

College of Eastern Idaho

Student Senate Constitution

We, the students of College of Eastern Idaho (CEI), in order to represent student interests, advance shared governance, and promote an inclusive, engaged campus community, establish this Constitution for CEI Student Senate.

Article I — Name and Authority

Section 1.1 Name. The representative student government of College of Eastern Idaho shall be known as CEI Student Senate ("Student Senate").

Section 1.2 Authority. CEI Student Senate derives its authority from the CEI student body and is recognized by the College administration as the official representative body of students, subject to College policies and applicable laws.

Article II — Purpose and Values

Section 2.1 Purpose. CEI Student Senate serves as the voice of students; recommends policies and initiatives that enhance student life; allocates student activity funds responsibly; and supports student clubs and organizations.

Section 2.2 Values. The Student Senate operates according to the values of integrity, respect, inclusivity, transparency, accountability, and stewardship.

Article III — Membership and Representation

Section 3.1 Membership. CEI Student Senate consists of Executive Officers and Senators elected or appointed according to this Constitution and the Bylaws.

Section 3.2 Representation. Senate seats are allocated to academic divisions as set forth in the Bylaws (2 General Education, 2 Trades & Industry, 2 Business Technologies, and 2 Healthcare). At-large appointments may be made, as needed, to ensure full representation and continuity of operations, consistent with the Bylaws.

Section 3.3 Eligibility. Senators and officers must be degree-seeking students in good academic and financial standing, meeting credit-hour and GPA requirements established in the Bylaws.

Article IV — Structure of Government

Section 4.1 Purpose. The purpose of a student senate structure is to provide an organized, representative body that advocates for student needs, facilitates shared governance, and ensures students have a meaningful voice in institutional decision-making and reinforce a form of maintaining checks, balance, and continuity.

Section 4.2 Executive Officers. The Executive Officers are the President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. The duties of each office are defined in the Bylaws.

Section 4.3 Senate. CEI Student Senate is the legislative and appropriations body of the student government and conducts business through regular and special meetings, committees, and other mechanisms described in the Bylaws.

Section 4.4 Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is composed of the President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer and has responsibilities as defined in the Bylaws.

Article V — Powers and Duties

Section 5.1 Legislative Powers. CEI Student Senate may enact and amend Bylaws and policies governing student activities, clubs, and the expenditure of student activity funds, consistent with College policy.

Section 5.2 Advocacy. The Senate shall advocate for student welfare and participate in College committees and processes as invited or assigned.

Section 5.3 Clubs and Organizations. The Senate recognizes student clubs pursuant to the CEI Club Handbook and allocates funds as provided in the Bylaws.

Article VI — Advisor

Section 6.1 Appointment. A Student Senate Advisor is appointed by the College.

Section 6.2 Role. The Advisor provides guidance, ensures compliance with College policies and fiscal procedures, supports officer development, and serves as a non-voting resource at all meetings. Additional responsibilities are detailed in the Bylaws.

Article VII — Meetings and Quorum

Section 7.1 Meetings. CEI Student Senate meets regularly during the academic year at times set in the Bylaws. Special meetings may be called as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 7.2 Quorum. A quorum is the minimum number of voting members required to conduct official business, as defined in the Bylaws.

Section 7.3 Parliamentary Authority. The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised governs parliamentary procedure, except where inconsistent with this Constitution or the Bylaws.

Article VIII — Elections and Terms

Section 8.1 Elections. Student body elections shall be conducted in accordance with the Bylaws.

Section 8.2 Terms and Succession. Terms of office, start and end dates, and succession for vacancies are established in the Bylaws.

Article IX — Transparency and Accountability

Section 9.1 Open Conduct. Agendas, minutes, voting records, and semester budget summaries shall be published to students in a timely manner, except when executive session is authorized for confidential matters (including but not limited to: personnel, campus policy, FERPA, etc.).

Section 9.2 Conflict of Interest. Members shall disclose conflicts of interest and recuse themselves as required by the Bylaws.

Article X — Code of Ethics and Conduct

Section 10.1 Principles. Members shall uphold honesty, fairness, respect, inclusivity, and stewardship of resources.

Section 10.2 Standards. A Code of Ethics and Conduct adopted in the Bylaws applies to all members and is enforceable through processes provided therein.

Article XI — Amendments and Ratification

Section 11.1 Constitutional Amendments. Proposed amendments require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate and ratification by a simple majority of student voters in a campus-wide referendum, unless College policy provides an alternative process.

Section 11.2 Bylaws. CE Student Senate may adopt and amend Bylaws by the voting thresholds and notice requirements stated therein.

Section 11.3 Ratification. This Constitution takes effect upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate and recognition by the College as provided by policy.

Article XII — Supremacy and Severability

Section 12.1 Supremacy. In the event of a conflict, this Constitution prevails over the Bylaws and Senate policies, which prevail over committee rules and other subordinate documents, subject to College policy and law.

Section 12.2 Severability. If any provision is found invalid, the remaining provisions remain in full force and effect.