

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA WESTERN**

Preamble

We, the Associated Students of the University of Montana Western, in order to encourage constructive relationships among the students, faculty and administration; to supplement and complement formal education on the University of Montana Western campus; to represent student interest, needs and welfare within the University community; to provide for the expression of student opinion and interests to the community at large on issues affecting student life; and to protect the privileges and rights of students, do hereby establish and affirm this Constitution for the Associated Students of the University of Montana Western (ASUMW).

ARTICLE 1. – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Associated Students of the University of Montana Western, and hereafter called ASUMW.

ARTICLE 2. – Purpose

The purposes of this Association are to promote self-government and leadership at the University of Montana Western and to enhance the educational, social and cultural experience of the Associated Students by:

- (1) maintaining a forum for the expression of student views and interests;
- (2) fostering the recognition of student rights and responsibilities;
- (3) making recommendations to the administration of the University concerning student issues and concerns;
- (4) preserving academic freedom and responsibility;
- (5) providing a mechanism for the supervision and implementation of student activities;
- (6) encouraging an enthusiastic school support system; and
- (7) representing the University of Montana Western student body in any dealing with other elements of the Montana University system and in non-college affairs.

ARTICLE 3. – Membership & Dues

All registered students of the University of Montana Western that pay the Associated Student Fee shall be entitled to vote and exercise the various rights and privileges of membership.

ARTICLE 4. – Executive Branch

The Executive Branch shall administer the affairs of ASUMW and shall serve as liaison between students and the administration. It shall establish committees and boards to take action on any matter within the jurisdiction of ASUMW that may not be covered by statute or ASUMW Bylaws. It shall enforce and put into effect all statutes duly passed by the ASUMW Senate. The Executive Branch shall consist of the following:

Executive Officers

1. The ASUMW President shall uphold and enforce the ASUMW Constitution and its Bylaws. The President performs other duties in accordance with the Bylaws. The President serves as an ex officio member of the ASUMW Senate. The President may only cast a vote on Senate business to break a tie.
2. The ASUMW Vice President shall assume the President's duties in her/his absence, if said absence impairs the functioning ability of ASUMW as determined by the Senate. The Vice President shall be assigned other duties in by the President in accordance with the Bylaws. The Vice President serves as an ex officio member of the ASUMW Senate.

ARTICLE 5. – Senate

The ASUMW Senate shall be the legislative body of ASUMW.

1. The Senate membership shall be composed of no less than twelve and no more than 15 individuals with:
 - A. No less than two Senators that are incoming students (the first-year class and new transfer students).

- B. No less than four Senators that live in campus housing (the residence halls plus family housing).
2. Each Senator shall conform to the standards of conduct, and perform duties in accordance with the Bylaws.
3. The Senate shall select from its own membership by majority vote a Senator to serve as Chair. The Senate Chair has the responsibility to run Senate meetings, to appoint Senators to committees, and other such duties in accordance with the Bylaws.
4. Elected members of ASUMW will be allowed to serve four terms in office, two of which may be executive offices.

ARTICLE 6. – Elections

The ASUMW Elections Commission, according to the electoral provisions of the Bylaws, will administer all elections. All candidates for office must be in good academic standing (as defined by the current UMW catalog) at the time of election.

ARTICLE 7. – Impeachment and Removal from Office

The grounds for impeachment and/or removal of Executive Officers, or Senators from office are as follows. Any member who has failed to fulfill his/her duties or has violated this Constitution or its Bylaws is subject to impeachment proceedings.

Process of Impeachment is as follows: the Senate may impeach officers or its own members by majority vote. The impeached officer or Senator shall have a chance to respond to the charges at the following Senate meeting. Impeachment charges are sustained by a three-fourths vote of the duly elected Senators. Removal from office is immediate after a successful vote.

Recall by Students

The Associated Students have the right to recall any elected Officer or Senator by submitting a petition to the Senate, signed by at least the number of students equal to fifty percent (50%) of the number of students voting in the election in which that Officer or Senator was elected. The Senate shall place the issue before the Associated Students in a recall election within three (3) weeks after receipt of said petition. If the recall is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Associated Students who vote on the issue in the recall election, the term of the Officer and/or Senator in question will terminate immediately. Ballots where students fail to vote either for or against the issue shall not be counted in the two-thirds (2/3) vote.

ARTICLE 8. – Amendments

Sec. 1. Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be made by an Executive Officer or a Senator. If approved by a majority of the Senate or any member of the student body who has secured a petition that states the proposed amendment, and is supported by at least 75 student signatures.

Sec. 2. Amendments to the constitution shall be effective when approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate and approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the student body by referendum, with a minimum of twenty percent (20%) voter turnout. Passed amendments will take effect in the subsequent scheduled election cycle.

ARTICLE 9. – Bylaws

Sec. 1. The ASUMW Senate shall establish Bylaws.

Sec. 2. A proposal by an Executive Officer or Senator may be made to amend the Bylaws and must be approved by majority of the Senate. Amendments to the Bylaws do not need to be approved by the student body.

Article 10. – Faculty Advisor

At all times, the ASUMW shall have a Faculty Advisor. ASUMW shall make recommendation to the Chancellor on a Faculty Advisor, in accordance with the Appointing Guidelines in the Bylaws. The right to appoint the ASUMW Faculty Advisor rests with the Chancellor.

At any time, either the ASUMW President or a Senator may call for a vote of no confidence in the Faculty Advisor. In the event of a majority vote of no confidence in the Senate, the Faculty Advisor shall resign immediately, and ASUMW shall make a recommendation of a new Faculty Advisor to the Chancellor.