

Constitution of the Northland Pioneer College Student Government Association

Mission

The Student Government Association is the voice of every student at Northland Pioneer College, and is committed to advocating for those issues that will enhance the educational, social, and career development of all NPC students.

The Student Government Association is committed to being a source of information, guidance, and service to students. The Student Government Association is also committed to being open and receptive to the individual, ethnic, religious and cultural orientation of NPC's students.

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be Northland Pioneer College Student Government Association – NPC SGA.

Article II: Purpose and Goals

- Section I** The purpose and goals of SGA are:
- To give support to all NPC students and work to facilitate meeting student needs;
 - To create a sense of unity among the student body and within the community;
 - To support the Administration, Staff, and Faculty-student relationships;

- Section II** SGA supports and adheres to all established NPC Student Handbook Policies, District Governing Board policies and procedures and all state and federal laws.

Article III: Membership

- Section I** Membership shall be granted to all students. Students elected or appointed to an SGA office must be currently enrolled for at least 6 credit hours and meet a minimum GPA requirement of 2.0 which shall be checked by the SGA Adviser two weeks after the fall and spring semester grades have been officially posted. Incomplete grades must be posted before membership can be officially verified.

- Section II** No student meeting the qualifications for the office in this association shall be denied participation based on race, color, national origin, religious affiliation, gender, physical handicaps, political beliefs, age or sexual preference.
- Section III** A student is defined as any individual who is currently enrolled and registered for classes at Northland Pioneer College.
- Section IV** Minimum input from all members to receive SGA distinction on transcripts will be to provide 5 volunteer hours (not including meetings) per semester, and to attend at least 3 meetings per semester.
- Section V** Additional SGA seats will be offered to members of other NPC student groups. Student Group members will be regarded in a similar manner to SGA Senators, but will not be held to SGA membership requirements or considered SGA members unless they have applied to SGA and have been officially added to membership. These representatives will be allowed to vote on issues regarding the student body as well as in the election for SGA officers. For voting matters, each non-SGA student group represented will be counted as one (1) vote; there is no penalty for dual-membership (students are allowed to be members of multiple student groups).

Article IV: Senate – Officers

- Section I** The Senate will consist of 13 members apportioned both on Full-Time Student Equivalent, (FTSE), for the campuses, and apportioned by center location. Eight Senators will represent the four campuses and five Governing Board members will represent the college centers.
- A. Beginning September 30, 2008 SGA voted to rename the Governing Board to the Senate. The renaming was to distinguish itself from the District Governing Board.
- B. Minimum input requirements for officers and senators:
Senators – attend 60% of meetings and/or give 10+ volunteer hours per semester
Officers – attend 75% of meetings and/or give 20+ volunteer hours per semester
- C. Volunteer hours will be reviewed and approved at the discretion of the SGA Adviser

Section II: Executive Officers and Requirements

The Executive cabinet will be composed of:

- a. **President of the Senate/SGA**
- b. **Vice President of the Senate/SGA**
- c. **Secretary of the Senate**

(SGA members holding office will be required to maintain a 3.0 GPA)

(Officers will collectively seek leadership and professional development opportunities for SGA members and NPC student body)

A. President of the Senate: President's obligations are to develop and foster relationships between SGA Members and staff, faculty, administration, NPC District Governing Board and the general public, call Senate meetings, oversee the functioning of the SGA Senate, and to create and maintain a cooperative team atmosphere within it. Provide leadership to student body through good communication skills, honesty, vision, motivating others and consistency. The term of President is to be one academic year, and if re-elected, not to exceed two consecutive academic years.

1. Shall serve as the chief spokesperson for students and student organizations at NPC both within and outside the college community.
2. Shall make recommendations on constitutional and/or legislative concerns to the Campus Senate.
3. Shall make recommendations on programming needs to the Campus-Wide Activities Board.
4. Shall appoint student volunteers to college administrative and Shared Governance committees with the approval of the Senate.
5. Shall call Senate and other committee meetings to order following Robert's Rules of Order.
6. Shall create and distribute meeting agendas for Senate meetings.
7. Shall serve as a voting member of the Senate
8. Shall serve on, or appoint representatives to attend, various Shared Governance committees.
9. Shall attend, or appoint representative, or create a written report regarding previous month's SGA activities for all DGB meetings.

B. Vice-President of the Senate: The Vice President is responsible for presenting ideas and suggestions from the student body during the regularly scheduled

meetings. The term of Vice President of Senate is to be one academic year, or if re-elected, not to exceed two consecutive academic years.

1. Shall call and preside over meetings in absence of the President.
2. Shall perform other duties as delegated by the President or Senate body.
3. Shall direct and organize Student Activities Committee.
4. Shall propose plans and initiatives formulated by Student Activities Committee.
5. Shall interact with student body to source ideas or concerns regarding Student Activities.

C. Secretary of the Senate: The officer is to document all meetings and decisions, both in electronic and hard copy form, create and distribute minutes to SGA Governing Board members, assure the availability of information of the SGA Senate's actions to the public through appropriate and available means. The term of the Secretary is to be one year, or if re-elected, not to exceed two consecutive academic years.

1. Will document all Senate meetings and decisions, both in electronic and hardcopy form, create and distribute minutes to SGA Senators and SGA Advisor.
2. Assure the availability of information of SGA's actions to the public through appropriate and available means.
3. Provide monthly summary for digital publication of 1) prior month's developments, 2) current SGA projects, 3) upcoming student activities/events/opportunities.
4. Coordinate with the SGA Advisor and any other appropriate agent of the college in matters related to the SGA budget; report SGA/Student Activities budget at Senate meetings.

Section III: Vacancies If a vacancy occurs among the officers, the SGA Senate will appoint a replacement based upon a simple majority vote.

Section IV: Volunteers Students that participate in SGA activities must be enrolled at NPC and be in good academic standing. Students not meeting this requirement will not be eligible to participate in any SGA activities.

Section V: Service Awards

All SGA officers and senators must fulfill the minimum requirements of their respective positions to receive any awards accordingly. Awards shall be issued following the semester to which they pertain.

Article V: Elections

Section I: Applications to Run for Senate

Applications to run for the Student Government Association Senate will be available at all campus/center locations, as well as the SGA website. Applications must be forwarded to The SGA Advisor. Those meeting the qualifications will be placed on the ballot.

Section II: Elections

A. Officers - Elections of the Student Government Association officers will occur during the last week of March. Oversight of the election process will be by the SGA Advisor(s) in coordination with the Dean of Students. Write-in candidates will not be accepted as an official ballot. Tabulation of the votes and notification of those elected will be the responsibility of the SGA Advisor(s).

Elections of officers will be the responsibility of the members of the Senate. The Senate will determine the process for the selection of officers (see addendum below).

B. Senate – Elections for the Senators (8 from the campuses

& 5 from the centers) will be held the 1st week of September. An NPC-wide survey will be conducted by the SGA Advisor(s) and all enrolled students will be allowed to vote. Candidates will be all current and qualified SGA members in good standing not already occupying an SGA office (President, Vice President, Secretary).

If a member does not wish to be a candidate for the senate they will have the option to remove themselves from the election. Those receiving the most votes (top 2 from campuses/top 1 from centers) will be given the position of Senator.

- C. Addendum – In the event that there are less than 13 active senators, voting matters will be opened to all SGA members.

Article VI: SGA Advisor(s):

A.

SGA Advisor(s) shall be official staff/faculty members of NPC.

B.

Student organizations will nominate their choice for Faculty Advisor to the SGA Advisor(s) and Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will then consult with the NPC President, Vice President of Learning and Student Services and the appropriate Division Dean that supervises the nominee before confirmation. If the nominee is not confirmed, the organization will nominate another choice and the process will continue until confirmation takes place.

C. Advisor Responsibilities

Responsibilities include facilitating meetings, budget oversight and expenditure, facilitating officer elections, accompanying SGA sponsored trips, overseeing student activities, and general advocacy of SGA initiatives and events, etc. Inappropriate conduct may result in termination of student organization position and/or participation in future student related activities.

Article VII: Meetings

General Session Senate meetings will be held twice per month unless otherwise

stated. Meetings will be presided over by the President of the SGA. The agenda is the responsibility of the President.

All senators and officers must attend the scheduled meetings and fulfill the minimum requirements of their position. The SGA Senate may, at its discretion, excuse a member from attendance for good reason. Minimum percentage attendance requirements are as follows:

Officers – must attend 75% of meetings

Senators – must attend 60% of meetings

Members – must attend at least 4 meetings per semester

If after the first 10 meetings, an SGA member has not met their minimum attendance requirement and has not been excused, they may be dismissed at the will of the majority of the Senate.

In order to conduct the business of the Senate, a quorum must be present. A quorum is more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of those duly elected and/or appointed.

Article VIII: Constitutional Changes

This constitution can be changed with a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Senate.

Article IX: Constitutional Interpretation

Any issue arising out of a conflict of interpretation of this constitution can be appealed to a Constitutional Court comprising of the Vice President of Learning and Student Services, SGA Advisor, and three senators as selected by the Senate.

Last Updated 7/14/20 by Ryan Orr, Cynthia Owen, Nicha Tucker, Jolina Barron