



CONSTITUTION

(Ratified 12-04-08; updated 08-12-19)

Preamble:

We, the students of Bushnell University, in order to ensure a voice in institutional affairs, protect the interests of the students, provide for the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social development of the students, and to promote positive communication between students, administration, faculty, and staff, do hereby establish this constitution.

Article I. Name

The name of this student government shall be the Associated Students of Bushnell University (ASBU).

Article II. Purpose and Powers

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this governing body is to function as a service to Bushnell's traditional undergraduate program (hereafter referred to as the Student Body), to improve the overall college experience, and to work with the administration, faculty, and staff to represent student perspectives and concerns regarding institutional affairs.

Section 2. Representation & Advisory Power

ASBU is the official representation of the Student Body. It advocates the interests and concerns of the Student Body regarding all aspects of the college.

In respect to direct representation, legislation, and voting by the Student Body, ASBU represents the college's traditional undergraduate program; ASBU may advocate for the college's non-traditional undergraduate program when requested by representatives from their cohort.

Section 3. Membership

All enrolled traditional undergraduate students shall be entitled to the following privileges and representation within the ASBU: 1) to vote in all elections, 2) to serve as a class representative or run for any executive office (unless ineligible regarding time spent at NCU or through probationary or disciplinary status with the college), 3) to attend and be recognized at Senate meetings, 4) by a petition of 10% of the Student Body request a review of any ASBU decision, and 5) to enjoy all other benefits or services delivered by or through ASBU.

Article III. Structure

The ASBU governing power is comprised of two entities: Executive Cabinet and Senate. Specific duties and responsibilities for all members shall be followed as per the ASBU Bylaws.

Section 1. Executive Cabinet

A. Purpose: The purpose of the Executive Cabinet shall be to implement the policies and programs adopted by Senate and to provide leadership and support for Senate and the Standing Committees. The Cabinet shall also serve as the Budget Review Committee which shall apportion money as per the Senate approved budget.

B. Executive Positions: Executive Authority is vested in the Student Body President and three Executive Vice Presidents: Academics, Activities, and Campus Environment.

C. Controller: The Controller is an appointed, non-voting, member of the Executive Cabinet who provides logistical support within ASBU.

Section 2. Senate

A. Structure: Senate is recognized as the official voice and representation of the Student Body. Senate shall consist of the Executive Cabinet, one elected representative from each class, and two additional representatives elected from the Student Body at large. Each representative shall serve on a minimum of one of Senate's three Standing Committees.

B. Standing Committees: The three Standing Committees: Academics, Activities, and Campus Environment, are annual and receive their legitimacy and power through their accountability to the Senate as a whole. Each committee shall be comprised of three senators and led by their respective Executive Vice President. These committees may include students outside of ASBU as non-official members.

C. Temporary Committees:

1. An Election Committee comprised of one senator from each class shall be formed per election to assist the Student Body President. Nominations for this committee shall be made by the President and approved by Senate.

2. A Judicial Committee may be formed at the request of any four voting members. The committee shall have the authority to review any decision made by Senate or the Executive Cabinet during the current term of their academic year. They may also review the actions of any ASBU member. The Judicial Committee shall be comprised of four class representatives, one Executive Cabinet position, and an advisor. Committee members shall be nominated by the four senators who have made the request and the nominees must be approved by Senate.
3. Senate has the authority to create or abolish temporary committees during the year to address issues which are deemed of interest to the Student Body at large.

D. Procedures: The Student Body President shall officiate Senate meetings as a non-voting member, with the exception of casting a deciding vote in the case of a tie. All elected members, with the exception of the President shall have voting power within Senate. A quorum of two-thirds of the voting members must be present for an official meeting. General decisions within Senate shall be decided by a simple majority of fifty percent plus one vote.

Article IV. Official Members

Section 1. President

The President shall be generally responsible for the execution of all ASBU activity and shall serve as the representative and liaison between Senate and the campus administration, faculty, and staff. She/he is responsible for developing and implementing ASBU goals and objectives and for ensuring the enactment of Senate legislation.

The President shall serve as a student representative on designated faculty and administrative committees and shall meet with the College President on a regular basis. She/he shall be responsible for making appointments to non-ASBU campus groups (faculty committees, hiring committees, planning committees, and alumni groups) which must be approved by Senate.

The President is responsible for overseeing ASBU elections, organizing training for members, and ensuring that ASBU operates within the guidelines of this constitution. Candidates must have attended NCU for one full year prior to their term of office, have Junior or Senior status during their term in office, a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or greater, and be in good standing with the college and community.

Section 2. Executive Vice Presidents

A. Academics: The Executive Vice President of Academics shall assist the President and Senate in representing Student Body concerns and interests in

matters concerning Bushnell's academic policies. She/he shall serve on designated faculty committees and is to be responsible for heading the Senate Academic Committee. The committee shall address issues related to curriculum, learning resources, faculty issues, and educational policies.

B. Activities:The Executive Vice President of Activities shall assist the President and Senate in representing Student Body concerns and interests in matters concerning Bushnell's activities. She/he shall serve as a member of designated Student Development groups and is to be responsible for heading the Senate Activities Committee. The committee shall plan events related to NCU events, hosting events/speakers, NCU community building, and broader community involvement, awareness, and service.

C. Campus Environment:The Executive Vice President of Campus Environment shall assist the President and Senate in representing Student Body concerns and interests in matters concerning Bushnell's campus environment. She/he shall serve as a member of designated campus committees and is to be responsible for heading the Senate Campus Environment Committee. The committee shall address issues related to campus improvements, diversity, residence life, and food services.

D. General: Each Executive Vice President shall be responsible for communicating, through appropriate methods, to the Student Body regarding current events or issues which their committee is addressing. They shall coordinate within the Executive Cabinet to provide regular updates of Senate's activities to the Beacon Bolt.

Candidates must have attended NCU for one full year prior to their term in office, have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or greater, and be in good standing with the college and community.

Section 3. Controller

The Controller shall be generally responsible for recording all financial aspects of ASBU as well as providing logistical support to the Executive Cabinet. She/he is also expected to manage public relations between ASBU and the Student Body.

The Controller is an appointed position, via an application and interview, by the Executive Cabinet. Candidates must have attended NCU for one semester prior to their term in office, have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or greater, and be in good standing with the college and community.

Section 4. Representatives

Each class shall have one elected representative and there shall be two additional representatives elected from the Student Body at large. Each representative shall serve on a Standing Committee and any temporary committees at the request of Senate or the President. They are responsible for presenting concerns to Senate which relate to their respective class. Representatives are also responsible for assisting in the planning of class specific events. Each representative must maintain one office hour per week in which they will conduct activities related to either ASBU or their class. Representatives are overseen by the Executive Cabinet.

Representatives must have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 and be in good standing with the college and community.

Section 5. Advisor(s)

The Dean of Students shall advise ASBU and/or appoint another Student Development staff person to serve in her/his place. The advisor(s) are not voting members of Senate, but provide advice, information, and advocacy for the Executive Cabinet and Senate.

Article V. General Terms of Membership

Section 1. Elections

Elections for the Executive Cabinet positions and Representatives shall be overseen by the current Student Body President. The Executive Cabinet positions and the At-large Representatives are elected by the entire Student Body. Class Representatives shall be elected by the class they represent.

Election policies shall be followed as per the ASBU Bylaws.

Section 2. Term of Office

All elected and appointed positions within ASBU shall officially begin at the start of the Fall term and end with the conclusion of Spring term. Newly elected or appointed members are expected to participate in ASBU trainings and special events prior to their holding office.

Article VI. Procedures for Replacement

Section 1. Removal from Office

Any member may be removed from office by a three-fourths vote of Senate. Grounds for removal must be based on either A) an intentional violation of the ASBU Constitution or Bylaws, or B) a violation of the college's academic or student handbook.

Section 2. Resignation

Any member who wishes to resign must explain their intentions in writing to the Executive Cabinet.

Section 3. Replacement of the President

A vacancy in the role of Student Body President shall be temporarily filled by the Executive VP of Campus Environment. Within two weeks the Executive Cabinet shall nominate a replacement from within Senate. The nominee must meet the requirements of the position and be approved by a Senate three-fourths majority vote.

Section 4. Replacement of an Executive Vice President

A vacancy in the role of an Executive Vice President shall be filled within two weeks by a member from her/his respective committee. The Executive Cabinet shall nominate a replacement and Senate must approve the nomination by a three-fourths majority vote.

Section 5. Replacement of a Representative

A vacancy in the role of a representative shall be announced to the respective class, or entire Student Body in the case of the at-large representative, and applications posted in general areas for a period of one week. The executive cabinet shall then be responsible for nominating a replacement and Senate must approve the nomination by a simple majority vote.

Article VII. Clubs

Clubs serve as recognized student run and controlled groups which enhance the academic, spiritual, physical, and social experience for the Student Body. Clubs are expected to be glorifying to God, desired by the Student Body, and beneficial to the college. Recognition and benefits shall be given per the ASBU Bylaws.

Article VIII. Referendums & Initiatives

Section 1. Referendums

Any action of the Executive Cabinet and/or Senate, upon petition of 10% of the Student Body, must be submitted to referendum vote by the Student Body. The results of such a vote shall be binding upon the Executive Cabinet and Student Senate.

Any action being considered by the Executive Cabinet and/or Senate may, by a majority vote, be referred to the Student Body for approval.

Section 2. Initiatives

The Student Body may refer an initiative to Senate for any action not covered in the Constitution by a petition signed by 10% of the Student Body.

Section 3. Ratification

Initiatives and referendums shall be voted upon after five school days, but not more than fifteen days once they have been presented to the Executive Cabinet and Senate. An initiative and/or referendum shall be declared valid upon a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided two-thirds of Senate is present or at least 40% of the Student Body casts a ballot. All approved legislation must be signed by the President.

Section 4. Presidential Veto

The President has the right to veto Senate legislation. In the case of a veto the President shall not sign the legislation and must explain her/his decision in writing to Senate within twenty four hours of the legislation. Senate may force the President to sign the legislation by a three-fourths vote.

Article IX. Bylaws

The standard operating rules and regulations for ASBU shall be referred to as the Bylaws. The Bylaws may be changed and/or amended by a three-fourths majority vote of Senate.

Article X. Amendments

The Student Body may originate an amendment by presenting a petition to the Executive Cabinet and Student Senate signed by not less than 15% of the Student Body members.

The Executive Cabinet and Student Senate may originate an amendment by a two-thirds majority vote.

An amendment, however originated, must be posted within one week of its presentation. It must be voted upon by the Student Body not less than five school days, but not more than fifteen school days after posting.

The amendment shall be declared valid upon a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided at least 40% of the Student Body votes.

Article XI. Ratification

A two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the Student Body shall be sufficient to ratify this constitution, provided at least 40% of the Student Body votes.