

Morningside Student Government Constitution

Morningside University 2026-2027

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Table of Contents

PREAMBLE 3

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP 3

ARTICLE II: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH 3

SECTION 1: Description
SECTION 2: Membership
SECTION 3: Requirements of the Senators
SECTION 4: Vacancies
SECTION 5: Term of Office

ARTICLE III: EXECUTIVE BRANCH 4

SECTION 1: Description
SECTION 2: Membership
SECTION 3: Requirements of the Executive Council
SECTION 4: Duties and Powers
SECTION 5: Vacancies
SECTION 6: Term of Office

ARTICLE IV: MORNINGSIDE ACTIVITIES COUNCIL 6

ARTICLE V: STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE 6

SECTION 1: Description
SECTION 2: Allocation of Student Activity Fee
SECTION 3: Surpluses and Deficits

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES 7

SECTION 1: Meeting Call
SECTION 2: Quorum
SECTION 3: Definitions and Procedures
SECTION 4: Constitutional Suspension
SECTION 5: Veto

ARTICLE VII: AMENDING PROCESS 7

SECTION 1: Constitution
SECTION 2: By-Laws
SECTION 3: Publicity 8

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Morningside University, adopt this Constitution establishing a student government to provide and promote student self-governance; and to represent the students in matters of student welfare, activities, and participation in Morningside University. All full-time, undergraduate students enrolled at Morningside University shall enjoy the benefits, responsibilities, and protection of this student government, as set out in this Constitution and its by-laws.

MISSION STATEMENT

Morningside Student Government seeks to cultivate ethical leadership and civic responsibility by implementing policies and practices that represent and benefit the Morningside University Student Body. The Morningside Student Government strives to encourage collaboration between all areas of campus.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Morningside Student Government, known hereafter as the MSG, shall consist of an executive branch, known as the Executive Council; and a legislative branch, known as the Student Senate.

ARTICLE II: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1: Description
The Student Senate shall make decisions representing the best interests of the Student Body. With a quorum present, the Student Senate shall have the power to initiate and consider legislation, expenditures, actions from various committees, and have such other powers as are necessary for the proper and efficient functioning of the MSG.

SECTION 2: Membership
The Student Senate shall be composed of fifteen full-time undergraduate students. Of these fifteen senators, four shall be elected from the Freshman class, four from the Sophomore class, four from the Junior class, and three from the Senior class.

SECTION 3: Requirements of the Senators
Each Senator shall serve a minimum of one office hour per week. Each Senator shall also participate in a minimum of one volunteering event per semester.
SECTION 4: Vacancies
The class from which the vacancy occurs shall be responsible for electing a replacement according to the election procedures in the by-laws. If a vacancy has not been filled within three weeks from

the date which the seat became vacant, the President may fill that vacancy with simple majority consent of the Student Senate. It shall be the Director of Communication's responsibility to make the Student Body aware of all vacancies.

SECTION 5: Term of Office
The term of office for Senators shall begin after being sworn in at the first meeting of the Student Senate, determined by the President. The term will continue, warranting no reasons for early leave of office, until the final meeting of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE III: EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1: Description
The Executive Council shall administer the MSG Constitution and by-laws, preside over and may present proposals at Student Senate meetings, and ensure the day-to-day operations of the MSG are being carried out.

SECTION 2: Membership
The Executive Council of the MSG shall consist of five members: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Director of Communications. Ex-officio members shall include the MSG Advisor and the MAC Main Committee Coordinator.

New:

SECTION 3: Requirements of the Executive Council
Executive Council members shall be required to hold a minimum of five set office hours per week.

SECTION 4: Duties and Powers

1. PRESIDENT – The duties and powers of the President are as follows:
    a. Serve as head officer of MSG.
    b. Serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors of Morningside University.
    c. Serve as a member of the Morningside Alumni Board.
    d. Call and preside over all Executive Council and Student Senate meetings.
    e. Serve as a non-voting member of all committees within MSG.
    f. Appoint student representatives on faculty, student, and joint committees.

2. VICE PRESIDENT – The duties and powers of the Vice President are as follows:
    a. Gather and respond to student concerns, comments, and suggestions.
    b. Supervise and ensure order and fairness in all elections as directed by the Constitution and by-laws respectively.
    c. Serve as parliamentarian and sergeant-at-arms for the MSG.
    d. Act as President in the absence of the President.
3. TREASURER – The duties and powers to the Treasurer are as follows:

a. Organize, supervise, and direct the finances of MSG.
b. Maintain an accurate system of records concerning MSG finances.
c. Ensure that MSG financial records are available to any interested party within one week of the request.
d. Countersign all requisitions utilizing MSG funds.
e. Regularly report on financial matters to the Student Senate.
f. Present all outstanding bills for approval of payment when requested by the Student Senate.
g. Use the Business Office of Morningside University as the repository of all MSG funds.
h. Oversee the allocation process of MSG funds.

4. SECRETARY – The duties and powers of the Secretary are as follows:
    a. Provide the official minutes of the Executive Council and Student Senate.
    b. Organize an official agenda for every scheduled Student Senate meeting.
    c. Maintain all internal publications, documents, and correspondence.
    d. Serve as office manager.
    e. Oversee the selection process of all paid and appointed positions outside of the Executive Council.
    f. Oversee Senator and Executive office hours.

5. DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS – The duties and powers of the Director of Communications are as follows:
    a. Promote MSG through the use of social media pages, campus publications, and/or emails to the Student Body.
    b. Manage the MSG website and social media accounts.
    c. Be responsible for external communications, publications, and marketing.
    d. Counsel students on their rights and responsibilities in academic or disciplinary disputes including referrals to appropriate campus offices.
    e. Oversee the registration process for student groups.

SECTION 5: Vacancies

1. If the position of the President shall become vacant, the Vice President may assume the office and serve as President for the remainder of the term. If the Vice President elects not to assume the role of President, an election shall be according to the procedures described in the by-laws.
2. Vacancies of positions in the Executive Council shall be filled by holding an election according to the procedures described in the by-laws. The President shall have the power to appoint an interim replacement until such election is held.

SECTION 6: Term of Office

All members of the Executive Council shall remain in office for one year beginning with the informal installation which will follow the MSG election in the spring and ending the following year after the formal installation and submission of their respective final reports.

ARTICLE IV: MORNINGSIDE ACTIVITIES COUNCIL

The Morningside Activities Council (MAC) is a student employment-based programming body operating under its own regulations and in collaboration with Student Life and University Engagement. MAC coordinator positions are hired roles with defined job responsibilities. The MAC Main Coordinator serves as the primary communication to MSG and is responsible for reporting on past and upcoming events. At least three MAC events per semester shall be planned in collaboration with the MSG Student Life Committee.

ARTICLE V: STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

SECTION 1: Description

1. The Student Senate shall have the power to establish the Student Activity Fee, subject to the approval of the Student Body.
2. A proposed change to the Student Activity Fee must be presented in writing by a member of the Executive Council or a Senator during a Student Senate meeting. Such proposed change must have three readings before the Student Senate, unless unanimous consent is obtained after the first or second readings. After the third reading, the Student Senate may approve of the proposed change with a simple majority vote.
3. After passage through the Student Senate, the proposed change shall be put to a vote by the Study Body. If a simple majority of those voting approve of the change, it shall be adopted. The Vice President shall supervise the referendum.
4. Notice of a proposed change will be given to the university personnel responsible for any accounts affected after the first reading.

SECTION 2: Allocation of Student Activity Fee

1. The Student Senate shall have the power to allocate the Student Activity Fee. The Treasurer shall prepare and present a proposed budget to the Student Senate during its first regularly scheduled meeting of the term. Upon a two-thirds vote, the budget shall be adopted.
2. The Executive Council shall be responsible for administering the budget, once adopted.
3. Any changes to the budget throughout the year shall require two-thirds consent by the Student Senate.

SECTION 3: Surpluses and Deficits

MSG and MAC shall honor each other's savings and over-expenditures. The spending of rollover funds must have been put in the account by the group which has overspent.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

SECTION 1: Meeting Call

The Student Senate shall meet at least twice during each full month of the academic year. It shall meet at the request of the President or upon the petition of fifteen percent of the Student Body.

Upon presentation of such a petition to the President, a Student Senate meeting shall be called within three academic days.

SECTION 2: Quorum
A quorum shall be a majority of voting members of the Student Senate.

SECTION 3: Definitions and Procedures
Parliamentary authority for the Student Senate shall be Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, provided those rules are not in conflict with this Constitution or the by-laws. Black's Legal Dictionary shall determine the definitions of terminology within this Constitution and the by-laws.

SECTION 4: Constitutional Suspension
This Constitution may be suspended upon a two-thirds majority vote of the MSG.

SECTION 5: Veto
The Executive Council, following a successful three-fifths vote, may veto any legislation passed by the Student Senate within forty-eight hours of its passage. The President shall notify the Student Senate of such veto in a timely manner. The Student Senate may override a veto by a two-thirds vote at their next meeting.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDING PROCESS

SECTION 1: Constitution

1. Any amendments to this Constitution must be presented in writing by a member of the Executive Council or a Senator during a Student Senate meeting.
2. After an amendment has been presented, it shall be tabled until the following Student Senate meeting. At this next meeting, the amendment may be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members of the MSG.
3. Upon the amendment being approved by the MSG voting membership, the amendment shall be put up for consideration among the Student Body, where it must be approved by a simple majority of those participating in the vote.

SECTION 2: By-Laws

1. By-laws may be established or modified in accordance with this Constitution upon a two-thirds majority vote. No by-laws may be enacted which contradict this Constitution.
2. An amendment to the by-laws must be presented in writing by a member of the Executive Council or a Senator during a Student Senate meeting.
3. After an amendment has been presented, it shall be tabled until the following Student Senate meeting. At this next meeting, the amendment may be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members of the MSG.

SECTION 3: Publicity
All adopted amendments to this Constitution shall be made known to the Student Body in a timely manner following the conclusion of the vote.