

NCSA Constitution

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Preamble

We the students of New College, do empower the New College Student Alliance for the following purposes: to foster a shared sense of community and to preserve New College's identity and vitality as a unique alternative in American higher education; to act in our behalf in matters regarding education and the academic well-being of the College and the students; to represent the students' interests in the administrative affairs of the College, the University of South Florida, and the State of Florida; to spend the monies collected and returned to us in ways that promote the general interests of the College and the students; to foster and ensure an environment free from discrimination on the basis of, but not limited to, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, class, nationality, religion, and disability; and to ensure that to the greatest degree possible, students have control over all decisions that affect them.

ARTICLE 1. Statement of Relationship of the New College Student Alliance to other Student Governments within the State University System of Florida

1.1 We, the students of New College, recognize and affirm the New College Student Alliance as the only student government of New College.

1.2 No other student government within the State of Florida may act in any way on behalf of the New College student body without the express permission of the New College student body.

1.3 No other student government within the State of Florida may articulate or in any way represent the interests of the student body of New College at the local,

regional, state, or national level without the express permission of the New College student body.

1.4 The New College student body recognizes the student government associations/systems of the following institutions of the State University System of Florida as entirely separate peers of the New College Student Alliance:

Florida A&M University,
Florida Atlantic University,
Florida Gulf Coast University,
Florida International University,
Florida State University,
The University of Florida,
The University of Central Florida,
The University of North Florida,
The University of South Florida,
The University of West Florida.

ARTICLE 2. Bill of Student Rights

2.1 The following assertion of student rights does not nullify existing rights, policies, laws, rules, or regulations in the College, local, state, or national communities. Rather, these rights are stated to protect the New College student community from infringements upon its collective and individual freedoms, and to promote the exercise of these freedoms through the mechanisms of the Alliance. These rights are significant only insofar as students, faculty, administrative employees, and those outside the campus community respect them. It is, however, the responsibility of the students to understand and assert their rights as enumerated here, and to utilize the services of the Alliance when they feel their rights have been violated.

2.2 Enumeration of Student Rights

a) Upon acceptance of admission to New College, each student shall be issued a copy of each of the following: student code of conduct, NCSA Constitution, and any other statements of their rights and obligations pertaining to both academic and nonacademic activities in the College. Ignorance of these is not a legal defense.

b) Students shall be free, individually and collectively, to express their views on College policy. Students have the right and responsibility to participate in all policy changes that affect them. College administrators have the responsibility of informing the Alliance, through the President(s), of any proposed change in policy that affects students, and must involve members of the Councils of Student and Academic Affairs in the formulation of these policy changes before they can be implemented.

c) Formal recommendations made, in writing, to College administrators by the Student Alliance bodies shall receive comprehensive responses in writing from the administration within ten working days. In cases where recommendations by

the Student Alliance are not adopted, the appropriate administrative authority will give detailed reasons for its response and indicate the lines of appeal for further consideration.

d) No student shall be denied the right to freedom of expression, association, or assembly in social, political, or personal matters or to the access of the facilities necessary for the exercise of these rights by the mechanisms of the Alliance or the College. It is the responsibility of the Alliance to make these facilities equally available to all students regardless of race, sex, gender, religion, beliefs, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, or any other reason, except as provided by law.

e) Any student publications shall be free from prior censorship, and their editors and managers shall be free to develop their own editorial policies, without fear of academic penalty or removal because of student, faculty, administrative, or public disapproval of editorial policy or content.

f) Information about students acquired by College employees shall be kept confidential, to the extent required by law, except upon specific request by the student in question to release such information, or as required for the normal function of college mechanisms.

g) Students shall be free to take reasoned and responsible exception to the data, views, assignments, and methods offered in any course of study, to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, and to bring such grievances before the Council of Academic Affairs. Students shall be able to conduct research freely, and publish, discuss, and exchange findings or recommendations, whether individually or in association with local, state, national, or international groups.

h) Students shall not be deprived of judicial due process as outlined in the Student Code.

i) Students have the right to the security and privacy of their dormitory rooms, persons, and personal possessions, and shall be free from unreasonable restrictions upon the use of their rooms, personal possessions, or their personal liberty, provided that this does not infringe upon the reasonable exercise of the privacy or property rights of others.

2.3 Currently enrolled New College students are protected and represented under the terms, rights, and responsibilities defined by this constitution and referenced documents. The enumeration of these student rights does not preclude the legitimacy of other student rights, particularly those already guaranteed by College, local, state, and Federal policies, regulations, and laws. Ignorance of these student rights shall not be valid excuse for their violation.

2.4 The New College Student Alliance is hereby directed and empowered to expend the athletic fees and activity and service fees collected from the New College student body. All fee expenditures shall be in compliance with those rules established by the Board of Trustees, the College, the Florida Board of Governors, and other applicable laws.

ARTICLE 3. The Executive Branch

3.1 There shall be a President(s) whose duties shall include:

- a) Implementing duly passed motions of the Council of Academic Affairs, the Council of Student Affairs, the Towne Meeting, and rulings of the Student Court. The President(s) reserves the power to execute and present all motions of the Council of Academic Affairs, the Council of Student Affairs, and the Towne Meeting.
- b) Signing authorized expenditures and other procedural documents.
- c) Ensuring student opinion is represented and articulated responsibly at all relevant occasions in all relevant matters. This duty includes but is not limited to:
 1. Meeting with the Chancellor of the State University System once a year.
 2. Meeting with and serving as a voting member of the New College Board of Trustees.
 3. Meeting with the President of New College once a month.
 4. Meeting with the Dean of Students once a month.
- d) Three weeks before the last day of the spring term, the President(s) shall submit an outline of next year's fiscal budget to the Student Allocations Committee (SAC) for review. This outline must include, but is not limited to, categories such as: operating expenses, a total for club allocations, special projects, orientation, and graduation expenses. If the SAC rejects the proposed budget, the President(s) shall revise and resubmit the budget with reasonable consideration to the SAC's objections.
- e) Serving on the Student Affairs Committee of the New College Foundation. This duty may include presenting a report to the quarterly meetings of the Board of Trustees of the New College Foundation as needed.
- f) Nominating five members of each year's graduating class to the position of Alumnae/i Trustee of the New College Foundation.
- g) Serving as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of the New College Alumnae/i Association.
- h) Representing the Student Body at all local, state, and national associations, councils, or organizations to which the NCSA belongs.
- i) Appointing a Supervisor of Elections, in accordance with the election codes, and Article 8 of this constitution.
- j) Maintain student representation in all decision-making bodies related to the New College Master Plan.
- k) Hire the Manager for the Four Winds Café and maintain this important student service
- l) In the event of a co-presidency, the Presidents must, at the first Towne Meeting of the beginning of their term, announce which President will serve on the New College Board of Trustees. The decision is subject to confirmation by the Towne Meeting.
- m) The President(s) may delegate any duties listed herein.

3.2 There shall be an Executive Vice President appointed by the President(s). Their appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Towne Meeting. The duties of the Executive Vice President shall include:

- a) Serving as the NCSA office manager
 - 1. Checking NCSA e-mail and telephone
 - 2. Signing NCSA employee timesheets
- b) Supervising NCSA employees including:
 - 1. Equipment Room TA(s)
 - 2. Listserv TA
 - 3. Darkroom TA(s)
 - 4. MacLab TA
 - 5. Recycling and Compost TA
- c) Assisting the President(s) with all duties and increasing productivity of the Executive Cabinet.
- d) Planning, facilitating, and compiling agendas for weekly Executive Cabinet meetings.

3.3 There shall be a Vice President for Academic Affairs appointed by the President(s). Their appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Towne Meeting. The duties of the Vice President for Academic Affairs shall include:

- a) Convening the first meeting of the newly elected Council of Academic Affairs (CAA), by the second week of their term.
- b) Serving as the Chairperson of the CAA. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will observe all meetings of the CAA and will provide the Executive Branch opinion.
- c) May serve as an ex-officio member of all Academic Committees, at their discretion.
- d) Advising the Representative to the New College Foundation in his/her duties as a member of the Educational Policy and Planning Committee of the New College Foundation.
- e) The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall meet with the Provost of New College at least once a month.

3.4 There shall be a Vice President for Student Affairs, appointed by the President(s). Their appointment shall be subject to the Towne Meeting. The duties of the Vice President for Student Affairs shall include:

- a) Convening the first meeting of the newly elected Council of Student Affairs (CSA), by the second week of their term.
- b) Serving as the Chairperson of the CSA. The Vice President for Student Affairs will observe all meetings of the CSA and will provide the Executive Branch opinion.
- c) May serve as an ex-officio member of all Student Affairs Committees, at their discretion.
- d) The Vice President for Student Affairs is the Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Towne Meeting. He/she will become Speaker of the Towne Meeting if the Vice President for Public Affairs vacates the speakership or is unavailable.
- e) Advise the President(s) in his/her/their role as Representative to the Student Affairs Committee of the New College Foundation.

f) Appointing a parliamentarian at each Towne Meeting at his/her discretion. This appointment shall be recorded in the minutes.

g) The Vice President for Student Affairs shall work in conjunction with the Vice President of Public Affairs to establish Cabinet presence at and involvement with the First Year Orientation during their term.

3.5 There shall be a Vice President for Public Affairs, appointed by the President(s). Their appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Towne Meeting. The duties of the Vice President for Public Affairs are:

a) Aiding the members of the Executive Committee in communicating with students, faculty, staff, and other persons or entities.

1. Such communication may happen through posters, e-mail messages, a website or websites, public announcements, or any other thing(s) which the Executive Committee chooses.

b) The ethos of the Vice President for Public Affairs shall be to make all institutions of the NCSA accessible to students.

c) The Vice President for Public Affairs is the Speaker of the Towne Meeting.

1. The Speaker of the Towne Meeting may only vote in the case of a tie vote.

2. The Speaker shall sign all resolutions of the Towne Meeting, prepared by the Archivist, and present them to the President(s).

3. The Speaker is charged with the task of advertising meetings of the Towne Meeting in a manner consistent with the stipulations of Article 7, Section 4 of this Constitution. The Speaker may delegate this responsibility as (s)he sees fit.

d) The Vice President for Public Affairs shall work in conjunction with the Vice President for Student Affairs to establish Cabinet presence at and involvement with the First Year Orientation during their term.

e) Other duties as established by the President(s).

3.6 There shall be a Vice President for Green Affairs, appointed by the President(s). Their appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Towne Meeting. The duties of the Vice President for Green Affairs are:

a) Surveying the environmental impact of the NCSA and the college as a whole.

b) Working with the administration to create environmental policy.

c) Undertaking and completing substantial projects to improve New College's environmental impact.

d) The Vice President for Green Affairs shall be available to aid and advise students who are working to make a positive impact on the environment.

e) Other duties as established by the President(s).

3.7 There shall be an Archivist, appointed by the President(s). Their appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Towne Meeting. The duties of the Archivist are:

a) Taking the minutes of all Executive Committee meetings and all sessions of the Towne Meeting.

1. Posting typed minutes of the Executive Committee within 48 hours.

2. Posting typed minutes of the Towne Meeting within 48 hours.

b) The Archivist shall prepare a typed copy of each resolution of the Towne Meeting.

Each resolution shall:

1. Include the date of passage.
2. Include the sponsor(s)'s name.
3. Exclude neither any debate of the resolution, nor a tally of the votes. These shall appear in the minutes of the Towne Meeting.
4. Include a resolution number beginning with the prefix "TM", followed by the year of passage, and ending with a number designating its order of passage for the year. Include two signature lines at the bottom of the document where the Speaker and Archivist shall sign.

c) Taking the minutes of all special meetings or occasions involving Executive Branch members at the discretion of the President.

d) The Archivist is the custodian of the Student Archive and shall have unrestricted access to its files. Items to be copied to the Archivist and filed in the Student Archive shall include but are not limited to:

1. All documents concerning past and present NCSA operation and action (including all official correspondence).
 2. All documents concerning the operation and actions of past student governments of New College of Florida, New College, Incorporated and New College of the University of South Florida.
 3. All student publications that are funded by A&S fees or were funded by past student governments of New College, Incorporated, New College of the University of South Florida, and New College of Florida. Any other publication produced and volunteered by a New College student shall be included.
 4. Any and all documents that affect the Student Body relating to the administration of, academic program of, student affairs/life of New College, Incorporated, New College of the University of South Florida, and New College of Florida.
 5. The Archive shall include at least one copy of the Articles of Acquisition of New College, Incorporated by the State University System of Florida, the Merger Agreement between New College and the University of South Florida, and the clause of Florida Senate Bill 1162 that grants New College autonomy from the University of South Florida. The Archivist shall familiarize him/herself with these documents at the beginning of his/her term.
- e) The Archive is the property of the students of New College, held in stewardship by the NCSA, and as such is open to all New College students upon request. Original archived documents shall not be surrendered unless the NCSA is ordered to do so by the County, State, or Federal court system.
- f) The Archivist may establish whatever procedures or stipulations that he/she deems appropriate to ensure the integrity of the Archive.
1. No original files may leave the Archive or the Archivist's supervision except with the exception specified in article 3 section 4 subpoint 'e' of this document.
 2. The Archivist shall provide copies of Archive documents upon request of a registered New College student, faculty member, or alumnus/a.

- g) The Archivist shall educate students about the history of New College, the NCSA, and past student activities. This Archivist is charged with the task of relating present situations on campus to the past and providing insight.
- h) All official NCSA documents including, but not limited to, binding resolutions of the Council of Student Affairs, the Council of Academic Affairs, and the Towne Meeting shall be copied to the Archivist. The Archivist shall receive the minutes of the Student Allocations Committee at the end of each term in typed format.
- i) To maintain the NCSA web page and posting a copy of each set of minutes (s)he receives within 48 hours of receiving them. The Archivist may appoint a student webmaster to fulfill these duties over the course of a term.

3.8 There shall be a Representative to the New College Foundation and to the New College Alumnae/i Association, appointed by the President(s), whose duties shall be:

- a) To represent the NCSA to the New College Foundation and to the New College Alumnae/i Association (NCAA).
- b) To keep the student body informed of Foundation and NCAA activities. They shall post deadlines and literature concerning student grant applications to the Foundation and NCAA.
- c) Serving as an ex-officio member of the New College Foundation. This duty may include presenting a report to the quarterly meetings of the Board of Trustees of the New College Foundation as needed.
- d) Serving as ex-officio member of the Alumnae/i Association, including presenting a report to the NCAA Board Meetings upon request.
- e) To provide the Alumnae/i Association with topics of interest for their publication, the Nimbus.
- f) To assist the Foundation and NCAA in gathering student workers and/or volunteers for events.
- g) To serve as a representative of the students at Foundation and NCAA events.
- h) To assist the President(s) with presentations to the New College Foundation Board of Trustees.
- i) To assist the President(s) with nominating candidates for Alumnus/a Trustee of the New College Foundation.
- j) To meet with a representative from the New College Foundation and the NCAA at least once a month.
- k) To meet with a representative of the New College Alumnae/i Association at least once a month
- l) To familiarize him/herself with the relationship between New College Foundation Incorporated and NCAA and New College.
- m) To assist the President in his/her/their presentations to the Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors.

3.9 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President(s), the Executive Vice President, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Public Affairs, the Vice President for Green Affairs, the Archivist, and the Representative to the New College

Foundation and to the New College Alumnae/i Association. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a week.

3.10 All Executive Committee members-elect must fulfill the mystery requirement, which must be harmless, before the assumption of their term. That requirement is to be codetermined by the member-elect and their lame-duck predecessor. Any problems that cannot be resolved between the member and member-elect may be brought to the student court.

ARTICLE 4. The Council of Academic Affairs

4.1 There shall be a Council of Academic Affairs (CAA), whose voting members shall be all those students elected to faculty and administrative committees.

4.2 The CAA shall consist of:

a) Academic representatives from each of the academic divisions: Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Humanities, and the following: 3 International Studies Representatives, 1 Gender Studies Representative, and 1 Environmental Studies Representative.

b) Committee representatives for each of the following: 3 Admissions Representatives, 2 Student Academic Status Committee (SASC) Representatives, 3 Library Representatives, 2 Joint Facilities and Campus Planning Representatives, 1 Career Services & Off-Campus Studies, and the 2 Educational Policy Committee (EPC) Representatives. Each of the above committees shares a vote, as do the International Studies Representatives, therefore there will be 12 votes. The highest vote getter from each committee has the official vote, but all members of each committee should work together and form a consensus.

4.3 The duties of the Council of Academic Affairs shall be:

- a) To gather information on matters of concern to students from the faculty and administrative committees.
- b) To act on behalf of students' interests on academic and administrative policies.
- c) To grant funding requests for supplementary educational activities.
- d) To represent the Council to the Towne Meeting.
- e) To send the Academic representatives to attend Faculty and Faculty Appointment and Status Committee (FASC) meetings.
- f) To hear grievances by students against the academic program and to make recommendations for change.

4.4 Meetings of the Council of Academic Affairs shall occur at least once every month. Meetings of the Council shall be run by the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Typed minutes for each meeting shall be taken and given to the Archivist within 48 hours. A quorum of the Council shall consist of eight of its members; if members are unable to attend Council meetings, they must designate proxies by a written note addressed to the Vice President for Academic Affairs; these

proxies shall enjoy full voting rights. If absent members fail to appoint a proxy, the chair may appoint one at his/her discretion. The Council may delegate any of its powers as it sees fit.

4.5 All Council of Academic Affairs members-elect must fulfill the mystery requirement, which must be harmless, before the assumption of their term. That requirement is to be co-determined by the member-elect and their lame-duck predecessor. Any problems that cannot be resolved between the member and member-elect may be brought to the student court.

ARTICLE 5. The Council of Student Affairs

5.1 There shall be a Council of Student Affairs, whose voting members shall consist of the following sub-committees: the Student Allocations Committee (SAC), the 2 Fitness Center Representatives, 2 Residence Life Representatives, 2 Student Affairs Representatives, 1 Resident Advisor (to be appointed by the R.A. Staff), 2 Food Service Representatives, the Counseling and Wellness Center Representative, and the Landscape Representative. Members of an advisory capacity shall consist of all NCSA TA positions (such as Equipment TA, Compost TA, Mac Lab TA, Dark Room TA, Band Room TA) and should be included in any discussions that affect them.

5.2 The duties of the Council of Student Affairs shall include:

- a) Formulating and revising the Student Code and making sure it is published regularly and distributed to each incoming student upon their acceptance of admission as signified by their initial fiscal deposit.
- b) Policy-making for social events for the New College student community.
- c) Choosing up to two students each year to represent the student body in the planning of Fall Orientation. These students will be provided compensation as determined by the CSA and approved by the President.
- d) Formulating stances which are in the best interests of students in dealing with the Office of Student Affairs.
- e) Selecting a five-person RA Selection Committee, which shall be responsible for representing the student body in the selection of each year's RA staff. This committee shall consist of at least one (1) representative from each year and at least one non-returning RA. The committee meeting to appoint the RA Selection Committee shall be publicly announced 48 hours in advance.
- (f) Preparing a report on the Administrative Accountability Survey once a year pursuant to 8.9(k).

5.3 The Council of Student Affairs shall meet at least once a month. Meetings shall be open to the general student body. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall chair the Council. Typed minutes for each meeting shall be taken and given to the archivist and the office of the comptroller within 48 hours. A Quorum of the Council shall consist of seven of its voting members. If members are unable to attend Council meetings, they must designate proxies by a written statement

addressed to the Vice President for Student Affairs; these proxies shall enjoy full voting rights. If absent members fail to appoint a proxy, the chair may appoint one at his/her discretion. The Council may delegate any of its duties to other bodies or subcommittees consisting of council members on an ad-hoc basis as it sees fit.

5.4 The Student Allocations Committee shall consist of two students selected from each academic year (2 first-year, 2 second-year, 2 third-year, and 2 fourth-year or over students). The duties of the Student Allocations Committee shall include:

- a) Allocating the SAC portion of each year's Activities and Services (A&S) budget in the interest of the general student body.
- b) Approving of the budget outline submitted by the President(s). No allocation of A&S monies shall occur until the Student Allocations Committee approves the President(s)'s proposed budget.
- c) Formulating and revising the New College Fiscal Code, which shall outline the process for the allocation of A&S funds, review of operating and club expenditures, establishment of budget cycles, etc.
- d) Ratifying the budget for mandatory expenditures which are jointly funded by the SGA of USF Sarasota/Manatee and the NCSA, as per section 10.6 of this Constitution. No allocation of A&S monies shall occur until the aforementioned budget is ratified.
- e) Periodic reviews on the status of previous allocations.

5.5 The Student Allocations Committee shall meet at least once a week. At their first meeting, they shall ratify their codes. The Committee shall select from its membership each term a chairperson, who shall preside over its meetings and vote only in the event of a tie vote. The chairperson shall remain in office until the end of the term or until a successor is selected. The committee shall select a secretary, whose job shall be to take the typed minutes of each meeting and deliver them to the Office of the Comptroller and the Executive Branch members within 48 hours. A Quorum shall consist of four of its voting members. If members are unable to attend meetings, they should designate proxies by a written statement addressed to the committee chairperson; these proxies shall enjoy full voting rights. If absent members fail to appoint a proxy, the chair may appoint one at his/her discretion. During the first three weeks of each semester, the SAC shall hold a "Marathon Allocations Session," which shall be advertised at least a week in advance, at which the SAC shall schedule time slots to hear petitions from any and all persons and organizations seeking money for the semester. At the end of the session the SAC shall allocate to each petitioner with regard to a projected budget for the semester. The allocations shall be posted publicly the following week. The Chair will sign each allocation that is passed by the Student Allocations Committee.

5.6 There shall be a Residential Life Committee (RLC) that will meet with the Housing Director to discuss any issues that affect students. The Committee shall

consist of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Archivist, at least one Resident Advisor Representative, the 2 Residence Life Representatives, the 2 Student Affairs Representatives, the Compost TA and the Landscape Representative. Additional members may be appointed by the Residence Life Committee.

5.7 There shall be a Food Service Committee (FSC) that shall consist of the Vice President for Student Affairs and the 2 Food Service Representatives. The committee should meet at least twice a semester with the Food Service coordinator to evaluate the food service.

5.8 All Council of Student Affairs members-elect must fulfill the mystery requirement, which must be harmless, before the assumption of their term. That requirement is to be co-determined by the member-elect and their lame-duck predecessor. Any problems that cannot be resolved between the member and member-elect may be brought to the student court.

ARTICLE 6. The Judicial Branch

6.1 There shall be a Student Court whose members shall be five students elected at large. They shall select from themselves a Chief Justice who shall preside over the meetings of the Court, but who shall vote only in the case of a tie vote. A Student Prosecutor and Student Defender shall also be elected from the student body and shall fulfill the duties set forth in sections 6.5 and 6.6 of this document.

6.2 The duties and jurisdiction of the Student Court shall be:

- a) The hearing of cases as directed by section 8 of the Student Code.
- b) The interpretation of this constitution.
- c) The hearing of challenges to elections that have not conformed to the provisions of Article 8 of this document and the published election codes, and ordering new elections when necessary.
- d) The hearing of impeachment trials, as outlined by Article 9 of this document.
- e) Ensuring a committee's bylaws comply with its stated purpose in this document and that committees adhere to their own bylaws when allocating funds
- f) The oversight of the counting of ballots.

6.3 The Student Court shall set modes of procedure consistent with the fulfillment of all its duties. It shall meet at least biweekly, and select a Secretary who shall take minutes of the Court's meetings and present them, typed, within 48 hours to the Archivist.

- a) A quorum of the Court shall consist of four members; if members are unable to attend Court meetings, the prosecutor or defender shall work in the position as proxy.
- b) If both prosecutor and defender are being used in a case, the NCSA Judicial Branch will select a proxy from another NCSA branch, who shall enjoy full voting

rights after he or she has been adequately educated about judicial proceedings and the specifics of the case. If absent members fail to appoint a proxy, the Chief Justice may appoint one at his/her discretion.

c) Any court member must disqualify her/himself from any case in which (s)he is involved as plaintiff or defendant. The Court may delegate any of its duties as it sees fit.

6.4 The Justices shall serve as an Allocations Review Committee. Their responsibility will be to consider complaints about allocations from the CAA, and the SAC. In this capacity, the Justices are charged with ensuring that the different allocations committees are adhering to their own bylaws.

a) Within 48 hours of the receipt of the complaint, which must be written by an enrolled student, signed by 25 fellow students, the justices will review said allocation. The Justices may then decide to issue a written "finding of fact."

b) In turn, the SAC or CAA must review the problem allocation in regard to the Justices' finding of fact within the next 72 hours. It will require a 2/3 vote of the committee to uphold the original allocation. If they so desire, the Court may bring this final decision to a Towne Meeting.

6.5 The Student Prosecutor will act as a representative of the student body in accordance with the Court's processes and proceedings and the requirements set by Student Affairs in accordance with Florida law regarding cases under the jurisdiction of the NCSA Judicial Branch according to the Student Code. The plaintiff involved may choose to waive the right to use the Prosecutor. The prosecutor must also attend meetings of the Court if requested by the Justices.

6.6 There will be a public defender elected in the spring, who will be available upon request to any student before the NCSA Judicial Branch, to prepare and present a case for the prosecuted, in his/her defense. The defender must also attend meetings of the Court if requested by the Justices.

6.7 All Judicial Branch members-elect must fulfill the mystery requirement, which must be harmless, before the assumption of their term. That requirement is to be co-determined by the member-elect and their lame-duck predecessor. Any problems that cannot be resolved between the member and member-elect may be brought to the student court.

ARTICLE 7. The Towne Meeting

7.1 The Towne Meeting is the highest form of student government at New College, except where restricted by local, state or federal law.

7.2 The Towne Meeting will act as the whole of the Legislative Branch of New College. There will be an elected officer—"Legislator"—who shall serve as Parliamentarian and Sergeant of Arms of the Towne Meeting. The "Legislator" shall also assist the other members of the Legislative Branch—all other students

—in creating legislation and other procedural matters. The “Legislator” may still vote at the Towne Meeting. The “Legislator” shall be elected in the Spring elections and serve for one year and shall enjoy full voting rights. If absent members fail to appoint a proxy, the chair may appoint one at his/her discretion.

7.3 The Towne Meeting is chaired by the Vice President for Public Affairs and is open to all New College students. Its purpose is to inform the student body of the actions of the NCSA, to gather opinions and ideas from the students on matters of concern to the College community, to propose and enact informed legislation, and to confirm Presidential appointments to NCSA positions as necessary.

7.4 The Towne Meeting shall be held every month, or as called by the Vice President for Public Affairs on the request of any student. All Towne Meetings shall be prefaced by the song “Dirty Tower” (mash-up by Matt Felsen).

7.5 The Vice President for Public Affairs shall set and post publicly the agenda for each regular meeting of the Towne Meeting at least 48 hours in advance. The agenda shall include:

a) Reports of actions taken by the President(s), the Council of Academic Affairs, the Council of Student Affairs, and the Student Court, as well as important College actions, past or pending, that directly affect students.

b) Motions originating with the President(s) or the Councils that are being considered or may be reviewed by the Towne Meeting, including confirming Presidential appointments.

c) Motions for new legislation, when a sponsoring petition for such, signed by at least thirty students, is presented to the Vice President for Public Affairs at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

d) Motions to convene a session of the Student Repeals Committee (SRC). The Student Repeals Committee will exist as a “standing ad-hoc” committee, to be convened in order to evaluate and formulate informed recommendations regarding any actions taken by the President(s), the Vice-Presidents, either Council, or a prior session of the Towne Meeting to be presented to a subsequent Towne Meeting.

1. The Student Repeals Committee will consist of five members of the Towne Meeting at which the motion for convention is made, to be elected directly after the motion is passed.

2. Upon approval of the motion for convention, a nominations period will be open for a period of ten minutes in which time any member of the Towne Meeting present may be nominated. “Present” is defined as having registered on the sign-in sheet and being physically visible to the other members of the Towne Meeting. At the close of nominations a vote will be held on the candidacy of each nominee, the percentage approval of each being documented by the Archivist, and the five highest percentage-getters being elected. Should a position remain unfilled, the President may appoint any member of the Student Body to fill any vacancies, which must then be approved by a simple majority of the Towne Meeting.

3. The date for the first meeting is to be set during the Towne Meeting at which the SRC is convened by its newly elected members.
4. The SRC will convene three times per session: once to be informed of the affirmative arguments which gave rise to the issue under consideration for appeal, once to hear the arguments against the issue under consideration for appeal, and once to deliberate and formulate recommendations to the Towne Meeting. At the first meeting, the five members of the committee will select from amongst themselves a Chairperson who will vote only in the case of a tie.
5. The SRC must present its recommendations to the next Towne Meeting held, unless the motion has been withdrawn. In which case, the chairperson must inform the Towne Meeting of the withdrawal.
6. A session of the SRC may not be convened more than once to review the same issue. However, a convention of the committee may be called to review the decision of a prior session of the SRC.
7. Neither the Towne Meeting member who moved to convene the Student Repeals Committee nor the member who seconded the motion may serve as members of that particular session of the committee.

7.6 A quorum of the Towne Meeting shall consist of at least fifty students (other than the Vice President for Public Affairs). When this quorum is met, those motions that receive a simple majority of votes cast shall be binding upon the various persons elected and appointed to NCSA positions described in this document. At the commencement of each Towne Meeting, the Speaker shall circulate a sign-in list to those present, for the purpose of establishing the presence of a quorum. Any member of the Towne Meeting may call for the verification of a quorum before a vote on any nonprocedural motion is taken, by means of a head count when necessary. Straw votes and opinion polls may also be taken at Towne Meetings. These votes are not binding upon the actions of the NCSA.

ARTICLE 8. Elections

8.1 All elections shall be held in accordance with the published New College Elections Code.

8.2 Academic Year shall be determined by number of contracts attempted at New College (excluding transfer credit, but including off-campus study):

First Year: attempted zero or one contracts at New College.

Second Year: attempted two or three contracts at New College.

Third Year: attempted four or five contracts at New College.

Fourth Year: attempted six or more contracts at New College.

8.3 Only currently enrolled New College students (as defined by the Office of Records and Registration) may be nominated and elected to NCSA offices. Students holding these offices who go to off-campus study, take a leave of

absence, or who withdraw must resign their positions in the NCSA. No student may hold more than one elected position.

8.4 Specific terms of elections to NCSA positions are enumerated in the Election Codes.

8.5 Except for the Presidency, all vacancies occurring in any of these bodies shall be filled immediately for the remainder of the office's term. The President(s) may appoint a replacement in accordance with the following:

- a) In the event of appointments to non-academic bodies including the Council of Student Affairs and other bodies affecting student life generally, presidential nominees must be confirmed by a majority of the Council of Student Affairs.
- b) In the event of appointments to academic bodies, including the Council of Academic Affairs, the EPC, the SASC, and other bodies affecting the academic program generally, presidential nominees shall be confirmed by a majority of the Council of Academic Affairs.
- c) The President(s) shall publicly announce and post all appointments made to vacant offices.

8.6 Vacancies on the Student Court must be filled by special election.

8.7 A referendum may be placed on any ballot in accordance with the Election Codes.

8.8 Special election procedures are as follows:

- a) Upon recall of the President(s), the Vice-President(s) shall be automatically recalled. The Chair of the Student Allocations Committee shall assume the responsibilities and powers of the office of the President(s) during the interim period until a new President(s) is elected.
- b) In the event of a vacancy of the Presidential office due to recall or resignation, nominations for President(s) shall open immediately following the recall referendum or resignation, and close seven days later. New elections shall be held within two business days of the close of nominations. In the event that any candidate for President(s) fails to receive a majority of votes cast, a run-off election shall be held the following day between the top two vote-getters to determine the winner. The new President(s) shall officially assume duties the day following the election until the next regularly scheduled Presidential election.

8.9 The Administrative Accountability Survey is hereby established. The purpose of the Administrative Accountability Survey is to give each student the opportunity to evaluate administrators who significantly affect the experience of New College students.

- a) The Supervisor of Elections shall be responsible for conducting the Administrative Accountability Survey.
- b) The Administrative Accountability Survey shall be conducted at each late Fall election and each Spring election or as specified by the Election Codes.

- c) At each election where the survey is conducted, each student receiving a ballot shall receive a survey form.
- (d) The survey form shall bear the title "Administrative Accountability Survey."
- (e) The survey form shall ask each respondent to rate the responsiveness to students of the current President, Provost, Dean of Students and Director of Housing, respectively, on a scale of 1 to 5. The survey form shall indicate that a rating of 1 corresponds to "not responsive" and a rating of 5 corresponds to "very responsive." The survey form shall allow respondents to choose "I don't know" instead of a rating.
- (f) The survey form shall ask each respondent to enter a written narrative evaluation of each of the aforementioned administrators, respectively.
- (g) The survey form shall indicate that respondents may choose not to answer any question by leaving it blank.
- h) The survey shall be anonymous and shall not where ask respondents to enter their names or any other information which could identify their persons.
- i) The survey shall be conducted according to procedures set forth in the Election Codes.
- j) The Supervisor of Elections shall publicize, in a timely manner, the quantitative results of each survey conducted, including the number of students answering each question and the average rating of each administrator, to students and administration.
- k) The Council of Student Affairs shall prepare, once each academic year, a report summarizing and interpreting the quantitative and narrative data from all surveys conducted during that academic year. The Council of Student Affairs shall make the report public to students and administration.

ARTICLE 9. Impeachment Codes

9.1 The grounds for impeaching an NCSA member include, but are not limited to:

- a) Not attending meetings.
- b) Failure to maintain adequate communication.
- c) Hindering the ability of their committee to do what it is supposed to do.

9.2 The process for impeachment of members of the NCSA by the CSA is as follows:

- a) Affirmation of Impeachment (see Appendix A)
 - 1) The Council of Student Affairs (CSA) may vote, on condition of a two-thirds majority, to impeach any member of the New College Student Alliance (NCSA).
 - 2) The CSA may also be compelled, by a petition signed by fifty students, to hold a vote on the question of the impeachment of a specified party.
 - 3) Upon the conclusion that grounds for an impeachment exist, the CSA will extend for one week a formal suggestion of resignation to the accused. Should the accused waive this offer, the impeachment proceedings will continue as outlined below. The duty of this action will be for the express and singular purpose of establishing legitimate grounds for impeachment proceedings.

b) Upon affirmation of impeachment by the CSA, the Student Prosecutor will draft and deliver articles of impeachment to the accused, the Student Court, and the Student Defender. Should the Prosecutor be the accused, the Vice President for Student Affairs will draft and deliver the articles and act in proxy as the Prosecutor.

c) The accused has a right to the counsel of the Student Defender. Should the Defender be the accused, the Vice President for Student Affairs may act in proxy as the Defender, should the accused desire counsel.

d) The Student Court will try all impeachments, and upon a three-fifths vote in which all five justices shall participate, an affirmation of the guilt of the accused will empower the court to take action as described below:

1) All elected NCSA officials will be subject to the immediate jurisdiction of the Student Court, who alone will hold the ability to order dismissal from office or some lesser sanction.

2) All appointed NCSA officials will be subject to adjudication by the Student Court who, upon pronouncing the guilt of the accused, may submit a formal recommendation to the President(s) for his/her dismissal, or may order some lesser sanction.

e) Should one of the Justices be the accused, the Vice President for Student Affairs will act as his or her proxy.

9.3 In addition to the above procedure, members of committees may be impeached by the chair of said committee.

a) Upon impeachment, a vote shall be held on the dismissal of the impeached member. If the vote passes with a 2/3 majority, the member is removed from office.

b) Following dismissal, the student may file an appeal with the New College Student Court. If this occurs, the court will proceed as outlined in section 9.2 C. The plaintiff is to be considered the chair of the committee and the defendant shall be the removed member.

9.4 The alternate route to removal of an elected Student government member is through referendum. Any student may collect 50 signatures/box numbers to remove an officer. At the next scheduled election, a 2/3 majority is required for removal.

9.5 If a member of the Student Government is removed, replacement of that member is the responsibility of the chair of that member's committee; or the President if the member is a chair of a committee. The replacement member shall serve for the remainder of the removed member's term.

ARTICLE 10. Special Provisions for and Special Adoptions to this Constitution

10.1 The executive committee of the NCSA must be informed, and where allowed by local, state, or federal law, must approve any section of the Student Code, which is to be binding on the students.

10.2 The voting student representatives to the Faculty meetings shall be the President(s) and the seven Academic Representatives from the Council of Academic Affairs.

10.3 All meetings of the Student Alliance bodies shall be open to all students and the public at large, announced publicly and in advance. However, any person may be excluded from any meeting on a two-thirds majority vote of those present, when that person's presence is judged to be disruptive to the ends of that meeting. All alliance bodies except the Student Court shall employ Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, as procedural guide, though any body may choose to operate under less formal guidelines, as determined by a majority of its members at any given time.

10.4 The New College Student Alliance recognizes itself and the Student Government Association of the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee (SGA of USF-S/M) as separate, sovereign, and independent student governments. As such, the New College Student Alliance shall honor those agreements between itself and the SGA of USF- S/M that are contained in the Declaration of Independence. To this end:

- a) There will be three New College representatives to the Joint Allocations Committee, as per Article I, Section 2 of the Declaration of Independence. The New College representatives shall be the President(s) of the NCSA, the Chairperson of the Student Allocations Committee, and a third representative to be chosen by the President(s) and Chairperson. Either Vice President of the NCSA shall serve as committee chairperson on even-numbered years, as per Article I, Section 2 of the Declaration of Independence.
- b) Only currently enrolled New College students (as defined by the Office of Records and Registration) may serve as New College representatives to the Joint Allocations Committee.
- c) A budget for mandatory expenditures, which are jointly funded by SGA of USF -S/M and NCSA, is not binding on the New College Student Alliance until it has been approved and ratified by the NCSA.
- d) The mandatory joint budget presented by the Joint Allocations Committee (JAC) will be submitted for review to the SAC. The SAC can grant the budget preliminary approval, or request revision/reevaluation by the JAC. Once a joint budget has been given preliminary approval by SAC, it shall automatically become binding and approved after one week, or on May 20, whichever comes first. Until final approval has occurred, the Towne Meeting has full power to review, revise, or rescind the joint budget, or to grant any budget immediate, final approval. However, per the Declaration of Independence, any joint budget must be approved by both NCSA and SGA of USF-S/M to take effect, or the previous year's budget will remain in effect.
- e) New lines, new areas of expenditure, or additional increases in existing lines of the mandatory joint budget shall be made in accordance with the Declaration of Independence.

- f) An amendment to the Declaration of Independence shall be ratified and approved by the NCSA when it receives the support of a referendum.
- g) Upon the complete physical separation of USF Sarasota Manatee and New College of Florida, the entirety of article 10.5 will be stricken.

10.5 Concerning the spending of NCSA A&S fees:

- a) Except as provided in the mandatory joint budget in the Declaration of Independence, transfers of funds exceeding \$500.00 from NCSA accounts to any other accounts, or to any State organization, office, department, unit, division, EBA, or support service shall require the approval of the Student Allocations Committee, as defined in Article 5 of this Constitution.
- b) NCSA reserves the right to store and administer all equipment purchased solely with NCSA monies as it sees fit. Except by way of the aforementioned mandatory joint budget, under no circumstances shall NCSA employ individuals to supervise or maintain any of the above facilities without the express approval of the SAC and the endorsement of the Executive Cabinet.
- c) Commitments of NCSA funding to support, maintain, supply or staff any new CITF facilities require the support of a referendum. Without an explicit commitment so ratified, the NCSA cannot commit to or be liable for the maintenance, support, supplying, or staffing of said facilities.
- d) NCSA monies shall not be expended to fund, in part or in full, permanent salary lines for career service employees without the support of a referendum placed on the ballot of a regular Fall or Spring NCSA election. Without the approval of such a referendum, NCSA funds may support only OPS personnel.
- e) All employees paid solely with NCSA monies must report directly to the NCSA President(s) and shall serve at the pleasure of the President.

ARTICLE 11. Symbols Embraced by the NCSA

11.1 The New College Student Alliance shall embrace the following symbols:

- a) [] as Mascot
- b) Palm Court as the Center of the Universe
- c) Our Motto: "There is more to running a starship than answering a bunch of damn fool questions."
- d) Our Mission: "That the natural state of the human spirit is ecstatic wonder! That we should not settle for less!"

ARTICLE 12. Amendments and Certifications

12.1 An amendment to this constitution shall be valid when it receives a two-thirds majority of those voting when placed on the ballot. Amendments may be proposed and placed on the ballot by the President(s), either Council, or by a petition signed by fifty students.

12.2 This Constitution shall become valid when passed by a majority vote of the present Executive Committee and a two-thirds of those voting in a public election open to all currently enrolled New College students.

12.3 This constitution shall be reviewed by a Constitutional Review Committee no less than once every three years.

a) This committee's task shall be to update relevant sections to reflect the current state of student government, suggest possible revisions and keep the NCSA aware of sections that may have been overlooked.

b) The committee must include one member of the judicial branch and its meetings must be made public.

c) Upon conclusion of its review, this committee may call, via President, for a special election to approve the changes to this document

d) All changes to the constitution must be recorded and submitted to the Archivist.

12.4 This constitution may be amended. Changes can be proposed and placed on the ballot by the President(s), either Council, or by a petition signed by fifty students. All changes to the constitution must be presented in a clear and concise manner showing the original wording and the specific changes to be made.

12.5 This constitution, upon its passage replaces the previous New College Student Alliance Constitution last amended May 14, 2008.

Constitution last amended November 5, 2008.

APPENDIX A
Articles of Impeachment

Date:

To be delivered to the Student Court, the NCSA President, plaintiff, defendant and Archivist.

Name of Complainant:

Name of Official:

Position:

Grounds for Impeachment:

Response to Formal Suggestion of Resignation:

CC: Student Justices, Defendant, Plaintiff, NCSA President, and Archivist

APPENDIX B: Elections Timetable

EARLY FALL ELECTION

Petitioning: opens first Monday of classes, lasts 7 days

Campaigning: opens second Monday of classes, lasts 3 days

Elections: second Thursday of classes (NOT including miniclasses)

Positions: (2) First year SAC members

Term of office (semester): The winning candidate with the most votes takes office immediately and stays for 2 terms (the end of the academic year). The other winning candidate also takes office immediately, but stays for only one term (fall semester).

LATE FALL ELECTION

Petitioning: opens the Monday after break week, lasts 10 days

Campaigning: opens the second Wednesday after break week, lasts 7 days

Elections: third Wednesday of class after break

Positions: EL PRESIDENTE, (1) SAC member from each year [the first year member with the least votes is potentially displaced], (3) student court justices, (1) Residence Life Representative, (1) Student Affairs Representative, (1) Fitness Center Representative.

Term: All candidates take office at the beginning of the following semester and serve for 2 terms (the next spring and fall semesters), with the exception of the fourth year SAC member, who serves 1 term (through the end of the academic year).

SPRING ELECTION

Petitioning: opens the Monday after break week, lasts 10 days

Campaigning: opens the second Wednesday after break week, lasts 7 days

Elections: third Wednesday of class after break

Positions: Public defender, student prosecutor, legislator, (2) student court justices, (1) second year SAC member [a current first year], (1) third year SAC member [a current second year], (1) fourth year SAC member [a current third year], (1) Residence Life Representative, (1) Student Affairs Representative, (1) Fitness Center Representative and all CAA positions.

Term: All candidates take office at the beginning of the next fall semester and serve for the full academic year.