Constitution of the Wisconsin Badger Association

"The Madison Manifesto"

This constitution consists of 12 articles:

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Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Wisconsin Badger Association ("WBA").

Article II: Preamble

This Proclamation of Participation, set forth with the belief that active and judicious participation in every aspect of campus life that concerns students is beneficially attainable, establishes a student government that will selflessly pursue the ideals of all without denying the ideals of one, that will be responsive without being repressive or restrictive, and that will insure that we, the students of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, are fairly recognized and represented.

Article III: Object

The object of the WBA shall be:

(a) to ensure the greatest participation by students in the immediate governance of and policy development for the University at all levels, including the exercise of all rights and responsibilities granted to students by Wisconsin State Statute 36.09[5];
(b) to control all Segregated University Fees and all other funds which constitute substantial support for campus student activities;
(c) to organize events for students;
(d) to receive complaints from students, investigate the problems of students, and participate in academic decisions concerning students;
(e) to take action on behalf of the student body;
(f) to provide an official voice through which the opinions of the

student body may be expressed;
(g) to develop WBA policies in a fair and open manner; and
(h) to inform all students of WBA activities and encourage participation in them.

Article IV: Declaration of Rights

Section 1: Nondiscrimination. The WBA shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, arrest or conviction record, amount or source of income, political ideology, command of the English language, or known relationship to anyone in any of these protected classes, unless pursuant to an exception recognized by state or federal law.

Section 2: Due Process. All members of the WBA and all student organizations shall be guaranteed due process under law.

Section 3: Open Meetings and Free Access. Every meeting of an WBA body shall be preceded by public notice at least twenty four hours prior to the commencement of the meeting. At any meeting of an WBA body, all discussion shall be held and all action of any kind, formal or informal, shall be initiated, deliberated upon and acted upon only in session open to all WBA members. All WBA bodies shall make available all records for inspection and copying by members of the WBA. Exceptions to this Section may be established in the Bylaws only in order to protect the privacy of individuals.

Section 4: Initiative. The members of the WBA shall have the right of initiative to adopt, amend or rescind any Bylaw or Rule of the WBA. The proposed initiative measure shall be submitted to the next election upon the filing with the Election Commission. The Senate shall have the power to deny an initiative the right to appear on the ballot if three fourths of the Senate votes in the "nay". An initiative may not change or alter any present or future segregated fees allocations made by the Finance committee and approved by the Senate.

Article V: Membership

Section 1: Members. All students enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-Madison during regular or summer academic periods are members of the WBA. Members of the WBA during the Spring semester shall remain members of the WBA through the summer.

Section 2: Loss of Membership. Except as provided in Section 1, members not enrolled in the current academic period shall lose membership in the WBA upon the first class day after the late enrollment deadline. Members who withdraw or are expelled from the University shall lose membership immediately. Members withdrawing from the University shall regain membership immediately upon registration for classes in any subsequent semester, and shall hold membership in the WBA without prejudice.

Article VI: Senate

Section 1: Composition. The Senate shall consist of 35 Senators. Seats shall be apportioned as follows: Letters and Science first and second year, 7 seats; Letters and Science third and fourth year, 7 seats; Letters and Science Graduate Students and Special, 3 seats; Allied Health Sciences, 2 seats; Agriculture and Life Sciences, 3 seats; Education and Family Resources, 4 seats; Business, 2 seats; Engineering, 5 seats; Special and Guest, 1 seat. Seats shall be apportioned by law every four years starting in 1998 based on changes in enrollment.

Section 2: Terms. Senators shall serve for one year. Senators shall be WBA members elected in the Fall elections. Terms for all Senators shall begin the first Wednesday after the first Thursday after the election results have been confirmed.

Section 3: Vacancies. The Senate shall by two-thirds vote, excluding vacancies, fill vacancies in the Senate with an WBA member of the same district. The person appointed shall serve until the next election, at which time a Senator shall be elected to hold the seat for the remainder of the term.

Section 4: Meetings.

(a) The Senate shall meet at least every two weeks except during the Summer Session. Special meetings may be called by the President and shall be called upon the written request of eleven Senators.

(b) A majority of the Senate, excluding vacancies, shall constitute a quorum.

(c) Senators who fail to attend Senate or committee meetings shall be removed from the Senate without impeachment in a manner established in the Bylaws. If a member of the Finance committee is removed from the Senate, another Senator from the same district must immediately replace him.

Section 5: Powers and Duties.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the Senate shall exercise all legislative powers of the WBA by majority vote.

(b) The Senate shall appoint its own President, Vice-President, and other officers as established by the Bylaws.

(c) The Senate shall establish Bylaws and Rules for the WBA by three-fourths vote at two consecutive meetings. To amend Bylaws or Rules shall require a three-fourths vote at two consecutive meetings.

(d) The Senate may refer any matter in its power excluding segregated fee allocation to a vote of the members of the WBA by a resolution receiving a two-thirds vote at two consecutive meetings and filed with the Election Commission.

(e) The Senate shall keep and publish a journal of its own proceedings. The yeas and nays of any question shall be recorded in the journal on the request of two Senators.

(f) The Senate shall have the sole power to convict on bill of impeachment any elected or appointed officer of the WBA. Cause for impeachment shall be limited to neglect of duties, official misconduct, or

malfeasance in office. Impeachment shall be initiated upon the petition of one-third of the Senate, excluding vacancies. A three-fourths vote of the entire Senate, excluding vacancies, shall be required to convict or remove.

Section 6: The President. The President of the Senate shall serve as the official spokesperson of the WBA, shall act as the presiding officer of the Senate, shall communicate to the Senate the state of the WBA, and shall coordinate the activities of the WBA. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President, and shall perform other such duties as may be required by the President.

Section 7: Compensation: No elected official may receive a salary or any type of compensation from WBA.

Article VII: Senate Committees.

Section 1: Finance Committee.

(a) The Finance Committee shall be composed of ten members one representing each district represented in the Senate. They shall be appointed annually after the fall election. The members of each district shall have the right to select its own representative to the Finance Committee for their respective district.

(b) Powers and Duties: The finance committee shall have the authority to allocate all university student segregated fees by a unanimous vote of all committee members, present or not present. Their actions shall be subject to approval of the full Senate by a majority vote of all members present. The Senate may not amend the finance committees decisions, the budget must be returned to finance committee for reconsideration upon failure in the Senate. Each group receiving General Student Service Funds is prohibited from using segregated fees to pay salaries. Each group receiving General Student Service Funds must submit a line item budget. A separate vote must be taken on each group General Student Service Funds, the budget can not be voted on as a whole.

(c) The Finance committe can not raise Segregated University Fees more than 2% above the national rate of inflation without student ratification.

Section 2: Shared Governance Committee.

(a) A Shared Governance Committee composed of at least five Senators shall be appointed annually by the Senate. In addition, any WBA member without limitation may become a member of the Shared Governance Committee, entitled to all the rights, powers and privileges of committee membership.

(b) The Shared Governance Committee shall, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint WBA members to all University Committees for which the WBA has power of appointment.

(c) The Shared Governance Committee shall work to encourage and expand student participation in the immediate governance of and the policy development for the University at all levels. The Committee shall

support all efforts at student self-organization to claim their shared governance rights.

Section 3: Event Grants Committee.
(a) Composition. The Event Grants Committee shall be composed of 6 Senators selected by the Senate annually after Fall elections.
(b) The Event Grants Committee shall have the power to allocate funds for student events in accordance with standards established in the Bylaws. Allocation of more than one thousand dollars shall require a Two-thirds vote in the full Senate and a majority vote for all other event grants.

Article VIII: Staff.
Section 1: Treasurer. The Treasurer shall oversee the funds of the WBA, shall make a full financial report to the Senate at least once a semester and such interim reports as the Senate shall direct, and shall assist the Finance Committee and Event Grant Committee in its operations.

Article IX: Elections.
Section 1: Schedule. Fall elections shall begin the first week in October. Special Elections may be call if the Bylaws so provide.

Section 2: Procedures. Seats shall be filled by the candidate(s) who gain a plurality of votes.

Section 3: Ballot. Candidates for positions of the WBA shall be listed by name and party affiliation or as an independent.

Article X: Election Commission.
Section 1: Composition. The Election Commission shall be composed of five WBA members appointed by the Senate.

Section 2: Powers and Duties. The Election Commission shall ensure fair and impartial elections. The Election Commission shall serve as a liaison between the WBA and the independent ballot counter hired to hold the elections. The Election Commission shall not have the power to disqualify parties or individuals.

Article XI: Summer Operations.
Section 1: Definition. The Summer Session shall begin on June 1 and end two weeks before the first day of classes in the Fall semester.

Section 2: Limitations. During the Summer Session, officers may not be impeached, Bylaws and Rules may not be amended or passed, elections may not be held, and no more than ten percent of the budget for student events may be allocated.

Section 3: Summer Senate. Any Senator may give written notice to the President of his or her intent not to serve during the Summer Session. The vacant seat shall thereupon be filled for the Summer Session in the manner

provided for Senate vacancies. At the end of the Summer Session, the Senator who gave notice may reclaim his or her seat. One-third of the Senate, excluding vacancies, shall constitute a quorum during the Summer Session.

Article XII: Amendment.

Section 1: Election. A proposal too amend this Constitution shall be submitted to an election by the members of the WBA upon the filing with the Election Commission.

Section 2: Amendment. A two-thirds for the amendment in every district represented in the Senate shall amend this Constitution. The amendment shall take effect immediately upon adoption.