

Maine Association of Student Councils – Constitution (May 24, 2006)

Preamble

We believe that the Student Council is an educational instrument designed to provide actual learning experiences in leadership and opportunities for practicing the qualities of good citizenship necessary for effective membership in a democratic society.

Article I Name

The name of this organization is the **Maine Association of Student Councils** (abbreviated MASC).

Article II Sponsorship and Affiliation

Section 1. MASC shall be under the sponsorship of the **Maine Principals' Association** (abbreviated MPA).

Section 2. MASC shall be affiliated with the **National Association of Student Councils** (abbreviated NASC).

Article III Purpose

The purpose of the this association is to promote the concept of the Student Council; to assist individual schools in matters directly related to student council organization; to act as a central agency for the collection and distribution of materials relating to student council work; to provide students with an opportunity to develop leadership abilities; and to encourage student cooperation with school administration as a direct means of training for the leadership in a democratic society.

Article IV Membership

Any school in the state, which sponsors a local student council organization and/or student representative organization, is eligible for membership in this association and may become a member upon payment of the annual dues.

Article V Powers of the Association

At all business meetings of MASC, each member school shall have one vote.

Article VI Structure

MASC shall be divided into five regions, which shall approximate the MPA regional divisions.

Article VII

Officers

Section 1. The officers of MASC shall be a president, a president– elect, a vice -president, a secretary, a high school representative, and two junior high representatives, each of whom shall be elected at the annual state convention and shall hold office until the installation of officers of the following year.

Section 2. The regional officers of MASC shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a high school representative, a junior high school representative, and the immediate past-president, each of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall hold office until the installation of officers of the following year.

Section 3: Officers shall be from member schools and shall be members of their local student council.

Article VIII

Executive Committee

Section 1. The executive committee of MASC shall consist of the seven elected student officers (president, president-elect, secretary, high school representative and junior high school representatives), the regional presidents and any regional presidents who served part of their term during the current school year, the faculty advisors of each of the student officers, five principals representing the MPA, and the Executive Director.

Section 2. The voting power of the Executive Committee is given to the student officers.

Section 3. A quorum shall consist of more than 1/3 of the voting members.

Section 4. (a) By a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the adult members of the Executive Committee present, any action of the entire Executive Committee may be vetoed, said veto to be accompanied by an explanation.

Section 4. (b) By a unanimous vote of the voting members present said veto may be appealed to the MPA Interscholastic Executive Board, whose decision shall be final.

Section 5. The duties of the Executive Committee are:

- (a) to approve plans and dates of MASC activities
- (b) to determine policies governing the work of MASC
- (c) to legislate any business of MASC not otherwise delegated in the Constitution
- (d) to assist in the organization of new local student councils
- (e) to assume jurisdiction of all funds of MASC
- (f) to have the financial records of MASC audited at the request of the Executive Board or if requested by the MPA. MASC shall request MPA cover the cost of an audit requested by MPA

(g) to determine, initiate, and develop activities and procedures which are in the best interest of MASC

Article IX

Executive Director

Section 1. The adult members of the Executive Committee with the approval of the MPA Interscholastic Executive Board appoint the Executive Director.

Section 2. The term of office is three years, with eligibility for re-nomination.

Section 3. The Executive Director is to be bonded by a reliable bonding company.

Section 4. The Executive Director receives an annual salary recommended by the adult members of the Executive Committee, approved and paid by the Interscholastic Executive Board of MPA.

Article X

Supervision

The MPA Interscholastic Executive Board shall have the final authority to approve or disapprove all policies and procedures adopted by MASC or its Executive Director.

Article XI

Transfers

Section 1: This article relates to situations where MASC Executive Committee officers transfer to other schools which are members in good standing of the MASC. In order for these provisions to apply there must be provisions for the student to become a member of the Student Council in the school to which they transfer at the time of the transfer. In the event where an officer transfers to a non-member school or there are no provisions for the student to become a member at the time of the transfer the Vacancies provisions in Article XII shall apply.

Section 2: MASC Executive Committee officers transferring in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 shall continue in elected position; contingent upon written approval from the principal and advisor from the school the officer has transferred to. Written approval shall be based upon elective process within Maine Association of Student Councils' by-laws. If the approval of the principal and advisor are not granted the Vacancies provisions in Article XII shall apply.

Section 3: MASC Executive Committee officers transferring to a member school with an elected MASC Executive Committee officer will relinquish a position. Resultant vacancy will be filled based upon Article XII Section 2.

Article XII

Vacancies

Section 1: If a vacancy occurs in the office of president, the vice-president succeeds immediately. Following this succession, the office of Vice President shall be filled by

nomination of the Executive Director with the approval of the Executive Committee. Nomination will be based upon results from the annual conference election results.

Section 2: Vacancies in candidacies occurring in the elective officers of the president–elect, vice–president, secretary, high school representative, or junior high representative are filled by nomination of the Executive Director with the approval of the Executive Committee. Nomination will be based upon results from the annual conference election results.

Section 3: The Principal of his/her school fills vacancy of a faculty advisor.

Section 4: Vacancy in the office of Executive Director is filled in the same manner as provided for in the initial appointment.

Section 5: The school of the president–elect, vice–president, secretary, high school representative, or junior high representative will fill vacancies for the elected position.

Article XIII Meeting

An annual meeting of MASC is held at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee.

Article XIV Finances

Section 1. The fiscal year extends from September 1 through August 31 of the following year.

Section 2. The annual membership dues are to be determined by the Executive Committee

Section 3. Each council sending delegates to any general meeting of MASC pays a registration fee as determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Funds of MASC are used to pay all routine and promotional expenses of association.

Article XV Rules of Order

All matters of procedures not specifically covered by the Constitution are conducted in accordance with the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised.”

Article XVI Amendments

Section 1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution are to be submitted to the Executive Committee 90 days prior to the State Convention.

Section 2. The Executive Committee presents the proposed amendments, with their recommendations, to member schools prior to the annual business meeting of MASC.

Article XVII

Ratification

Section 1. This Constitution is in immediate effect following ratification by a majority vote of the official delegate schools at the annual meeting.

Section 2. This Constitution takes precedence over all regional Constitutions, as do Bylaws.