We the students of Montana State University – Northern, establish this constitution for the Associated Students of MSU-Northern in order to:

1. Protect the rights and privileges and provide for the welfare of every student at Montana State University – Northern
2. To encourage constructive relationships among students, faculty, and administration
3. Promote mutually advantageous relationships between the university and community.

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

The association shall be named the Associated Students of MSU – N (ASMSU-N) and referred to as the Associated Students.

**ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**

Any student registered for classes and who have paid the Student Activity Fee shall be granted Active Membership, and have all attendant rights and privileges.

**ARTICLE III. SENATE**

The senate is the legislative body of the Associated Students. Legislative powers of the Associated Students shall be vested in the Senate.

**Section 1. Officers**

The officers of the Associated Students’ Senate shall be:

A. President
B. Vice President
C. Business Manager

**Section 2. Selection/Election of Officers**

A. Each officer of the Associated Students shall:
   1. Be elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the Associated Students in the Fall or Spring Semester General Election
   2. Maintain a 2.50 minimum cumulative GPA, throughout his/her term of office,
   3. Maintain membership as stated in Article II
   4. Have at least 24 credits, (24 of which are completed while in residence at MSU–N) at the time he/she takes office.

**Section 3. Duties of Officers**

A. The President shall carry out the duties of the office as defined by the ASMSU-N Bylaws.
B. The Vice President shall carry out the duties of the office as defined by the ASMSU-N Bylaws.
C. The Business Manager shall carry out the duties of the office as defined by the ASMSU-N Bylaws.
D. Succession
   1. In the absence of the President, the order of succession shall be as follows: Vice President, followed by the Business Manager.
   2. In the event that all the officers are incapacitated on a permanent basis, the Senate shall determine the most judicious means of obtaining new officers.

Section 4. Membership
A. The voting membership of the Senate shall consist of:
   1. Three Executive officers (President, who shall vote only in the case of a tie vote; Vice President; and Business Manager.)
   2. One Program Council Coordinator
   3. One Recreation Council Coordinator
   4. One Sustainability Coordinator
   5. One Administrative Assistant
   6. A minimum of 5 Senators at Large
   7. A minimum of 2 Freshman Senators
B. Advisors
   1. The Senate shall select one Faculty advisor and one Administrative advisor by their third regularly scheduled meeting.
   2. The advisors’ terms are for one calendar year.
   3. The advisors will act as ex-officio, non-voting members of the Senate.
C. Active/Inactive Membership
   1. All Senators shall begin their terms with Active Membership and be counted toward quorum.
   2. Senators who miss three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings will lose their Active Membership and be categorized as Inactive.
   3. Inactive Members will not count toward quorum and will become non-voting members of the Senate.
   4. To regain Active Membership, the Inactive Member must:
      i. Submit a written document to the ASMSU-N President of their intent to regain Active Membership.
      ii. The president will bring the document to the Judicial Committee
   5. The Judicial Committee shall determine if the member shall regain active membership

Section 5. Selection/Election of Senator and Council Coordinators
Senators at Large and Council Coordinators shall be composed of members chosen at the Fall and Spring General Elections as outlined in the ASMSU-N Bylaws.
Section 6. Qualifications
Each Senator and Council Coordinator shall:
   A. Be an Active Member of ASMSU-N
   B. Maintain a 2.50 minimum cumulative GPA, throughout his/her term of office
   C. Have at least 24 credits, (24 of which are completed while in residence at MSU–N) at the
      time he/she takes office
         a. Freshman Senators are exempt from Sub-section C.

Section 7. Duties
   A. The members of the Senate shall:
      1. Attend regular and special meetings of the Senate
      2. Each serve on one standing committee
      3. Perform duties enumerated in the Bylaws
   B. The Council Coordinators shall:
      1. Attend regular and special meetings of the Senate
      2. Perform duties enumerated in the Bylaws

Section 8. Removal
   A. Officers, Senators, and Council Coordinators shall be automatically removed from office
      upon:
      1. Failure to have and maintain a 2.50 minimum cumulative GPA
      2. Violation of any rule enumerated in the Bylaws

Section 9. Resignation
   A. An official resignation must be presented in writing to the ASMSU-N President.
   B. The President will bring the resignation to the Senate.
   C. The resignation is only official upon Acceptance by the Senate.

Section 10. Impeachment
   A. Any member of the Senate may be impeached for violating his/her responsibilities as
      defined in the Constitution or Bylaws
   B. The impeachment proceedings shall be conducted according to the impeachment
      procedures outlined in the Bylaws
   C. Impeachment proceedings shall be conducted by the Judicial Council

Section 11. Vacancies
   A. When a vacancy occurs in any of the elected Senate positions, the position will be
      declared vacant and will by publicly advertised for five calendar days as a position open
      for replacement.
   B. The Campus Affairs committee shall convene over the application process, and submit
      the name(s) of the eligible student(s) to the president.
   C. The President shall appoint said student(s) for the remaining term of office; with the
      advice and consent of the Senate.
ARTICLE IV. FINANCE

Section 1. Definition
The Associated Students shall be supported and maintained with funds derived from Student Activity Fees.

Section 2. Purpose
A. The Senate shall be responsible for developing and maintaining a fiscal policy and procedures, which shall be followed in all expenditures and funds.
B. The Senate shall develop and publish an annual budget each spring for the following academic year.
C. No funds shall be distributed until the Chancellor of Montana State University – Northern approves the ASMSU-N Senate annual budget.

ARTICLE V. SENATE MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings
A. The Senate must convene at least twice a month during the academic year. The regular date, location, and time shall be established by the President. All regular meetings are open to any member of the Associated Students.
B. Two-thirds of the Active voting membership shall constitute a quorum.
C. Executive Session
   1. The Senate Executive consists of the President and all voting Senate members
   2. The Executive session shall be called in accordance with State and Federal law.
   3. The Senate may call an executive session by two-thirds vote.
D. Town Hall Meeting
   1. The Senate must hold a Town Hall meeting once every Fall and Spring Semester.
   2. A Town Hall Meeting is one in which any Associated Student may attend, and:
      i. Bring any issue before the Senate
      ii. Speak on any issue before the Senate
      iii. Vote on any issue before the Senate, unless noted in the Bylaws.
E. All Proceedings of the Senate meetings shall be conducted at the Presidents discretion.

Section 2. Special Meetings
Special meetings may be called by the President or by two-thirds vote of the Senate.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND COUNCILS

Section 1. Definition
A. Activities of the Associated Students shall be handled through such standing committees, commissions, and councils as established in the Bylaws and any other committees which the President, with the advice and approval of the Senate, deems necessary.
B. Members of the Senate committees shall be appointed by the President with the advice and approval of the Senate, unless otherwise stated in the Constitution and/or Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Section 1. Definition
The Judicial Council is the judicial body of the Senate. Judicial powers of the Senate shall be vested in the Judicial Council.

Section 2. Duties
A. To interpret the Constitution when the Senate members request it.
B. To make rulings on the legality of Senate activities and policies as requested by the majority of the Senate
C. To try cases of impeachment when cases are presented before the Judicial Council by the Senate
D. To grant inactive members of the Senate Active membership if the council deems the member competent to maintain active membership

Section 3. Membership
A. The membership of the Judicial Council shall include three students appointed by the president and approved by two-thirds of the Senate.
B. If any members of the council resign, the council shall choose a successor and he/she shall be approved by the Senate.

Section 4. Qualifications
A. Members of the Council
   1. Shall be at least a sophomore in standing
   2. Shall have and maintain at least 2.50 GPA
   3. Shall be a member of the Associated Students
   4. Shall not be a member of the Senate

Section 5. Meetings
A. The Judicial Council shall meet within two school days of receiving a request.
B. The Council must deliver a verdict within three school days of meeting, unless the president grants an extension of time
C. If the Council does not decide within this amount of time the decision shall revert to the Senate.

Section 6. Binding Authority
A. The Judicial Council’s judgments are binding in the Senate and all parties involved.
B. The judgments remain in effect until superseded by a constitutional or legislative change or by a subsequent ruling from the Judicial Council.

ARTICLE VIII. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Section 1. Initiative
A. Legislation may be placed on the ballot of a general election for action by ASMSU-N upon Presentation of a petition specifying the action to be considered and bearing the signatures of fifteen percent active members of ASMSU-N.
B. Passage requires two-thirds vote of all ballots cast.

Section 2. Referendum
A. Any act of the Senate may be referred by a petition specifying the action to be considered and bearing the signatures of fifteen percent of active members of ASMSU-N.
B. Passage requires two-thirds of all ballots cast.

Section 3. Enactment.
A. The Senate must hold a special election within fifteen school days.
B. Initiated and referred measures that pass shall take effect immediately.
C. Initiated and referred measures that fail shall not be reconsidered for at least ninety days from the date of the election.

ARTICLE IX. CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND GROUPS

Section 1. Responsibility
A. Student organizations and clubs are responsible to the Senate, and:
   1. Must have a Constitution and any Bylaws on file with the Senate.
   2. Must have an active advisor whose duty is to assure the organization of club obeys all State and Federal laws and regulations and University System unit policies.
   3. Must complete an IOC registration form within six weeks of the start of the Fall or Spring Semester.
B. Organizations and clubs shall present reports to the Senate upon request of the Senate.

Section 2. Standing committees, Commissions, and Councils
A. The Senate exercises supervision over all standing committees, commissions, and councils.
B. Any recommendations of the standing committees, commissions, and councils require a majority vote from the Senate for adoption.

Section 3. Appointments  
A. The appointments of all chairpersons and members of the committees, commissions, and councils shall be made by the President or Vice President unless otherwise provided for in the Bylaws.  
B. All appointments shall be appointed as the Bylaws direct, and Subject to Senate Approval.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS  
A. A proposed Amendment shall be subjected to vote by a majority approval of the Senate or,  
B. By a petition of fifteen percent of the active members of the Associated Students.  
C. Twenty-five percent of the active members must vote, and of those, two-thirds must vote for ratification.

ARTICLE XI. BYLAWS  
Section 1. Definition  
The Senate shall enact such measures as necessary to carry out the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 2. Enactment  
New Bylaws or changes in existing Bylaws must be brought to a Senate meeting and voted upon at the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting.

Section 3. Citing  
If a new or existing Bylaw makes a reference to the Constitution, the Bylaw must include the article and section number of the material being referenced.

ARTICLE XII. SPECIAL ENACTMENT  
This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon its passage. This Constitution replaces and repeals all previous Constitutions.

Revised 2/15/15