

# TITLE XIV: THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT CAUCUSES

## Chapter 1401   Caucuses

- 1401.1 Student Government shall recognize the following caucuses at the first meeting of the Student Body Senate following the start of the Summer B semester:
- A. Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus
  - B. Black Caucus
  - C. Disability Caucus
  - D. Latin/Hispanic Caucus
  - E. LGBTQ+ Caucus
  - F. Military & Veteran Caucus
  - G. Women's Caucus
- 1401.2 Duties and Powers of Caucuses
- A. Caucuses shall
1. Sponsor measures to address issues that are unique to the population of students they identify with them.
    - a. These measures may be debated but not amended within the caucus meetings.
  2. Serve as an avenue for populations of students identifying with a Caucus to share issues that uniquely affect them.
  3. Preserve and advance relationships with Registered Student Organizations catered to students of specific identities to better those students' academic and collegiate experiences.
  4. Be in constant review of university policies and regulations that affect the population of students that identify with them.
  5. Provide a specific open forum to give students and RSO's the opportunity to address the Caucus during meetings.
  6. Caucus leadership shall meet with at least one member of Student Government Leadership, including the Student Body President, Senate President, Chief Justice, or Supervisor of Elections at minimum once per semester to discuss their initiatives and any projects currently in progress.
- 1401.3 Membership of Caucuses
- A. Any Student Government Agent who identifies with the mission of a Caucus.
    1. No Student Government Agent shall be barred from membership.
    2. Branch heads shall announce Caucus appointments for their respective branch members at the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting during their Senate report.
  - B. Any Caucus member may resign by submitting a written resignation to the Caucus Chair and their branch head.
  - C. No Student Government Agent shall be required to be a member of a Caucus.
  - D. No Student Government Agent shall serve as Chair of more than (1) Caucus.
  - E. Three (3) ex-officio members' seats

1. One (1) permanent ex-officio member seat is to be filled by a Registered Student Organization that serves as an overarching group of RSOs representing student populations of an identity that correlates with the Caucus.
  - a. The Caucus may appoint a new permanent member if that RSO disbands, or another overarching RSO emerges, with a 2/3 vote.
2. Two (2) non-permanent ex-officio shall be filled by RSOs for terms coinciding with the Senate Session. In relation to a Caucus's List of Applicable Registered Student Organizations:
  - a. If there are three (3) or fewer RSOs that represent students of a specific identity, those RSOs that represent students of a specific identity, those RSOs can serve one (1) year-long consecutive terms.
  - b. If there are four (4) RSOs that represent students of a specific identity, nonpermanent ex-officio members will serve staggered two (2) year non-consecutive terms.
  - c. If there are five (5) or more RSOs that represent a specific identity, non-permanent ex-officio members shall not serve consecutive terms.
3. Caucus ex-officio membership shall not count against quorum; however, it shall count for it.
4. All ex-officio caucus members shall have full debating and voting privileges.
5. Ex-officio members shall be permitted to fulfill their entire term in accordance with guidelines in effect at the time of their most recent election.

1401.4 Caucus Meeting Absences

- A. Caucus members shall be allowed a maximum of two (2) unexcused absences from each Caucus per semester.
- B. Caucus Meeting Absences may be expunged at the discretion of the Caucus Chair as outlined in 1402.2.

**Chapter 1402 Caucus Leadership**

- 1402.1 A. The Election and Appointment of Officers the Senate President shall appoint an acting Chair with the approval of the other three Branch heads.
  - B. At the first meeting of a caucus after the start of the Summer B semester, the acting Chair:
    1. Shall take the Chair.
    2. Shall call the meeting of the new caucus session to order.
    3. Shall immediately call for the nomination and election of the Caucus Chair. All Student Government Agents on the committee shall be eligible for nomination.
    4. Shall immediately yield the Chair to the newly elected Caucus Chair at the conclusion of the Caucus Chair elections.
  - C. Upon being elected at the first meeting of a caucus session, the Caucus Chair:
    1. Shall take the Chair.
    2. Shall immediately call for the nomination and election of the Caucus Vice Chair. All Student Government Agents shall be eligible for nomination to the office.
- 1402.2 Duties and Powers of the Caucus Chair

A. The Acting Caucus Chair shall set the meeting time for their respective Caucus, with the concurrence of a majority of the Caucus, and, at the first (1st) official meeting, the Acting Chair shall call for the election of the Chair. The newly elected Chair will call for the nomination of a Vice Chair during Miscellaneous Business. Vice Chair elections will be held at the next scheduled Caucus meeting.

B. The Chair of the Caucus may be an active member of the Caucus—debating and voting—but shall also be responsible for presiding over and keeping order and decorum in meetings.

C. The Chair shall be responsible for setting and posting the Caucus times and locations, with the concurrence of a majority of the Caucus. The Caucus meeting must be posted in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

D. The Chair shall have the power to expunge Caucus absence(s) of a Caucus member from their respective Caucus, upon written petition. The written petition must be turned in to the Caucus Chair within two (2) weeks following the absence in question or else said absence. A majority vote of the Caucus can overturn the decision of the Chair.

E. The Chair shall present an oral report to the Student Body Senate in Caucus Forum at least once a month at a regularly scheduled Senate meeting.

1. This requirement may be waived for the month by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Student Body Senate.

F. Notification of Ex-Officio Elections: The Chair shall provide applicable Multicultural Greek Councils, Student Councils, Student Advisory Boards, and Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) written notification informing them of elections for the non-permanent ex-officio seats at least two (2) weeks before the end of the Senate term.

1. If a vacancy occurs during an ex-officio term, the chair shall issue a written notice of election to applicable Multicultural Greek Councils, Student Councils, Advisory Boards, and RSOs within the next two weeks of the vacancy.

G. Caucus Chairs shall not serve as Vice Chair of the same Caucus, or the Chair of any other Caucus.

H. The Chair shall compile a List of Applicable Multicultural Greek Councils, Student Advisory Council, Student Board, or Registered Student Organizations that share an identity with their Caucus.

1. Applicable Boards, Councils, or RSOs are those that identify with the mission of a Caucus and wish to participate.

2. The list shall be updated on a regular basis and approved with a majority vote of the Caucus.

3. No Board, Council, or RSO shall be barred from applicability status.

I. Removals or resignations shall be read at the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting during the Caucus report.

### 1402.3 Duties and Powers of the Caucus Vice Chair

A. Assuming the Chair: The Vice Chair shall assume the "duties of the Chair," upon request, or if the Chair is unable to perform the prescribed duties.

B. The Vice Chair as Secretary: The Vice Chair shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of each Caucus meeting.

C. Caucus Vice Chairs shall submit caucus minutes no later than five (5) academic days following the Caucus meeting.

D. Vice Chairs shall be responsible for submitting committee minutes to the following individuals according to the timeline outlined above:

1. Their respective Caucus Chair.
2. Student Government Advisor or Designee.

E. Succession: Upon the resignation or removal of the Caucus Chair, the Vice Chair shall assume the Chair and call for the immediate nomination and election of a new Chair.

#### 1402.4 Vote of No Confidence

##### A. Procedure of a Vote of No Confidence

1. The issuer of the vote of no confidence may make a ten (10) minute statement to the Caucus regarding the pending no-confidence vote and all appropriate materials that the issuer has submitted to the Student Body Senate Advisor, pending approval.
2. The party issued may make a ten (10) minute statement to the Caucus regarding the pending no confidence vote and all appropriate materials that the issued has submitted to the Student Body Senate Advisor, pending approval.
3. The Caucus shall then enter a period of questioning where both the issuer and the issued may be questioned on matters relevant to the no-confidence.
4. Following the period of questioning, the Caucus will enter a period of debate.
5. If the motion of a vote of no confidence passes, the individual is dismissed from that leadership position and may not run for or be appointed to that same position within the same caucus session the dismissal occurred.

##### B. Caucus Chair and Vice Chair

1. A vote of “no confidence” on a Caucus Chair or Vice Chair may be moved at any meeting of that Caucus and voted on at the next regularly scheduled Caucus meeting. The Caucus, by a majority vote, may remove the Chair or Vice Chair of that Caucus. If removed, they are then dismissed from said position.
2. The Caucus Chair must vacate the Chair while the question of “no confidence” is pending.
3. Nomination and election of a Caucus Chair or Vice Chair shall take place at the Caucus meeting following a vote of “no confidence.” All Senate members of the Caucus may be eligible for nomination.
4. The committee’s decision to have no confidence in the Chair or Vice Chair may be overturned by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Judicial Branch but must be done no later than two (2) Senate meetings from the Caucus meeting immediately following the no-confidence vote.

### Chapter 1403 Creation of Ad Hoc Caucuses

#### 1403.1 Any Student Government Agent may call for the creation of an Ad Hoc Caucus.

##### A. The Ad Hoc caucus shall be instated after

1. Proposing a Resolution including:
  - a. The reasons for the caucus’ creation.
  - b. The duties and responsibilities of the caucus.
  - c. The date upon which the jurisdiction of the caucus shall expire;
  - d. The number of caucus members and how the members shall be selected.

2. Passing the Resolution by a majority vote of the Student Body Senate.
  3. Signing the Resolution by the Senate President and President Pro Tempore.
- B. An Ad Hoc Caucus may choose to dissolve prior to its scheduled termination with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Ad Hoc Caucus.
1. Dissolution must be communicated to the Student Body President, Senate President, Chief Justice, and the Supervisor of Elections.
- C. The caucus members shall elect the Chair and Vice Chair of the Ad Hoc caucus unless specified otherwise by the proposed Resolution.

**HISTORY:**  
SPECIAL ACT 55-01 (04/08/2024) BILL 55-26 (04/08/2024)