

**Matanuska-Susitna College
Student Government
Constitution**

Table of Contents:

Preamble

Article One

Section One - Authority

Section Two - Name

Section Three - Purpose

Section Four - Duties

Article Two

Section One - Membership

Section Two - Student Activity Fee

Article Three

Section One - Officers

Section Two - Voting

Section Three - Attendance

Section Four - Regular Term Session

Section Five - Vacancies During Term

Section Six - Term Limits

Section Seven - Resignations

Article Four

Section One - Conduct and Behavior

Section Two - Officer Responsibilities

Article Five - Meetings

Article Six - Student Organizations

Article Seven

Section One - Elections

Section Two - Board of Elections

Article Eight

Section One - Impeachment

Section Two - Removal from Office

Article Nine - Rules of Procedure

Article Ten - Declarations

Article Eleven - Ratification

Amendments and Declarations

Bylaws

Preamble

We, the members of the Student Government of Matanuska-Susitna College, University of Alaska, Anchorage, in order to represent student interests, needs, and welfare within the college community; to supplement and complement education on the Matanuska-Susitna College Campus; to provide for the expression of student opinion and interest to the community at large; to protect the rights of the students herein stated; and to promote an understanding of the concept of self-governance, do affirm and establish this Constitution of the Matanuska-Susitna Student Government.

Article One

Section One

Authority

- A. The Matanuska-Susitna College Student Government receives its authority by policy 09.01.01 of the University Of Alaska Board Of Regents which derives its authority from the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Alaska.

Section Two

Name

- B. This organization will be known as the Matanuska-Susitna College Student Government hereinafter to as the MSC Student Government and will be recognized by the Board of Regents as the sole official representative of the students of Matanuska-Susitna College for purposes set forth in this Constitution.

Section Three

Purpose

- C. The purpose of the MSC Student Government will be to:
1. Promote the educational needs, general welfare, and rights of the student body at Matanuska-Susitna College.
 2. Broaden the educational perspective of students by instituting a structure of self-governance.
 3. Formulate, recommend, and ensure policy and procedure improvements concerning student life.
 4. Provide an avenue for students to express their ideas for enhancing the quality of their educational experience through expedited communications among students, faculty, staff, and administration.
 5. Serve all students equally. In accordance with federal and state law, illegal discrimination against any individual because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, Vietnam era or disabled veteran status, physical or mental disability, and changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood is prohibited. Decisions made by the Student Government affecting individuals shall be based on the individual's qualifications, abilities, and performance, as appropriate.

Section Four
Duties

- D. The duties of the MSC Student Government shall be to:
1. Initiate and act upon legislation for the general welfare, wellbeing, and safety of the student body.
 2. Investigate and understand Campus, University, and Board of Regents' policies and procedures which may affect the student body.
 3. Provide input and suggest recommendations to the Director of the Matanuska-Susitna College that may benefit the student body.
 4. Respond to and/or support state and/or federal legislation which may affect the student body.
 5. Ensure that activities funded by the MSC Student Government will be of benefit to the student body.
 6. Recognize student organizations of Matanuska-Susitna College, as stipulated in Article Seven.

Article Two

Section One
Membership

A. General:

Any MSC student who pays a per semester Student Activity Fee and carries a minimum of three (3) credit hours per semester will be eligible as a general member of Student Government with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities in any activity to which the authority of this Constitution extends.

B. Officers:

1. Any member of the Student Government Council that holds a position (Senator, Representative, and Secretary/Treasurer) shall herein be referred to as an Officer, or by the representative title of that position.
2. The President and Vice President shall herein be referred to as an Executive Officer, or by their respective title.
3. The President and Vice President, must be students in good standing at MSC, maintain at least a cumulative 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), and be enrolled and complete at least six (6) credit hours per semester at the Mat-Su Campus while in office. All other Officers (Senators, Representatives, and Secretary/Treasurer) must be students in good standing at MSC, maintain at least a cumulative 2.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), and be enrolled and complete at least three (3) credit hours at the Mat-Su Campus per semester while in office.
4. The Secretary, in conjunction with the Advisor, shall evaluate at the first meeting of every semester, the current GPA and enrollment status of all Officers for compliance. To facilitate this process, all Officers shall provide the Secretary with a current transcript and/or a copy of grades for confidential inspection. If the required minimum GPA is not met, the Officer may be removed from his/her

position by a 2/3 vote of the Council. Apart from resignation or impeachment by the Rules Committee, a justified vote of the Council is the only way an Officer or Executive Officer can be removed from the Council.

5. All Officers are required to be in good disciplinary standing. If an Officer fails to meet this standard, the Officer may be removed from his/her position by a 2/3 vote of Council.

Section Two Student Activities Fee

A. Purpose:

The purpose of a Student Activity Fee may include but is not limited to funding activities such as dances, banquets, concerts, socials, guest speakers, conferences, student clubs, student newspapers, and/or legal counseling.

B. The Collection of Student Activity Fees:

All MSC students registering for three (3) or more credit hours per fall or spring semester shall be required to pay a Student Activity Fee as described in this Constitution.

C. Authority:

The MSC Student Government has the authority to appropriate the funds collected by the Student Activity Fee in accordance with Board of Regents policy. The Student Government Council has the authority, granted to it by the Board of Regents, to determine the amount of such fees.

Article Three

Section One Officers

A. Council:

1. The MSC Student Government shall consist of a single governing structure called the Council. Members of the Council shall include Senators, Representatives, one Advisor, and the Executive Branch consisting of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer.
2. The maximum number of Senators shall be based on student enrollment head count at a ratio of one Senator per each hundred students, rounded to the nearest hundredth. If enrollment decreases between semesters, Senators shall retain their Council seat.
3. One club Representative shall be elected by each MSC student organization to represent that group's interests at MSC Council meetings.
4. The Advisor, either a full-time staff or full-time faculty member, shall be appointed by the Director of MSC, following consultation with the Executive Branch of Student Government.
5. The President and Vice-President shall be elected, at large, by the student body.
6. Council Representatives (Legislative Affairs Rep., Coalition Rep.) shall be appointed by the President following consultation with the Vice-President and

with majority approval of Council quorum. Persons qualify for Council Representative positions after attending three consecutive open Council meetings, or having had attained Senator status. Senator status will be forfeited if Council Representative status is approved.

7. Senators will be voted in by a 2/3 majority of the Council Quorum. Persons qualify for Senator status after attending three (3) consecutive Council meetings.
8. The Secretary/Treasurer position is a student-worker paid position. The MSC Student Government Council President is the immediate supervisor over the person holding the position, but the Secretary/Treasurer ultimately answers to the Director's Office. The person must be a University of Alaska student.
9. No faculty or full-time staff, regardless of student status, shall serve as an Officer, or Executive Officer on the Council.

Section Two

Voting

- A. Each Senator shall be entitled to one vote in any Council matter.
- B. Each Representative shall be entitled to one vote in any Council matter.
- C. The Vice-President shall be entitled to one vote in any Council matter.
- D. The President shall be entitled to have one vote in any Council matter.
- E. The Secretary/Treasurer is an Officer who shall act in a non-voting capacity.
- F. The Advisor is a member who shall act in a non-voting capacity.
- G. No Officer may delegate his/her vote to any other member; however, the member may, if unable to attend a meeting, or if he/she must leave a meeting, present the Secretary/Treasurer, in writing, a vote on an agenda item.

Section Three

Attendance

- A. All Officers and Executive Officers shall attend all meetings of the MSC Student Government Council. An absence may be excused if prior notice, verbal or written, has been given. Any Officer who inexcusably misses three (3) consecutive meetings in a semester may be asked by the President to resign. An Officer may be removed from his/her position by a 2/3 vote of the Council.
- B. An excused absence shall be defined as one in which any Officer has given prior notification to the Secretary and/or President or Vice-President, and/or has presented a valid excuse for non-attendance, such as illness, injury, or Mat-Su College Student Government business.

Section Four

Regular Term Session

- A. The regular session of the MSC Student Government Council term of Officer shall begin on the first day of each fall semester and ends on the last day of each spring semester, herein referred to as a "term" or "term of office".
- B. The term of the President and Vice-President shall begin on the fifteenth day of each May and end on the following fourteenth of May.
- C. Meetings during the summer months are optional and are classified as Special Meetings.

Section Five
Vacancies During Term of Office

- A. Vacancies in the office of the President during his/her term of office shall be immediately filled by the Vice-President for the duration of that term.
- B. Vacancies in the office of Vice-President or the position of Advisor shall be filled by an appointment of the President after consultation with the Director and with the approval of a Council quorum.
- C. Should all Senator positions be filled and a vacancy occurs, the Council shall advertise such for a period of not less than five (5) days. All general members of the MSC student body who meet this Constitution's criteria may declare candidacy for the vacancy. From the qualified candidates, a 2/3 majority vote by a Council quorum shall fill the vacancy.
- D. If both the office of President and Vice-President become vacant concurrently, it shall be the Council's responsibility to select, from among eligible Senators, an Acting President. The Acting President shall then appoint a Vice-President in accordance with Article Three, Section Five, Subsection B of this Constitution.

Section Six
Term Limits

- A. The number of consecutive terms that may be occupied by the same candidate for the office of either President or Vice-President of the MSC Student Government Council shall be limited to two.
- B. The term for both President and Vice-President shall be one year and begin on the fifteenth day of May and end on the fourteenth day of May the following year.
- C. The term for Senator or Representative is the duration of one academic semester.
- D. The number of consecutive terms that may be occupied by the same person for the offices of Representative or Senator of the MSC Student Government Council shall be limited to five semesters.

Section Seven
Resignations

- A. Resignations shall be in writing and presented to the President. The Secretary/Treasurer shall present it to the Council at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Resignations will be effective when accepted by the President or as stipulated in the resignation.
- B. If a club Representative resigns, it shall be the responsibility of the affected organization to select a replacement within the duration of three regularly scheduled MSC Student Government Council meetings.
- C. If the President resigns, it is the Vice-President's duty to immediately assume the role of Acting President.
- D. If the Vice-President resigns, action shall be taken by the President as prescribed in Article Three, Section Five, Subsection B of this Constitution to fill the vacancy.
- E. If the Advisor resigns, it shall be the Director's duty, as prescribed in Article Three, Section One, Subsection A, Line Four of this Constitution, to select a new Advisor.

Article Four

Section One Conduct and Behavior

- A. All Officers of the MSC Student Government Council shall conduct themselves in an orderly and professional manner when engaging in activities involving their representation of the membership of Matanuska-Susitna College. Failure to abide by these standards of conduct may result in impeachment proceedings or sanctions by the Council.

Section Two Membership Responsibilities

- A. The President shall have the authority to:
1. Act as the official spokesperson for the MSC Student Government Council.
 2. Ensure that the student body is informed of services provided by the MSC Student Government Council.
 3. Call and preside over all meetings of the MSC Student Government Council.
 4. Be the supervisor of the Secretary/Treasurer and when need arises, make recommendations to the Business or Director's Office of a qualified person to fill the Secretary/Treasurer position.
 5. Co-sign requisitions for the MSC Student Government Council in all financial matters.
 6. Initiate committee and/or other meetings, as needed.
 7. Appoint Council Representatives (Legislative Affairs Rep., etc.) as needed, following consultation with the Vice-President and with the majority approval of the Council.
 8. Be an ex-officio, voting member of all such committees and/or other meetings of the MSC Student Government Council.
 9. Attend meetings as requested by the Director of Matanuska-Susitna College.
 10. Veto Council legislation in writing and within two business days of passage.
 11. Establish ad-hoc committees.
 12. Appoint or request persons to serve on committees as needed.
 13. Have one (1) vote on the Council in any and all matters as prescribed by Article Three, Section Two, Subsection D of this Constitution.
- B. The Vice-President shall have the authority to:
1. Assist the President in achieving the mutual objectives of the MSC Student Government Council and the Matanuska-Susitna College student body.
 2. Make information accessible to all students regarding services provided by the MSC Student Government Council.
 3. Perform the duties of the President in the event that the President is absent from the scheduled meeting.
 4. Become the Acting President upon the resignation, impeachment, recall, or incapacity of the President until the next regularly scheduled election.

5. Co-sign requisitions with the Secretary/Treasurer for the MSC Student Government Council in all financial matters.
 6. Have one (1) vote on the Council in any and all matters as prescribed by Article Three, Section Two, Subsection C of this Constitution.
- Ⓒ. The Secretary/Treasurer shall have the authority to:
1. Assist the President in achieving the mutual objectives of the MSC Student Government Council and the Matanuska-Susitna College student body.
 2. Expedite general staff work and correspondence of the MSC Student Government Council.
 3. Be responsible for posting the times of all meetings of the MSC Student Government Council at least three days prior to each meeting.
 4. Be responsible for providing copies of the agenda for all meetings of the MSC Student Government Council at least one business day prior to the next meeting and also for making the agendas available to be posted on the MSC website.
 5. Be responsible for transcribing the minutes of all meetings of the MSC Student Government Council and providing copies at least one business day prior to the next meeting, and also making the minutes available to be posted on the MSC website.
 6. Be responsible for researching (in conjunction with the Advisor) and reporting to the President those candidates who are eligible to obtain or retain a Council seat as specified in this Constitution.
 7. Be responsible for keeping an accurate record of the number of members and attendance at meetings of the Student Government Council.
 8. Coordinate all travel done by MSC Student Government Council Officers and Executive Offices on official Student Government Council business.
 9. Work with committees in order to ensure that proper college policy procedure is followed.
 10. Receive a salary paid by the MSC Student Government Council from the Student Activity Fee and dispersed according to Matanuska-Susitna College Policy.
 11. Oversee all financial affairs of the MSC Student Government Council.
 12. Account for financial charges incurred between meetings and report these changes to the President at each meeting.
 13. Have the authority to co-sign requisitions for the MSC Student Government Council in all financial matters. The other cosigner shall be either the President or Vice-President.
- Ⓓ. Each Senator shall:
1. Assist the President in achieving the mutual objectives of the MSC Student Government Council and the Matanuska-Susitna College student body.
 2. Serve on MSC Student Government Council committees and/or other sponsored programs.
 3. Help to represent the MSC Student Government Council to the general membership and the student body.
 4. Have one (1) vote regarding any and every Council matter.
- Ⓔ. Each Representative shall:

1. Assist the President in achieving the mutual objectives of the MSC Student Government Council and the Matanuska-Susitna College student body.
2. Be an active participant on a recognized student board, Council committee, or other committee of Matanuska-Susitna College.
3. Shall have one (1) vote regarding any and every Council matter and shall have the same powers as a Senator.
4. Report any activities incurred by their organization to the President at each meeting of the MSC Student Government Council.
5. Account for all financial disbursement of MSC Student Government Council funds allocated to their organization or position.
6. The Coalition of Student Leaders Representative, if other than the President, shall be a Senator.

J. The Advisor(s) shall:

1. Provide an informed (administrative/faculty/staff) perspective to the MSC Student Government Council.
2. Act as a liaison between the MSC Student Government Council and the administration, faculty, and staff of the Matanuska-Susitna College.
3. Serve in a non-voting member, ex-officio capacity.

Article Five

Meetings

A. Quorum:

A quorum, consisting of the majority of the voting members of the Council, is required to conduct all business. Once a quorum has been established, business may begin.

B. Meetings:

Meetings of the MSC Student Government Council shall be held at a regularly and announced time and place, in a convenient location, during the academic year, and be open to all Matanuska-Susitna College students and the general public.

C. Special meetings:

Special meetings of the MSC Student Government Council may be initiated by the President or majority vote of Council quorum. Any business conducted during the course of a regular meeting can also be conducted at a special meeting.

D. Executive Sessions:

Whenever necessary, an executive session shall be called by the President. The following MSC Student Government Council members are entitled to be present at executive sessions: the President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Advisor, and if needed, the Director of MSC, or other affected Council members. The President shall be responsible for providing notification of executive sessions. The business of executive sessions is not recorded in minutes.

Article Six Student Organizations

A. Recognition:

The MSC Student Government Council is authorized to recognize student organizations of MSC. The Council shall provide a copy of the MSC Student Government Council Constitution and Club Guidelines to such organizations. The Council shall have the discretion to award or deny financial funding to such organizations.

B. Club Funding Guidelines:

1. Each student organization must have at least one of its representatives regularly attend Student Government Council meetings in order to be eligible to receive funding from the MSC Student Government Council.
2. An organization or club representative must be present at Student Government Council meetings. Three, unexcused absences will be grounds for the Council to revoke the organization or club's recognition and all remaining funds.
3. Each financial request must be presented by the club's Representative at a regularly scheduled MSC Student Government Council meeting. Once a request is granted by the Council, the club may allocate the funds awarded to it in any way the members of club see fit, so long as the allocations and expenditures comply with University and MSC policies and procedures.
4. An amount determined by the Council, up to the maximum of three hundred dollars, may be awarded to each organization per academic semester.

Article Seven

Section One Elections

- A. The Executive Officers, President and Vice-President, election shall be conducted by a Board of Elections.
- B. Elections shall be held during the month of April and notice of the elections must be posted in prominent places on campus for a minimum of twenty business days prior to the elections.
- C. All members of the MSC student body that have paid the prescribed Student Activity Fee shall have one vote.
- D. Voting shall be by individual, secret ballots. Absentee or proxy votes shall not be recognized.
- E. Student (voter) registration, ballots, and a ballot box shall be located in a prominent place on campus and attended by an elections official.
- F. All candidates must meet this Constitution's criteria for elected office and submit a letter of intent at least ten business days prior to election.
- G. A student's name may appear on a ballot as a candidate for only one elected office.
- H. For each elected office, the candidate who receives the most votes shall obtain that office.

- Ⓕ. In the event of a tie, a decision will be made by the sitting Student Government Council at the next scheduled Council meeting.
 1. The candidate who receives the most number of votes from the Council will be declared the winner of the office.
 2. All Officers and Executive Officers shall be entitled to one vote.
 3. The Secretary/Treasurer shall not be entitled to a vote in the matter.
 4. The Advisor shall not be entitled to a vote in the matter.
 5. Any member, Officer, Executive Officer, or individual who is a declared candidate for the office that is in dispute shall not be entitled to a vote in the matter.
 6. The vote and deliberations shall take place at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting and neither/none of the candidates of the disputed election shall be present during the deliberations or vote.
 7. If, through deliberations and a simple majority vote, the Council cannot select the winner of the disputed election, a random drawing will then be conducted to determine the winner.
- Ⓖ. All newly elected Executive Officers shall observe a training period from the time of their election until May 15. During that time, the incoming and outgoing Executive Officers shall each have one vote concerning any and every matter of the Student Government Council. All new Executive Officers will assume their elected responsibilities on May 15 and retain those responsibilities through May 14 of the following year.
- Ⓗ. Write-in candidates are not allowed.

Section Two Board of Elections

- Ⓐ. The board of elections shall be composed of the MSC Student Government Council Secretary; at least one Council member appointed by majority approval of a Council quorum; at least one administrative, faculty or staff member; and at least one Activity-Fee-Paying student from the general student population, approved by a majority vote of a Council quorum.
- Ⓑ. This Board shall meet at least twice during the month prior to the elections.
- Ⓒ. This Board shall have the duty and authority to determine and certify which candidates have fulfilled the qualifications for elected office as described in this Constitution.
- Ⓓ. This Board shall have the responsibility to monitor electoral and campaigning procedures as described in this Constitution.
- Ⓔ. This Board must report any questionable electoral or campaigning activities to the President, except in the case of re-election of the President. The Board would then report to the Vice-President or Secretary/Treasurer, depending on elections.
- Ⓕ. The Board has the authority to impose sanctions appropriate to the severity of the offense regarding questionable campaign activities including removal of candidacy and removal from office, if elected. A full Council hearing will be provided for appeals, and a 2/3 majority vote of the Council can override the decisions of the Board.
- Ⓖ. No member of the Board of Elections can run for office while serving on the Board.

Article Eight

Section One Impeachment

A. Grounds for impeachment:

1. Executive Officers and Offices are expected to be in good disciplinary and academic standing as prescribed in this Constitution. Any MSC Student Government Council Officer or Executive Officer may face impeachment proceedings for violations of these standards. The Rules Committee shall determine the severity of the violation and proceed accordingly.
2. Any MSC Student Government Council Officer or Executive Officer may be impeached, but only for due cause, if any petitioned grievance has been found to be justified by a 2/3 majority of the Council.

B. Procedure for impeachment:

1. Petitions for impeachment must be presented to the Council to determine whether grounds for impeachment exist.
2. Validated petitions shall be addressed at the next scheduled meeting of the MSC Student Government Council unless the defendant specifically requests in writing that the hearings be closed.
3. The Rules Committee will conduct all impeachment hearings in the presence of the Student Government Council.
4. At hearing: a) the petition shall be read, b) witnesses shall, if necessary, be called to give testimony and undergo cross-examination, c) the question shall be put to vote before the Rules Committee for a 2/3 majority decision, d) action will be taken by the Rules Committee.
5. Appeals may be filed with the Secretary no later than ten (10) days after the Rules Committee has published its decision.
6. The Officer or Executive Officer shall retain his/her position during an appeal, but will have no voting privileges during this period.
7. Appeals will be presented to the Council at the next, regularly scheduled meeting. A 3/4 majority vote of Council shall overturn the decision of the Rules Committee. If not responsible for the charges, the Officer shall retain his/her Council seat and responsibilities. If found responsible of the proposed offense, the Officer shall forfeit their Council seat and responsibilities thereto for the remainder of his/her term.

Section Two Removal From Office

- A. An Officer or Executive Officer may only be removed from office for a just cause which is to be brought before him/her, the Rules Committee, and the Council for impeachment proceedings, conducted by the Rules Committee and the Council, as prescribed in Article Eight, Section One.

- ⓑ. An Officer may also be removed for repeatedly failing to adequately perform his/her duties, as prescribed in Article Two, Section One, Subsection B, Lines Four and Five, by, and only by, a 2/3 vote of the Council.

Article Nine

Rules of Procedure

- Ⓐ. Rules of Order:
The latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall provide the guidelines for all meetings of the MSC Student Government Council, so long as those guidelines do not conflict with this Constitution and the Bylaws that follow.
- ⓑ. Bylaws:
The initial Bylaws attached to this Constitution shall be presented to the MSC Student Government Council for ratification along with this Constitution. Subsequent amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws must be approved by a 2/3rds vote of the entire MSC Student Government Council membership and subject to University of Alaska procedures as necessary.

Article Ten

Declarations

- Ⓐ. Declaration Qualifications:
Declarations shall consist of any additions or changes or statements to the Matanuska-Susitna College Student Government Constitution that are not seen fit to add or incorporate directly into the document.
- ⓑ. Declaration Placement:
Any Declarations seen fit to add to this Constitution shall be attached to this document, on their own page(s), directly following the conclusion of the Constitution and directly preceding the Bylaws.
- ⓒ. Declaration Propositions:
1. A Representative, Senator, the Vice-President, or the President may propose an Amendment or Declaration to this Constitution.
 2. Amendments and Declarations, in accordance with Article Nine, Rules of Procedure, Subsection B, shall be approved by a 2/3rds majority of the MSC Student Government Council membership and subject to University of Alaska Board of Regents procedures, as necessary.
- Ⓓ. Declaration and Amendment Authority:
1. Amendments and Declarations shall be as valid and binding as any Article, Section, Subsection, or Line of this Constitution.
 2. Once approved by the Council, an Amendment or Declaration shall immediately, or when otherwise stipulated by the Amendment or Declaration, become valid and binding for application at the Matanuska-Susitna College Campus until approved or rejected by an authority dominant to that of the MSC Student Government Council.

Article Eleven

Ratification

- A. Upon ratification, this Constitution shall supersede any and all previous Constitutions.
- B. Upon ratification, this Constitution shall tentatively take effect immediately and become permanently in effect after receiving the approval of the Board of Regents as dictated by University of Alaska Policies and Procedures.
- C. Upon ratification, the sitting President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Advisor shall sign their names and write the date of ratification below, certifying the revisions.
- D. Ratification shall require the 2/3 approval of the Council Quorum.

President of Alatanuska-Susitna College Student Government:

_____ Date: _____

Vice-President of Alatanuska-Susitna College Student Government:

_____ Date: _____

Secretary/Treasurer of Alatanuska-Susitna College Student Government:

_____ Date: _____

Advisor of Alatanuska-Susitna College Student Government:

_____ Date: _____

Declarations
of the
Matanuska-Susitna College
Student Government

Declaration One:

The Matanuska-Susitna College Student Government upholds, supports, and defends the Bill of Rights established by the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Rights established by the Constitution of the State of Alaska, and the rights, freedoms, and blessings secured in each.

Declaration Two:

The Matanuska-Susitna College Student Government holds dear and supports the principles of academic freedom, and with those principles, academic honesty.

Bylaws

of the

Matanuska-Susitna College

Student Government

Article 1. Order of Business

- A. The Order of Business shall be prescribed in the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.
- B. By two-thirds (2/3) vote of the majority, Council may depart from the Order of Business.
- C. To be assured a place on the Agenda, all business must be presented to the Secretary/Treasurer at least three (3) business days prior to each meeting.
- D. Quorum shall be defined as at least 50% of voting members attending a meeting.

Article 2. Elections

- A. The Board of Elections will have the authority to govern elections.
- B. Campaign materials are to be posted in accordance with University regulations.
- C. No Student Government Council funds, facilities, or equipment may be used to campaign. No campaign materials of any kind shall expressly or implicitly claim endorsement of the Student Government Council or its governing structure.
- D. There will be no posted campaign materials within thirty (30) feet of any voting booth on election day(s).
- E. Candidates are responsible for picking up and disposing of any campaign materials, within seventy-two (72) hours of the election.
- F. Unethical campaign practices will not be tolerated and could result in sanctions as decided by the Board of Elections.
- G. All complaints related to the election process shall be submitted, in writing, to the Chair of the Board of Elections by 5:00 p.m. the next business day following the final day of the election.
- H. A complete review of each complaint will be conducted by the Board and the MSC Director, if needed.

Article 3. Committees

- A. Committee Membership
 - 1. Membership on any committee is open to any officer of Student Government Council or any Activity-Fee-Paying student from the general student body. Committee members have a vote on the committee regardless of Council position or lack thereof.
 - 2. Each committee member shall be responsible for attending and participating in committee meetings.

3. Officers of the Student Government Council, except the President in an ex-officio capacity, may not serve on more than four (4) committees simultaneously.

B. Committee Guidelines

1. Committee chairpersons will present reports to the Student Government Council at regularly scheduled meetings.
2. No committee, except the Rules Committee, shall be deemed as having final determination over any matter.
3. At least two Officers shall serve on each committee.
4. No quorum is necessary to conduct business except in the case of the Rules Committee.

C. Standing Committees

1. Rules Committee:

- a. The Rules Committee shall consist of no fewer than three (3) Senators or Representatives of the Student Government Council; at least one (1) student from the general student body, and one (1) non-voting staff or faculty advisor.
- b. The Rules Committee members shall be approved by the majority vote of Student Government Council, and shall hold office for the academic year. No Rules Committee member shall serve more than one (1) consecutive term.

2. Legislative Affairs Committee:

- a. The Legislative Affairs Representative will chair this committee. Members of the Legislative Affairs Committee shall be determined by the President following consultation with the Vice President and with the majority vote of the Student Government Council. The Committee shall consist of no less than three members, and not to exceed twelve (12) members.
- b. The Legislative Affairs Committee is not required to be a standing, ever-existing committee.

3. Planning Committee:

- a. The Planning Committee shall be tasked with conceiving and planning events to be held throughout the semester. Its Chair shall be an Officer or Executive Officer who will report the Committee's activity to the Student Government Council. The Planning Committee shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members, two of which must be Officers or Executive Officers. The members of the Planning Committee will be approved by the Student Government Council Quorum.

Article 4. Freedom of Speech

- A. No Council member shall be deprived of the right to freedom of expression as dictated by the Constitution of the United States.
- B. The Council reserves the right to invoke closure on any subject by a 3/4 vote of the Council quorum when it feels that a topic has been exhausted.

Article 5. Student Media Board

- A. It is necessary to insulate student media from political and budgetary constraints on the part of organized interest groups, and at the same time to ensure that it remains accountable to the student body as a whole. For this reason, the MSC Student Government Council asserts the need to establish a Media Board, representing the broad interests of the college community and assist in the development and maintenance of strong, independent, and responsible vehicles for free expression. The Media Board will have its own guidelines to be followed which will be attached to this Constitution.
- B. The Media Board shall be composed of: Four (4) representatives of the student body, one (1) representative of the Student Government Council, the Advisor to the MSC Monitor, the MSC Journalism Advisor, a Community Advisory Member, and the Editor of MSC Monitor. Appointments to the Media Board are to be as follows: the Director of MSC will appoint the Advisor to the MSC Monitor, the MSC Journalism Advisor, and the Community Advisory Member; the MSC Student Government Council President will appoint the representative from the MSC Student Government Council. The Editor of the MSC Monitor is automatically placed on the board, and will select the four student representatives.
- C. The voting membership shall consist of: All members of the board, except the Editor and the Community Advisory member, who shall act in an ex-officio capacity.