



Senate of the Claremont Colleges

Statement of Intent: In the last few years, the Student Governments of the Claremont Colleges watched our schools drift apart. This fissure in inter-college relations comes at a time when many student policy changes, internal and external, have begun affecting the students at large. Members of the Student Governments of Claremont McKenna College, Scripps College, Pomona College, Harvey Mudd College, and Pitzer College, have collaborated to create the Constitution of the Senate of the Five Colleges. This constitution lays the foundations for an organization with the goal of not only providing an open forum for students to discuss and debate five college issues, but also acting as a vehicle for promoting unity and cooperation between the colleges. In no way will this organization have power over the individual student governments, or have the ability to levy student fees from individual colleges. Instead, this organization will help the Student Governments in mediating potential conflicts that could arise and suggest legislation that the various colleges could enact to foster stronger ties and consistency between them. To achieve this end, this organization will have the ability to create committees to solve five college problems such as the coordination of five college social events. Each college will have the right to be represented on the floor of the Senate of the Five Colleges as well as on any committees created by it. Finally, this organization will only be able to give memorandums to the community by the unanimous consent of all five colleges. In this manner, the authors of this constitution feel that the Senate of the Five Colleges will be the bridge that will foster open communications, debate, and cooperation between the Claremont Colleges.

SENATE OF THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

I. Purposes and Powers

1. Preamble

The students of the Claremont Colleges do hereby form the Senate of the Claremont Colleges commonly known as the Five College Senate, to provide an open forum for the students and organizations of the Claremont Colleges, to provide for and encourage effective inter-college cooperation, and to promote unity among the Claremont Colleges.

2. Statement of Non-Profit

The Senate of the Claremont Colleges is organized for nonprofit purposes and individual members shall not derive profit therefrom.

3. Political Limitation

The Senate of the Claremont Colleges shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any organized political party or candidate for public office.

II. The Senate

1. The Senate of the Claremont Colleges shall consist of sixteen students. Each college shall have three representatives who shall compose the delegation for

their respective college. The remaining student shall be the Chair of the Senate.

- i. Each member shall be known as Senator.
- ii. The student body presidents shall be permanent members of the Five College Senate unless otherwise determined by their respective student government, which may select an alternate permanent member to serve in place of the president.
- iii. All other Senators shall be chosen in a manner consistent with the policies of each college's student government and may be selected on a per meeting basis.
- iv. The position of Senator shall not be exclusively limited to members of student governments.

2. Powers

- i. Senators and students shall have the right to bring any motion before the Five College Senate.
- ii. The Five College Senate shall serve as a forum for announcements of the Claremont Colleges, and also mediate conflicts in timing and activities.
- iii. A formal vote shall be required for removal of the Chair, constitutional amendments, or any official memorandum of the Senate of the Claremont Colleges.
- iv. An informal vote shall be taken for the creation of committees, motions for referral to the student governments of the Claremont Colleges, requests for adjournment, and any other non-formal motion.
- v. Each college has the right to have representation on ad hoc committees created by the Five College Senate. Standing committees shall have representation from each college.
- vi. The Senate of the Claremont Colleges may receive donations, but at no time shall it levy student fees.

III. The Chair

1. The Chair shall be responsible for upholding the Constitution and Bylaws of the Five College Senate.
2. The Chair shall be responsible for keeping order during meetings.
3. The Chair shall be responsible for drafting an agenda for all meetings, and notifying each respective student government of the agenda at least seven days prior to each meeting, except in cases of emergency. Any amendment made to the agenda prior to the meeting must be sent to all members of the Five College Senate.
4. The Chair shall be an impartial, non-voting member of the Five College Senate.
5. The Chair shall be selected by their respective student governments, which shall also select a proxy to assume responsibility in the Chair's absence.
6. The Chair shall rotate each semester in the following order: CMC, Scripps, Pomona, Harvey Mudd and Pitzer.
7. The Chair may temporarily yield the chairmanship to a Senator from his/her delegation and assume the role of Senator for a portion of the meeting.

IV. Procedures

1. Meetings

- i. Meetings of the Senate of the Claremont Colleges shall be open to public attendance except when, upon a two-thirds vote, the Senate decides to close them to discuss internal personnel or litigation issues. Any action taken in a closed session shall be reported at the next public opportunity.
- ii. The Senate of the Claremont Colleges shall meet at least once per calendar month each academic year with additional meetings upon recommendation of the Five College Council of Presidents or at the Chair's discretion.
- iii. The Chair of the Senate of the Claremont Colleges shall designate the meeting place and time.

2. Voting

- i. A vote of the Senate of the Claremont Colleges may only occur when there is a quorum of at least two representatives from each delegation present.
- ii. Passage of a formal motion requires unanimous consent among the delegations of all five colleges. Each delegation shall cast one vote determined by a majority of Senators from that delegation.
- iii. Passage of a vote on an informal motion shall consist of voting by each Senator. An informal vote shall pass with a simple majority.