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**CONSTITUTION OF THE
NORTHEASTERN STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF
OF NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**

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PREAMBLE

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WE, THE STUDENTS of Northeastern State University, in order to establish representative student government and to provide a forum for student's views and ideas for the purpose of promoting and representing the students of Northeastern State University, do hereby adopt the following Constitution.

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**ARTICLE I
NAME & PURPOSE**

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- Section 1. The Northeastern Student Government Association (NSGA) shall be the official organization to represent the students of Northeastern State University (NSU) Tahlequah Campus.
- Section 2. The Northeastern Student Government Association (NSGA) purpose shall be those stated in the PREAMBLE.
- Section 3. The governing body shall be subject to the limitations and regulations adopted by the Office of Student Affairs and the University Administration.

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**ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP & DIVISION OF GOVERNMENT**

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- Section 1. These definitions will be used by the NSGA to identify the components of the University community.
- A. Northeastern State University or the University is defined as the institution composed of the Board of Regents, the Administration, the Faculty, and the Students of Northeastern State University Tahlequah Campus.
- B. The Board of Regents is defined as the governing body of the University deriving its powers from the laws of the State of Oklahoma.
- C. The Administration is defined as the administrative appointees at the University.
- D. The Faculty is defined as those persons appointed primarily for the purpose of conducting classroom activities.
- E. Students are defined as all persons currently enrolled for University credit.
- F. Student law shall be defined as resolutions from the senate, executive orders by the NSGA President, and decisions of the NSGA Supreme Court adopted by the NSGA.
- Section 2. No student shall be discriminated at Northeastern State University or any school, department, or division thereof at the Tahlequah campus on the basis of gender, race, creed, religion, national origin, veterans' status, sexual orientation, personal beliefs, personal opinions, or special needs

- 1 and or disabilities
- 2 Section 3. All persons enrolled in a course or courses for credit at Northeastern State
 3 University upon payment of a student activities fee shall automatically be
 4 members of the Northeastern Student Government Association and shall
 5 have the right to vote in the general elections and special elections of
 6 Executive Officers.
- 7 Section 4. The Northeastern Student Government Association will be organized in
 8 three branches. They shall be the Legislative, the Executive, and the
 9 Judicial. The powers and duties are those mandated by the respective
 10 articles of this Constitution.
- 11 A. No person or group of persons in one of these branches will exercise any
 12 power belonging to the other, except as hereinafter expressly directed or
 13 permitted.

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15 **ARTICLE III**
 16 **LEGISLATIVE**

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18 **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

- 19 Section 1. All legislative power granted herein shall be vested in, and exercised by
 20 The Student Senate of the NSGA.
- 21 Section 2. The Senate shall be composed of individually elected members from each
 22 student organization, by individually elected members of the freshman
 23 class, by individually appointed students from each college on campus, by
 24 individually appointed students not living in a university housing facility
 25 and by individually appointed students living in a university housing
 26 facility.
- 27 A. Each student organization shall elect individual members to represent said
 28 organization in the Senate.
- 29 i. Each organization shall submit to the President of the Senate one
 30 (1) student to represent their organization
- 31 ii. The President of the Senate shall confirm that each student shall be
 32 an eligible candidate for appointment from their organization.
- 33 (1) The organization must meet University recognition
 34 requirements.
- 35 (2) Each recognized student organization must be in current
 36 good standing with NSGA.
- 37 B. The freshman class shall elect individual members to represent
 38 themselves.
- 39 i. The freshman class shall elect two (2) senators. The freshman
 40 class shall elect one (1) additional senator for the first five hundred
 41 (500) freshman students enrolled. For every additional two
 42 hundred and fifty (250) freshman students enrolled after, the
 43 freshman class shall be eligible to elect one (1) additional senator.
- 44 ii. An eligible voter in the freshman class shall be defined as a student
 45 that is recognized as a freshman by the office of admissions at the

- 1 University and is enrolled in at least one (1) credit hour..
- 2 C. Each individual college shall appoint individual senators to represent said
- 3 college.
- 4 i. The Dean of each college shall submit to the President of the
- 5 Senate two (2) students to represent their respected college.
- 6 ii. The President of the Senate shall confirm that each student shall be
- 7 an eligible candidate for appointment from their college.
- 8 iii. Upon confirmation of eligibility, the President of the Senate shall
- 9 submit the names of each student to the Senate for appointment. A
- 10 majority vote of the Senate is required for any student to become a
- 11 senator representing their particular college.
- 12 D. Students that do not reside in a university housing facility (commuters)
- 13 shall be appointed individual senators to represent themselves.
- 14 i. The President of the Senate shall appoint to Senate five (5)
- 15 students to represent the commuter students on a first come first
- 16 serve basis. The prospective senators must produce a list of one
- 17 hundred (100) signatures of other commuter students to the
- 18 President of the Senate as a requirement of office.
- 19 ii. The President of the Senate shall confirm that each student shall be
- 20 an eligible candidate for appointment as a commuter.
- 21 iii. Upon confirmation of eligibility, the President of the Senate shall
- 22 submit the names of each student to the Senate for appointment. A
- 23 majority vote of the Senate is required for any student to become a
- 24 senator representing commuting students.
- 25 E. Students that do reside in a university housing facility (campus resident)
- 26 shall elect individual senators to represent the residence hall in which they
- 27 reside.
- 28 i. Each residence hall may elect up to two (2) senators.
- 29 ii. Candidates can only accept and count votes from residents from
- 30 the resident hall in which they live
- 31 iii. Of the candidates who run, the two candidates who receive a
- 32 majority of votes will be confirmed representatives for their dorm
- 33 F. The Senate shall be the final judge of the elections, returns and
- 34 qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute
- 35 a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may be authorized to
- 36 adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance
- 37 of absent members, in such manner, and under penalties as the Senate may
- 38 see fit.
- 39 **Section 3.** Senators shall represent the constituents of the area from which were
- 40 elected.
- 41 **Section 4.** All organizations registered with the Northeastern Student Government
- 42 Association, as well as the Administration, Faculty and the Oklahoma
- 43 Statesman shall be granted speaking seats as designated by the NSGA By-
- 44 Laws.
- 45 **Section 5.** The officers of the Student Senate shall be:

- 1 A. President of the Student Senate.
- 2 i. The Vice President of the Student Government Association shall
- 3 serve as the President of the Student Senate.
- 4 ii. The President of the Student Senate shall call and preside over
- 5 meetings of the Student Senate
- 6 iii. The President of the Student Senate may vote on proposed
- 7 legislation only to break a tie.
- 8 iv. The President of the Senate shall appoint all other Senate officers
- 9 and Senate Committees.
- 10 v. The President of the Senate shall receive for his services a
- 11 compensation not to be increased or diminished during his term of
- 12 office;
- 13 B. President Pro-Tempore of the Student Senate.
- 14 i. The Student Senate shall elect a President Pro-Tempore from
- 15 among the Senators by a majority of the voting membership.
- 16 ii. The President Pro-Tempore shall reside over all meetings in the
- 17 absence of the President of the Student Senate.
- 18 C. Secretary of the Student Senate.
- 19 i. The Secretary shall be appointed by the President of the Student
- 20 Senate with the approval of two-thirds of the voting membership of
- 21 the Student Senate.
- 22 ii. The Secretary shall have no vote in the Senate.
- 23 iii. The Secretary shall take minutes of Senate meetings and perform
- 24 other duties as set forth by the Student Government Code.
- 25 **Section 6.** All members of the Student Senate must submit a signed Release of
- 26 Information Form to verify that they meet the following qualifications
- 27 during their term of office and in order to be a candidate for Senator:
- 28 A. Enrollment for University credit.
- 29 B. Good conduct standing with the University.
- 30 C. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above.
- 31 D. The Student Senate shall be the sole judge of other qualifications of its
- 32 members.
- 33 **Section 7.** The Senate may determine the rules of its proceedings and shall keep an
- 34 official record of these proceedings.
- 35 **Section 8.** Upon petition of five (5) percent of the student body, any legislation
- 36 which they (the petitioners) deem necessary shall be submitted to the
- 37 student body at the next all-campus election. If accepted, this legislation
- 38 will have the same standing as any legislation passed by the Student
- 39 Senate and signed by the President. One-third of the voting membership of
- 40 the Student Senate may submit any legislation to the members of the
- 41 NSGA at the next all-campus election. If approved, such legislation shall
- 42 have the same standing as any legislation passed by the Student Senate
- 43 and signed by the President.
- 44 **Section 9.** The Student Senate shall have the power to:
- 45 A. Establish regulations affecting student elections which are open to all

- 1 member of the student body.
- 2 B. Establish criteria for registration of campus organizations.
- 3 C. Impeach Student Justices by a two-thirds vote of the voting members of
- 4 the Student Senate, for malfeasance in office and dereliction of duty.
- 5 D. Try Student Justices, after their impeachment. Conviction will be by a
- 6 two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate.
- 7 E. Effect by two-thirds of the voting membership the impeachment of the
- 8 Executive Officers of the Student Government Association or any other
- 9 executive officer, for malfeasance in office and dereliction of duty.
- 10 F. Approve all student nominations to University Standing Committees and
- 11 all other committees which provide for student representation if time
- 12 allows.
- 13 G. Make all policies; establish Senate Offices, independent offices unless
- 14 otherwise prohibited by the Constitution, which shall be necessary to the
- 15 exercise of the foregoing and all other powers vested by this Constitution
- 16 in the Student Government Association.
- 17 H. Elect the President, Vice President, and Commuter Senators of the Student
- 18 Government Association if none are provided by an election as specified
- 19 in this Constitution.
- 20 I. Appoint student representatives, who represent NSGA to the Faculty
- 21 Senate and student members of the Faculty Senate Committees.
- 22 J. Establish guidelines for any and all Student Senate Offices and
- 23 independent offices.
- 24 K. Approve, amend, or reject any and all proposed bills, resolutions, and/or
- 25 motions under its consideration.
- 26 L. May establish the NSGA By-Laws.
- 27 **Section 10.** Should a Senate seat become vacant, it may be filled in accordance with
- 28 the NSGA By-laws.

**ARTICLE IV
EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- 34 Section 1. The executive officers of the Student Government Association shall
- 35 include the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Attorney General, the
- 36 President's Cabinet and other President appointments must be approved by
- 37 the senate. All executive powers are vested in such officers
- 38 Section 2. The executive officers shall have no vote in the Senate unless otherwise
- 39 granted by the Constitution and By-laws.
- 40 Section 3. All members of the Executive office must submit a signed Release of
- 41 Information Form to verify that they meet the following qualifications
- 42 during their term of office and in order to be a candidate for Executive
- 43 Officer:
- 44 A. Enrolled in no less than twelve (12) hours for University credit.
- 45 B. Good conduct standing with the University.

- 1 C. A cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above.
- 2 D. The Executive Office shall be the sole judge of other qualifications of its
- 3 members.
- 4 Section 4. The student holding the position of President may not concurrently hold
- 5 the office of President of any other campus organization.
- 6 Section 5. The President shall:
- 7 A Be the Chief Executive Officer of the NSGA, and as such shall:
- 8 B Have veto power over all resolutions and legislation of the NSGA Senate,
- 9 although the Senate may override such veto by a two-thirds vote of the
- 10 current Senate membership.
- 11 C Appoint, with a majority vote of the Senate, the President's Cabinet
- 12 members, and the Supreme Court;
- 13 D With the permission of the Senate, the President may address the Senate,
- 14 and/or recommend to its consideration any measures that the President
- 15 deems necessary and appropriate;
- 16 E Conduct the Foreign Policy of the NSGA; With consent of a majority of
- 17 the Senate the President shall have the power to enter the NSGA into
- 18 agreements with national and state student organizations, with student
- 19 lobbying groups, and with the student governments and student
- 20 organizations of other universities, with other NSU campus organizations,
- 21 and with area community organizations;
- 22 F Ensure that all actions of the NSGA are progressing forward to the proper
- 23 administrative end point and report back to the Senate the actions
- 24 progress, in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of the NSGA.
- 25 G Receive a compensation not to be increased or diminished during the
- 26 President's term of office;
- 27 H The President shall have the power, by executive order, to appropriate a
- 28 limited percentage (10 percent not including appropriations and wages) of
- 29 the NSGA budget for recognized NSU student organizations. The
- 30 President may also appropriate from the aforementioned funds for events
- 31 not related to NSU with an approval of 2/3 of the Senate. The President
- 32 shall, after each such appropriation, report their actions to the Senate
- 33 within ten (10) school days of the appropriation.
- 34 I Appoint student representatives to faculty and administrative committees.
- 35 J The Senate shall have the power, through adoption of appropriate By-
- 36 Laws, to establish precise limits upon the President's power to appropriate
- 37 money from the NSGA Budget in the aforementioned fashion.
- 38 Section 6. The Treasurer shall:
- 39 A Be the Chief Financial Officer of the NSGA, and as such shall:
- 40 B Deliver a complete financial report to the Student Senate a minimum of
- 41 once every four school weeks;
- 42 C Receive any funds due the NSGA and then deposit into the NSGA
- 43 account;
- 44 D Dispense any funds authorized through Presidential Executive Order;
- 45 E Pay any debts incurred by the NSGA, when duly authorized;

- 1 F Collect all receipts for expenditures;
- 2 G Keep accurate records of all financial transactions and handle any
- 3 paperwork necessary for the collection, disbursement, and/or transfer of
- 4 funds; and
- 5 H Keep on file all receipts and copies of all paperwork necessary for the
- 6 collection, disbursement, and/or transfer of funds.
- 7 I receive for his or her services a compensation not to be increased or
- 8 diminished during his or her term of office.
- 9 Section 7. The Attorney General shall:
- 10 A. Whenever called upon by a member of the NSGA, may issue opinions
- 11 concerning the operations of the NSGA. Such opinions shall be binding
- 12 upon all executive officers unless overturned in an NSGA Organizational
- 13 court.
- 14 B. Whenever called upon by a member of the NSGA, may render officially
- 15 permitted advice as it pertains to the educational simulation aspects of the
- 16 NSGA.
- 17 C. The Office of the Attorney General shall be charged with the
- 18 representation of the NSGA before any of its Courts, provided that the
- 19 Attorney General may agree to allow others to represent the NSGA if he
- 20 or she deems it appropriate.
- 21 D. The Office of the Attorney General shall assist members of the Legislature
- 22 in the formulation of legislation.
- 23 E. The Office of the Attorney General may engage in educational activities
- 24 with the Courts of the organization, provided that actual disputes and
- 25 questions concerning the internal operation shall receive priority.
- 26 F. Receive for his services a compensation not to be increased or diminished
- 27 during his or her term of office.
- 28 Section 8. Upon confirmation of eligibility, the President of the Senate shall submit
- 29 the names of the nominees to the Senate for appointment before the last
- 30 scheduled senate meeting of the prior academic year. A majority vote of
- 31 the Senate is required for the person to be appointed to a position on the
- 32 President's Cabinet.
- 33 Section 9. The order of succession shall be President, Vice-President and President
- 34 Pro- Tempore.

ARTICLE V
JUDICIAL BRANCH

JUDICIAL BRANCH

- 40 Section 1. All judicial powers of the Northeastern Student Government Association
- 41 shall be vested in the Judicial Branch and such courts as the Senate shall
- 42 establish.
- 43 Section 2. The Judicial Branch shall be empowered to review and make judgment
- 44 upon request of a member of the student body, any document or action of
- 45 the NSGA with regard to its constitutionality.

- 1 Section 3. The Judicial Branch shall be composed of members of the Student Body.
2 Section 4. The Judicial Branch of the NSGA shall consist of the Supreme Court.
3 A. The NSGA President shall submit to the President of the Senate five (5)
4 nominations for the NSGA Supreme Court
5 B. The Senate shall confirm that the nominees are eligible candidates for the
6 position they have been nominated..
7 C. Upon confirmation of eligibility, the President of the Senate shall submit
8 the names of the nominees to the Senate for appointment within the first
9 five (5) weeks of the fall semester. A majority vote of the Senate is
10 required for the person to be appointed to serve on the NSGA Supreme
11 Court.
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13 **ARTICLE VI**
14 **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**
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- 16 Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds (2/3)
17 vote of the Senate, by a petition submitted to the Senate with the signature
18 and Student ID Number, for identification purposes, of two hundred (200)
19 students, or by a simple majority of a Constitutional Convention
20 authorized by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate and the
21 agreement of the NSGA President.
22 Section 2. All proposed amendments must be presented to the student body in a
23 special or regular election. All proposed amendments must be made
24 public at least five (5) school days in advance of the election. In order for
25 any amendment to become effective, it must be adopted by a simple
26 majority of the voters voting in a special or regular election. All proposed
27 amendments must state the precise time that, if adopted, they shall become
28 effective.
29 Section 3. NSGA By-Laws shall become effective when approved by a two-thirds
30 (2/3) vote of the Senate and may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote
31 of the Senate.