



NCTA Student Senate

CONSTITUTION

As adopted on April 7, 2022

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, with the consent of the Board of Regents, desiring a more representative and efficient Student Government, wanting better communications between students and the college's administration and faculty, seeking to cultivate and preserve the ideals of good citizenship on the campus, and hoping to maintain a more complete and fruitful atmosphere of learning at this college, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution for the administration of student government.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Student Senate of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, hereinafter referred to as the *NCTA Student Senate* and *Student Senate*.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the NCTA Student Senate shall be to act as the supreme governing body in the regulation and coordination of all phases of student self-government and to serve as an agency through which relationship between the administration, faculty and students, and between the general public and students, may be maintained.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Voting membership shall be restricted to two members per Recognized Student Organization: one second- or third-year student and one first-year student.

- A. A first-year senate member will represent his/her Recognized Student Organization his/her first year and second year of college. This is to provide a continuum in the senate.
- B. If an elected member leaves or is academically dismissed, then a new member will need to be elected from the Recognized Student Organization.
- C. An elected member shall represent only one NCTA Student Organization on the NCTA Student Senate.

Section 2. Loss of Membership.

- A. Loss of membership will result if a member fails to attend more than three consecutive meetings, or five meetings throughout the academic year, without reasonable written permission.
- B. Participation in a college-sponsored activity may count as an excused absence provided that written notification is sent to the President and Advisor prior to the event.
- C. The Secretary will provide written notice signed by the President and Advisor to a

member and his/her club advisor after a second consecutive unexcused absence. If the member fails to be present at a third consecutive meeting without a viable reason, the Recognized Student Organization will be instructed to elect a new member.

- D. A student who loses membership in the Student Senate cannot represent another Recognized Student Organization in the same academic year.

Section 3. Loss of SURF Eligibility and SOFS Processing

- A. An organization that fails to send member representation to three Student Senate meetings in one semester will become ineligible to apply for Student Union Resource Fund (SURF) funds at the end of the academic year and will cease to have its financial transactions processed by Student Organization Financial Services (SOFS).
- B. Organizations may send an alternate representative in place of a member who is absent or unable to attend a meeting due to participation in a college-sponsored activity. However, no individual may represent more than one student organization.
- C. The Secretary will provide written notice, signed by the President and Advisor, to the organization's advisor and the Student Senate Compliance Officer within 48 hours of the organization losing its SURF Eligibility and SOFS processing privileges.
- D. An organization may regain its SOFS financial processing privileges by sending at least one member representative to two consecutive meetings after written notice has been received; an organization may regain eligibility for SURF funds the following academic year.

ARTICLE IV. POWERS

The NCTA Student Senate, acting through the appropriate branches, shall have the following powers, insofar as these powers do not conflict with general University regulations by the Board of Regents.

Section 1. Powers Relating to Organizations.

- A. To recognize all proposed new student organizations and to approve their constitutions, without which recognition and approval an organization shall not be permitted to function as a Recognized Student Organization.
- B. To establish, by majority vote of the NCTA Student Senate, new and uniform conditions for the continued approval of existing student organizations, to demand compliance with said new conditions within a reasonable and stated length of time, and to revoke, by majority vote, the constitution and rights function of organizations failing to comply.
- C. To review for approval actions taken by student groups when such actions are of

concern to the student body. These groups shall include, but not be limited to, student organizations.

Section 2. Powers Relating to Liaison.

- A. To serve as liaison between students and faculty, between students and the Board of Regents, and/or their representatives, between students and the state legislature, and between students and the general public at such time as the general welfare of the students and/or the University shall require such service.

ARTICLE V. ELECTION & OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers.

The officers shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.

- A. The offices of Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Parliamentarian shall be elected annually during the first regular meeting of the Fall semester.
- B. Officers shall be nominated from the Student Senate body and elected by a majority vote of the current Student Senate.
- C. The offices of Secretary and Vice President shall be held by first year students. The offices of President and Treasurer shall be held by second and/or third year students. The office of Parliamentarian shall be open to any representative.
- D. If an officer must be replaced, the next lower officer shall move up, and a new Parliamentarian shall be elected from the Student Senate.

Section 2. Officers' Duties.

- A. The President's duties shall be:
 - 1. Preside at all meetings of the NCTA Student Senate.
 - 2. Appoint special committees when needed
 - 3. Act as student representative at special functions when only one student is needed.
- B. The Vice-President's duties shall be:
 - 1. Assume the duties of the President in his/her absence.
 - 2. Provide overall supervision and coordination of committee activities.
 - 3. Service as ex-officio member of all committees.
 - 4. Move up to the office of President if it is vacated.
- C. The Secretary/Treasurer's duties shall be:
 - 1. Keep record of discussion and recommendations.
 - 2. Disseminate minutes of meetings to the NCTA Student Senate members.

3. Handle regular correspondence of the NCTA Student Senate.
4. Maintain a permanent record file of the NCTA Student Senate.
5. Notify all members of meetings of the NCTA Student Senate.
6. Keep record of income and disbursements.
7. Move up to the office of Vice-President if it is vacated.

D. The Parliamentarian's duties shall be:

1. See that the parliamentary procedures are used at all meetings.
2. Assist the President in maintaining order at all meetings.
3. Act under the guidelines expressed in Robert's Rules of Order which will be the NCTA Student Senate's parliamentary procedure reference.
4. Have a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure or willing to learn Robert's Rules of Order
5. Move up to the office of Secretary/Treasurer if it is vacated.

Section 3. Dean's Council Representatives.

Two members shall be elected to provide official representation at the NCTA Dean's Council (the collaborative body responsible for making decisions regarding institutional policy, priorities, budgeting, and strategic plan implementation).

- A. Representatives shall include a first-year student and second- or third-year student.
- B. The first-year Representative shall become the second-year Representative during his or her second year at NCTA.
- C. A new first-year Representative shall be elected annually at the first regular meeting of the Fall semester.
- D. If a Representative leaves NCTA, then a new Representative will be elected at the next regular meeting.

Section 4. Dean's Council Representatives' Duties

- A. The Dean's Council Representatives' duties shall be:
 1. Attend all Dean's Council Meetings
 2. Act as liaison between the Student Senate and the Dean's Council
 3. Provide regular reports to the Student Senate regarding items discussed and actions taken by the Dean's Council.
 4. Solicit feedback from the Student Senate body before voting on items of major importance.

ARTICLE VI. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The executive branch shall consist of the elected officers, the faulty advisor(s), and a

compliance officer.

ARTICLE VII. MEETING

Section 1. The NCTA Student Senate

- A. Regular meetings of the NCTA Student Senate will be held at least once a month during the regular academic year on a day to be decided. All meetings of the NCTA Student Senate will be open. Provisions shall be made in the agenda of every meeting for students to present proposals or grievances to the NCTA Student Senate. The procedures outlined in Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed at all meetings.

Section 2. The Executive Committee Meeting.

- A. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENT

Section 1. Proposals.

Proposals for amendments to this constitution may be originated by:

- A. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the entire voting members of the NCTA Student Senate.
- B. A petition submitted to the NCTA Student Senate at a previous meeting.