Upper School Student Government

CONSTITUTION

"But among you it will be different.
Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be a servant."
Matthew 20:26b

Overview

In order to increase the unity and morale of our student body, we, the Student Government of The Bear Creek School's Upper School, must promote student initiative, responsibility, and good citizenship. We stand to preserve the spirit, tradition, and good name of our school, and to promote harmonious relations and a spirit of Christian fellowship throughout the entire Upper School. We accept this constitution and all privileges and responsibilities it entails.

Each position has value. Every member fills a function within the whole of the Student Government. Together, as all members, we will fulfill its overall purpose. No matter what position is taken, it should be done to the best of one's ability. The Student Government as a whole relies on every member's active participation.

Requirements

1. Follow the Honor Code
2. Must have and maintain good academic standing as determined by Faculty and the Academic Advisors
3. Have parent permission and support
4. Be re-enrolled at Bear Creek for the following school year
5. May not hold a current position in another leadership organization or club that meets in conflict with the Student Government (ASB meetings and responsibilities must take priority over other leadership positions)
6. Display consistent support for Student Government decisions and programming
7. At the time of nominations and elections, one must be a:
    a. Current member of ASB and junior to run for the position of President
    b. Current member of ASB and sophomore or junior to run for the position of Vice President
    c. Sophomore or junior appointed for the position of Secretary at time of application
    d. Sophomore or junior appointed for the position of Treasurer at time of application
8. For the application and election process, see Section 6

Section 1: Positions

Article 1: Officers

1. President

The President is the figurehead of the Student Government. This person is the leader of all affairs in Student Government and is in charge of meeting agendas and productivity. Within this goal, this person must guide the committee heads in their organization of projects and events.

Supervisor: Dean of Students

Responsibilities:

1. Attend all meetings that are scheduled by the Officers and/or the Advisor
2. Call and chair Student Government meetings
3. Create the agenda for meetings with information from Advisor and Officers
4. Collaborate with Cabinet individually and collectively
5. Work with Committee Heads for effective socials and events:
    a. Hold Committee Heads responsible for creating project plans and outlines that give specific details for each of the events, socials, on-going projects, and new initiatives
    b. Provide helpful leadership feedback and reflection
6. Enforce the implementation of this Constitution
7. Be the deciding vote on any manner in which the Student Government is divided
8. Represent the student body at school-related and community functions, as needed

2. Vice President

The Vice President is the leader of communication for the Student Government. This person works with the Class Representatives to make sure that the Student Government is a transparent organization that works for the student body. Communication to the student body must be clear and effective.

Supervisors: Dean of Students and President

Responsibilities:

1. Attend all meetings that are scheduled by the Officers and/or Advisor
2. Co-present Officer ideas to the Student Government
3. Fill in as President when President is absent
4. Communicate with Student Government members as needed for the purpose of effective external communication to student body

3. Treasurer

The Treasurer will be in charge of all the money within the Student Government. By working with the Advisor and the Business Office, this person will ensure that the Student Government uses its money responsibly and for the purpose of achieving a stronger student body.

Supervisors: Dean of Students and President

Responsibilities:

1. Organize money as needed
2. Supervise the collection and distribution of Student Government funds in conjunction with the Dean and Business Office
    a. Process reimbursements when individuals have documented payments on Student Government's behalf
    b. Deposit money through the Business Office and into the Student Government account
3. Report all errors to the Advisors and the Business Office immediately
4. Lead the Student Government in preparation of a yearly budget.
5. Communicate Student Government budget updates to ASB members as needed.

4. Secretary

The Secretary is in charge of all internal communication within the Student Government. This person works with Student Government to create a calendar for all meetings and events. This person is also in charge of recording these details for reference and for future Student Governments.

Supervisors: Dean of Students and President

Responsibilities:

1. Keep accurate notes of Student Government and Cabinet meetings in an organized notebook as well as post in digital Student Government files
2. Review notes as necessary from the previous meeting and send follow up communication on action items
3. Send updates and reminders, when needed, to the Student Government and Advisors

Article 2: Class Representatives

The Class Representatives must reflect the wants and needs of their grade back to the Student Government. They function as the bridge between the student body and the Student Government. The bridge they create is necessary for the productivity of Student Government as a whole. Two representatives, one girl and one boy, will be selected from each grade. They will communicate scheduled events as well as present input from their grade to the Student Government.

Supervisor: Dean of Students

Responsibilities:

1. Attend all meetings as prescribed by the Officers and Advisor
2. Meet with Dean and other Class Representatives bi-weekly
3. Utilize various communication methods to their grade effectively
4. Attend each Social and Student Government event unless given permission by an Advisor
5. Work individually and collaboratively with assigned Committee Head and committee members

Article 3: Committee Heads

1. Student Outreach Committee Head

The Student Outreach Committee Head is in charge of building strong and positive relations between students at The Bear Creek School, as well as working to foster deeper spiritual growth among the student body. Through various events and initiatives, their goal is to ensure that every student feels included and encouraged spiritually in the school community.

Supervisors: Dean of Students and President

Responsibilities:

1. Lead a devotional and prayer for the ASB weekly meeting
2. Work with chapel planning committee
3. Oversee the planning and implementation of the I-Feast, See You at the Pole, and cornhole tournament events
4. Assist Dean of Students in planning and implementing Involvement Fair and oversight of clubs
5. Work in collaboration with other committee heads on assigned events during the year

2. Social Committee Head

The Social Committee Head's goal is to provide social events for the student body to come together and create a sense of community. The committee is responsible for Fall Ball, Christmas Social, and Prom.

Supervisor: Dean of Students and President

Responsibilities:

1. Organize and execute all-school dances through:
    a. Communicating with vendors/venues
    b. Organizing ticket sales in collaboration with the Treasurer
2. Work in collaboration with other committee heads on assigned events during the year

3. Grizzly Spirit Committee Head

The Grizzly Spirit Committee has the duty of fostering school spirit. They will develop fun and creative ways to build excitement for all official school competitions and performances.

Supervisor: Dean of Students and President

Responsibilities:

1. Foster school spirit by creating hype for all-school competitions and performances through:
    a. Pep assemblies
    b. Rooter buses
    a. Regular communications to the student body celebrating competitors, highlighting upcoming events, and reporting on event outcomes
2. Work in collaboration with other committee heads on assigned events during the year

Section 2: Recall and Vacancy

Article 1: Recall

1. Student Council members may be recalled for the following reasons:
    a. Being placed on academic probation
    b. Committing an Honor code violation or major disciplinary offense on or off campus
    c. Missing three or more scheduled ASB meetings or events without prior approval from Advisor
    d. Failure to perform required and delegated duties and responsibilities
    e. Any other reason the Administration and Dean of Students deems appropriate
2. Recall will be at the discretion of Administration and Dean of Students

Article 2: Vacancy

1. In the event the office of the President becomes vacated, the Vice President of the current Student Government shall become President. A new Vice President from the current Student Government will be chosen by the Officers, Advisors, and Dean of Students, as approved by a ⅔-majority vote approval by the current Student Council.

2. In the event any other Student Council position is vacated, the Officers, along with the Advisor, shall select a replacement, as approved by a ⅔-majority vote approval by the current Student Council.

Section 3: Ratification and Amendments

The Bear Creek School's Upper School Student Council Constitution shall be ratified and amended by the approval of the Advisor, the Dean of Students and a ⅔-majority vote by the Student Council

Section 4: Elections and Selection Processes

Article 1: Timetable

The election process of the officers of the President, Vice President, and Class Representatives shall take place in March or April, depending on the School Calendar. The selection of Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee Heads shall be made by the Dean of Students and Division Head.

Article 2: Voting System

Candidates for all positions must attend a Student Government Interest Meeting in March. Applications will be handed out at the meeting. All applicants must fill out the form outlining the position(s) for which they will be applying. Applicants must also be in good academic and behavioral standing, as well as receive a positive recommendation from each of their current teachers.

1. President and Vice President

Candidates for President and Vice President must meet all requirements as described in this constitution as well as receive all positive recommendations from their current teachers. Then, the candidates may run for the President and Vice President position in the election. For each position, the candidate who receives the majority vote will win the election. Students not elected for these positions may be considered for a different role within the Student Government.

2. Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee Heads

Candidates for these positions must meet all requirements as described in this constitution and receive all positive recommendations from their current teachers, as well as have an interview with the Dean of Students and another member of the Upper School staff/faculty team (the outgoing ASB President also has the option of attending interviews and offering input). Based on the feedback of the interviewers and other considerations, the Dean of Students and Division Head will then pick the best fitting candidate for each position. Students not selected for these positions may be considered for a different role within the Student Government.

3. Class Representatives

The Class Representatives must receive all positive recommendations and meet all requirements as described in this constitution to run in their respective class representative elections. There will first be a primary where all eligible candidates are voted on by their class. Then a general election with the top two candidates from the primary will be held where each candidate will make a speech to their class followed by voting. For each position, the candidate who receives the majority vote will win the election.

**Freshman Class Representatives will be chosen in September rather than March, via the same process.*