



**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
NEW COLLEGE STUDENT ALLIANCE**



The Official Seal of the
New College Student Alliance

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OF THE
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Preamble

We, the Students of New College of Florida, in order to foster a shared sense of community, to preserve New College's identity and vitality, to better express and represent the views of Students, to promote an environment free from discrimination, and to ensure – to the greatest degree possible – that Students have control over all decisions that effect them, do hereby establish this Constitution for the New College Student Alliance.

Article I – General Provisions

I.1 – Name

The name of this organization shall be the New College Student Alliance, hence referred to as the NCSA.

I.2 – Student Body

All students, by virtue of their registration at New College of Florida, hence referred to as the college, shall be members of the NCSA and be subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the NCSA Statutes, hence referred to as the Great Book, and to all regulations of the college.

I.3 – Power

The NCSA governs and represents the student body. Its actions, not otherwise limited by this Constitution, supersede those of all other student organizations.

I.4 – Branches

The power of the NCSA shall be divided into a legislative branch, an executive branch, and a judicial branch. No person holding office in one branch shall hold office in another, except as provided in this Constitution.

I.5 – Exclusionary Offices

The Towne Meeting may provide, in the Great Book, for NCSA offices considered exclusionary,

provided that the following positions always be exclusionary: President(s); Speaker; all cabinet-level positions; all elected council positions, and all offices of the judicial branch.

- a) No person may hold more than one exclusionary office. Accepting an exclusionary position while holding another exclusionary position constitutes automatic resignation from the former office.
- b) Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed so as to prohibit any person holding an exclusionary office simultaneously holding a position on an independent body having only advisory powers, or on a committee or commission created by the President(s).

I.6 – Rights Recognized by the NCSA

The NCSA recognizes all rights guaranteed by the laws of the United States and the State of Florida. Furthermore the NCSA respects the following rights of students:

- a) Students shall have the right to freedom of expression, association, and assembly. The NCSA shall not restrict access to the facilities necessary for the exercise of these rights, except as provided by law or the student code of conduct.
- b) Students shall have the right to participate in student government. The NCSA shall not restrict students' rights to vote in elections, to attend and speak at NCSA meetings, to take exception to NCSA policies and actions, and to have access to all NCSA information, except as provided by law.
- c) Students have a right to take exception to any decision, policy, or view—academic or otherwise—of the college and bring their grievances to the appropriate NCSA official(s).
- d) Students have a right to be free from discrimination. The NCSA shall not discriminate based on race, gender, gender identity, religion, beliefs, class, age, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, or any other reason, except as provided by law.
- e) Students shall have the right to due process as outlined in this Constitution, the student code of conduct, student court procedures, and elsewhere.
- f) Students shall have the right to own a dinosaur; however, any student wishing to raise velociraptors must reside either off-campus or in B Dorm.

The enumeration of specific rights in this section shall be in no way construed so as to deny other

rights retained by the students.

Article II – Legislative Branch

II.1 – The Towne Meeting

All legislative powers of the the NCSA, except where limited in this Constitution, shall be possessed by the Towne Meeting. The Towne Meeting shall be considered the highest form of student government at New College of Florida.

II.2 – Composition

The Towne Meeting shall be composed of all members of the NCSA. A quorum of the Towne Meeting shall consist of no fewer than fifty (50) members.

II.3 – Powers and Duties

The Towne Meeting shall have the following powers and duties:

- a) to write and enact legislation;
- b) to establish its own rules and procedures;
- c) to determine its regular meeting time and place in the Great Book, provided that it meets at least once a month, excepting the time during winter break, summer break, and the January inter-term;
- d) to gather opinions and ideas from the students on matters of concern to the student community;
- e) to inform students of actions taken by NCSA officials;
- f) to confirm all appointments to the Cabinet and vacated elected positions, with the exception of those on the Student Court;
- g) to submit referenda for placement on the ballot;
- h) to submit amendments to this Constitution for placement on the ballot;
- i) to provide for election procedures in the Great Book;
- j) to require information and appearance from any NCSA official or of any organization receiving NCSA funds; and

- k) to exercise any other power of duty provided for in this Constitution or in the Great Book.

II.4 – Restrictions of Power

The Towne Meeting shall not:

- a) enact any legislation which limits any of its powers or duties delegated by this Constitution;
- b) assume any powers or duties specifically granted by this Constitution to a separate office or body;
- c) enact any legislation not in accordance with this Constitution; or
- d) enact any legislation regarding financial regulations which has not been duly passed by the Student Allocations Committee.
- e) Furthermore, any legislation which would change the duties of, or eliminate a permanent office shall not take effect until the expiration of the incumbent's term, except with the consent of the incumbent.

II.5 – Speaker of the Towne Meeting

There shall be an elected Speaker who shall have the following duties:

- a) preside and preserve order at all Towne Meetings;
- b) set the agenda for each Towne Meeting;
- c) assist students in drafting legislation to bring before the Towne Meeting;
- d) ensure proper and adequate notice of each Towne Meeting;
- e) monitor the progress of any committees created by the Towne Meeting;
- f) serve as the liaison of the Towne Meeting to the other NCSA bodies;
- g) attend all Cabinet meetings; and,
- h) exercise any other duties as specified in this Constitution or the Great Book.

II.6 – The Student Allocations Committee

There shall be a Student Allocations Committee, hence referred to as the SAC, composed of two (2) elected representatives from each academic year (first, second, third, and fourth year and up),

which shall have the following duties:

- a) to elect from its members a Chair, who shall attend all Cabinet meetings;
- b) to establish its own rules and procedures by a 5/7 vote of all of its voting members;
- c) to approve the annual budget proposed by the President(s);
- d) to approve amendments to the annual budget proposed by the President(s);
- e) to review any legislation regarding financial regulations prior to the Towne Meeting at which it is to be proposed;
- f) to allocate funds in the interest of the general student body; and,
- g) its members shall serve *ex officio* as voting members of the Council of Student Affairs.

Article III – Executive Branch

III.1 – Executive Power

The executive power of the NCSA shall be vested in the NCSA President(s), assisted by the Cabinet members, the Council members, and any other lesser offices appointed by the President(s), the Cabinet, or the Councils in accordance with the Great Book.

III.2 – Duties and Powers of the President(s)

The President(s) shall:

- a) serve as chief executive officer(s) of the NCSA;
- b) ensure the implementation of all duly passed motions of the Towne Meeting and rulings of the Student Court;
- c) appoint all cabinet-level officials by the first Towne Meeting following installation, subject to Towne Meeting confirmation;
- d) appoint the Supervisor of Elections;
- e) outline a budget each year by May 1st for approval by the SAC;
- f) propose amendments to the annual budget as needed for approval by the SAC;
- g) appoint the manager of the Four Winds Café and all NCSA staff;

- h) serve as a voting member of the New College Board of Trustees;
- i) serve as a voting member at college faculty meetings;
- j) ensure the responsible representation and articulation of student opinion to relevant college administrators and public officials;
- k) ensure representation of the NCSA at all meetings of organizations to which the NCSA belongs; and
- l) exercise any other powers and duties as provided for in this Constitution or the Great Book.

III.3 – The Executive Cabinet

There shall be an Executive Cabinet composed of the following officers appointed by the President(s) and confirmed by the Towne Meeting:

- a) A Chief of Staff, whose duties shall include
 1. scheduling, planning, and presiding at Cabinet meetings;
 2. managing NCSA staff; and,
 3. managing all documents relating to the employment of NCSA officials and staff.
- b) An Executive Secretary, whose duties shall include
 1. taking minutes at Cabinet Meetings and Towne Meetings;
 2. updating and maintaining the Great Book; and,
 3. managing, maintaining, and ensuring reasonable access to the NCSA Archives.
- c) A Vice President for Student Affairs, hence referred to as the VPSA, whose duties shall include
 1. serving as Chair of the Council of Student Affairs; and,
 2. advising and assisting the President(s) in all matters related to general student affairs;
 3. serving as Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Towne Meeting in the event of the Speaker's inability to serve; and,

4. meeting with the college Dean of Students.
- d) A Vice President for Academic Affairs, hence referred to as the VPAA, whose duties shall include
1. serving as Chair of the Council of Academic Affairs, and
 2. advising and assisting the President(s) in all matters related to general academic affairs; and,
 3. meeting with the college Provost; and,
 4. serving as a voting representative at college faculty meetings.
- e) Vice President for Relations and Financial Affairs, hence referred to as the VPRFA, whose duties shall include
1. advising and assisting the President(s) in all matters related to general financial affairs;
 2. serving as the NCSA Representative to the New College Foundation and the New College Alumnae/i Association; and
 3. meeting with the NCSA Business Manager, the college Vice President of Finance and Administration, the President of the New College Foundation, and the Chair of the New College Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors.
- f) A Vice President for Green Affairs, also known as Captain Planet, hence referred to as the VPGA, whose duties shall include
1. chairing the NCSA body charged with allocating the student controlled Green Fee;
 2. advising and assisting the the President(s) in all matters related to general green affairs; and
 3. meeting with the director of Physical Plant.

Other duties of such officers shall be outlined elsewhere in this Constitution and in the Great Book.

III.4 – The Council of Student Affairs

There shall be a Council of Student Affairs, hence referred to as the CSA, chaired by the VPSA,

the members of which shall be specified in the Great Book. Its duties shall include:

- a) establishing its own rules and procedures;
- b) representing the views of student body as they pertain to student affairs through its resolutions and meetings with relevant administrators;
- c) reviewing the Student Code of Conduct and suggesting changes to the college administration;
- d) assisting the VPSA in implementing NCSA policies and programs related to general student affairs; and,
- e) exercising any other duties as provided for in this Constitution or the Great Book.

III.5 – The Council of Academic Affairs

There shall be a Council of Academic Affairs, hence referred to as the CAA, chaired by the VPAA, the members of which shall be specified in the Great Book. It's duties shall include:

- a) establishing its own rules and procedures;
- b) representing the views of student body as they pertain to academic affairs through its resolutions and meetings with relevant administrators;
- c) assisting the VPAA in implementing NCSA policies and programs related to general academic affairs;
- d) allocating funds to students for academic projects; and,
- e) exercising any other duties as provided for in this Constitution or the Great Book.

Article IV – Judicial Branch

IV.1 – Judicial Power

All judicial power of the NCSA shall be vested in a Student Court. The Towne Meeting may establish Special Tribunals to hear impeachment trials of Student Court Justices.

IV.2 – Administration

- a) The Chief Justice of the Student Court shall be the chief administrative officer of the judicial branch.

- b) The Student Court shall adopt its own rules of practice and procedure.
- c) All hearings of the Student Court must be conducted openly.

IV.3 – The Student Court

- a) Composition: The Student Court shall consist of five (5) elected Justices, who shall select from among themselves a Chief Justice at the first meeting of each semester.
- b) Procedures:
 - 1. Four members shall constitute a quorum.
 - 2. The concurrence of three members shall be necessary for a decision.
 - 3. The Chief Justice shall preside over the court; if the Chief Justice is temporarily unable to preside, another Justice shall preside at the discretion of the Justices.
 - 4. The Great Book shall set a method for assigning a qualified student to temporary duty on the court when a Justice is unable to serve.
- c) The Student Court shall have jurisdiction:
 - 1. over cases involving questions of the constitutionality of actions taken by NCSA officials and organizations;
 - 2. over violations of this Constitution, the Great Book, or any other NCSA regulation;
 - 3. over disputes involving the allocation of NCSA funds;
 - 4. over any other disputes involving student government;
 - 5. over disputes between students; and,
 - 6. In addition, the Justices shall serve as members of any body with student members established by the college to hear violations of the Student Code of Conduct.
- d) The Student Court shall have following powers:
 - 1. to issue all writs and subpoenas necessary and proper to the exercise of its jurisdiction;
 - 2. to impose sanctions in a manner specified in the Great Book; and,
 - 3. to issue advisory opinions concerning this Constitution or the Great Book.

IV.4 – Counselors

There shall be two elected Counselors who shall have the following duties:

- a) ensuring the enforcement of this Constitution, the Great Book, and any other NCSA regulations;
- b) serving as advisers to any party before the court; when one Counselor is the plaintiff in a case in fulfillment of the duties in section (a) of this section or is serving as the representative of the plaintiff, the other shall serve as the representative of the respondent; and,
- c) carrying out other duties as established by the Student Court rules of practice and procedure or the Great Book.

Article V – Elections and Qualifications

V.1 – Time of Elections

There shall three (3) regular elections each year: one at the beginning of the fall academic term, one at the end of the fall academic term, and one during the spring academic term. Other special elections may be held as provided by the Great Book.

V.2 – Election of the President(s)

The NCSA President(s) shall be elected during the late fall elections. As many as two (2) students may run together as co-candidates on a single ticket. In order to be elected, a presidential ticket must receive a majority of the votes cast.

V.3 – Election of the Speaker

The Speaker of the Towne Meeting shall be elected during the spring elections. In order to be elected, a candidate must receive a plurality and at least ten (10) per cent of the votes cast.

V.4 – Election of Other Officials

Other NCSA officers shall be elected in accordance with the election procedures set forth in the Great Book.

V.5 – Supervision and Validation of Elections

There shall be a Supervisor of Elections, appointed by the President(s) and confirmed by the

Towne Meeting, who shall conduct elections in accordance with the Great Book. The Student Court shall supervise the counting the counting of ballots and validate the results.

V.6 – Term of Office

All NCSA officials shall take office at the time of their installation, to be specified in the Great Book, and serve until the installation of their successors.

V.7 – Qualifications to Hold NCSA Office

In order to hold NCSA office, a person must be currently registered as a student at New College and must be in good academic standing; however, a student not in good academic standing may hold office with the consent of the student's sponsor.

Article VI – Removal of an NCSA Official

VI.1 – Impeachment of an NCSA Official

Any NCSA official may be impeached for malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance upon a two-thirds vote by the CSA, or upon a majority vote by the Towne Meeting. The VPSA and VPAA may initiate impeachment proceedings against the members of their respective Councils, with the exception of the SAC representatives. The SAC may initiate impeachment proceedings against one of its members by a vote of five (5) members. The Student Court shall hear all impeachment trials. A concurrence of four (4) Justices shall be required to remove an official.

VI.2 – Recall

All NCSA officials are subject to recall. Upon a petition of 150 students, a special election shall be held within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the petition to determine whether the students shall recall the official, unless the official resigns before a special election can be held. No petition for recall may be circulated until an official has held office for at least two (2) months. Officials may only be subject to recall once during their term.

VI.3 – Removal of Appointed Officials

Any appointed official may be removed at any time by the appointing official or body. All appointed officials are still subject to impeachment and recall.

VI.4 – Removal of an Official Convicted of a Felony

Any NCSA official convicted of a felony shall be removed from office immediately following conviction.

Article VII – Vacancies

VII.1 – President(s)

- a) If during a co-presidency, one of the Presidents vacates the office for any reason, the remaining President may
 - 1. continue serving as sole President, subject to Towne Meeting approval;
 - 2. appoint a new colleague subject to Towne Meeting approval; or,
 - 3. resign.
- b) In the event that the Presidency is completely vacated, the Speaker of the Towne Meeting shall become Acting President until the Presidency can be filled by an election. The order of succession beyond the Speaker shall be set in the Great Book.

VII.2 – Speaker

If the Speakership is vacated for any reason, the VPSA shall serve as Speaker Pro-Tempore until a new Speaker can be elected. The order of succession beyond the VPSA shall be set in the Great Book.

VII.3 – Student Court

All vacancies on the Student Court must be filled by an election.

VII.4 – Other Vacancies

All other vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the President(s), with the advise of any relevant officials, to be confirmed by the Towne Meeting.

VII.5 – Temporary Inabilities to Serve

Any member of a council or committee of the NCSA, except where restricted by the Great Book, unable to attend a meeting, may send an informed proxy, who shall have all of the rights and responsibilities of the member during the meeting. No action may be taken at a meeting where more than half of the voting members are proxies. Specific procedures for appointing proxies shall

be outlined in the Great Book.

Article VIII – Referendum

A referendum on any issue may be placed on the ballot by the President(s), a Council, the Towne Meeting, or a petition signed by 100 students. The result of the election shall serve as a mandate to NCSA officials. No referendum may violate the provisions of this Constitution, the regulations of the college, or state or federal laws.

Article IX – Amendment and Ratification

IX.1 – Amendment Proposal

An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed for placement on the ballot by a two-thirds vote of a Council, a majority vote of the Towne meeting, the NCSA President(s), or a petition signed by 150 students.

IX.2 – Ratification

A two-thirds approval vote of those voting in an election and approval of the college Board of Trustees or its designate(s) shall be required to ratify this Constitution and all amendments to it. Unless otherwise specified in the amendment, all amendments shall take effect immediately following the announcement of the election results and approval by the college Board of Trustees or its designate(s).

Article IX^{III}/_{IV} – Symbols Embraced by the NCSA

The NCSA shall embrace the following symbols:

- a) [] as Mascot
- b) Palm Court as the Center of the Universe
- c) Our Motto: “There is more to running a starship than answering a bunch of damn fool questions.”
- d) Our Mission: “That the natural state of the human spirit is ecstatic wonder! That we should not settle for less!”

ADDENDUM TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW COLLEGE STUDENT ALLIANCE

RIGHTS OF STUDENTS

In addition to the rights granted to Students by the laws of the United States and the State of Florida, and the rights respected by the NCSA, students are granted certain rights by the college Board of Trustees. It is necessary that Students know these rights and assert them if they are violated by either the NCSA or the college administration. To that end, the relevant regulation of the Board of Trustees is published here.

“Without limiting or affecting the scope of the legal rights and obligations a student has under federal, state, and local constitutions, laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, and judicial decisions, students shall have the following rights and responsibilities:

- 1) to express, individually and collectively, their views on issues of College policy;
- 2) to participate in the formulation of all policy changes that affect students;
- 3) to be informed by the President, through the student government, and to become involved, individually or through student government, in the formulation of any proposed change in policy that directly affects students prior to its implementation;
- 4) to receive within ten (10) days, through the student government, from the President, detailed and specific written responses to recommendations made in writing, through the student government, to the President, accepting, accepting with conditions, or rejecting such recommendations, and giving detailed reasons for any condition or rejection;
- 5) to appeal within ten (10) days to the New College of Florida Board of Trustees, through the student government, any decision of the President or his designee conditioning acceptance or rejecting a recommendation made pursuant to paragraphs (2), (3) and (4);
- 6) to freedom of statement, association, or assembly in social, political, or personal matters;
- 7) to equal availability of and access to the facilities necessary for the exercise of the rights set forth in paragraphs (1) through (6) without regard to race, sex, gender, religion, beliefs, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, disability, or any other reason, except as provided by law;
- 8) to publish student publications free from prior censorship;

- 9) to develop student publication editorial policy free from academic penalty or removal because of student, faculty, staff, or public disapproval of editorial policy or content;
- 10) to have information about a student, acquired by College employees, kept confidential, to the extent required by law, except upon specific request by the student to release such information;
- 11) to take reasoned and responsible exception to the data, views, assignments and methods offered in any course of study, to reserve judgement about matters of opinion, and to bring such grievances before the Council of Academic Affairs;
- 12) to conduct research freely, and publish, discuss, and exchange findings or recommendations, whether individually or in association with local, state, national, or international groups;
- 13) to due process as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct;
- 14) to the security and privacy of their dormitory rooms, persons, and personal possessions, and to be free from unreasonable restrictions upon the use of their rooms, personal possessions or their personal liberty, provided that this does not infringe upon the reasonable exercise of the privacy or property rights of others.”

New College of Florida Regulations Manual
Chapter 7, Section 4, Subsection a, Paragraph 3