

Antioch College Community Government

Effective Fall 2012

Ratified by Council of Conveners: June 6, 2012
Ratified by Senior Leadership Team: June 12, 2012

Constitution

Preamble

Community Government at Antioch College is designed to provide an operating structure of genuine self-government, based upon the widest achievable participation, for these inseparable purposes:

1. Practically, to further the interests and meet the needs of the community and its members as judiciously as possible; and
2. Educationally, to aid in the development of the individual as a citizen in a democratic society. Community Government, then, helps to maintain a context within which individuals learn both to make responsible use of those opportunities for self-expression and self-development that the community provides, and to honor their consequent obligation to the community and its members. So educated, they may be better motivated and equipped for effective membership in any other community of their subsequent choice.

For these purposes to be best satisfied, any governmental structure should pursue the following guiding principles:

1. Accessibility, to allow every capable and willing participant to have an effect, no matter his/her class year, institutional connection or social outlook.
2. Transparency, which requires that those with the capacity to enact policy, or to prevent policy from being enacted, explain their methods and reasons for doing so.
3. Sustainability, which provides for adherence to ideas present at the structure's inception, while allowing radical adjustment to changing circumstances.

Consistent with the Antioch College tradition and standard of community governance, the Community Government is empowered by the Office of the President through the Senior Leadership Team in general and the Office of the Dean of Community Life in particular. Community Government is expected to work collaboratively with the Office of the President and the Senior Leadership Team for the benefit of the entire College community.

Article I: Governmental Jurisdiction

- Section 1: The legislative body of Community Government shall be called the Community Council.
- Section 2: The Community Council will consider and/or enact policies in areas pertaining to the nonacademic life of the College in which all community members share mutual interest and concern.
- Section 3: On matters in which the Community Council does not hold legal, financial, or administrative authority, the Council may recommend actions to the College President and Senior Leadership Team.

Article II: Membership and Fees

- Section 1: The following persons are full members of the Antioch College community and are entitled to all privileges thereof:
1. All registered students who are degree candidates certified by the Registrar
 2. All persons having the rank of faculty
 3. All other persons who work half-time or more as employees of the College
 4. All spouses and/or domestic partners of the above persons
 5. Special cases not described by the above categories to be decided by the College President, Dean of Community Life, Vice President of Academic Affairs, or by resolution of the Community Council
- Section 2: When authorized by the College President, Community Council shall, by resolution of the Council, recommend Community Government Fees that will be charged to members of the community, appropriate to their respective category of membership. The amount and manner of payment of the fee shall be determined by Community Council.

Article III: Governmental Organization

- Section 1: Community representatives shall be elected by a vote of community members.
- Section 2: Elected members on the Community Council shall include:
- Council President: Elected by an at-large vote of the community, the Council President shall serve as chair of the Council. The Council President is responsible to the Council for legislative matters and to the Dean of Community Life for administrative matters. Only matriculating students in good standing are eligible to hold the Council President seat.
 - Four student representatives: Two student representatives shall be elected by a vote of the student body, and two will be elected by at-large vote of the community. Only matriculating students in good standing are eligible to hold a seat on the Community Council.
 - Two faculty representatives: One faculty representative shall be elected by a vote of the faculty, and one will be elected by at-large vote of the community. At least one faculty representative must be elected by at-large vote of the community.
 - Two staff representatives: One staff member shall be elected by a vote of the staff and one shall be elected by at-large vote of the community. At least one staff representative must be elected by at-large vote of the community.
- Section 3: The Dean of Community Life shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of Community Council.
- Section 4: Members of the Community Council shall elect a Council Vice President, who shall preside over meetings in absence of the Council President; and a Council Secretary, who shall record all meeting minutes and resolutions of the Community Council.
- Section 5: Student representatives must be matriculating students in good standing as defined by the Standards for Academic Progress; faculty and staff representatives must be employees in good standing at the College.

- Section 6: Elected seats are year-long; special elections will be held for term seats of members who cannot attend (i.e., if a student is on a non-local co-op or if a member of the faculty or staff is on leave from the College).
- Section 7: In the fall of 2014, or when enrollment increases to 200 students, a fifth student representative seat shall be added to the Community Council.

Article IV: Community Council Committees

- Section 1: Standing Committees: The Community Council shall delegate responsibility for specific areas of concern to standing committees that include students, faculty, and staff. The composition of standing committees shall be determined based on interest and effect.
- Section 2: Ad Hoc Committees: When necessary, the Community Council shall establish and delegate responsibility to ad hoc committees to recommend policies or procedures and research issues. The composition of ad hoc committees shall be determined by Community Council based on interest and effect.
- Section 3: Independent Groups: When necessary, the Community Council shall delegate responsibility for specific areas of concern to an existing independent group whose membership may include students, faculty, and staff.
- Section 4: Copies of minutes or summaries of all committee meetings shall be submitted to the Council President and passed on to the members of the Community Council and to the community at large.

Article V: Meetings

- Section 1: The Council shall conduct business at Community Meeting; all Community Meetings shall be open to members of the College community.
- Section 2: The Dean of Community Life shall chair Community Meetings until the Council convenes and the election of a Council President is confirmed.
- Section 3: The Council President shall formulate the agenda for Community Meetings in consultation with the Dean of Community Life.
- Section 4: The quorum for business meetings shall be a 3/5 majority of voting members of the Council.
- Section 5: Special Meetings may be held in accordance with the rules adopted by the Community Council. Special meetings may also be held at any time on call of the President of the College, Dean of Community Life, or the Council President. Every such call shall specify the purpose or purposes for which any such special meeting is called, and the business at such special meeting shall be limited to such specified purpose or purposes.
- Section 6: Unless otherwise determined by resolution of the Community Council, Community Meetings shall be held Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in McGregor Hall, room 113.
- Section 7: Every second Community Meeting shall be a general assembly.
- Section 8: A preliminary agenda shall be posted at least two days before a meeting of the Community Council. The Council President shall be responsible for collecting comments, suggestions, and additional agenda items.

Article VI: Elections

- Section 1: An Elections Committee appointed by the Community Council shall oversee general elections.

- Section 2: Community Council shall appoint at least five members to the Elections Committee, at least one of whom is a member of the Community Council.
- Section 3: No candidate for election can be a member of the Elections Committee.

Article VII: By-Laws

- Section 1: All legislation enacted by Community Council shall be contained in the by-laws of Community Government of Antioch College.
- Section 2: Regular decisions of the Community Council shall be made by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached on a specific issue at two consecutive meetings, the matter will be decided by a 2/3 vote (or greater as determined by the by-laws).
- Section 3: Every three years, in the fall term, Council shall review the by-laws and recommend amendments when necessary. Amendments must be adopted according to the guidelines established in Section 2 of this Article.

Article VIII: Initiative, Referendum, and Recall

- Section 1: Any new measure, or a measure to reverse an action of Community Council, or a measure to recall Council members may be initiated by a 3/5 vote of Council or by a petition of at least 20 percent of community members.
- Section 2: Elections Committee shall supervise the voting.
- Section 3: Any such proposed action must be publicly announced and posted at least one week before the vote is taken.
- Section 4: In the event of a recall of Community Council members, a new election is to be held within two weeks under the supervision of the Elections Committee.

Article IX: Amendments

- Section 1: This Constitution shall be amended by no less than a 3/5 majority vote of the campus community.
- Section 2: Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be approved by a 3/5 majority vote of the Community Council or by a petition if at least 20 percent of eligible on-campus voters in order to be placed on a ballot for community-wide ratification.