

STATUTES

AS ENACTED IN ORDER TO MANAGE AND CREATE A

BOARD OF VISITORS

OF THE

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OF THE

UNIVERSITY SENATE

OF

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



As Proposed on September 10, 2010

As Adopted by the Student Affairs Committee on September 10, 2010

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the Student Affairs Committee of the Columbia University Senate is the only representative body of the entire Columbia University student community; and

WHEREAS, the Student Affairs Committee is tasked with responsibilities of the highest order in fairly representing the entire student body not only among the various schools, but with Columbia University's central administration, and the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that student Senators can be most effective when they have the ability to access the insight, knowledge, networks, and relationships possessed by previous leaders; and

WHEREAS, many former members of the Columbia University community have continued to become leaders within either own fields, giving them additional valuable experience and insight into how student Senators can impact change at Columbia University;

NOW, THEREFORE,

The Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate of Columbia University in the City of New York hereby adopts the following Statutes, expressly creating a body to be known as the Board of Visitors. The Board of Visitors is charged with serving as an advisory body to the Student Affairs Committee, and will be composed of those alumni who, as described below, exemplified the highest ideals of leadership while at Columbia University, and who continue to achieve the highest levels of success within their chosen profession.

ARTICLE I

The name of this group shall be "The Board of Visitors of the Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate of Columbia University in the City of New York."

1. The express purpose of the Board of Visitors is to support, advise, and assist the current members of the Student Affairs Committee in order to create an environment where student Senators from every school at Columbia University are able to access the resources and knowledge necessary to serve most effectively as a leader within the Columbia University community.
2. The Student Affairs Committee is comprised of elected student Senators from each of Columbia University's various schools and colleges, and, as the only body that fully represents the interests of every student at Columbia University, is *primus inter pares* among the various student-involved governance bodies.
3. We affirm the importance of the mandate held by the Student Affairs Committee, and reaffirm the critical importance of the Student Affairs Committee within University governance.
4. The primary officers of the Board of Visitors shall be the Chair of the Board of Visitors and the Vice-Chair of the Board of Visitors, each elected from among the existing members of the Board of Visitors on staggered terms as described below.
5. Additional officers may be appointed or elected as needed, on like terms as with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

ARTICLE II

The Board of Visitors is not a legal entity. Members have no legal responsibility for the policies or operations of the University Senate, no legal responsibility to, for, or on behalf of the Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York, and no authority to make promises or commitments on behalf of any of Columbia University's governing bodies. The Board of Visitors exists strictly in an advisory capacity.

ARTICLE III

The Board of Visitors shall be appointed or elected to serve and meet under the following guidelines:

1. Members of the Board of Visitors shall be appointed or elected based on a variety of diverse factors.
 - a. As the Board of Visitors is intended to function as an advisory group that can use its members' professional knowledge and experience in order to guide and assist the current student Senators, those chosen or elected to the board should exemplify the ideals instilled within all members of the Columbia University community.
 - b. The Board should consist of members from across the various schools and colleges, with various backgrounds and professions, and should represent the best and most intelligent individuals who are willing and prepared to take on the special responsibility of assisting and advising the Student Affairs Committee.
 - c. While the time commitment is minimal, the importance of member selection cannot be understated. While no firm qualifications are implied, the Board of Visitors should represent the best of University Senate leadership at Columbia University.
 - d. Additionally, particular attention and consideration for membership should be given to former Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Student Affairs Committee.
2. The Board of Visitors shall consist of a total of nine members, with three members elected each year in turn.
3. Each member of the Board of Visitors is appointed or elected to a three-year term on the board. Members can be reelected to one additional consecutive term at the discretion of the Board.
4. Following an individual's service on the Board of Visitors, that person may be appointed a Visitor Emeritus by a majority vote of the seated Board of Visitors. Visitors Emeriti retain the ability to offer advice and counsel, participate in Board discussions and meetings, but do not retain the power to vote, or serve as officers as do full members of the Board.
5. In extraordinary circumstances, the Board may, by unanimous consent, appoint individual alumni of particular merit and accomplishment, and

who have a long and successful record of encouraging and fostering student involvement in University governance, as Honorary Visitors. Honorary Visitors shall carry the same rights and privileges as Visitors Emeriti.

6. The original class of membership of the Board of Visitors shall be entirely appointed in consultation between initial members of the Board of Visitors and the members of the Student Affairs Committee.
7. Of the three members in each yearly class of Visitors, the three new members shall be elected as follows:
 - a. Two members shall be elected by the seated Board of Visitors.
 - b. One member shall be elected by the seated Board of Visitors from a list of candidates given to the Board by the Student Affairs Committee. The Student Affairs Committee shall submit such a list annually to the Board, in consultation with the Alumni Relations Committee.
8. Eligibility for appointment or election to the Board of Visitors is as follows:
 - a. Candidates must have served at least one (1) full year as a member of the University Senate.
 - b. Candidates must have remained in good standing during the entirety of their service within the University Senate
 - c. No current student Senator is eligible to be appointed or elected to the Board of Visitors.
 - d. At least one (1) year must have elapsed since the candidate graduated from the Columbia University degree program wherein the University Senate service took place.
 - e. Candidates may not concurrently serve as an alumni Senator to the University Senate.

ARTICLE IV

The Board of Visitors shall operate under the following guidelines:

1. There shall be one (1) plenary Board of Visitors meeting each year, with the highest ideal being a joint meeting between the Board of Visitors and

the Student Affairs Committee in person. Additionally, all Board of Visitors members are, by their very position, responsible to provide advice and guidance as outlined below.

2. The Board of Visitors shall have the exclusive power to form or abolish any sub-committees as it may desire by a majority vote of its members. Given the small number of members on the Board, it is expected that the Board will generally self-govern under the direction of its Chair and Vice-Chair.
3. Any member of the Board of Visitors may be removed, with or without cause, by a strict majority vote of the current members of the Board of Visitors, irrespective of what constituency they represent. While a temporary replacement may be appointed at the sole discretion of the board, the open seat is to be properly filled by the appropriate constituency as soon as is reasonably possible.
4. Regular meetings of the Board of Visitors, in person or via phone/Internet/teleconference will be coordinated, scheduled and announced by the Chair, or if unavailable the Vice-Chair, at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting.
5. Special meetings of the Board of Visitors, almost exclusively via phone/Internet/teleconference, may be called by the Chair, or if unavailable the Vice-Chair, in order to discuss any extraordinary incidents or circumstances and provide guidance and support to the Student Affairs Committee.
6. At all meetings of the Board of Visitors, a majority of those available and present will constitute a quorum and will allow for business to be maintained, actions to be proposed, acted and voted upon, and for all other matters to be conclusively discussed.
7. The Board of Visitors will self-select, via majority vote, a Chair and a Vice-Chair of the Board. Any member of the Board of Visitors may be selected Chair or Vice-Chair.
8. The Chair and Vice-Chair will serve at the pleasure of a majority of the Board, for a term of one (1) year, and may be re-selected to serve any additional terms by the Board at the Board's discretion.
9. The Chair of the Board of Visitors shall preside at the meetings of the Board of Visitors; in the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair will preside

at the meetings of the Board of Visitors; in the absence of both another member will be appointed amongst those present to preside over the meeting.

10. The Chair, or in his or her absence the Vice-Chair, will maintain primary responsibility for the organization, coordination, and acts of the Board of Visitors. It is expected that given the membership of the Board, in almost all instances the Board will inherently self-govern.
11. Any member of the Board of Visitors may resign at any time by a formal written resignation to the Chair of the Board of Visitors.
12. All meetings of the Board of Visitors will be governed by the most current Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE V

Members of the Board of Visitors are charged with acting in an advisory capacity to the current seated Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate at Columbia University.

In addition to the yearly meeting in conjunction with the Student Affairs Committee, the primary responsibility of board members is both to respond to requests for advice and counsel from the members of the Student Affairs Committee, as well as offer advice and counsel *sua sponte* as the members of the Board shall internally decide.

There is no requirement that the Board act on every matter as a body, as various matters that may present themselves may naturally be handled by particular members of the Board.

As an advisory body with members chosen specifically because of their dedication to the institution and background in leadership while students at Columbia University, the Board will strive at all times to act in the best interests of the Student Affairs Committee, the University Senate, and Columbia University's student body at large.

ARTICLE VI

The Board of Visitors will themselves be responsible for the maintenance of Board minutes, records, and correspondence. Such minutes and records will be made and maintained in conjunction with the Student Affairs Committee and the Secretariat of the University Senate.

ARTICLE VII

At any meeting of the Board of Visitors, called specifically for the purpose of amendment, these statutes, or any other governing document of the Board of Visitors, may be amended by a majority vote of those members present.