ARTICLE V. STUDENT SENATE MEMBERSHIP, ELECTIONS, AND OFFICERS (Changes to this article are subject to vote only by the Student Senate)

1. Membership

For the purpose of electing representatives and alternate representatives, if any, to the Student Senate, qualified students shall vote within each of the following units of the University:

TWIN CITIES: Biological Sciences; Continuing Education; Dentistry; Design; Education and Human Development; Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences; Law; Liberal Arts; Management; Medical School; Nursing; Pharmacy; Public Affairs; Public Health; Science and Engineering; Veterinary Medicine

CROOKSTON

DULUTH: Business and Economics; Education and Human Service Professions; Fine Arts; Liberal Arts; Science and Engineering;

MORRIS

ROCHESTER

The elected members of the Student Senate shall be members of the University Senate.

b. Student body presidents of the Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, and Twin Cities student bodies shall, if not otherwise elected, serve as ex officio nonvoting members. Student members of Senate committees shall, if not otherwise elected, serve as ex officio nonvoting members. They shall attend meetings of the Student Senate and report on Senate committee issues when relevant.

2. Election of Members

a. Eligibility

a. All degree-seeking students shall be eligible to vote and to be elected to the Student Senate.

b. To continue to serve in the Student Senate, a student representative must continue to meet the requirements for eligibility identified under "a" hereof.

b. Elections

Eligible students elect from their ranks 50 Student Senate members, who shall be distributed among the colleges and campuses in proportion to the number of students in those units. Each college shall be guaranteed one student senator. Morris and Crookston will be guaranteed a minimum of two student senators. Twin Cities colleges with one seat may be filled by an undergraduate, graduate, or professional student in that college. Twin Cities colleges with more than one seat will allocate seats according to the distribution of undergraduate and graduate/professional students in the college. Senate seat distribution will be presented to the Student Consultative Committee each year before the start of elections. Any modifications to the election process must be approved before the start of the annual election process.

1. System Campuses

a. Between February 1 and April 30 of each year, Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Rochester as listed in Section 1 of this Article shall conduct an election for Student Senate members and alternate members, if any. If the alternates are to be elected, then the constitution of the institute, college, school or other unit shall specify the number to be elected and their term in office, and they shall be elected at the same time and in the same manner as senators Each unit shall establish its own procedures, in accordance with the constitution, for conducting its elections. The results of the elections shall be mailed to the Senate Office not later than May 5.

b. A senator may designate anyone from the appropriate unit pool to serve as an alternate in the senator's absence by providing notice to the Senate Office prior to the commencement of any meeting of the University or Student Senate.

c. All members elected to the Student Senate shall begin service on July 1 and shall serve for one year. Elected members of the Student Senate shall not serve more than four one-year terms, or any part thereof, in any six year period.

2. Twin Cities

a. Between February 1 and August 10 of each year, Twin Cities units as listed in Section 1 of this Article shall conduct an election for Student Senate members and alternate members, if any, for the following year. Each unit shall establish its own procedures, in accordance with the constitution, for conducting its elections. If the alternates are to be elected, then the constitution of the institute, college, school or other unit shall specify the number to be elected and their term in office, and they shall be elected at the same time and in the same manner as senators. The results of the elections shall be mailed to the Senate Office not later than August 15.

b. After August 15 of each year and for the current year, any open Student Senate members and alternate members from Twin Cities units as listed in Section 1 of this Article shall be filled by the Student Senate Consultative Committee with approval of the Student Senate. The Student Senate Consultative Committee shall establish its own procedures, in accordance with the constitution, for conducting elections.

c. A senator may designate anyone from the appropriate unit pool to serve as an alternate in the senator's absence by providing notice to the Senate Office prior to the commencement of any meeting of the University or Student Senate.

d. All members elected to the Student Senate shall begin service on July 1 and shall serve for one year. Elected members of the Student Senate shall not serve more than four one-year terms, or any part thereof, in any six year period.

3. Election and Duties of Officers

a. Election

The chair, vice chair, and at-large representative shall be elected at a special spring semester session of the Student Senate attended only by student senators elected for the following year. The outgoing chair shall preside over the election. Non-senators and outgoing student senators may not be candidates for these positions. The chair vice chair, and at-large representative shall be constituents of different student governance organizations. In the event that no one is nominated for the vice chair or at-large representative positions from different student governance organizations, the position will be open to all qualified members of the Student

Senate. However, no more than two of these three positions can be filled by candidates from the same campus. In the event no system campus senator is nominated, any senator is eligible. Terms of office shall be July 1 to June 30, and the person holding office is eligible for re-election.

b. Duties of the Chair

The duties of the chair are (1) to be the official spokesperson of the Student Senate; (2) to set the Student Senate agenda, to be approved by the Student Consultative Committee; (3) to serve as the chair of the Student Senate; (4) to serve as the chair of the Student Consultative Committee; (5) to serve a as a member of the Senate Consultative Committee; (6) to serve as the University's representative on the Student Advisory Council; and (7) to serve on central University advisory committees as needed, or to delegate student members for advisory committees.

c. Duties of the Vice Chair

The duties of the vice chair are (1) to serve as the vice chair of the Student Senate; (2) to serve as the liaison to the Civil Service Senate; (3) to serve as the liaison to the P&A Senate; (4) to assume the duties of the chair in the event of an absence or incapacity of the chair; (5) to assume responsibilities delegated by the chair; (6) to ensure that the Student Senate Handbook is updated and distributed; and (7) to serve as the vice chair of the Student Consultative Committee.

d. Duties of the At-Large Representative

The duties of the at-large representative are (1) to represent members of the Student Senate and their interests on the Student Senate Consultative Committee; (2) to serve as the Student Senate Consultative Committee liaison to the Student Senate; and (3) to assume responsibilities delegated by the chair.

4. Removal for Neglect of Meetings

a. A member of the Student Senate shall be said to have neglected a meeting if the member does not attend a meeting of the Student or University Senate, does not provide an alternate, or does not notify the Senate Office of the impending absence.

b. A member of the Student Senate shall forfeit membership by neglecting two meetings of the Student or University Senate.

c. The Senate Office shall notify any member who will forfeit Student Senate membership by neglecting the next meeting of the University or Student Senate.

d. A member of the Student Senate shall forfeit Student Senate membership if membership in the campus student association or assembly is forfeited by failure to satisfy attendance criteria specified in the constitution, bylaws, or rules of the campus student association or assembly.

e. A member whose membership has been forfeited may appeal to the Student Consultative Committee for reinstatement.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES OF THE STUDENT SENATE (Changes to this article are subject to vote only by the Student Senate)

1. Committees, Subcommittees, and Special Committees

a. A Student Senate committee is any committee to which the Student Senate delegates responsibilities in broad areas of University concern and whose reports are made directly to the Student Senate. Membership of all Student Senate committees and procedures for electing or appointing members are described in these Bylaws. The Student Senate by appropriate Bylaws may create or terminate committees vested with such responsibilities as the Student Senate has the power to confer.

b. Subcommittees of Student Senate Committees: Student Senate committees may appoint subcommittees as necessary to assist with their responsibilities. Membership of subcommittees need not be limited to members of the parent committee. Subcommittee memberships shall typically have approximately the same ratio of faculty, academic professionals, students, civil service, and alumni as the parent committee and shall include ex officio representation as appropriate. If an exception is necessary, the parent committee shall consult with the Student Committee on Committees. The Student Committee on Committees shall also serve as a resource for, or source of, subcommittee nominations and shall, at the request of the parent committee, appoint members to standing subcommittees.

c. Special Committees: Special committees may be created to study and make recommendations on special topics within the areas of concern to the Student Senate. Special committees may be created, charged, and terminated by the Student Senate, the Student Consultative Committee, or committees of the Student Senate alone or jointly.

2. Eligibility for Membership

a. Students must be eligible to serve in the Student Senate to be eligible to serve on Student Senate committees.

b. Individuals holding academic staff titles are eligible to serve as voting members of Student Senate committees even if they are not qualified for membership in the Senate, except that no individual holding a position carrying as any part of its title President, vice president, chancellor, provost, executive director, dean, counsel, attorney, controller, or chief of staff may serve as a voting member of a Student Senate committee, nor may the University Librarian. Individuals whose appointment responsibilities are primarily faculty but who incidentally have an administrative title and responsibilities within an academic department or its equivalent are eligible to serve as voting members of Student Senate committees.

c. No individual holding an academic staff title or a civil service title may serve on a Student Senate committee which includes among its ex officio members the University officer to whom the individual directly reports. If the Senate Committee on Committees or Civil Service Consultative Committee believes there is a reasonable potential for a conflict of interest for a prospective committee member from a unit on which a University officer from the same unit serves as an ex officio member, it should decline to appoint such an individual to a committee.

d. In the event of a question about whether someone is eligible to serve on a Student Senate committee, the initial decision will be made by the Student Committee on Committees, with review by the Student Consultative Committee at its discretion.

3. Committee Procedures

a. Alternates or proxy voting are not permitted on Student Senate committees.

b. All committees of the Student Senate shall keep minutes of their meetings and proceedings. Committee minutes must not contain information considered private or confidential under the provisions of state or federal law.

c. Any committee of the Student Senate may be required, upon a majority vote of the members of the Student Senate present and voting, to report to the Student Senate at its next meeting.

d. An ex officio member of any committee of the Student Senate shall not be entitled to vote as a member of the committee, unless provided for in the Student Senate Rules.

e. Committees of the Student Senate shall have a policy of open meetings. Closed or executive sessions may be held only after approval by a two-thirds majority of the committee members present and voting. The committee shall keep a list of all topics discussed and actions taken in its closed meetings and incorporate that list in its minutes. Only committee members and others designated by the chair may remain in the meeting once a motion to close the meeting has been adopted.

f. A committee of the Student Senate shall have the authority to issue interpretations of Senate policies that it has previously introduced to the Student Senate and which the Student Senate and the administration have approved. The Student Consultative Committee may issue interpretations for any policy adopted by any committee that reports to the Student Senate. Those interpretations shall be considered part of the policy (1) once the interpretation has been reported for information at the next Student Senate meeting following committee approval of the interpretation, and (2) neither the Student Senate nor the President makes objection before or at that Student Senate meeting. The Student Senate may, by simple majority of those present and voting, vote not to approve the interpretation, in which case it is not part of the policy. If the President objects, the interpretation must be brought back at the following meeting for a vote by the Student Senate.

g. Committees of the Student Senate shall have the authority to take up matters of concern only to the Twin Cities campus, including the appointment of subcommittees to take up Twin Cities campus matters. When they do so, only the Twin Cities campus members of the committees may vote on any actions to be taken with respect to such matters.

h. Committees shall report to the Student Senate as provided by the Bylaws. Certain committees may have a secondary reporting line to another Senate, as provided in the Bylaws governing specific committees. The Senate to which a committee has a secondary reporting line may refer matters to the committee and call for reports and recommendations from the committee.

i. Additional general Rules for functions and operational procedures of all committees of the Student Senate shall be contained in the Rules for Committees of the Student Senate.

4. Removal of Committee Chairs and Committee members

a. Committee chairs may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Student Consultative Committee. Any committee chair who is to be the subject of a vote on removal may submit a statement to the Student Consultative Committee before a vote on removal is taken. There is no appeal from the decision of the Student Consultative Committee to remove a committee chair.

Nothing in this section bars anyone from making use of the University's normal grievance processes for employees or students.

b. If the committee chair to be removed is a faculty member, the Student Consultative Committee will consult with the Faculty Consultative Committee before voting on removal. If the committee chair to be removed is an academic staff member, the Student Consultative Committee will consult with the P&A Consultative Committee before voting on removal. If the committee chair or committee member is a civil service staff member, the Student Consultative Committee will consult with the Civil Service Consultative Committee before voting on removal. If the committee chair or committee member is an alumni representative, the Student Consultative Committee will consult with the President and the Director of the Alumni Association before voting on removal.

c. Committee chairs may be removed from their position only on the grounds that they have failed to perform the duties required of a committee chair, they have obstructed the business of the Senate or its committee(s), they have violated the Board of Regents Policy: Code of Conduct, Board of Regents Policy: Academic Misconduct, the Board of Regents Policy: Student Conduct Code, or because their continued service would cast doubt on the integrity and credibility of the work of the committee. Anyone removed as committee chair is automatically removed from membership on the committee.

d. Student members of committees may be removed from a committee by a two-thirds vote of the Student Consultative Committee. Faculty, alumni, and ex officio members of a committee may be removed from a committee by a two-thirds vote of the Faculty Consultative Committee. If the committee member is an alumni representative, the Faculty Consultative Committee will consult with the President and the Director of the Alumni Association before voting on removal. If the committee member is an ex officio member, the Faculty Consultative Committee will consult with the appointing officer before voting on removal. Academic staff members may be removed from a committee by a two-thirds vote of the P&A Consultative Committee. Civil Service members of a committee may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Civil Service Consultative Committee.

e. Committee members may be removed from a committee only on the grounds that they have prevented the committee from conducting its business, if they have violated the Board of Regents Policy: Code of Conduct, Board of Regents Policy: Academic Misconduct, the Board of Regents Policy: Student Conduct Code, or because their continued service would cast doubt on the integrity and credibility of the work of the committee.

f. Any committee member who is to be the subject of a vote on removal may submit a statement to the Student Consultative Committee before a vote on removal is taken. There is no appeal from the decision of the Student Consultative Committee on removing a committee member. Nothing in this section bars anyone from making use of the University's normal grievance processes for employees or students.

g. The Student Senate shall have the authority, by a two-thirds majority vote, to remove its chair. The Student Consultative Committee shall also have the authority, by a two-thirds majority vote, to remove one of its members.

h. The provisions of this Section (4) may not be used to infringe on the academic freedom of committee chairs and committee members. Neither committee chairs nor committee members may be removed from their position because they express unpopular views.

i. Nothing in this section (4) shall affect the operation of Senate Rule Article II, Section (2)(f), which provides for replacement of committee members who are repeatedly absent from meetings of their committees.

j. In all cases, the majorities required in this section (4) are two-thirds majorities of the full voting membership of the committee or Student Senate, as appropriate, not two-thirds of those present and voting.