

## The Beren Campus Student Government Constitution

Current as of: 04/25/2023



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### Preamble

We the undergraduate students of Yeshiva University's Beren Campus establish this Student Government Constitution to establish the Beren Campus Student Government and its bodies, which will serve to enrich the religious experience of the student body, advocate for and represent the student body to all external bodies, including the Yeshiva University administration, work with the University to facilitate student life on campus, and encourage the free exchange of ideas.

### Article I: Purpose

#### **Section 1: Purpose**

(A) The Beren Campus Student Government (BCSG) shall be the governance body for the undergraduate students of Yeshiva University's Beren Campus. The BCSG shall implement its stated purpose, subject only to the laws of the local and federal governments, policies of Yeshiva University, and the right of review of the President of the University or their designee.

(B) The BCSG shall be responsible for enhancing the religious and educational experience, as well as the general well-being of the student body.

(C) The BCSG shall be responsible for formulating and implementing resolutions that govern the activities of the student body, advocating for the interests of the student body, and representing the student body to the Yeshiva University administration.

(D) The BCSG shall be responsible for recommending the proper allocations of student fees to the President's Office and the Office of Student Accounts and Finance.

## **Article II: Procedure**

### **Section 1: Governing Documents**

(A) This document shall have precedence over all other student governance documents including but not limited to the BCSG bylaws.

(B) The BCSG bylaws shall include authoritative definitions, procedures, and enumerations of duties and powers.

(C) All meetings of BCSG Bodies shall follow Robert's Rules of Order unless stated otherwise.

### **Section 2: Authority**

(A) Independent publications that do not receive funding from the BCSG shall not be subject to BCSG governance.

(B) The BCSG shall reserve the authority to grant or revoke charter and funding to student organizations.

(C) The BCSG shall reserve the authority to create or end initiatives or events.

(D) The BCSG shall reserve the authority to grant or withhold funding to any BCSG initiative or event.

## **Article III: Membership**

### **Section 1: Membership**

(A) The BCSG shall represent all Full-Time Undergraduate Students of the Beren Campus.

(B) The BCSG shall be composed of three branches: The Executive, The Legislative, and The Judicial.

## **Article IV: The Legislative Branch**

### **Section 1: Organization**

(A) The Legislature shall be composed of elected representatives for major demographic bodies on campus.

(B) The Legislature shall elect a Speaker and a Speaker Pro Tempore at the first meeting of the legislative term.

(C) The Speaker of the Legislature shall preside over meetings of the Legislature.

### **Section 2: Procedure and Powers**

(A) The Legislature shall hold all legislative power vested in the BCSG.

(B) The Legislature shall reserve sole authority for approving the fiscal year budget.

(C) The Legislature shall confirm appointments made by the President.

(D) The Legislature shall have the ability to form Special Committees.

- (E) The Legislature shall have the ability to impeach officers.
- (F) The Legislature can overturn a veto of the BCSG President by a two-thirds majority vote.
- (G) All Legislation shall expire at the end of the legislative term. Amendments to the bylaws and the BCSG constitution shall be permanent unless amended.

## **Article V: The Executive Branch**

### **Section 1: Purpose and Membership**

- (A) The Executive Branch shall have all executive authority in the BCSG.
- (B) The Executive Branch shall be composed of the BCSG President, the Religious Affairs Committee, the Executive Vice President, the Finance Committee, and the Cabinet.

### **Section 2: The President**

- (A) The BCSG President shall have authority over nominations to the BCSG.
- (B) The BCSG President shall have veto power over legislation, including in-line vetos on omnibus legislation.
- (C) The President shall have authority over the Cabinet

### **Section 3: The Cabinet**

- (A) Cabinet members shall chair their Executive Branch Committees.
- (B) The Cabinet shall be composed of the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Vice President of Programming, the Vice President of Student Organizations, and the Directors of Administrative Services, Student Support Services, and Communications.

### **Section 4: The Religious Affairs Committee (TAC)**

- (A) The Religious Affairs Committee, hereafter known as TAC, shall oversee all student-run religious activities.
- (B) The Religious Affairs Committee shall be composed of the TAC President and Judaic representatives.

### **Section 5: The Finance Committee**

- (A) The Finance Committee shall have oversight and audit powers over BCSG funds.
- (B) The Finance committee shall have a Chief Financial Officer, Deputy CFO, and Chief Auditor.

### **Section 6: Procedures**

- (A) If the BCSG President is temporarily incapable of performing her duties the Executive Vice President shall act in her stead. If the BCSG President is permanently unable to perform her duties the Executive Vice President shall become the BCSG President and shall appoint a new Executive Vice President who shall be confirmed by a two-thirds majority vote of the legislature.
- (B) Executive Officers may appoint functional staff at the BCSG President's discretion.

## **Article VI: The Judicial Branch**

### **Section 1: Organization**

- (A) The Judicial Branch shall be composed of the Court and the Elections Commission.
- (B) The Court shall consist of a Chief Justice, four Associate Justices, and a Justice Pro

Tempore.

(C) The Elections Commission shall be composed of a Commissioner and two Deputy Commissioners.

### **Section 2: Procedures and Powers**

(A) All judicial powers of the BCSG shall be vested in the Court.

(B) All proceedings of the Court shall be presided over by the Chief Justice or, if she is not available, the Temporary Chief Justice.

(C) The Court shall preside over and make final rulings on any impeachment proceedings brought by the Legislature.

(D) The Court shall have original jurisdiction over the constitutionality of the actions of any body of the BCSG, the constitutionality of BCSG-recognized student organizations and their actions, and conflicts between BCSG-recognized student organizations or BCSG groups.

(E) The Elections Commission shall have jurisdiction over all BCSG elections.

## **Article VIII: Amendments**

### **Section 1: Constitutional Amendments**

(A) Amendments to the BCSG Constitution must be ratified by two-thirds of the Legislature and three-fifths of votes cast excluding blanks in a general election.

### **Section 2: Bylaws Amendments**

(A) Amendments to BCSG Bylaws shall be ratified by either a two-thirds vote of the Legislature, or by three-fifths of the votes cast excluding blanks in a general election.

## **Article VIII: Ratification**

### **Section 1: Ratification**

(A) This constitution shall be ratified by majority vote of the student government as stated in the previous constitution.

(B) Ratification of this constitution shall take effect for the coming academic year (2023-24).

## **Article IX: Elections**

### **Section 1: Elections**

(A) Elections shall be administered by the elections commission in accordance with the manner specified in the BCSG Bylaws, including the enforcement of eligibility requirements

### **Section 2: Elected Positions**

(A) All members of the Legislature, the BCSG President, Executive Vice President, TAC President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President of Programming, and Vice President of Student Organizations shall be elected.

**Article X: Anti Discrimination Policy****Section 1: Anti Discrimination Policies**

(A) Members of the BCSG shall not discriminate, including but not limited to race; ethnicity; nationality; gender; sexual orientation; age; disability; religious, spiritual, or humanistic belief or lack thereof; health status; political affiliation or ideology; or socioeconomic standing.