

De La Salle College Churchtown



Student Council Constitution

The De La Salle College Churchtown Student Council, hereinafter referred to as the Student Council, is a nondemocratic, administrative institution of De La Salle College Churchtown. It consists of a group of democratically-elected, student representatives of the student body of De La Salle College Churchtown, and exists to present the views of the student body with the aim of creating a fairer and more beneficial school, as is its right. As such, the members of the Student Council should receive their mandate from those who elect them and not the school proper. The Board of Management at all times retains the right to dissolve the Student Council or to remove a member from the Student Council.

This constitution, written and ratified by the Student Council, defines the rules upon which it operates.

SECTION 1: COMPOSITION

- 1.1 The Student Council must consist of eighteen members, with the allowance of fewer members in the event of a vacancy or vacancies. This consists of three members from each year.
- 1.2 In the case of Fifth and Sixth Year, one member each must be elected from amongst the Mentors and Prefects respectively by the members of these bodies.
- 1.3 All students have the right to run for a seat on the Student Council and the right to vote.
- 1.4 Voting must take place under a secret ballot using standard single-transferable vote.
- 1.5 The newly-elected Student Council must meet at least once before October 1st each academic year.
- 1.6 The incumbent Student Council's final meeting must take place before June 1st each academic year.
- 1.7 At its first meeting, the incumbent Student Council must elect a Chairperson from amongst the Sixth Years, a Vice-Chairperson from amongst the Fifth Years, a Secretary from amongst the Fifth Years or Transition Years, a Treasurer, a Public Relations Officer and a Fundraising Subcommittee.

SECTION 2: MEETINGS

- 2.1 A meeting is any assembly of Student Council members that fulfils the voting quorum and at which minutes are kept.
- 2.2 The Student Council must meet at least once a month of term.
- 2.3 Notice of a meeting must be given to all members of the Student Council before that meeting may take place.
- 2.4 At each meeting a date is set for the next meeting. An agenda for that next meeting and the minutes of the last meeting must be made available to all members of the Student Council before the next meeting takes place.
- 2.5 The minutes of each meeting must be made available to the student body and any other interested parties.
- 2.6 Any member may call a meeting separate to those pre-arranged. In this emergency Article 2.4 does not apply.
- 2.7 Any member may put forward an issue for discussion on the agenda.
- 2.8 Pending a majority vote, non-members may be co-opted for a meeting to inform the Student Council on a specific issue.

SECTION 3: VOTING AND DECISIONS

- 3.1 All members of the Student Council have an equal vote, the right to abstain from any vote, and the right to call a vote in order to challenge any of the Student Council's decisions.
- 3.2 The voting quorum is twelve members.
- 3.3 A majority is more than half the members present.
- 3.4 A super majority is more than two-thirds of all members, rounding down. For votes requiring a super majority, all members must be present.

SECTION 4: DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

- 4.1 It is the Chairperson's duty to moderate each meeting and to ensure that each item on the agenda is dealt with.
- 4.2 It is at the Chairperson's discretion to decide on the inclusion of or voting on matters not on the agenda and to proclaim a consensus on votes and on matters not explicitly requiring a vote.
- 4.3 It is the Secretary's duty to record the minutes for each meeting and distribute the minutes and agendas as detailed in Article 2.4.
- 4.4 The Chairperson and Secretary each serve one of three trimesters during the Student Council's term of office as defined in Articles 1.5 and 1.6. At the end of each trimester the Chairperson and Secretary for the following trimester must be elected. No member may be Chairperson or Secretary for more than one trimester, with the exception of there being no alternative due to a vacancy or vacancies.
- 4.5 The Vice-Chairperson performs the duties of the Chairperson when the Chairperson is not able to attend a meeting.
- 4.6 The Treasurer has the primary responsibility for Student Council finances and is in charge of the safe-keeping of funds and the keeping of books.
- 4.7 The Treasurer must make a termly report to the Student Council.
- 4.8 Appropriations to subcommittees, officers and members are made by a majority including the Treasurer, or a super majority without the Treasurer.
- 4.9 The Public Relations Officer keeps the student body informed of the activities of the Student Council, including its financial activities.

SECTION 5: SUBCOMMITTEES

- 5.1 Subcommittees are formed by a majority vote.
- 5.2 At least two members must sit on a subcommittee.
- 5.3 A subcommittee must make a progress report to the Student Council at least every two meetings.
- 5.4 The Fundraising Subcommittee works under the advice of the Treasurer and at the behest of the Student Council.

SECTION 6: CLINICS

- 6.1 The Student Council must make itself available to the student body through a Student Council Clinic at least once a month.
- 6.2 At least two members of the Student Council must attend each Student Council Clinic.
- 6.3 All suggestions from the student body must be recorded and each discussed at a meeting or meetings by the Student Council.

SECTION 7: REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

- 7.1 Any member of the Student Council may resign their seat. In this event, the member must inform the Student Council of their reasons for doing so.
- 7.2 In the event in which a member is no longer able to fulfil their role and attend meetings but no notice of resignation is given to the Student Council, the Student Council must pass a majority vote to proclaim a vacancy.
- 7.3 A vote of no confidence may be taken in an officer to remove them from their post. For it to pass the vote requires a majority.
- 7.4 A vote of no confidence may be taken in a member to remove them from the Student Council. For it to pass the vote requires a super majority.
- 7.5 Any discovery of tampering with Student Council funds by a member results in the immediate tabling of a vote of no confidence in that member.
- 7.6 A member must be given the opportunity to address the Student Council in advance of a motion of no confidence being taken against them.
- 7.7 In the event of a vacancy on the Student Council an election must be held to fill it. This election must take place within one month of the relevant proclamation of vacancy, vote of no confidence or notice of resignation.
- 7.8 The Student Council must inform the student body and any other interested parties of a vacancy and the reasons for this vacancy, and similarly when and by whom that vacancy is filled.

SECTION 8: CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 8.1 A vote to change the constitution of the Student Council requires a super majority.
- 8.2 The specific item or items of change must be decided upon before the vote is taken.
- 8.3 The Student Council must inform the student body and any other interested parties of any changes to the constitution.

SECTION 9: DISSOLUTION OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL

- 9.1 The incumbent Student Council is dissolved at its final meeting each academic year.
- 9.2 In any other circumstances, dissolution of the Student Council by the Student Council requires a super majority.
- 9.3 Upon any dissolution of the Student Council other than that defined in Article 9.3 a report must be made available to the student body and any other interested parties explaining the reasons for this dissolution.