



Cook High School Student Council Constitution



PREAMBLE

We, the students of Cook High School, do hereby establish a Student Council to be a forum for student opinion, promote positive attitudes of cooperation between faculty and students, provide opportunities for volunteer service to the school and community, and develop a culture that fosters student citizenship and leadership. To affirm our dedication to these ideals, we do hereby adopt this constitution for the Student Council of Cook High School.

ARTICLE ONE

Section 1

The governing organization of the student body shall be known as the Student Council and shall be recognized as the official representative organization of the student body and as such its action supersedes those of all other student organizations.

Section 2

The Student Council, shall be divided into two branches: the Executive Committee and the Class Officers. Their relationship shall be benevolent and shall foster intragovernmental cooperation.

Section 3

All powers of the Student Council are delegated to it by the principal who has the right to veto any act of the body or to revoke any powers held by it.

Section 4

The Student Council shall have the power:

- To enforce all rules necessary and proper for the general well-being of the Student Body
- To provide for the disbursement of the Executive Committee funds
- To override a Presidential veto by two-thirds vote of all present
- To make recommendations on any subject to the administration

ARTICLE TWO

Section 1

The Executive Committee of the Student Council shall consist of the Student Body President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Class Presidents.

Section 2

The Student Body President along with the approval of the Executive Committee Officers shall appoint committees and shall appoint all committee chairs as may be deemed necessary. A chairman shall serve to report back necessary information to the Student Government. After the committee's work is done, the group will be disbanded. If in the event another project of similar task is undertaken and a committee is necessary, the President shall be able to appoint a new chairperson or rename a former chair to again serve.



Cook High School Student Council Constitution



Section 3

The President

- Shall be the chief executive of the Executive Committee
- Shall preside at all executive and all Executive Committee meetings
- Shall have the power to veto over all Executive Committee legislation
- Shall faithfully execute all provisions of the constitution and legislation of the Executive Committee
- Shall appoint all committees and the chairmen of such, and shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees
- Shall serve as an intermediary between the administration and the student government and shall present all government business to the administration
- Shall cast the deciding vote in case of a tie

Section 4

The Vice President

- Shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence
- Shall assist in the drawing up of all agendas
- Shall oversee the various committees
- Shall act as chairman of the Interclub Council
- Shall perform all other duties which may be assigned by the President or the Adviser

Section 5

The Secretary

- Shall keep and file an accurate record of all Student Council meetings and Executive Committee meetings
- Shall perform all Student Council correspondence: keep file of all letters received and their date and day of receipt
- Shall keep a scrapbook of all Executive Committee activities
- Shall receive and file monthly reports as written by all committee chairmen
- Shall inform the Student Council records of all Executive Committee meetings

Section 6

The Treasurer

- Shall keep all financial records of the Executive Committee
- Shall make a report of all finances at government meetings and submit a copy of the report to the secretary
- Shall count all monies received and deposit them in the main office



Cook High School Student Council Constitution



Section 7

The Adviser

- Shall be appointed by the Principal
- Shall work to further the Student Government and aid the organization in performance of their duties
- Shall interpret questions not addressed in the Constitution
- Shall accompany the selected delegates to the State Conference if applicable

ARTICLE THREE

Section 1

All legislative powers of the Student Council shall be vested in the Student Council.

Section 2

The voting members of the Executive Committee will consist of all members of the Student Council. The Executive Committee meetings shall be open to all enrolled Cook High School students and the Student Government Adviser.

ARTICLE FOUR

Section 1

Class Officers are responsible for furthering the well-being of their respective classes

Section 2

The individual classes shall be charged with the responsibilities and oversight of the following activities:

- Freshman Class: Fundraising for future activities, Class Service Project
- Sophomore Fundraising for future activities, Class Service Project
- Junior Class: Prom, Class Service Project
- Senior Class: Class Service Project, Senior Class Gift

Section 3

Each class shall have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two representatives at large.

Section 4

In order to facilitate improved intragovernmental communication, the Class Officers and Executive Council shall meet monthly as a congress. Additionally, Class Officers will meet quarterly with the Student Body President.

Section 5

Attendance to State Conferences and Workshops

Order of preference given to available positions: Executive Committee Officers, Class Officers, Student Council Representatives



Cook High School Student Council Constitution



Section 6

The Principal and Adviser have the authority to appoint from time to time additional [ex officio] member(s) to Student Council for such purposes as filling positions related to special projects and including students who have been selected to serve in local, state, or national leadership positions.

ARTICLE FIVE

Section 1

To be eligible for Student Council office as a rising sophomore, junior or senior:

- The candidates must have attended Cook High School one semester prior to taking office.
- The candidates must be in good academic standing (as defined by the district for participation in school activities) with a conduct record free of suspensions, or administrative disciplinary actions.

Section 2

During March, each student wishing to run for Student Council must obtain and submit two faculty and two peer recommendations. Recommendation forms are provided by the Student Council Adviser. Each candidate will also be required to complete a one-page personal essay explaining his/her reasons for filing for office and goals if elected and attend a candidates meeting to review campaign rules and ethics.

Section 3

Once the candidates have filed for office, an assembly will be held in which all candidates will deliver prepared speeches. A copy of the candidate's speech must be approved by the Adviser at least two (2) school days prior to the assembly. Each speech should be no shorter than one minute and must not exceed three minutes. A timekeeper will notify candidates when their time has expired. All candidates must follow the guidelines for campaign speeches, included in the candidate materials.

Section 4

On the first Thursday of April, the rising Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes shall vote by secret ballot to see who will fill the Executive Committee offices for the next school year. Seniors are not eligible to vote. Students receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to their designated positions. In the event of a tie, a runoff election will be held the following morning.

Section 5

To be eligible for Student Council Office as a rising freshmen:

- The candidates must be legally enrolled as a student at Cook High School.
- The candidates must be in good academic standing (as defined by the district for participation in school activities) with a conduct record free of suspensions or administrative disciplinary actions.



Cook High School Student Council Constitution



Section 6

The exhibiting of inappropriate behaviors or conduct in or outside of Cook High School, failure to perform duties to the best of one's ability, and failure to maintain the acceptable academic standard are grounds for impeachment or other disciplinary actions of an officer. If a Student Council Officer is suspended from school, or if s/he fails to meet all of the aforementioned requirements, then s/he will be required to appear before the principal.

Section 7

In the event that a vacancy occurs in the office of Student Council President, the Vice President shall succeed to the office of President. In the event of the vacancy is of any other Student Council Officer, the remaining three officers will unanimously choose a replacement from the senior class officials. A special election will then be held, using the election guidelines, to fill the vacant spot. In the event of a vacancy of any class officer, a special election will then be held, using the election guidelines, to fill the vacant spot.

Section 8

Write-in candidates shall be ineligible for election.

Section 9

A copy of the Student Council Constitution will be given to all candidates and will be available on the student council website.

ARTICLE SIX

Section 1

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in writing by any Student Council member.

Section 2

Amendments must be accepted by a two-thirds majority of the Student Council membership.

Section 3

This Constitution will be reviewed by a specially appointed committee every three years. The committee will review and recommend any necessary changes. The committee will consist of three seniors, two juniors, and two sophomores. The Vice President will chair this committee.

ARTICLE SEVEN

Section 1

Student Council meetings will be held monthly. The Adviser may at any time call a special meeting. The Student Body President may also call a special meeting with a minimum of one day's notice and approval of the Student Council Adviser. Proper Parliamentary Procedure shall be followed in the meetings.

Section 2

Attendance at Council meetings is required. Members unable to attend must notify the adviser at least one (1) day prior. Any member having two unexcused absences will be required to meet with the adviser. The member may also be asked to appear before the Judicial Committee in order to determine further disciplinary action or dismissal from the Student



Cook High School Student Council Constitution



ARTICLE EIGHT

Section 1

During the weeks prior to the Homecoming festivities and game, the Student Council shall work on planning all specifics for activities surrounding the event. Student Council shall be responsible for many traditional and nontraditional activities of Homecoming, both during the school day and after school hours.

- Student Council members are expected to plan and assist with float decorations, attend the pep rally and parade and attend the dance unless excused by the adviser and principal.

Section 2

Student Council shall sponsor Student Incentive Programs throughout the school year. Council shall work with the Administration to schedule events, activities, field trips, and any other activity directed by the Faculty Leadership Team, Administration, and the Council itself. Activities can arise from the ranks of Student Council, faculty, Administration, or as the result of a student suggestion. Council shall discuss, vote, and work with the Administration to meet the needs of the Student Body. School dances or any other school-wide activity from other school organizations can request the participation and guidance of the council, which will be brought before the entire Council for a vote on Council involvement. The Student Council will strive to sponsor school-wide activities that have broad appeal and reach out to the diverse populations within the student body.

Section 3

The Student Council shall be the clearinghouse and representative body of CHS serving as an intermediary agent acting as a liaison between students, faculty, and administration.