

# THE STANDING RULES OF RHODES STUDENT GOVERNMENT

*Last amended: April 2009*

## ARTICLE I. MEETINGS

- SECTION 1.** The Senate of Rhodes Student Government will meet in General Session bi-weekly during both the Fall and Spring semesters. Meetings of the five standing committees will take place in interim weeks with time and place decided by the committee chair and reported to the Vice President.
- SECTION 2.** Special meetings of the Senate may be called by the Vice President at any time during the academic year. However, the attendance policy does not apply to these meetings unless they are announced one week before the special meeting.
- SECTION 3.** The Chair of the Senate and the President shall be charged with the obligation of organizing and implementing at least one retreat during one full RSG term. If only one retreat is scheduled, it must take place during the Fall academic semester.

## ARTICLE II. ATTENDANCE

- SECTION 1.** The attendance policy outlined in the Constitution of Rhodes Student Government shall be implemented with the additional stipulation that two (2) Senate tardies will equal one (1) Senate absence. Any member who enters meeting after roll call or leaves before meeting has been formally adjourned will be considered tardy. In addition, two unexcused absences from weekly Standing Committee Meetings will equal one (1) Senate absence. It is within the discretion of the Committee Chair to deem an absence as excused or unexcused with regard to individual Standing Committee meetings.
- SECTION 2.** The Elections Commissioners shall be required to attend Senate meetings which immediately precede or follow each election. The President and Treasurer shall be subject to the same attendance policy as all members of the Senate, but may leave the meeting following their report and the discharge of any new business which concerns them without being charged with an absence.

**SECTION 3.** Attendance is mandatory at any retreats for members of the Senate, the Treasurer, and the President. An absence from the retreat shall count as one and one-half (1.5) absences, but will be considered excused if:

(1) The Chair of the Senate determines that the excuse for the absence is sufficient. The chairs' decision may be overturned by a 2/3 vote of the Senate. The Senate's decision is final.

**AND**

(2) In the case of an anticipated absence, the Senator notifies the Chair of the Senate of the absence at least five days before the day of the retreat.

**OR**

(3) In the case of emergency or illness, the Senator notifies the Chair of the Senate of the absence before or on the morning of the retreat.

### **ARTICLE III. PROCEDURE**

**SECTION 1.** Meetings of the Student Senate will be conducted under the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* in all cases in which they are consistent with the Standing Rules of the Senate.

**SECTION 2.** The quorum of the Senate will be two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members. The Senate must have quorum in order to conduct business.

**SECTION 3.** Official motions brought before the Senate will be discussed by utilizing Pro/Con debate. The author's or presenter's comments shall be taken as a speech in favor of the motion. A speech in opposition will then be in order. The Chair of the Senate is required to recognize a member of the Senate body for the initial speech in favor and opposition. After the initial speeches, the Chair may recognize both non-members and members of the Senate.

**SECTION 4.** The Chair of the Senate will be able to move the previous question if debate is excessive or static.

**SECTION 5.** All votes of the Senate shall be taken by the show of hands; a call for division or for a roll-call vote may be recognized at the discretion of the Chair.

**SECTION 6.** All new business must be submitted to the Chair of the Senate in written and formal form three days prior to the meeting in which the submitted new business is to be moved. Failure to submit new business to the Chair three days prior to the meeting in which the submitted new business is to be moved will result in the non-consideration of such business. The Chair of the Senate shall be responsible for ensuring that all new business submitted to the Chair will be disseminated to voting members of the Senate by 5:00p.m. two (2) days prior to the meeting.

**SECTION 7.** The standing rules of Article III, Section 6, can be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate.

**SECTION 9.** The Senate shall enter into Executive Session when considering disciplinary action or the approval of nominations; the vote(s) of Executive Session shall be entered into the minutes of the meeting, but the discussion, though

included in the archived minutes, shall not appear in any publicized version thereof.

**SECTION 10.** All voting and quorum percentage requirements shall be defined in Appendix A of the Standing Rules of Rhodes Student Government.

**SECTION 11.** The fifteen (15) days referred to in Article VII, Section 5, Paragraph 2 of the Constitution shall be defined as excluding only official College Recesses which occur at Fall Break, Thanksgiving, between the Fall and Spring semesters, and Spring Recesses.

#### **ARTICLE IV. SEMI-AUTONOMOUS BODIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**SECTION 1.** The semi- autonomous bodies of the executive branch, which include the Allocations Board, are required to establish by- laws which are subject to approval by the Student Senate initially and when any changes occur.

**SECTION 2.** A resolution of the Senate may require any of these semi-autonomous bodies to change their by- laws at any time during the academic year. Changes must be made within two (2) weeks of the request and presented to the Senate for approval.

#### **ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**SECTION 1.** The Elections Commission is required to establish by- laws which are subject to approval by the Student Senate initially and when any changes occur.

**SECTION 2.** A resolution of the Senate may require the Elections to change its bylaws at any time during the academic year. Changes must be made within two (2) weeks of the request and presented to the Senate for approval.

**SECTION 3.** Proposed changes to the Elections Commission by-laws will not be considered during the two (2) weeks preceding any election if such changes affect the forthcoming election.

#### **ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**SECTION 1.** Nonmembers of the Senate may be appointed as *ex officio* members of committees of the Senate by the Vice President, subject to a simple majority approval of the Senate.

**SECTION 2.** *Ex officio* members of Senate committees shall be subject to the attendance policy of the Senate. They shall be able to propose motions in the Senate, but shall have no voting powers.

#### **ARTICLE VII. RECESS PROCEDURE**

**SECTION 1.** All business of the Rhodes Student Government will be conducted by the President and/or Vice President when the College is not in session.

**SECTION 2.** If neither the President nor Vice President is able to fulfill this responsibility, the President must appoint another member of the Student Government to fulfill the duties of Article VII, Section V. **SECTION 3.** All decisions made pertaining to business of Rhodes Student Government while the College is not in session must be presented at the first meeting of the Senate after that recess.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. IMPLEMENTATION**

**SECTION 1.** The Standing Rules will be effective immediately, except Article I, Section 1 which will begin the first meeting of Senate in 1996.

**SECTION 2.** All subsequent changes or additions to the Rules will be implemented immediately after the approval of the Senate.

APPENDIX A. VOTING AND QUORUM PERCENTAGE REQUIREMENTS

*Percentage Requirement*

Number of Senators	2/3	3/4	4/5
20	14	15	16
19	13	15	16
18	12	14	15
17	12	13	14
16	11	12	13
15	10	12	12
14	10	11	12
13	9	10	11
12	8	9	10