

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE**

BUSU

**BRANDON UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS' UNION**

**ENACTED
2011**

**AMENDED
APRIL 18, 2023**

Definitions

In this Constitution;

1. **"Union" and "BUSU"**
means The Brandon University Students' Union Inc.
2. **"University"**
means The Brandon University
3. **"Students"**
means students of the University
4. **"Students at large"**
means a Member of the Union who is not a Board Member
5. **"Bylaws" or "Bylaw Manual"**
means the Bylaws of the Union and any amendments thereto
6. **"Board"**
means the Board of Directors of the Union as described in article 2 of the BUSU Constitution
7. **"Board Meeting"**
means a meeting of the BUSU Board of Directors;
8. **"Board Member"**
means any voting member of the BUSU Board of Directors elected in accordance with the Bylaws
9. **"Executive"**
means the BUSU Executive Committee as outlined in the Bylaws
10. **"President"**
means the President of the Brandon University Students' Union
11. **"Vice President"**
means a Vice- President of the Brandon University Students' Union
12. **"General Meeting"**
means a meeting of the members of the Union called under and authorised by Bylaw 3500

13. **"Governance Documents" or "Governance Documents of the Union"**
means The Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, Standing Rules of the Board, and the most recent published edition of Robert's Rule of Order
14. **"Majority"**
means more than 50% of members present and voting
15. **"Members of the Union"**
means all persons enrolled at the University as students who are paying student union fees, with the exception of classes of students exempted from membership in the Union and from paying student-union fees
16. **"Quorum"**
means the minimum number of people needed to hold meetings or make decisions during certain meetings

Preamble

As individuals seeking to gain control of our destiny and striving to advance our ideals, we unite for mutual benefit to form a Union.

The Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU) is the students' organisation at Brandon University. Incorporated as a not-for-profit society in 1969, the Students' Union is a service provider that exists to serve its membership both individually and collectively, upholding all students' fundamental right to live and learn in a safe and comfortable environment.

Additionally, BUSU strongly believes that Human Rights should not be up for debate. Therefore, no BUSU ByLaw, Policy, or Ratified Stance shall violate any of either Canada's or Manitoba's protected Human Rights.

Article I: Membership and Privileges

1. Members of the Union shall be anyone enrolled in a minimum of three (3) credit hours of coursework (or equivalent) in any given term.
2. All members of the Union shall pay student fees as determined by referendum.

Article II: Board of Directors (BUSU Board)

1. Composition of the Board of Directors (BUSU Board) shall be the following:
 - 1.1. President,
 - 1.2. Vice President Operations,
 - 1.3. Vice President Engagement,
 - 1.4. Arts Representative,
 - 1.5. Science Representative,
 - 1.6. Education Representative,
 - 1.7. Health Studies Representative,
 - 1.8. Music Representative,
 - 1.9. Women's Representative,
 - 1.10. Queer Representative,
 - 1.11. Indigenous Representative,
 - 1.12. Part Time/Mature Representative,
 - 1.13. International Student Representative,
 - 1.14. Residence Representative,
 - 1.15. Racialised Representative,
 - 1.16. Accessibility Representative,
 - 1.17. Graduate Studies Representative
 - 1.18. Black Students' Representative
 - 1.19. Student Athlete Representative

2. All members of the Union shall be eligible to seek election to and hold office on the Board of Directors providing the eligibility requirements as outlined in The Bylaws of the Brandon University Students' Union (Bylaws) are met.
3. Each member of the Board of Directors shall be responsible to uphold their respective duties as outlined in the Bylaws.

Article III: Constitutional Amendments

1. Amendments to the Constitution of the Brandon University Students' Union may be initiated through the following means:
 - 1.1. a motion by the Board of Directors
 - 1.2. a motion by a General Meeting
 - 1.3. a petition signed by fifty (50) members of the Union and submitted to the Board of Directors
2. Any amendments to the Constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a General Meeting.

Article IV: Bylaws

1. The operation and governance of the Board of Directors shall follow the Bylaws of the Brandon University Students' Union.
2. No Bylaw shall contradict the provisions of the Constitution. Bylaws shall serve to clarify, elaborate, or compliment the provisions of the Constitution.
3. Bylaws may be initiated or amended through the following means:
 - 3.1. a motion by the Board of Directors
 - 3.2. a Board of Directors sub-committee
 - 3.3. a motion by a General Meeting
 - 3.4. a petition signed by fifty (50) members of the Union and submitted to the Board of Directors
4. The Bylaw will be presented for first reading at a regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board shall consider the Bylaw for no less than twenty one (21) days prior to the second and final reading. The Bylaw shall also be posted on the BUSU website for no less than fourteen (14) days prior to second reading.
5. Bylaws shall be effective immediately (unless otherwise stated in the proposed Bylaw) after the following conditions are met:
 - 5.1. that the Bylaw received the proper consideration of no less that twenty one (21) days and has been posted on campus for no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the second and final reading

- 5.2. that two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of the Board vote in favour of the Bylaw, and
- 5.3. that the Bylaw does not contradict the Constitution
6. The procedure to amend a Bylaw after it has been duly constituted as a Bylaw shall require the same process as the passage of a Bylaw. The procedure to rescind the Bylaw shall be the same as the passage of a Bylaw, with two thirds (2/3) of the board voting in favour of rescinding the Bylaw.

Article V: General Meetings

1. The Board of Directors shall hold a minimum of one (1) Annual General Meeting of the members of the Union.
2. Quorum for a General Meeting shall be no less than fifty (50) members of the Union.
3. Additional General Meetings may be called at the discretion of the Board of Directors or by a petition delivered to the Board of Directors signed by fifty (50) members of the Union.

Amendments

April 18, 2023

1. Entire Document
 - 1.1. Updated formatting to align with other BUSU governance documents.
 - 1.2. “Council” updated to “Board”
2. Preamble
 - 2.1. BUSU’s stance on Human Rights added to the document
3. Article II
 - 3.1. “Commissioners” changed to “Representatives” to better reflect their role on the Board.
 - 3.2. “Vice President Internal” updated to “Vice President Operations”,
 - 3.3. “Vice President External” updated to “Vice President Engagement”,
 - 3.4. “LGBT Commissioner” updated to “Queer Representative”,
 - 3.5. “Aboriginal Commissioner” updated to “Indigenous Representative”,
 - 3.6. “Student with Disability Commissioner” updated to “Accessibility Representative”,
 - 3.7. Black Students’ Representative added
 - 3.8. Student Athlete Representative added
4. Article IV
 - 4.1. “The Bylaw shall also be posted on the BUSU campus for no less than fourteen (14) days prior to second reading.”
changed to
“The Bylaw shall also be posted on the BUSU website for no less than fourteen (14) days prior to second reading.