

BOSTON COLLEGE LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Revised Fall 2002

PREAMBLE:

We, the students of Boston College Law School, do hereby establish the Law Student Association as the principal body for the advocacy of student interests and the primary organization for student involvement in Law School decision making.

ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Constitution, the following terms are defined:

Law Student Association (LSA) shall mean every student enrolled at Boston College Law School.

Executive Board shall include the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the LSA as contemplated by Article II herein.

Representatives shall mean the representatives of the LSA as elected by the individual first, second, and third year classes as contemplated in Article III herein.

Elected Board shall mean the Executive Board and the Representatives, which have been elected by the Boston College Law School student body.

Appointed Board shall mean the Committee Chairpersons, committee members, and any other member appointed by the President with executive board approval.

Officer(s) shall mean any member(s) of the Elected Board or the Appointed Board.

By-laws shall mean the by-laws of the LSA as may be enacted, amended, and repealed pursuant to Article XI herein.

ARTICLE II: EXECUTIVE BOARD

The LSA shall have an Executive Board consisting of the following officers:

- A. President - a member of the LSA who shall oversee the operation of the LSA in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, who shall act as a representative of the LSA, who shall act as a liaison between the student body and

the administration, who shall chair meetings of the Elected Board, and who shall fulfill additional duties set forth in the By-laws.

- B. Vice President - a member of the LSA who shall perform presidential duties in the absence of the President, who shall assume the office of President should the President become unable to complete her or his term, who shall assist the President in fulfilling his or her duties, who shall chair meetings of the Appointed Board, and who shall fulfill additional duties set forth in the By-laws.
- C. Secretary - a member of the LSA who shall record and post minutes of meetings of the Elected Board, who shall prepare agendas for meetings of the Elected Board, who shall take attendance at meetings of the Elected Board, who shall ensure that the attendance policy set forth in the By-laws is adhered to, who shall assist the President and Vice President in her or his secretarial capacity, and who shall fulfill additional duties set forth in the By-laws.
- D. Treasurer - a member of the LSA who shall oversee the financial operation of the LSA, who shall maintain the financial records of the LSA, who shall submit a budget to the Elected Board for review and approval, who shall report expenditures to the Elected Board for review and approval pursuant to Article VIII herein, who shall maintain integrity in managing the budget, and who shall fulfill additional duties set forth in the By-laws.

Each of the Executive Board members shall have 1 vote. In the event of a tie, the President's vote shall be the deciding vote. The members of the Executive Board may have additional duties as a set forth in the By-laws.

ARTICLE III: REPRESENTATIVES

The LSA shall have Representatives consisting of the following officers:

- A. Third Year Class Representatives - three members of the third year class who represent the interests of the third year class and the law school community as a whole. The Third Year Class Representatives shall be responsible for planning their graduation.
- B. Second Year Class Representatives - three members of the second year class who represent the interests of the second year class and the law school community as a whole.
- C. First Year Class Representatives - two members per first year section of the first year class who represent the interests of the first year class and the law school

community as a whole. Should there be more than three sections of the first year class then there shall be only one representative per section.

Each representative shall have 1 vote. The Representatives may have additional duties as set forth in the LSA By-laws. All representatives must adhere to the attendance policy set forth in the By-laws.

ARTICLE IV: APPOINTED BOARD

The LSA shall have the following Appointed Board positions, appointed by the President with Executive Board approval:

- A. Committee Chairperson - officer who shall oversee the committee members in his or her respective committee, who shall work on projects designated under the respective committee to better the Boston College Law School community, who shall adhere to the attendance policy, and who shall fulfill additional duties set forth in the By-laws.
- B. Committee Member - officer who shall work on projects designated under the respective committee to better the Boston College Law School community, who shall adhere to the attendance policy, and who shall fulfill additional duties set forth in the By-laws.
- C. Other Officers - one or more members of the LSA as may be designated by the President with Executive Board approval which may vary from time to time depending on the needs of the Executive Board or the LSA in general, for which provisions will be set forth in the By-laws.

Members of the Appointed Board shall have no vote, unless otherwise determined by the Executive Board. An appointed Board member may be removed only by a majority vote of the entire Executive Board.

ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS

The election of officers to the Elected Board must be carried out in the following manner:

- A. Elections of the Executive Board and Representatives shall be held in the Spring preceding the academic year for which officers are to serve, except for the First Year Representatives who shall be elected in the Fall of the academic year during which they are to serve. Additional elections may be held as needed to fill vacancies in accordance with subsection F of this Article.
- B. Election to office shall be by plurality vote of those members of the LSA exercising their right to vote.

- C. Any member of the LSA may run for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. The positions of Representatives must be filled by a member of the class represented. Any person wishing to run for a Elected Board position must follow the election rules provided in the By-laws.
- D. Voting shall take place subject to the following stipulations:
 - 1. all members of the LSA, including the present first, second, and third year classes, may vote for the Executive Board;
 - 2. only members of the present second year class shall vote for the Third Year Representatives; and
 - 3. only members of the present first year class shall vote for the First Year Representatives in the Fall and the Second Year Representatives in the Spring.
- E. The term of office for the Elected Board members shall be the academic year during their incumbency.
- F. In the event no student seeks election for a particular office or an office becomes vacant, the Executive Board, with the approval of the Representatives shall delegate the duties of the vacant office at its discretion by either appointment, election, or apportionment.

ARTICLE VI: PRESENTING MATTERS TO THE ELECTED BOARD

- A. Any member of the LSA may attend meetings of the Elected Board and may individually propose initiatives altering or expanding academic, extracurricular, or social programs at the Law School. If after deliberation the Elected Board decides to take no action on the initiative, the LSA member who made the proposal may compel its reconsideration by submitting to the Elected Board a petition bearing the signatures of 75 LSA members and the contact information for its sponsor.
- B. Any valid petition submitted to the Elected Board must be considered and voted on within ten class days of submission, and the sponsor of the petition must be notified of the outcome the class day following the Elected Board's vote. If the petition is rejected by the Elected Board, a referendum on the petition must take place within ten class days of the Elected Board's vote.
- C. Any petition submitted to referendum shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the LSA members provided that at least one-half of the entire membership of the LSA has exercised their right to vote.

- D. The results of a referendum shall be final and binding.

ARTICLE VII: RECALL OF OFFICERS

Elected Board members can be recalled. A petition for recall of an officer must comply with the petition process stated in Article VI herein or may be effectuated by at least two-thirds vote of the entire Elected Board. Officers of Appointed Board Positions may be removed by the President, with Executive Board approval pursuant to Article IV herein.

ARTICLE VIII: FINANCIAL MATTERS

- A. The Elected Board is empowered to generate revenue to further the goals set forth in the Preamble.
- B. All requests for funding shall be submitted in writing to the Treasurer or President pursuant to the requirements set forth in the By-laws.
- C. Every expenditure of the LSA must be approved by a majority vote of the Elected Board, except that the Treasurer or President can make appropriations of less than \$100.00 at their discretion, subject to review by the Elected Board.
- D. The LSA shall not overspend its annual budget.

ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES

The Executive Board is empowered to create committees required to meet the needs of the LSA in accordance with the By-laws.

ARTICLE X: MEETINGS

The Elected Board shall meet regularly in accordance with the By-laws and shall follow the procedures set forth therein. All votes taken at meetings shall be in accordance with this Constitution and the By-laws. Minutes of the meetings of the Elected Board shall be recorded and posted pursuant to subsection C of Article II and the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI: BY-LAWS

The Elected Board is empowered at its discretion to enact, amend, and repeal By-laws by a vote of an absolute majority of the Elected Board as may be necessary for the effective operation of the LSA. Any provision of the By-laws that conflicts with this Constitution is void.

ARTICLE XII: ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, AND REPEAL

This Constitution shall be adopted by a majority vote of those members of the LSA exercising their right to vote.

Subsequent amendments may be introduced either by the Elected Board or any member of the LSA in accordance with the petition procedure contained in Article VI, and shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of those members of the LSA exercising their right to vote. A superseding constitution must be presented on the same ballot as the repeal and must be enacted by a two-thirds vote of those members of the LSA exercising their right to vote provided that at least one-half of the entire membership of the LSA has exercised their right to vote. In the event that the superseding constitution is not enacted, the repeal shall be void and this Constitution shall remain in full effect.

AMENDMENT No. 1 TO THE BOSTON COLLEGE LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

The LSA does hereby adopt the following amendment to its Constitution:

ARTICLE XII:

This Constitution may be repealed by a vote of the majority of the members of the LSA exercising their right to vote. The Executive Board shall propose and the LSA shall adopt a superseding constitution on the same ballot as such repeal by a vote of the majority of the members of the LSA exercising their right to vote. Unless a new constitution is enacted on the same ballot by which this Constitution is repealed, the repeal shall be considered void and this Constitution shall remain in full force and effect.