

CSSA Constitution

CSSA Executive Committee Spring 06-Fall 07
(July 28, 2007)

Article I -Organization

A. Name

The Chinese Scholars and Students Association (CSSA) is the governing body of the Chinese students and scholars at WPI.

B. Purpose

1. To represent the Chinese students and scholars on all matters pertaining to their general welfare as students and scholars
2. To facilitate communication between Chinese students (scholars) and the administration.
3. To promote Chinese students and scholars' life and provide a forum for communication between Chinese students and scholars.
4. To promote Chinese culture in WPI.
5. To provide for the welcoming and orientation of new full-time Chinese students.

Article II -Membership

1. All WPI Chinese students and scholars and their family members shall be members of CSSA. Membership is entirely voluntary.
2. The CSSA shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, age, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, marital status or national origin.

Article III -CSSA Structure

A. Overview

The governing body of the CSSA consists of the Executive Committee, and the Advisory Council.

B. The CSSA Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee is composed of six elected members called officers of the CSSA.
2. All six officers are elected each fall semester. All officers serve terms of two semesters.
3. All officers are considered equal in authority and responsibility.

C. The CSSA Advisory Council

1. The CSSA Advisory Council (CSSA-AC) advises and assists the Executive Committee.
2. The CSSA-AC is comprised of the officers of the Executive Committee, professor advisor, former executive officers and Chinese student representatives.

3. The CSSA-AC determines the usage of the CSSA funding and the planning of an event.
4. The CSSA-AC shall enact by laws to implement this constitution.
5. The CSSA-AC shall endorse proposed changes to this constitution for voting at a General Body Meeting.

Article IV -Meetings

A. CSSA Advisory Council Meetings

1. CSSA-AC meetings should be called at a minimum twice each Semester.
2. Meetings shall be announced to members of the CSSA-AC at least one week in advance (five business days).
3. CSSA-AC meetings are open to all members of the CSSA.

B. General Body Meetings

1. CSSA General Body Meetings (CSSA-GBM) should be called at a minimum once each Semester.
2. Meetings shall be announced to members of the CSSA at least one week in advance (five business days).
3. It is possible to combine a CSSA-GBM with an event, however attendance of the CSSA-GBM must be free of charge even if the event is not.

Article V -Election& Officer Replacement/ Removal

A. Election

1. Elections should take place before the beginning of the graduate fall semester.
2. All members of the CSSA are eligible to vote.
3. Any member of the CSSA is eligible to serve on the Executive Committee.
4. Newly-elected CSSA Executive Committee members take office on the day immediately following the day in which they were elected.
5. In case of exceptional elections caused either by resignation or removal from office, the elections can be held no longer than one month following the resignation(s)/ removal(s).

B. Election Proceedings

1. Any member of the CSSA can be nominated or nominate him/herself.
2. Every nominee must have a thorough understanding of this constitution.
3. The nominee may accept or refuse the nomination.
4. Every nominee must send a letter or e-mail to the CSSA containing their motivation to be posted.
5. All nominations must be posted at least one week (5 business days) before the elections.
6. At least two weeks (10 business days) before the election every member has to be informed via electronic mail about the exact date, time and place of the upcoming election.
7. There is no voting by proxy.

C. Election Process

1. Elections can be held by electronic means.
2. The elections are presided over by the former executive officers.

D. Voting

1. Elections are to be secret, i.e. it shall not be possible to associate a vote with a voter.
2. The voting and counting procedures are to be specified in the by laws.

E. Appeals Against the Election

1. Appeals against the election should be directed to the CSSA-AC
2. A 2/3 majority in the CSSA-AC is required to recall the elections.
3. F. Resignation
4. In case of resignation from office an eligible substitute shall be elected.
5. Until a general election for this office can be held, the remaining officers can appoint an interim officer.
6. The voting-in of substitute officer(s) shall follow that of regular elections as much as deemed possible by the remaining officers.

G. Removal

1. Any member of the CSSA can propose to the CSSA-AC a request to remove one or more of the officer(s).
2. A request for removal shall be respected (granted due validity) and the members of the CSSA shall be notified within one week.
3. Removal of officer(s) shall require a two-thirds majority duly constituted meeting of the CSSA-AC.
4. In case of removal from office the acting officers can appoint an interim officer until a general election can be held for that office.
5. For all intents and purposes, the replacement of removed officer(s) shall follow the same guidelines as resigned officer(s).

Article VI -Voting

A. General Body Meeting

1. All members of the CSSA are eligible to vote.
2. All voting is performed via hand sign.
3. For the purpose of constitutional amendments, a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present must be reached.

5. A simple majority is reached when more 50% of all voting members present vote yes.

Article VII -Amendments & Bylaws

1. The constitution is binding on all members of the CSSA.
2. The date of the last amendment shall appear on the constitution.
3. The officers have the power to make minor modifications to the constitution as long as it is in the essence of the current constitution and/or bylaws and has the unanimous approval of all officers.
4. The CSSA-AC shall implement by laws to implement this constitution.

Article VIII -Organization Affirmation Clause

1. The CSSA agrees to abide by the policies of Worcester Polytechnic Institute as well as all federal, state and local laws.

Article IX -Ratification

1. This constitution shall be ratified at a general body meeting by a majority vote of at least two-thirds of the members present.
2. Upon ratification, this constitution shall supersede all previous constitutions of the CSSA.