (xi) Provide the Senate of the total amount of USS funding with a basic, categorical breakdown during each Senator orientation

- (xii) Take extraordinary measures to ensure the continuation and existence of the USS as well as the disbursement of USS funding should the USS fail to meet in any capacity for three consecutive months in one semester.
  - (xiii) Represent the USS accurately and fairly in applicable forums
  - (xiv) Inform the Senate in advance of any interview requests requiring them to speak on behalf of the USS
  - (xv) Inform their office of the responsibilities laid out in this clause
  - (xvi) These responsibilities shall not contravene any previously established understandings between the USS Advisor and the USS, provided that they do not contradict the clauses listed above.
- (e) Roles and responsibilities of any staff member acting as a deputy to the USS Advisor shall also be governed according to this section.

#### **Section 4. Orientations and Retreats**

- (a) There shall be a Senator Orientation for members of the USS at the start of the academic year.
- (b) The Orientation must take place no later than one month after the start of the academic year unless a special election has taken place in the Fall.
- (c) There shall be a Senator Retreat for Senators at the start of the second semester of the academic year.
- (d) The Retreat must take place no later than one month after the start of the second semester.
- (e) Orientations and Retreats shall be organized by the Chair, VC, and DoO with the support of the USS advisor.
- (f) Orientations and Retreats shall follow the general structure of main and breakout sessions.
- (g) Orientations and Retreats shall follow the attendance policy outlined in Article 7 Section 1.
- (h) The Chair, VC, DoO, and Student Advisor shall devise a program for each Orientation and Retreat that shall see presentations by the DoA, DoE, DoC, DoF, and any other applicable parties, that can enable Senators to obtain familiarity with their roles, duties, the Constitution, the Budget, and Gnarl's Rules.
- (i) The DoF must allocate funding towards sufficient food and refreshments to be provided for Orientations and Retreats with the support of the USS advisor.

## **Section 5. Space Usage**

- (a) So long as the Senate occupies 39 W 13th St or maintains the structure of a Senate office and conference room, these rules will be in place. If that structure changes, the amendment must be modified.
- (b) All senators are permitted to use both spaces. However, the conference room may require reservations. The Senate office may also be used for personal work, provided that no other senator has previously communicated they require the space. The office is a senate space; it is not solely for the Executive Board.
- (c) (Permitted there is a lock box) All senators will have access to the lockbox code, and be able to use that key to gain entry to the office. There should otherwise be no additional copies of keys in the Senators' possession. The same applies to the storage room key. The lockbox code should change each Senate Term, or if a Senator is impeached, resigned, or not in good standing with the Senate.
- (d) Senators who are impeached or are not in good standing with the Senate are not permitted within the Senate office under any circumstances. Senators who allow the aforementioned party into the space will fall under the warning and subsequent strike system outlined in Article VII: Removals and Impeachment.
- (e) Non-senate students may be allowed in the office provided there is at least one senator present.
- (f) If a senator is giving non-senate students access to the space (i.e., the lockbox code or copies of keys), they will fall under the warning and subsequent strike system outlined in Article VII: Removals and Impeachment.

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## **ARTICLE XI: INFORMATION ACCESS GUIDELINES**

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### **Section 1. Email, Cloud Storage, and Zoom**

- (a) The USS Email, Cloud Storage, and Zoom account constitute an important channel of communication and repository for the Senate as a whole. As such, this Section shall establish its terms of usage.
- (b) The VC, DoO, DoC, and authorized members of the Communications Committee shall be responsible for facilitating non-schoolwide official USS communications through the USS Email, and shall also reply to responses to official USS Communications in the USS Email in a timely manner, involving the appropriate Senate members when necessary.

- (c) The DoO shall be responsible for the organization and maintenance of all USS documents for their term on the USS Cloud Storage. All Senators shall have access to the USS Cloud Storage.
- (d) The Chair, VC, DoO, and DoC shall have access to the USS Email and Zoom account and shall only respond to emails related to their specific constitutional duties in a responsible manner. Members of the Representative Board shall have access to the USS Email and Zoom account at the discretion of any member of the Executive Board, who must supervise for their usage.
- (e) Any unauthorized deletion of USS documentation from and or modification of the USS Email, Cloud Storage, and Zoom shall result in a strike. Major violations may result in Senator suspension and/or suspension of access.

## **Section 2. Website**

- (a) There shall be a website for the USS, managed by the DoC and any authorized Communications Committee members.
- (b) The DoC and authorized Communications Committee members shall ensure access to the most recent edition of the Constitution and USS funding information on the USS website, even during website construction
- (c) Major structural and format changes to the website must be approved by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority quorum vote of the Senate
- (d) The DoC and authorized members of the Communications Committee shall have the ability to edit and make changes to content on the USS website.
- (e) Any violations of the above clauses shall result in a strike. Major violations may result in Senator suspension.

## **Section 3. Sensitive USS Communications**

- (a) All Senators have the right to motion for an official communication to be made by the USS. Any member of the University or organization may also request a communication to be made provided their request is sponsored by at least one Senator.
- (b) This section regulates any official USS communications of a potentially sensitive nature, which include but are not limited to: letters/actions of solidarity, protest, condolence, and endorsement.
- (c) This motion may be approved for consideration by the Senate upon being seconded by an additional member of the Senate unless it is rejected by a simple majority vote. Approval of the motion does not constitute an approval for an official communication to be made.
- (d) The Chair or other Executive Board members may, at their discretion, assign additional Senators to share responsibility with the requesting Senator(s) in the drafting of potentially sensitive communications.



- (e) The final text of the communication must be approved by a majority quorum vote of the Senate. No Senator(s) may unilaterally create and disseminate sensitive materials as official USS communications without the express consent of the Senate of the final text. Any Senator(s) found in violation of this clause shall have a strike counted against them. Particularly severe and damaging violations may result in a suspension.

#### **Section 4. Senator Projects**

- (a) All Senator-originated projects involving more than one Senator are collaborative efforts. All such projects shall maintain a list of all members involved, including any outside organizations, departments, or parties, to be available to the Senate.
- (b) All members of such projects shall ensure that they and all other project members have an understanding and awareness of their roles and responsibilities, and shall provide written notice in advance to all other members prior to making significant modifications to and/or taking on important responsibilities for the project, such as applying for funding and making presentations, seeking out the written consent of project lead(s) when necessary. Any Senator found in violation of this clause shall have a strike counted against them. Particularly severe and damaging violations may result in a suspension and/or being barred from participating in Senate projects.

#### **Section 5. Public Comments**

- (a) As an elected representative of the student body, any Senator can accept requests for interviews from outside parties or provide information to the student body. Senators commenting on issues outside of their role and responsibilities should strive to provide accurate information and involve the appropriate Senator(s) when necessary.
- (b) No member of the Senate shall conduct themselves in the Press or any applicable forum in a way that compromises the safety of Senate members.
- (c) No member of the Senate shall misrepresent their USS position or duties to the Press or in any other applicable forum
- (d) No member of the Senate shall make personal attacks against other member(s) of the Senate to the Press or any other applicable forum
- (e) Outside parties shall notify the DoC and VC of any interview requests being made but shall not be required to disclose the identity of Senator(s) being interviewed
- (f) Any Senator found in violation of the above clauses shall receive a strike. Severe violations may result in suspension and their removal from their committee membership, Lead role, and/or Executive Board position.

## **Section 6. AD HOC Committees**

- (a) This section shall govern the creation of temporary committees not otherwise regulated by the Constitution during significant situations that require the inclusion of additional student voices.
- (b) Ad Hoc Committees shall consist of a maximum number of Student Leaders of RSOs or other student organizations equal to the number of Senators wishing to serve.
- (c) Senators wishing to establish an Ad Hoc Committee must present to the Senate a list of its members, a clear description of its mission, and duration of mandate at a General Meeting at least one week before a vote can take place on its approval.
- (d) Ad Hoc Committees shall be approved, disbanded, and have its mandate extended by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority quorum vote of the Senate.
- (e) Additional regulations on Ad Hoc Committees shall be regulated by the Senate on a case by case basis.
- (f) Any violations of clauses contained in this section may result in a strike. Severe and damaging violations may result in Senator suspension.

Bylaws of  
The University Student Senate of  
The New School  
2024-2025

## **Section 2. By-laws and Declaration**

- (g) *Bylaws of the University Student Senate are additional binding rules that help the Senate to fulfill its duties and objectives as listed in this Constitution.*
  - (i) *They may be introduced by any Senator during a General Meeting.*
  - (ii) *They may be adopted, amended, or repealed by a simple majority ( $\frac{1}{2}+1$ ) approval of the quorum.*
  - (iii) *If an adoption, amendment, or repeal of a bylaw takes place within a General Meeting, they shall be published within twenty-four (24) hours.*
  - (iv) *Bylaws are effective until they are repealed by the Senate.*

## By-Law of the University Student Senate

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### Communications Act of Relevance and Exigency

Submitted Feb. 7th, 2021, approved by the general meeting on Feb. 12th, 2021

#### Authors

Executive Board Members: Weiouqing Chen, NSSR; Elizabeth King, Lang;

Representative Board Members:

### **Declarations**

**Whereas:** It is imperative that the University Student Senate communication process to the student body is timely, up-to-date, and relevant;

**Whereas:** The University Student Senate sometimes needs to communicate with the student body with urgency;

**Whereas:** The existing approval process for emails to students is cumbersome and inefficient;

**Whereas:** There is no legal procedure for members of the Communications Committee to speed up the process and deliver important information to students in a timely manner;

**Therefore, be it resolved:** The University Student Senate hereby enacts the following new law to regulate its communication process to the student body.

### **Text of Law**

§1: Name of Law:

I. This Law shall be called Communications Act of Relevance and Urgency.

§2: Definitions:

I. The “TNS” is the New School.

II. The “USS” is the University Student Senate of TNS.

III. The “Student(s)” is any student who paid the University Student Senate Fee to the USS

IV. The “Communications Committee” or “Comms. Committee” is the group of senators authorized by the USS to oversee the communication process to Students relating to USS matters and updates..

V. The “Content(s)” is the written body of any communications that we send to students, which includes, but are not limited to: emails, social media posts, and NarwhalNation posts.

VI. The “Attachment(s)” is the supplementary documents accompanying the Contents of USS communications, which includes, but are not limited to: surveys and Declarations.

§3: Communications Contents Requirements:

I. The Contents of any Comms. Committee communication to Students shall not contradict any stated values of the USS in the Constitution

- II. The Contents of any Comms. Committee communication to Students shall be available for the entire USS to review and amend 48 hours in advance of the scheduled date and time of their release.
  - III. The Contents of any Comms. Committee communication to Students shall be reviewed and approved by the Comms Committee members with a simple majority vote.
  - IV. In case of emergency, the Executive Board can approve the Contents with a simple majority vote without the 48-hour Senate review.
  - V. The Attachments of any Comms. Committee communication to Students shall be reviewed and approved by the entire USS in advance of their release.
  - VI. The entire USS shall be responsible for any and all impact of the Contents.
- §4: Amendments and Ratifications:
- I. This law shall be amended and ratified according to the Constitution of the USS.
  - II. If the law is ratified by the USS, it shall be effective immediately.
  - III. If the law is amended by the USS, the amended law shall be effective immediately.

## By-Law of the University Student Senate

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### Funding Guidelines Regulation Act

Submitted Nov. 1st 2019; Passed Spring Retreat 2020

#### Authors

Executive Board Members: Weiouqing Chen, NSSR; Peter Zayas, NSPE; Gustavo Sampaio, CPA;  
Representative Board Members: Agneses Di Riccio, NSSR

### **Declarations**

**Whereas:** It is imperative that the University Student Senate funding process is fair to its constituents and in accordance with the mission of the Senate and the New School;

**Whereas:** The existing funding guideline is flawed and in need of clarifications and amendments;

**Whereas:** There is no legal procedure for members of the Senate to clarify or to amend the Guidelines;

**Whereas:** There is no legal procedure to prevent, revoke, or to record the changes, unwanted or not, made to the guideline;

**Therefore, be it resolved:** The University Student Senate hereby enacts the following new law to regulate its funding process.

### **Text of Law**

#### **§1: Name of Law:**

- I. This Law shall be called Funding Guidelines Regulation Act.
- II. This Law shall henceforth be referred to as the “Regulation” in the text of the law.

#### **§2: Definitions:**

- I. The “TNS” is the New School.
- II. The “USS” is the University Student Senate of TNS.
- III. The “Fee” is the Student Senate Fee collected by the TNS
- IV. The “Student” or “Students” is any student who paid the Fee to the USS
- V. The “Organization ” or “Organizations” is any organization comprised of Students
- VI. The “Finance Committee” is the group of senators authorized by the USS to vote on funding matters relating to TNS students and student organizations..
- VII. The “Funds” is the money granted to Students or Organizations through the USS funding procedures.
- VIII. The “University Student Senate Funding Rules and Guidelines,” or “Funding Guidelines” is the public document accessible to the public to clarify USS funding procedures.

#### **§3: Funding Guidelines Requirements:**

- I. The Funding Guidelines shall state clearly and plainly the funding procedures for Students and Organizations
- II. The funding procedures shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

- A. The eligibility of USS funds
- B. USS funding restrictions, which includes:
  - 1. The maximal amount of money USS grants to a Student or an Organization during a specified period of time
  - 2. What kinds of funds the USS grant
  - 3. What kinds of funds the USS does not grant
  - 4. Other restrictions that the Finance Committee or the USS finds necessary
- C. The access and explanation of the relevant documents that are needed for Students or Organizations to propose funding to the USS
- D. The timetable of the funding procedure, which includes:
  - 1. The deadline for proposal consideration relative to the date when funding is needed
  - 2. The deadline for proposal submission relative to the date of funding meetings.
  - 3. Access to relevant documents with dates and places of funding meetings
  - 4. The deadline for spending report relative to the date of spending
- E. Instructions of payments
- F. The services or quotes offered by the TNS
- G. Instructions of coordinations with the TNS
- H. Other relevant stipulations, limitations, regulations, or information that the Finance Committee, the USS, of the TNS sees fit to its respective missions.

#### §4: Amending the Funding Guidelines:

- I. If the existing Funding Guidelines do not meet the Requirements defined in Section 3, the Finance Committee shall be authorized to propose changes to the Funding Guidelines to meet the Requirement.
- II. Any Finance Committee member shall be authorized to propose a change to the Funding Guidelines.
  - A. If Students or Organizations seek to change the Funding Guidelines, a member of the Finance Committee shall be authorized to propose changes on their behalf.



- III. The Finance Committee shall discuss, at least once, the proposed changes during their internal meetings
- IV. The Finance Committee shall vote on the proposed changes after sufficient discussions.
- V. Following a Finance Committee vote in favor of the proposed changes, by a simple majority of the committee members, the change shall be adopted into the Funding Guidelines.
  - A. This vote can be held either in person or online
  - B. The simple majority is not a simple majority of members in discussion or otherwise defined, but the simple majority of the total Finance Committee members.
- VI. The amended Funding Guidelines shall be effective immediately
- VII. The amended Funding Guidelines shall be publicized to Students and Organizations through appropriate mediums and persons without hindrance.
- VIII. The Funding Guidelines replaced shall be archived by the USS for future reference.

§5: Amendments and Ratifications:

- I. This law shall be amended and ratified according to the Constitution of the USS.
- II. If the law is ratified by the USS, it shall be effective immediately.

## By-Law of the University Student Senate

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### Supporting Our Senators Act

approved December 8 2023

#### **Authors\* and Sponsors^**

Executive Board Members: Linfei Yang\*, NSSR, Director of Operations

Representative Board Members: Jean-Luc Montaudy^, Lang; McKenna Merriman^, Lang

#### **Declarations**

**Whereas:** Article VI, Section 1, Subsection (d) Part iv of the USS Constitution states that the Student Senate Fee may be used for the compensation to Senators serving in official capacities;

**Whereas:** Previous Senates have determined in conjunction with the USS Advisor that this compensation shall be in the amount of 250 USD in NewCard Cash per senator per semester, but has remained unchanged since FY 2021-2022;

**Whereas:** This stipend, combined with a severe lack of additional incentives, pales in comparison to stipends provided by other New York area colleges such as [Barnard, where student representatives receive a minimum of 375 USD per semester](#), [CUNY, where student representatives receives 2,475 USD per semester](#), [as well as colleges across the US](#);

**Whereas:** It is important for Senators to be supported by the USS in a tangible manner as they undertake their responsibilities in addition to their full time role as a New School student, while also considering the need for fiscal responsibility to our student body;

**Therefore, be it resolved:** The University Student Senate hereby enacts the following new law to better support our Senators.

### **Text of By-Law**

#### **§1: Senator Compensation:**

- I. Senator compensation for FY 2023-24 shall reflect the buying power equivalent in August 2023 of 250 USD from May 2021, as determined by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics's Consumer Price Index Calculator, which is 285 USD of NewCard Cash per semester per Senator;
- II. Senator compensation shall increase by 5 USD of NewCard Cash per Senate fiscal year over the FY 2023-2024 base rate of 285 USD until it reaches 300 USD of NewCard Cash;
- III. The aforementioned compensation and increase shall be automatically allocated in the USS Budget, which will be reflected by the DoF, and balanced with the Internal Senate Expenditures portion of the budget in collaboration with the DoO;

#### **§2: Dispersion:**

- I. Senators must take their oath of office in order to receive their Senator compensation;

- II. Dispersion of Senator compensation shall be facilitated by the USS Advisor and must take place as soon as possible after the USS Orientation/Retreat each semester;
- III. If a Senator receives three strikes in one semester, they will not be eligible to receive their Senator compensation next semester pending the establishment of a binding continued participation plan pursuant to Article VII Section 1 of the Constitution;
- IV. Senators that have resigned or are removed during the first semester of their term are not eligible to receive Senator compensation for their uncompleted term;
- V. Senators who wish to decline their stipend may reach out to the USS advisor by the date of the USS Orientation/Retreat.

§3: Ratification and Modification:

- I. This law shall be amended and ratified according to the Constitution of the USS;
- II. If the law is ratified by the USS, it shall be effective immediately;
- III. Upon ratification, this law shall also authorize the Senate to explore better methods of funding dispersal/incentives for Senators in collaboration with the USS Advisor.

## By-Law of the University Student Senate

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### The Marie Kondo Act

Submitted January 26, 2024, approved by virtual vote February 14, 2024

### Authors\* and Sponsors^

Executive Board Members: Linfei Yang\*, NSSR, Director of Operations; Michael Kpade^, Lang, Director of Finance

Representative Board Members:

### **Declarations**

**Whereas:** Article VI, Section 1, Subsection (d) Part ii of the USS Constitution states that the Student Senate Fee may be used for the equipment, supplies, and materials required for the operation of student programs and activities;

**Whereas:** These equipment, supplies, and materials, particularly those of a non-perishable nature, can be of high monetary value and multiple possible uses;

**Whereas:** There is currently no USS regulation on the organization of these non-perishable equipment, supplies, and materials, especially when a student organization becomes defunct, despite having funded a vast amount of such items in its history;

**Whereas:** It is important for the USS, as the custodian of student funds to be prudent and responsible in managing this vital resource for the benefit of the entire student body;

**Therefore, be it resolved:** The University Student Senate hereby enacts the following new law to promulgate an organizational system for all USS funded equipment, supplies, and materials.

### **Text of By-Law**

#### **§1: Definitions:**

- I. This By-Law shall be known as the “Mario Kondo Act”, and may be referred to interchangeably as the “Funding Organization Act”;
- II. The “Items” are defined as any equipment, materials, and supplies funded by the USS and purchased by a student or student organization, excluding Material Fund and Academic Fund allocations;
- III. The term “non-perishable” is defined as any non one-time use items, this includes but are not limited to: technology such as cameras and sound equipment; art supplies such as easels and exhibition boards; and recreational items such as books and video games;
- IV. The term “unused perishable items” is defined as any non-food perishable items that have neither expired nor been used such as canvases and transportation tickets as well as long term storage food items such as canned goods;
- V. The term “leftover perishable items” is defined as any short-term storage food items such as fresh fruit and vegetables;

- VI. The term “student organization” is defined as encompassing both independent student groups and Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) but not interchangeable;
- VII. The term “label” is defined as an identification document that can be attached to the USS funded item deemed feasible by the USS such as a sticker or tag.

§2: USS Label System:

- I. Beginning Fall 2024, students and student organizations receiving USS funded non-perishable items must ensure they carry an official USS label;
- II. This label shall be produced by the USS and made available to students and student organizations through appropriate channels and without hindrance;
- III. The label shall at least include the following information:
  - a) A byline stating that the item is “Funded by the University Student Senate under the custodianship of [student or student organization name]”
  - b) Information stating “If found, please return to the USS Office on the Second Floor of 39 W 13th St. or the SLI Office in Fanton Hall and contact [USS@newschool.edu](mailto:USS@newschool.edu)”
- IV. The label design and format shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the USS and stored in the USS cloud storage;
- V. The USS must have copies of the label on hand in order to commence the funding period unless a period of Extraordinary Circumstances has been declared, this shall be facilitated by the Executive Board.
- VI. Students and student organizations must identify a storage location for all USS funded non-perishable items in their Executive Summary, and must provide sufficient evidence that the labels have been applied if requested.

§3: Storage:

- I. Students and student organizations may store non-perishable items in an on campus location if such a space has been provided to them by the University;
- II. Students and student organizations may also store non-perishable items at the USS Office or SLI Office with consent and pending space availability;
- III. Should the above two options not be available, students and student organizations shall utilize all good faith efforts to ensure that USS funded non-perishable items are properly stored when not in use.

#### §4: Enforcement:

- I. Student officers of defunct student organizations active in the previous semester must make all good faith efforts to return all non-perishable items to the USS or SLI Office and inform the USS that they have done so in a diligent manner;
- II. Individual students with initiatives funded by the USS must return all non-perishable items to the USS or SLI office by the end of the semester of their project end date and must inform the USS that they have done so in a diligent manner;
- III. Non-perishable items unreturned and unlisted or without identified storage location for two consecutive semesters in a student or student organization's Executive Summary shall be deemed "lost";
- IV. The USS shall make available an example copy of the new Executive Summary format to students and student organizations through appropriate channels and without hindrance including the aforementioned items list as well as event and financial documentation before the beginning of the next funding period starting Spring 2024;
- V. Returning students and student organizations with no Executive Summary from the previous semester on file prior to the start of the funding period shall not be eligible for funding until they satisfactorily submit all required documentation, this shall be strictly enforced by the Finance Committee beginning Fall 2024;
- VI. Students and student organizations found with lost non-perishable items exceeding 100 USD in allocated funds shall not be eligible for additional USS funding, but may become eligible again after meeting with the Finance Committee and developing an enforceable accountability plan;
- VII. Repeat violators and/or violators found with lost non-perishable items exceeding 200 USD in allocated funds shall be denied USS funding with no exceptions;
- VIII. The Finance Committee shall be authorized to admit part time Finance Committee members from the student community to assist them in carrying out Finance Committee duties provided they have satisfactorily proven their

ability in carrying them out, the Senate may request a simple majority vote of the USS to approve potential candidates;

- IX. Senators from other committees shall be authorized to attend Funding Proposal Meetings based on space availability or by the permission of the Finance Director and facilitated by the Director of Operations.

§5: Retroactive Application:

- I. Currently active student organizations and returning student applicants shall be informed of the USS Label System and associated requirements before the beginning of the next funding period, before their meeting with the finance committee, as well as in other applicable USS communications, and shall make good faith efforts to apply the label to non-perishable items currently in their possession;
- II. Members of the Executive Board and the Finance Committee may audit students and student organizations previously in receipt of non-perishable items and may request a meeting with students or student organizations in possession of large quantities of non-perishable items;
- III. If Funding Proposal Meetings have not been made available by the first day of the academic year, active Tier 1 Registered Student Organizations shall be eligible to request up to 1/3rd of their previous approved semester budget for stop-gap reimbursable expenditures, facilitated by SLI based on urgency and capacity and pending submission of an Executive Summary, this exception may be suspended or expanded to Tier 2 and Tier 3 RSOs by the Director of Finance via a written communication to the Senate and USS advisors or a 1/2 majority quorum vote of the Senate;
- IV. Additional exceptions for a reimbursement process for late submissions of short-timeframe funding proposals from RSOs may be granted on a limited case-by-case basis during the semester by the Director of Finance with unanimous approval of the Finance Committee, or by 1/2 majority quorum vote of the Senate, and permission from SLI.

§6: Repossession:

- I. The USS shall make a roster of all returned non-perishable items in collaboration with SLI to be made available for students and student organizations on the USS website and any other applicable USS communication during the funding period in

- the future;
- II. The USS shall take possession of all non-perishable items of RSOs that have not reregistered and are not currently an independent student group.
  - III. The Finance Committee shall be authorized to decline to approve, bar, or reallocate funding from students and student organizations if the following are found in the below categories:
    - A. Utilization of less than 30% of allocated USS funds by the fourth quarter of the semester;
    - B. The amount remaining in their budget from the Fall Semester covers their new request in the Spring Semester;
    - C. 50% or over of budget items missing receipts by submission deadline of Executive Summary;
    - D. Abuse of the funding meeting scheduling system, such as chronic late arrival/no-shows to funding meetings and presenting proposals without all required documentation;
    - E. Failure to disclose other funding sources in the proposal;
    - F. Failure to respond to USS auditing requests;
    - G. Failure to credit the USS as a funding source;
    - H. Receiving funding from USS advisors facilitating the funding allocation process without proper USS authorization;
    - I. Utilization of funding for purposes other than what is stated in their budget;
    - J. Harassment of Finance Committee Members.
  - IV. The Finance Committee or the Executive Board, with the advice of the USS Advisor, shall be authorized to temporarily suspend allocated funding to students and student organizations subject to ongoing investigations of severe violations by the Student Conduct Board by a 2/3rds majority quorum vote for a period of two academic weeks or until the next General Meeting, whichever is later, extendable by a 1/2 majority quorum vote of the Senate.
  - V. Students not on good disciplinary standing shall be prohibited from applying for USS Funding.

§7: Unused Perishable Items & Leftover Perishable Items:

- I. Students and student organizations must return all in possession of all non-food



- unused perishable items to the USS or SLI Office at the end of the academic year;
- II. Students and student organizations are encouraged to donate all food-based unused perishable items at the end of the academic year and all leftover perishable items at the end of their associated event.

§8: Amendments and Ratifications:

- I. This law shall be amended and ratified according to the Constitution of the USS.
- II. If the law is ratified by the USS, the content of this by-law and any future USS funding related bylaws shall be governed according to the bylaw process stipulated in the USS Constitution, effective immediately.
- III. If the law is ratified by the USS, it shall be effective immediately.

## By-Law of the University Student Senate

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### Expanding Access to the Ballot Act

approved October 18, 2024

#### **Authors and Sponsors**

USS Director of Advocacy, Jovanna Liuzzo; co-sponsor USS Chief of Staff, Camellia Schinner;  
Co-sponsor Jonas Friedli

#### **Declarations**

**Whereas:** Article I, Section 5, Subsection (b), item (ii.) of the [USS Constitution](#) states that “every student needs to be in good academic standing and without disciplinary probation to be eligible to run as a voting member of the Senate , subsection (ii) specifically delineates that “every student must be registered for a full time course load to be eligible to run as a voting member of the senate” ;

**Whereas:** The Senate of AY 2024-2025 has expressed desire to engage more of the campus in elections and recruit more people to the senate, after Amending the Constitution to include provisions for 35 student Senate seats;

**Whereas:** Historically low engagement across TNS colleges in campus elections has led the Senate of AY 24-25 to undertake a more robust Special Election process, due to the following voting percentages of the current year’s USS Election: 4% of CoPA voted, 7% of Lang, 2.4% of Parsons, 8.5% of NSSR, and 1% of SPE. In the Special Elections process, there are vacant seats in every college, yet only Parsons has enough candidates to potentially fill that college’s seats, and this year’s Senate is focused on encouraging more students to run from all 7 colleges.

**Whereas:** The delineation of a full-time enrollment qualification for Senatorship under the categorization of a subsection (b) that describes how a student must be in good academic standing, relating to GPA, to be a Senator would be more clear and effective if made into two separate subsections;

**Whereas:** The current language of Article I, Section 5, Subsection (b), item (ii.) of the USS Constitution creates a gray area for what provision is taken for a Senator who was full-time at the point of qualifying, running, and earning their Senate seat, but found themselves in the circumstances of dropping credits and becoming part-time during the Academic Year they are serving;

**Whereas:** The USS reserves seats for the School of Public Engagement (SPE) and The New School for Social Research (NSSR), both of which are marketed towards professionals and learners of any age and of non-traditional backgrounds, with wide course availability including evening classes and an open curriculum, and specifically the ability to be enrolled part-time;

**Whereas:** The credit-allotment for “full-time” status for NSSR, SPE, and Graduate programs at large is 9 credits, compared to the 12-credit minimum for full-time Undergraduate enrollment (part-time for Undergraduate being 6 credits). The current language of Article I, Section 5, Subsection (b), item (ii.) of the USS Constitution is not clear due to such disparate differences in full-time versus part-time enrollment

credit allowance, and this lack of specificity deters interested applicants in running for Senate, whether eligible or not, as experienced in AY 24-25.

*Example: SPE students are experiencing filling out the candidacy application, only to reach the last page and realize they are ineligible, due to the application requirement of confirming full-time status; Senate applications are being discarded and abandoned, due to a lack of clarity on who is eligible based on credit status. The USS does not currently have a mechanism to survey how many students have filled out an application only to realize they are not eligible based on part-time status, though it is understood that students are affected by this policy each year, and that more students will run for Senate seats once deemed eligible for part-time **and** full-time enrollment; currently 1% of SPE votes in USS elections.*

**Whereas:** The Senate of AY 2024-2025 holds the position that barriers to running for Student Senate should be eliminated, and in light of Graduate programs at TNS receiving the least Senate representation historically, making part-time enrolled students eligible for Senate make Student Government more accessible to the entire Student Body, and achieve a more democratic, representative system.

**Therefore, be it resolved:** The University Student Senate hereby enacts the following new law to better support our Student Body and Senators by including part-time enrollment as a mark of eligibility.

### **Text of By-Law**

#### **§1: Senator Qualification:**

I. Qualifications for Student Senatorship for AY 24-25 shall reflect the eligibility for holding student government positions to part-time students as determined by the USS of AY 24-25;

A. “Part-Time” is defined as 6 credits for Graduate students (full-time status is 9 credits or higher), whereas for Undergraduates part-time is any allotment less than 12 credits per semester.

1. Credit distinctions for part-time and full-time differ for Undergraduate versus Graduate programs due to the tuition payment model of The New School, where Undergraduate students pay one base tuition fee for 12-18 credits as a full-time student, where Graduates pay

tuition-per-credit, and each college has a different credit cost.

- B. “Current Academic Year” means the year that the Senator is running to serve in, regardless of General or Special election.

§2: Adjustment of Constitutional Language:

- I. Senators who are both full-time and part-time enrolled are hereby eligible for Student Senate elected and appointed roles during AY 24-25;
- II. Therefore making Constitutional language more clear, as long as a New School student of either Lang, Parsons, CoPA, SPE, or NSSR is in good academic standing and run for Senate, they are eligible under the updated provision of Article I, Section 5, Subsection (b), item (ii.) that reads:
  - B. “Every student must be registered for courses in the current Academic Year to be eligible to run as a voting member of the senate
    1. Good academic standing” means a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher for undergraduate students and 3.0 or higher for graduate students.
    2. Every student must be registered for a full time or part-time course load to be eligible to run as a voting member of the senate,”
- III. Students who are of good academic standing at the time of running for Senate, and then withdraw from course credits and transition from full-time to part-time, shall be able to maintain Senatorship through the Academic Year.

§3: Ratification and Modification:

- I. This law shall be amended and ratified according to the Constitution of the USS;
- II. If the law is ratified by the USS, it shall be effective immediately;
- III. Upon ratification, this law shall also authorize the Senate to explore updating language related to expanding access to the ballot and increasing engagement and harmony with the Student Body, by making intentional efforts to be inclusive and representative.