

**GONZAGA STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**  
**(Amended 12 May 2009)**

**1. PURPOSE:**

- (a) Gonzaga Student Council (GSC) shall attempt to foster and enhance school spirit by promoting and defending the ideals of Gonzaga within the school community.
- (b) The Student Council is constituted as the official voice of the student body. Its purpose is to regulate and coordinate all activities with the administration; the moderators, the Assistant Principal(s) and the Principal.
- (c) The Student Council shall strive to represent and further the best interests of all students at all times.
- (d) Any involvement in organizations outside the school community needs the approval of the Principal.
- (e) The Student Council will actively defend the rights of all students in a spirit of social justice.
- (f) The Student Council is organized to participate in decision-making and the sharing of responsibility which affects all students at Gonzaga.
- (g) The Student Council is directly accountable to the Principal, who has the obligation of making decisions within the context of the whole school.

**2. ELECTION OF OFFICIALS:**

- (a) Candidates for student Council President must be a Level III student having successfully completed 28 credits with an average of not less than 75%.
- (b) Candidates for Vice President of Student Council may be a Level III student or a Level II student having successfully obtained 28 credits for Level III students and 14 credits for Level II students with an average of not less than 75%.
- (c) Election of President and Vice President will take place in the Spring of the previous year. Candidates will appear before a Board composed of the Principal, Assistant Principal(s), Student Council Moderator(s) and three teachers selected by the Principal. This board will approve or reject candidates seeking the office of President or Vice President.
- (d) President and Vice President will run individually – not as a slate of candidates.
- (e) The Principal, in consultation with the Moderator(s), President and Vice President will determine and announce the date for Student Council elections.
- (f) Students will cast one ballot for President, one for Vice President. Each ballot is equivalent to one vote regardless of Level.
- (g) If the office of Student President becomes vacant the Vice President after agreement of the Principal and the Moderator(s), will become President upon approval from the majority vote of the Student Council.

- (h) If the office of Student Vice President becomes vacant, the President, after approval of the Principal and Moderator will appoint a Vice President who must receive a majority vote approval from the Student Council.

### **3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS**

#### **a) Student Council Moderator**

1. He / She / They shall be a member of the teaching staff at Gonzaga.
2. The Moderator shall be appointed and may be dismissed by the Principal.
3. The Moderator(s) should attempt to be present at all Student Council meetings, meetings of the Executive Council and at the weekly meeting with the Principal (or Vice Principal), President and Vice President.
4. If necessary, the Moderator(s) may be called up to expel any member from a Student Council meeting.
5. The Moderator(s) will attempt to be informed on all council business in consultation with the President, Vice President and Executive Council Members.
6. The Moderator(s) will function as a representative of the faculty to the Council and of the Council to the faculty.

**(b) Student Council President**

1. He / She shall call, preside and chair at all Student Council meetings and those of the Executive Council.
2. He / She shall represent the school at all functions where his/her presence is requested by the Principal, or Assistant Principal(s).
3. He / She shall oversee and coordinate all the duties which the Gonzaga Student Council constitution requires of him/her.
4. He/She will meet weekly with the Principal and the faculty Moderator(s).
5. He / She shall be empowered to expel from any meeting of the Student Council anyone who he/she judges is disorderly or who fails to follow correct procedure.
6. In consultation with the Principal and Moderator(s), he / she and the Vice President will appoint grade 12 students to the Executive Council positions.
7. He / She will ask the Principal to remove from office any Class President who has been absent for a total of three (3) Council Meeting during the year without a good legitimate reason and without informing the President or Vice President that he / she was unable to attend.

**(c) Student Council Vice President**

1. He/she shall be advisor to the Student Council President and The Executive Council.
2. He / She will aid the President in all duties and help prepare the agenda for all meetings.
3. He/She shall, in the absence of the President, be entrusted with the powers, duties and responsibilities of the President.
4. He/She will be an official member of all Student Council Committees.

**4. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Executive Council of the Student Council is appointed by the President and Vice President with the approval of the Moderator(s) and the Principal.

Members of the Executive council will be Grade 12 Students.

**(a) Student Council Treasurer**

1. He / She shall handle all financial matters including the maintaining of a record of the credits and debits of the Student Council.
2. He / She shall obtain a record of all financial statement relating to the Student Council from the School Treasurer.
3. He / She shall prepare and distribute monthly, a written summary of all financial transactions of the Student Council for the Student Council, the Moderator, the Assistant Principal(s) and the Principal.

**(b) Student Council Secretary**

1. He / She shall be responsible for the minutes of all meetings, both Student Council and Student Executive meetings.
2. He / She shall maintain a file of correspondence and documents pertaining to Student Council matters.
3. He / She must take attendance at all meetings and keep a record in the minute book.

**(C) Committee Chair**

1. He / She will be responsible for selecting and chairing various sub committees needed throughout the year.
2. He / She will be the liaison person from the Student Council with the School Newspaper, Yearbook and Camera Club.
3. He / She will fulfill the duties of the Secretary in the absence of the Secretary.

**5. CLASS PRESIDENTS**

- (a) Class Presidents will be elected under the supervision of their homeroom teachers at a date in September specified in the school calendar of events for the year. Students will elect their Class Presidents early in September. Hence, the Student Council will be made up of an elected President and Vice President, an appointed Moderator, three appointed Grade 12 students, all of whom comprise the Executive and elected Class Presidents. During class elections, a Vice President will also be elected

and his/her role is to take the President's place at Student Council Meetings should the President of the class be absent.

(b) **Duties of the Class President**

1. The role of the Class President is to attend Student Council Meetings as a spokesperson for his/her class.
2. He / She shall report Student Council proceedings to his/her class during the first class with his/her homeroom teacher immediately following a Council meeting. This time and place of reporting is to be strictly followed unless the homeroom teacher has given specific directions to the contrary.
3. He / She will help the Student Council Executive to discuss, vote and come to good decisions. He / She should bring ideas, suggestions, complaints, etc. to the Student Council meetings.
4. Other duties of the Class President are to serve on Student Council committees, act in the best interests of the school and be more than willing to help on student dances, graduation committees, student supervision, responsibilities, etc.
5. He / She shall, in the absence of the teacher, assume control of the class and be responsible at all times for the orderly conduct of the class.

6. **IMPEACHMENT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

(a) **President and Vice President**

1. The Principal, for grave reason, may impeach either the President or Vice President of the Student Council. The removal of one does not mean the removal of both students.
2. The Principal, if impeachment is deemed necessary, may either appoint a replacement or call for an election either from the student Council members or from the whole school.
3. The Principal or Vice Principal(s) will give reason to an individual student before proceeding with impeachment.

**(b) Member of the Executive Council**

1. The President or Vice President may request the Principal to remove from office for grave reasons an appointed member of the Executive of the Student Council.
2. A replacement for an impeached member of the Executive Council will be appointed by the President, Vice President, Moderator and Principal.

**(c) Class President or Vice President**

1. An elected Class President or Vice President may be removed from office by the homeroom teacher providing consultation has taken place with the Principal and Assistant Principal(s).
2. The President or Vice President may request the impeachment of a class official from the Principal, Assistant Principal(s) and the Moderator(s).



3. Impeached class officials may be replaced by an appointed official or a new class election can take place.
4. Class Presidents who miss two consecutive Student Council meetings without adequate reasons or who fail to have the class represented at any meeting are candidates for impeachment.
5. Suspension from school or ejection from council meetings is sufficient reason to impeach a Class President.
6. The same guidelines for impeachment apply for the Vice President of a class.

7. **MEETINGS**

1. Student Council meetings may be held weekly during lunch hour.
2. Student Council meetings must be held at least every two weeks.
3. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Council within the school.
4. Student Council meetings shall have preference over any activities within the school.
5. Student Council meetings will be announced at least one day in advance of the meeting except for an emergency meeting.

8. **RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION**

The Constitution shall become effective after having been approved by a two thirds majority of the Student Council.

9. **AMMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

1. A Student Council member intending to propose any amendment to this Constitution shall submit it in writing to the Student Council President who will present it to the weekly meeting with the Principal and Moderator before presenting the Amendment to the Student Council.
2. The Constitution may be amended by a unanimous vote of the Student Council subject to the approval of the Principal.
3. Revisions and updating of the Student Council Constitution should be reviewed yearly.