

# BRIERCREST COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION

*Amended Summer 2015*

**BRIERCREST**

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY — COLLEGE — SEMINARY

## 1. THE PURPOSE

- 1.1. The Briercrest College Student Government exists to help facilitate an environment and culture in which all students<sup>i</sup> might truly follow Christ's calling in their lives while at Briercrest College.

## 2. THE MISSION

- 2.1. We, the Student Government, intend to fulfill our purpose and lead the Student Body by listening, speaking, uplifting, praying, and serving in the name of Jesus. We aim to accurately represent and discern the best interests of college students and communicate them to the appropriate bodies with students and faculty. We seek to coordinate events and activities that enrich and encourage students' spiritual, relational, and academic lives. We believe God desires for us to conform to Christ-likeness and that the Student Body also desires to be led by fellow peers towards this same end. We are fellow Briercrest College students contributing to a rigorous learning community that calls students to seek the Kingdom of God, be profoundly shaped by the Scriptures, and be formed spiritually and intellectually for lives of service.<sup>ii</sup>

## 3. THE TERMS

- 3.1. *The Constitution* is the fundamental text of the College Student Government; it provides both the foundation and boundaries of this government. The Constitution cannot be changed or amended in any way without the approval of the Student Body (see 10. The Constitutional Amendment Process). Failure to abide by this text by members of Student Government will result in immediate disciplinary attention, including potential impeachment (see 6. Qualifications of Student Government, 7. The Discipline Process, and 8. Presidential Appeal).
- 3.2. *The Board Policy Manual* are the Student Government's essential regulations; they provide the principles by which this government operates within the constitutional parameters. They can be changed or amended by the Board of Representatives and should be read and reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Board. Failure to abide by these principles will result in appropriate discipline but not necessarily impeachment (see 7. The Discipline Process and 9. The Impeachment Process).
- 3.3. The Practices are suggested guidelines for facilitating the administration of the Student Government. They can be changed or amended by the Board of Representatives. The Practices can be changed year to year according to the needs of Student Government and are not binding.

## 4. THE STRUCTURE

- 4.1. Board of Representatives: responsible for advising and assisting the Presidential Team and representing the Student Body.
- 4.2. Advisory Council: responsible for communication between the Board of Representatives and the Presidential Team and presenting governance policies to the Board of Representatives.

- 4.3. Presidential Team: responsible for managing coordinators and leading the Student Body.
- 4.4. Team of Coordinators: responsible for coordinating activities for the Student Body on behalf of Student Government.
- 4.5. These four fundamental pillars of Student Government cannot be added to, amended, or dropped without Constitutional Amendment (see 10. The Constitutional Amendment Process).
- 4.6. The President is elected by the Student Body (see 11. Student Body President Elections), the Board of Representatives is composed of RAs, and the Advisory Council will be elected by the Board of Representatives, whereas all other positions in Student Government are appointed.

## 5. THE POSITIONS

### 5.1. The Board of Representatives

#### 5.1.1. Composition

- 5.1.1.1. The Board of Representatives will consist of the dorm RA's and an elected Advisory Council.
- 5.1.1.2. The Board will maintain a standing policy that ensures Board breadth, diversity, and integrity in representation. The Advisory Council will be voted on by the RAs and will be made up of no fewer than three members from the Student Body.
- 5.1.1.3. When possible the members of the Advisory Council will not be RAs.

#### 5.1.2. Description

- 5.1.2.1. The Board of Representatives functions in two significant roles:
  - 5.1.2.1.1. As the group which represents the Student Body and speaks to issues on their behalf and,
  - 5.1.2.1.2. As the group keeping the Presidential team accountable to the Student Body.
- 5.1.2.2. The Representatives are chosen to govern as a Board; thus, their governing power exists only as they are gathered together.
- 5.1.2.3. The Advisory Council will hold no voting power, only power to present changes to the Constitution and Board Policy Manual. These changes will then be presented to the Board of Representatives for voting.
- 5.1.2.4. The Advisory Council will be tasked with proposing governance policies, and with mediating between the Presidential team and the Board of Representatives.
- 5.1.2.5. The Advisory Council will act as mediator between the Presidential Team, holding them accountable to the parameters set forth by the Board of Representatives.

### 5.1.3. Declaration

5.1.3.1. The Board meets not to fulfill a time quota or a set of positions, but as a group of Christian leaders eagerly seeking the will of God for our school. Therefore, we acknowledge that we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2.16) and we recognize that wisdom comes from God alone through the teaching of the Spirit (Proverbs 2.6; 1 Corinthians 2.10-12). Therefore, this Board seeks to live by the Spirit and produce good fruit (Galatians 5.16-23), bringing glory to God as we stand in unity (Philippians 2.1-2). We will make prayer a central priority, interceding together on behalf of the Student Body, Student Government, and Briercrest College (Matthew 7.7-8; 18.19-20; 1 Thessalonians 5.17-25). We acknowledge God's sovereignty in all the decisions we make and humbly consider the good of the school before our own biases (Philippians 2.1-3). We commit to searching the Scriptures and storing God's Word within, we seek wisdom "as for hidden treasure" (Proverbs 2.1-6).

## 5.2. The Presidential Team

### 5.2.1. Composition

5.2.1.1. The Student Body President, the Vice President of Academics, and the Vice President of Administration

### 5.2.2. Description

5.2.2.1. This group is primarily responsible for managing Coordinators and leading the Student Body as a team. This join-effort approach to leadership is central to the Presidential Team.

5.2.2.2. The President is ultimately responsible for the actions of this team and therefore has the most authority within the group. The Vice President of Academics and the Vice President of Administration both share the same authority as each other within the Presidential Team.

## 5.3. Team Coordinators

### 5.3.1. Composition

5.3.1.1. Appointed by Student Body President

### 5.3.2. Description

5.3.2.1. They are responsible for providing and facilitating opportunities, services and activities for students on behalf of Student Government.

5.3.2.2. The Board of Representatives will maintain standing policies for role descriptions and responsibilities for the appointed coordinators.

5.3.2.3. The Student Body President will be accountable to the Board of Representatives not only for themselves but also for their Team Coordinators.

## 6. QUALIFICATIONS OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- 6.1. We, the Student Government, need to be followers of Jesus worth following (1 Corinthians 11.1). Therefore, the members of Student Government aim to live by Biblical characteristics.
- 6.2. Loving God and loving one another as ourselves (Matthew 22.37-40).
- 6.3. Submission to and delight in the Word of God (Matthew 17.5; John 1.1-18; Romans 15.4; 2 Timothy 3.16).
- 6.4. Commitment to prayer: abiding in Christ (John 15.5-8)
- 6.5. Desire for wisdom and discernment: having the ability to weigh and understand God's will (Proverbs 2.1-6, Romans 12.1-2; James 1.5).
- 6.6. Obedience to the Spirit, not the sinful nature (Galatians 5.16-26).
- 6.7. Humble servanthood (Philippians 2.1-8)
- 6.8. A heart for unity and love (1 Corinthians 12.12ff; Ephesians 4.15,16; Colossians 3.14).
- 6.9. Integrity and holiness—being pure and blameless (Philippians 2.14-16; 1 Peter 1.16, 2.9cf; 1 Timothy 3.1ff, Titus 1.6-9).
- 6.10. Moreover, all members must meet these qualifications:
  - 6.10.1. Be a current student at Briercrest College
  - 6.10.2. Have good rapport with Faculty, Student Development, and Briercrest Associates
  - 6.10.3. Have a GPA of 2.3 or higher (the President must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher in the two semesters preceding nominations).
  - 6.10.4. Adhere to the current Student Conduct Code.
  - 6.10.5. Demonstrate a familiarization of the Student Government Constitution.

## 7. THE DISCIPLINE PROCESS

- 7.1. Any current Briercrest College student or staff member can present a complain against a member of Student Government.
- 7.2. Grounds for complaints against a member of Student Government are either negligence of duties and/or moral misconduct (see the current Student Responsibilities and Expectations). The final outcome of this process may include impeachment.
- 7.3. Complaints against any member of Student Government will be submitted in writing to a group designated by the Board of Representatives.

- 7.4. The Board of Representatives reserves authority to delegate mediation to a designate group before complaints come before the Board.
- 7.5. The Board of Representatives will maintain a standing policy around mediating complaints between a member of Student Government and Briercrest staff member or any student of Briercrest College.

## 8. PRESIDENTIAL APPEAL

- 8.1. Any decision made by the Board of Representatives, except for the President's own impeachment, may be appealed by the Student Body President.
- 8.2. Appeals will be resolved via arbitration by three (3) Senior Executives of Briercrest College.
- 8.3. The Board of Representatives will maintain a standing policy establishing integrity concerning the timeframe and witnesses of the appeal process.
- 8.4. If the President's appeal is accepted, all members will continue to serve in Student Government. If the appeal is rejected, the President will be immediately reviewed and disciplined by the Board of Representatives.

## 9. THE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

- 9.1. Impeachment is the immediate removal of a member from Student Government; it is the most serious form of discipline.
- 9.2. A member of Student Government can only be impeached when the Discipline Process is followed in its entirety or when the President loses the Appeal Process (see 8. Presidential Appeal).

## 10. THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS

- 10.1. The Constitution may only be amended by the Student Body with a 75% vote of acclamation.
- 10.2. Constitutional Amendments must be moved by the Board prior to presentation to the Student Body. The Board will maintain a policy concerning a timeline of presentation.
- 10.3. Presentation of Amendments will be at minimum in the modes of written and verbal.
- 10.4. The Student Body must receive the proposed amendments no less than twenty (20) days before a vote of affirmation.
- 10.5. If a new constitution is desired, a vote by ballots must be taken from the Student Body. At least 50% of the Student Body must vote, and 75% of the voters must be in favour of the decision. The New Constitution must be completed within one year, during which time Student Government is bound to the current Constitution.

10.6.A New Constitution must be ratified by the Student Body by ballots with a 75% vote in favour of it. Again, at least 50% of the Student Body must vote.

## 11. STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT ELECTIONS

11.1. Students must be nominated to candidate for Student Body President.

11.2. Nominees will have no less than 10 student signatures, 1 faculty signature, and the signature of the nominee.

11.3. All nominees must participate in a screening process to ensure they meet the measurable qualifications of Student Government (see 6. Qualifications of Student Government).

11.4. The Board of Representatives will confirm the nominees understand the qualifications for being Student Body President at Briercrest College. This includes the basic qualifications as found in section 6. Qualifications of Student Government. Only nominees that meet the qualifications of section 6 will be recommended as Presidential Candidates.

11.5. The Advisory Council is responsible for submitting an Election Process Plan no later than the last Rep. Board meeting of the first semester of the current school year.

11.6. This plan must include the nomination window, deadlines, chapel designation, question and answer forums, and interviews by the Board of Representatives and any other group deemed necessary.

11.7. Students will vote via a secret ballot.

11.8. The Board of Representatives will maintain a standing policy around secrecy of ballot.

11.9. The Student Body President will be elected by a majority vote. This means that a candidate must have more than 50% of the overall vote to be elected.

11.10. The Board of Representatives will maintain a standing policy of integrity regarding the count, communication of the votes, as well as the process of breaking a tie.

11.11. The Board of Representatives will maintain a standing policy for the case of having less than two (2) eligible candidates.

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<sup>i</sup> This document pertains to all current Briercrest College students.

<sup>ii</sup> This comes from the college's official mission statement.