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A Message from Student Senate President on the Constitution

To the student body: On March 8, 1994, the Student Senate formally approved a new Constitution for the student government of Houghton College. By taking this action, the Senate is sending a clear message to the student body and administration alike: it is time for the students of Houghton College to take control of their own destinies and be a legitimate power base on campus. For far too long the Senate has been viewed as an impotent organization that is long on talk and short on action. But finally, after a year of seemingly endless research, numerous drafts, heated deliberations, and, finally, approval by the Senate, the new Student Government Constitution is completed.

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After passing the Senate by a two-thirds majority vote and the Student Development Council by a unanimous note, the Constitution is now ready to be approved by the student body. However, in order to be ratified it is necessary for a majority (50% + 1) of the entire student body to vote in favor of passing this Constitution. This is problematic given the fact that, typically, not even 50% of the student body votes, let alone votes with the same mind. This is why I am taking the time to write this letter to

you to encourage you to be a part of shaping the future of the Houghton student body for the years to come. Having said this, let me outline the changes that have been made to the old Constitution in the formulation of this new document, and how these changes will affect the student body as a whole.

First, the structure of the current Student Senate has been entirely redesigned. As it now stands, the Student Senate operates as a Parliamentary System; that is, there is no separation of powers between the legislative (the Senate) and the executive (the Cabinet) branches of government. This has led, in the past, to a conflict of interest in Senate. Since the President is the Chair of the Senate meetings, and is responsible for setting the agenda at every meeting, and since each of the Cabinet members (i.e. Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) has a voting privilege in Senate, it is very easy for the President to manipulate the proceedings of each meeting. Under the new Constitution, this problem will be effectively eliminated because the structure of government is being switched to a Presidential System, much like the United States government. No longer is the President in charge of meetings. Instead, a member of the

Senate, who is elected by the other Senators, shall be responsible for the organization and direction of each Senate meeting. The President and the Cabinet members will essentially be eliminated from the proceedings of Senate (except for the Vice-President who will only vote in the case of a tie). This will give Senators much needed autonomy to make decisions without outside pressure from the President.

Because the power is now being split, the name of our government will no longer be the Student Senate, but the Student Government Association, referred to as SGA. Within the SGA, there will be two branches: The Senate (legislative) and the Executive Cabinet (executive). By dividing the power within the government, the new Constitution creates two power bases. Both the Senate and the Executive Cabinet have the ability to introduce legislation, thus creating competition between the two branches, which will in turn stimulate the formulation of newer and better ideas by each branch-to the ultimate benefit of the student body. Also, since the Cabinet is no longer controlling each Senate meeting and since the Senate will be truly an autonomous unit within the SGA, Senators will be forced to

initiate their own ideas. This should serve to stimulate the interaction of each Senator with his/her own constituency (i.e. class, commuter, etc.) and help to meet the needs of the student body more effectively.

Another major benefit of the new Constitution is that it places stringent "checks" upon the financial aspect of the SGA. Previously, the old Constitution did not require that Senate funds be accounted for, allowing previous Senate Administrations to incur a large debt that we are still trying to pay off today. Now, the new Constitution requires that the **Commissioner of Finance** (formerly called the Treasurer) be a person who has completed at least one year of accounting and is hired (not elected) following an interview with a search committee. Also, the SGA books will be reviewed by an independent accountant at the end of every spring semester to insure that all funds have been spent properly and are accounted for. One last requirement that is stipulated by the new Constitution is that all contracts and check requests will be signed by the President, the Commissioner of Finance, and one of the SGA faculty advisors. This will ensure that no money will be spent in any improper manner. Many other changes and

additions have been made in this new document, most of which have been for the sake of clarity. For example, the election procedure and eligibility requirements for office have been explicitly stated, as have the job descriptions and removal procedures for Cabinet members. However, despite the many changes found within this new Constitution, the intent of the former Constitution has been preserved.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with this document so that on election day you can make a wise decision regarding the approval of this Constitution. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to talk with your Senators or any member of the Cabinet about this issue Remember, in order to pass, the Constitution needs a 50% + 1 vote of The Entire Student Body (over 500 "Yes" votes). Therefore, it is imperative that everyone vote in this election. Your Vote Does Matter! So go to the polls on March 28 and make a real difference.

Without your support we will no be able to implement these needed changes.

Sincerely, Ricardo E. Romero Student Body President

VOTE * MARCH 28 * VOTE * MARCH 28 * VOTE * MARCH 28 * VOTE * MARCH 28 *

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE HOUGHTON COLLEGE

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION Approved by the Student Senate:

March 8, 1994

ARTICLE I

Section A: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Houghton College, hereinafter referred to as S.G.A.

Section B: GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY This governance document is subject to the provisions of the Houghton College Constitution. In the event of differences between this document and the College Constitution, the provisions of the latter, as they pertain to the student body, shall prevail.

Section C: PURPOSE OF THE S.G.A. OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

The purpose of this organization shall be to represent, express, and execute the will of the student body of Houghton College; to control the S.G.A. treasury; to allocate the student activity fee in conjunction with the Financial Affairs Council; to act on matters concerning more than one class; to provide a forum for discussion on matters of policy affecting the organizations and clubs of the student body; to help resolve collegiate problems; to make statements on behalf of the student body to the appropriate committee or council on matters concerning faculty and administrative affairs and policies; to have the authority in harmony with the College Constitution and Bylaws to regulate student affairs; to provide guidance and direction to all student organizations; to serve as a channel for communication between student organizations, college committees and councils; and to contribute in whatever ways possible to the spiritual and physical growth, development, and well-being of Houghton College.

Article II: DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS

Section A: S.G.A. shall be organized into two branches: the Executive and the Legislative.

1. The Executive Branch shall consist of the S.G.A. President and the Executive's Cabinet (hereinafter referred to as Cabinet).

2. The Legislative Branch shall consist of the Senate.

Section B: No person or group of persons in any one of these branches shall exercise power belonging to the

other branches, except as hereinafter expressly directed or permitted.

ARTICLE III: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section A: S.G.A. PRESIDENT

The S.G.A. President shall have the following powers and duties:

 To act as the chief executive and official representative of the S.G.A. to the Houghton College Faculty, Administration, and Board of Trustees.
 To act with the Senate and the members of the S.G.A. Cabinet to enforce this constitution and to administer the policies, procedures, standards and legislation of the Senate. The President is accountable to, and subjected to review by, the S.G.A.
 To propose legislation and activities to the

Senate. 4. To be responsible for coordinating the activities of the S.G.A., and to ensure communication between the

two branches of the S.G.A.
5. To be ultimately responsible for the welfare of S.G.A. including notification to all relevant parties in writing of decisions rendered by the Sanate. To maintain

writing of decisions rendered by the Senate. To maintain proper correspondence with other branches of government and the campus community in reference to Senate bills.

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6. To have the responsibility, in conjunction with the Executive Cabinet, for approving and signing any and all contracts binding upon S.G.A.

7. To be ultimately responsible for all S.G.A. funds. To review all S.G.A. check requests as submitted by the Commissioner of Finance and to sign above stated check requests. To submit all check requests to the

S.G.A. Advisor for review, approval, and signature.
8. To be responsible for ensuring that all S.G.A.
financial statements are reviewed during the spring semester no later than three weeks prior to the General Elections. The President, in conjunction with the Executive Cabinet, shall be responsible for the hiring of an independent accountant to perform this review.

9. To serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of all standing S.G.A. committees, as well as the Student Development Council and the President's Advisory Board.

10. To have veto power, by the close of the next official Senate meeting, over any Senate legislation he/ she deems appropriate.

11. To call and preside over meetings of the

Cabinet and to coordinate their activities. 12. To appoint an Executive Assistant. To appoint and dismiss S.G.A. Executive Committees and chairs at his/her discretion (Executive Committees will be formed solely for the purpose of the Executive Branch activities, which are not Senate-related). To appoint (subject to Senate approval by majority vote of all active members present), and remove the temporary Cabinet members as deemed appropriate.

13. To report to the Senate on the activities, goals and progress of the Executive Branch.

14. To organize, in conjunction with the

Executive's Cabinet, the incoming Freshman class. 15. To have such other powers as are necessary for the fulfillment of the duties of this office that are consistent with the other provisions of this Constitution.

Section B: S.G.A. VICE-PRESIDENT The Vice-President shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To act as the Deputy Chief Executive and Deputy Official Representative of S.G.A. to the Houghton College Faculty, Administration, and Board of Trustees, acting on behalf of the President of S.G.A. in his/her absence.

2. To act in conjunction with the Senate and the members of the S.G.A. Cabinet to enforce this Constitution and to administer the policies, procedures, standards and legislation of the Senate.

3. To call sessions of the Senate to order and to be responsible, in conjunction with the Speaker of the Senate, for the content of the Senate agenda at each session. In the event that the Vice President is going to be absent, he/she shall appoint a member of the S.G.A. cabinet to call the meeting to order in his/her stead.

 To serve as an ex-officio member of the Senate, with no voting privileges.

5. To act as a liaison between the Senate and the S.G.A. Cabinet. This shall include the responsibility for overseeing the timely notification in writing of the Senate and the S.G.A. Cabinet concerning all Senate sessions and all relevant internal S.G.A. and Senate matters.

6. To notify all relevant parties in writing of decisions rendered by the Senate. To maintain proper correspondence with other branches of government and the campus community in reference to Senate bills.

7. To appoint, within two (2) weeks of being elected, a parliamentarian. This Parliamentarian must be approved by simple majority (50% +1) vote of all active members of Senate.

 To serve as an ex-officio Chair of the Campus Activities Board, hereinafter referred to as C.A.B.
 To supervise the C.A.B. with the assistance of

the Commissioner of Activities. 10. To be accountable, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Finance, for all monies allocated to Senate and the C.A.B.

 To oversee all other C.A.B. responsibilities and functions as specified in a C.A.B. constitution.
 To act as Chair of the Freshman Homecoming

Committee. 13. To have such other powers as are necessary for

the fulfillment of the duties of office that are consistent with the other provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE CABINET

Section A: The Executive Cabinet, hereinafter referred to as the Cabinet, will consist of no more than eight (8) members. Five (5) of the six (6) permanent members shall be elected by the student body. They shall be referred to as the President, the Vice-President, the Commissioners of Communications, Activities, and Chaplain. The Commissioner of Finance shall be a part-time paid position hired by the President subject to the approval of Senate. The President may appoint up to two (2) temporary Commissioners, subject to the approval of Senate.

Section B: The members of the Cabinet are responsible

for assisting the S.G.A. President in executing his/her policies. In pursuant thereof, Cabinet members are accountable to, and subject to review by, the S.G.A. President and the S.G.A. Senate and are responsible for fulfilling all obligations provided for in their respective duties in this Constitution.

Section C: COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE The Commissioner of Finance shall be hired following an interview by the S.G.A. President-elect and an ad-hoc search committee. The Commissioner of Finance will be hired pending a majority (50% +1) approval of the Senate. The Commissioner of Finance must have successfully completed one year of college accounting and demonstrate a working knowledge of accounting. The Commissioner of Finance shall be paid minimum wage not to exceed the Student Activities Scholarship allotted for the position.

The Commissioner of Finance will be required to have seven (7) office hours per week. The Commissioner of Finance shall have the following

powers and duties: 1. To be responsible to the President for executing

S.G.A. approved resolutions.

2. To be responsible, in conjunction with the S.G.A. President, for all S.G.A. funds. To review, approve, sign, and submit all check requests to the S.G.A. President and the S.G.A. Advisor for review and approval.

 To be responsible to the S.G.A. for the budgeting and the actual recording of all monies of the two branches of S.G.A., including C.A.B.
 To submit a written report on an every other

 To submit a written report on an every other week basis to the Senate concerning the financial status of all S.G.A. departments and S.G.A. monies.
 To assure that S.G.A. funds are audited on a bi-

annual basis.
To be responsible for notifying the S.G.A.
President concerning the status of all S.G.A. funds. To advise the S.G.A. President on all financial matters relating to S.G.A. funds, fund raising and spending decisions.

7. To serve on the Executive Committee of the C.A.B.

 To adhere to all obligations in this constitution.
 To have such other powers as are necessary for the fulfillment of the duties of office that are consistent with other provisions of this constitution.
 Section D: COMMISSIONER OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Commissioner of Communications shall have the following powers and duties: 1. To be responsible to the S.G.A. President for

executing S.G.A. approved resolutions. 2. To keep an accurate record of all Senate activities

and to perform all clerical duties assigned by the Cabinet. 3. To perform general clerical duties for all Senate business, including the minutes and agendas of all Senate meetings.

4. To serve as the communication link between S.G.A. and the faculty, staff and administration of Houghton College as well as the surrounding community.

5. To work closely with the student medias (Boulder, Star, and WJSL), Student Development Office, college publications, and news services to publicize S.G.A.sponsored events within and outside the Houghton community.

 To make use of other sources of communications for S.G.A. including, but not limited to, on campus electronic media, other on campus publications and offices, and off campus sources.

7. To be responsible for the content and upkeep of the S.G.A. information boards, using them as means to promote S.G.A. events, activities and information.

 To adhere to all obligations in this constitution.
 To have such other powers as are necessary for the fulfillment of the duties of office that are consistent with other provisions of this constitution.

Section E: COMMISSIONER OF ACTIVITIES The Commissioner of Activities shall have the following powers and duties:

 To be responsible to the S.G.A. President and Vice-President for executing S.G.A. approved resolutions.
 To prepare and submit a budget for activities to the Commissioner of Finance and the S.G.A. Vice-President for approval.

3. To plan, coordinate, implement, and evaluate the C.A.B. programs with the Vice-President.

4. To make sure that Senate is informed of the progress and concerns of the C.A.B.

 To act as the C.A.B. spokesperson by responding to questions, comments, and concerns brought to the C.A.B.
 To work closely with the Commissioner of Communications arranging and coordinating the publicity

for C.A.B. sponsored activities.To adhere to all obligations in this constitution.

 To perform all other C.A.B. responsibilities and functions as specified in a C.A.B. constitution.
 To have such other powers as are necessary for the fulfillment of the duties of office that are consistent with

other provisions of this constitution.

Section F: S.G.A. CHAPLAIN

The S.G.A. Chaplain shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To serve as a member of the Committee on Spiritual Life.

2. To be responsible to the S.G.A. President for executing S.G.A approved resolutions.

3. To prepare a devotional for each Senate and S.G.A. Cabinet meeting as well as scheduled S.G.A. Chapels.

4. To assist the Class Chaplains with ministry on campus.

5. To work closely with both the Director of

Spiritual Life and the campus ministries.To help, promote and shape the spiritual life of

the student body.
To have such other powers as are necessary for the fulfillment of the duties of office that are consistent with other provisions of this constitution.

ARTICLE V: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The name of the Legislative Branch shall be the S.G.A. Senate of Houghton College, hereinafter referred to as The Senate

Section A: TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP — DEFINED Members of this organization shall be of three

types: active, associate, and honorary. 1. Active membership shall consist of: five senators from each duly constituted class, one commuter senator, as well as one outreach senator (as specified in the Bylaws Art. 1, Section B).

2. Associate membership shall consist of: five persons chosen by the Freshman class from among its own number to serve until the class is duly constituted; active members who have been reduced to associate status; student representatives to college councils who do not possess active membership; a designate from the Houghton Star.

3. Honorary membership shall consist of: two faculty advisors nominated and elected by the Senate. Section B: SENATE POWER

1. Override a veto of the S.G.A. President by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total active membership by the close of the next official Senate meeting.

2. The Senate shall elect a Speaker of the Senate from its membership by a simple majority (50% + 1)vote of all active members present within two weeks of the S.G.A. general election. Upon election, the Speaker of the Senate shall lose his/her voting privilege as a Senator, voting only in the case of a tie. The vacant Senate seat created by this election will not be filled. 3. While all students shall have the right to debate

3. While all students shall have the right to debate on any issue, only active and associate members shall have the right to bring motions before the Senate; and only active members shall have the right to vote. The presiding officer shall not vote except to break a tie. Section C: THE OFFICERS OF SENATE

 Officers of the Senate shall be the Speaker of the Senate and the Vice President of the S.G.A.
 The duties of the Vice President of the S.G.A.

are enumerated in ARTICLE III, section B, of this constitution. Section D: THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE The Speaker of the Senate shall have the following

powers and duties: 1. To speak on behalf of the Senate on official

matters, upon authority of the Senate. 2. To Chair the Senate meetings under the

supervision of the Vice-President. In the event that the Speaker of the Senate is going to be absent, he/she shall appoint a temporary chair from the active membership of the S.G.A. Senate.

3. To undertake other duties as assigned by the Senate.

4. To be responsible in conjunction with the Vice-President for the content of the Senate agenda at each session.

5. To become a non-voting member of the Senate, once elected. The Speaker of the Senate shall be allowed to vote only in the case of a tie.

Section E: ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP Any student shall be eligible for election to active membership, provided that the requirements of the duly constituted class or organization represented are met, and the student has a cumulative quality point average of 2.0 or higher.

Section F: DUTIES OF MEMBERS 1. ATTENDANCE

Members shall attend all meetings. Absences of any active member in excess of two (2) per semester, except as excused by the S.G.A. Vice-President, shall result in the member being reduced to the status of associate member for the next two (2) meetings. A fourth unexcused absence during any year shall constitute forfeiture of any member's seat on the Senate; the affected class or organization shall elect a successor, upon notification by S.G.A. Vice-President. Paragraph a. Proxies. Any active or associate

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member may send a proxy to a meeting of the Senate. The proxy must be a member of the class or organization represented. The member sending the proxy shall be counted absent.

Paragraph b. Extended absences. Any member anticipating a forced absence from campus for two or more consecutive regular meetings shall request the class or organization the member represents to elect a proxy. The member shall not be counted absent.

Status. In all cases the proxy shall Paragraph c. assume the status of the absent member. SENATE SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Senators shall provide assistance at Senate-sponsored activities as requested by the S.G.A. Cabinet. Failure to comply shall be deemed equivalent to one-half (1/2) an absence from a Senate meeting. ACCOUNTABILITY

A representative from each duly constituted class or organization represented shall report back to the respective class or organization on current Senate proceedings. The member who fails to give such a report at the request of the respective class or organization president will be counted absent from one Senate meeting. Section G: S.G.A. SENATE MEETINGS

REGULAR MEETINGS Regular meetings shall be held on every Tuesday evening while the college is in regular session. Senate sessions will be limited to a maximum of one (1) hour. As

necessary, a three-fourths (3/4) vote of all active members present may alter the one (1) hour limitation for individual instances. SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings may be called by the President, the Vice-President, or at the written request of one-quarter (1/ 4) of all active membership of Senate. Notification of the time, date, place, and purpose shall be given at least three days in advance, except in cases of emergency. OUORUM

The quorum shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of active membership of the Senate.

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the Senate in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution,

and its Bylaws, or any special rules of order which the Senate may adopt. Section H: THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Parliamentarian shall have the following powers and duties:

To advise the Senate in matters of parliamen-1. tary procedure through maintaining a working knowledge of the current edition of Robert Rules of Order and the S.G.A. Constitution and its Bylaws. To maintain an ongoing file of Senate recom-

mendations and motions, and provide an S.G.A. Constitution and Bylaws along with advice on parliamentary procedure to new senators.

Article VI: ELECTIONS

The Election Commissioner shall have general supervision of the election administration under the auspices of the S.G.A. Cabinet.

Section A: PETITIONS

Students seeking election to any position on the S.G.A. Cabinet shall, on the date designated by the Election Commissioner, submit a petition signed by seventy-five members of the student body. Section B: ELIGIBILITY

All candidates for a S.G.A. Cabinet position shall attend at least four Senate meetings and two S.G.A. Cabinet meetings prior to their election; the President may waive this requirement for a good cause. Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates shall have cumulative quality point averages of 2.75 or higher. After election, their averages may not drop below a 2.5 without loss of office. No candidates shall be on disciplinary probation including those appointed by the President. Commissioners and the Chaplain shall have and maintain average GPA's of 2.5 or higher. The President and Vice-President shall be a Junior or Senior during the time of office (except at the beginning of their term in the spring semester). The Commissioners of Finance, Communicaties and Chaplain shall be either Sophomore, Junior, or Senior during the time of office (except at the beginning of their term in the spring semester). Elected officers may run for reelection. Section C: ELECTION PROCEDURE

The General Elections of the S.G.A. Cabinet shall be held six weeks prior to the end of the spring semester. The officers to be elected during the General Elections shall be! President, Vice-President, Chaplain, and Commissioners of Communications and Activities. The President shall be elected by a majority (50% + 1) of the ballots cast. In the event that no candidate for the office of President receives a majority of the ballots cast, the two candidates receiving the most votes will participate in a run-off election which will be held on the same day as the S.G.A. Senate elections.

The S.G.A. Senate elections shall be held two weeks after the General Elections. S.G.A. Senators shall be elected by a plurality vote for the top five voterecipients winning the election. Class Senators, Commuter Senators, and Outreach Senators shall be elected by their respective constituencies.

The Election Commissioner shall determine the exact date of the General Elections and S.G.A. Senate elections, the date by which petitions are due, and such other dates as may be incident to this election procedure. Petition deadlines set by the Election Commissioner are firm- no last minute candidates shall be allowed except in extreme cases, which are to be determined by the Election Commissioner.

In cases where students are unable to be present on the day of elections, including those students attending the Buffalo campus, it is the student's responsibility to request an absentee ballot from the Election Commissioner. Absentee ballots must be returned no later than one week prior to the date of the elections to be considered valid. The Election Commissioner shall be responsible for keeping the absentee ballots sealed until the day of elections, when they shall be opened by the Election Commissioner and counted along with the rest of the ballots.

Article VII: REMOVAL, VACANCY, RESPONSI-**BILITIES, AND MEETINGS**

Section A: REMOVAL PROCEDURES

President and Vice-President The Senate may initiate proceedings Paragraph a. to remove the President or Vice-President from office by a majority (50% + 1) vote of all active members of the Senate. The total length of these proceedings, from the original vote by the Senate to impeach to the President's or Vice-President's response to the allegations, must take no more than four (4) regular Senate sessions. Paragraph b. During these sessions a Senate member must demonstrate probable cause and present the evidence against the President or Vice-President.

Possible cause for impeachment is limited to the following: Conviction of any felony or misdemeanor (1)(excluding minor traffic violations).

Intentional violations of the S.G.A. constitution. (2)Intentional violation of Houghton College (3) regulations and policies.

Immediately after the impeachment Paragraph c. proceedings are approved by Senate, the Speaker of the Senate shall appoint an investigative committee and its chair. The responsibility of this committee is to investigate the charges and present a report on their findings to the Senate. The President or Vice-President must respond to the accusations by the next Senate meeting. At the next meeting, the Senate must take the vote regardless of whether the President or Vice-President responds to the allegations. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all active members of the Senate will result in impeachment of the President or Vice-President.

Cabinet members

The Senate may initiate proceedings to Paragraph a. remove a cabinet member from office by request of the President or a member of Senate. This must be approved by a majority (50% + 1) vote of all active members of the Senate.

Possible cause for removal is limited to the following: Conviction of any felony or misdemeanor (1)

(excluding minor traffic violations). Intentional violations of the S.G.A. constitution. Intentional violation of Houghton College (3)

regulations and policies.

The person who brings the charges shall be responsible for presenting the evidence one (1) week following the initial vote of Senate.

The Cabinet member in question must Paragraph b. respond to the allegations by the next Senate meeting. A two-third (2/3) vote of all active members of the Senate will result in the impeachment of the Cabinet member.

The removal proceedings for the President, Vice-President and Cabinet members, once initiated, cannot be tabled.

Section B: VACANCY OF OFFICE

In the event the President is unable to fulfill the duties of or vacates the office of President, the Vice-President shall assume all of the duties and powers of the President. In case of vacancy of any other office, the Senate shall elect a successor. Any student seeking to fill the vacated position must meet the eligibility requirements of that position, with the exception of the attendance of prior meetings; the student must have submitted a petition to the S.G.A. Cabinet at least one week prior to the election.

Section C: RESPONSIBILITIES The newly elected officers shall assume their responsibilities one month prior to the end of the second semester. The S.G.A. Vice-President, in consultation with the Speaker of the Senate, shall exercise general supervision of the affairs of the Senate between its meetings, set the place, time, and order of business of all meetings of the Senate, and perform other duties as are outlined by this Constitution and its

Bylaws. In cases where the S.G.A. Vice-President or the Speaker of the Senate are unavailable to act on behalf of the Senate, the President shall be empowered to act in the name of the Senate. The S.G.A. Cabinet shall have charge over the affairs of the in-coming Freshman class until the class is duly constituted. Section D: MEETINGS OF THE S.G.A. CABINET The S.G.A. Cabinet shall meet between regular sessions of the Senate. Special meetings of Cabinet may be called by the President or the Vice-President in the President's absence.

ARTICLE VIII: INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNANCE

Section A: The S.G.A. shall be involved with committees of four types: governing councils, college committees and boards which provide for student participation, standing S.G.A. Senate committees, and Ad-Hoc S.G.A. committees. The governing councils, committees, and boards shall be composed and function as provided in the College Constitution. Standing S.G.A. committees shall be described in this Constitution and its Bylaws.

Section B: COUNCILS, COLLEGE COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, S.G.A. STANDING COMMITTEES It shall be the responsibility of the Senate to elect student members to college boards, committees and councils, except as otherwise expressly provided by the College Constitution. These elections shall be completed before the end of the semester in which the Senate takes office. All students should be encouraged to participate. Section C: AD-HOC S.G.A. COMMITTEES

Senate Related Ad-hoc committees are established by Paragraph a. a motion which must state the purpose of the committee. The Vice President shall determine Paragraph b. the committee size and shall appoint all members, designating one as chair.

The committee shall make regular Paragraph c. reports to the Senate during the time of its tenure, and shall cease to exist when its purpose is accomplished, when the term of the Senate that formed it is ended, or by action of the Senate.

Non-Senate Related 2 Ad hoc committees are established by a Paragraph a.

motion which must state the purpose of the committee. Paragraph b. The President shall determine the Paragraph b. committee size and shall appoint all members, designating one as chair.

The committee shall make regular Paragraph c. reports to the President during the time of its tenure, and

Article IX: THE CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD

S.G.A. The CAB shall be responsible for planning, organizing, and funding campus activities and entertainment; shall supervise and coordinate activities of committees responsible for Homecoming, Parents' weekends, and Winter Weekend; shall promote Campus Center recreational activities; and shall be responsible to both the S.G.A. and the Dean of Student Development.

The S.G,A. Vice-President, S.G.A. Commissioners of Finance and Activities, and the Director of Student Programs shall be members ex-officio. Members elected by the Senate shall be two students, of whom only one can be a senior. One faculty member from the Campus Activities Committees shall be elected by the Campus Activities Committee; and one faculty member at-large shall be elected by the faculty.

Section B: ORGANIZATION

The S.G.A. Vice-President shall be the chair, the S.G.A. Commissioner of Activities shall be the co-chair, and the Commissioner of Finance shall be the treasurer. A Secretary shall be selected at the first regular meeting. The Board shall meet at least once a month. Reports of activities must be given to the Senate on a regular basis. Each semester, financial reports shall be submitted to the Senate. The Board shall carry out duties as assigned by this Constitution and its Bylaws.

Section C: ELIGIBILITY FOR REPRESENTATION Any member of the student body who is not on academic or disciplinary probation shall be eligible to be nominated to serve on college boards, committees, and councils. Section D: REMOVAL

Senate shall be empowered to remove any student member which it has elected to any boards, committees and councils. To accomplish such a removal, Senate shall at a regular meeting pass a motion indicating intent to consider

removing the member at its next regular meeting. At this next meeting, Senate may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all active members of the Senate, remove the student member. A new member shall be elected and subject to the same constraints and qualifications as if being elected at the beginning of the term.

shall cease to exist when its purpose is accomplished.

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) shall be a branch of the

Section A: MEMBERSHIP

SPECIAL

STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION * VOTE * MARCH 28 * VOTE *

ARTICLE X

Section A: RATIFICATION

This Constitution shall become operational on March 1, 1995, following its approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total active membership of the Senate and a majority (50% + 1) vote of the total student body. Section B: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may originate by a twothirds (2/3) vote of the total active membership of the Senate, or by a petition of ten per cent of the student body. Amendments shall be presented to the student body at least one week prior to voting on the amendment. A majority (50% + 1) vote of the total student body is necessary to adopt the amendment. Section C: BYLAWS

The Senate may establish Bylaws to this Constitution, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total active membership of the Senate, provided that the Bylaw has been submitted at the previous regular meeting. A Bylaw may be nullified only by the same process. No Bylaw shall contradict any clause of this Constitution.

BYLAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I: SENATE REPRESENTATIVES

Section A: COMMUTER SENATOR There shall be a Commuter Senator representing the commuter students of Houghton College. This Senator shall be selected by a commuter board established prior to the Senate elections. The Commuter Senator shall be responsible for relaying the concerns of the commuter students to the Senate. This board shall work with the Election Commissioner to elect the new Commuter Senator two weeks following General Elections. The Commuter Senator shall be an active member of Senate. Section B: OUTREACH SENATOR There shall be an Outreach Senator as stated in the S.G.A. Constitution. This Senator shall represent all of those organizations receiving monies from the Christian Outreach Fund. The Outreach Senator shall be in contact with the leaders of the organizations they represent, prior to the Senate meetings that they will attend. They shall give updates on ways that the money is being used and alert the Senate to specific needs that the groups may have which might be met through support from the Senate. They shall work with the Election Commissioner and the outreach leaders to elect the new Outreach Senator following the General Elections. The Outreach Senator shall be an active member of the Senate.

ARTICLE II: APPOINTED SENATE POSITIONS

Section A: ELECTION COMMISSIONER

The President shall appoint an Election Commissioner within the first four weeks of the fall semester. The Commissioner will coordinate the General Elections and the Senate elections. The Election Commissioner shall also work with the Class, Outreach, and Commuter election coordinators in the election of Senators and S.G.A. Cabinet members. The Commissioner shall be the Chair of the Election Board ex-officio. The Election Commissioner shall determine the exact date of the General Elections and the S.G.A. Senate elections as well as the date by which petitions are due, and such other dates as may be incident to this election procedure. The Election Commissioner will also be responsible for checking the eligibility of each candidate for office. Section B: EXTENDED CABINET

The President shall have the ability to appoint an extended cabinet, as many as two (2) commissioners, subject to Senate approval, by majority (50% + 1) vote of the active members present (see Article IV, Section A of the S.G.A. Constitution), to assist in specific duties of the cabinet. Although those appointed will not receive any financial compensation they will have equal voting rights while on the Executive cabinet.

ARTICLE III: REPRESENTATIVES TO COUN-CILS, COMMITTEES, AND BOARDS

Section A: STUDENT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL The Senate shall designate one of its two Student Development Council members to act as a resource person for the Trustees' Committee.

Section B: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL The two students selected for the Academic Affairs Council by the Senate shall not be from the same academic division. Section C: CAMPUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE Senate representatives on the Campus Activities Committee may not nominate or vote for sub-committee representatives who have not been nominated specifically for those Campus Activities subcommittees by the Senate. This does not apply to the Music representative on the Artist Series Committee. Section D: OTHER COUNCILS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

The Senate shall have the power to designate such other members as necessary to represent the student body on other councils, committees and boards.

ARTICLE IV: STANDING SENATE COMMIT-TEES

Section A: HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE The Health Services Committee shall consist of two students, of whom one shall be a senior or junior, and preferably one who shall not be a senator; and one a designated representative from the Health Center. This committee shall serve as a liaison between the Health Center and the student body. Section B: ELECTION BOARD

The election board shall consist of the Election Commissioner, one Election Coordinator from each class, and one student elected by the Senate. The Election Commissioner shall be Chair ex-officio. This committee also works with the Outreach and Commuter senators to fill these positions. The purpose of this Committee is to coordinate the elections of Class Senators, and S.G.A Cabinet members, as this will facilitate a smooth transition, avoid confusion, bring about a better representation of actual student wishes, and allow for a faster transition. The Election Board shall follow election guidelines stated in the S.G.A. Constitution and its Bylaws.

Section C: CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE The Constitution Committee shall consist of the President of the S.G.A., the Parliamentarian, the Commissioner of Communications, one Senator who has served for at least one year as a Senator, and one student. The committee shall make recommendations for any necessary changes to the S.G.A. Constitution and its Bylaws. The committee shall be responsible for settling disputes concerning the interpretation of the S.G.A. Constitution and its Bylaws. The committee shall also be responsible in conjunction, with the Student Development Office for settling disputes between the S.G.A. Constitution and Bylaws and any class or organization constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE V: CONCURRENCE

Section A: CONCURRENT CABINETS At the time the newly elected Cabinet takes office, the members of the previous cabinet shall provide assistance until the end of that semester, so as to foster an efficient transition.

Section B: SENIOR CLASS SENATORS Senior Class Senators shall serve as active members on Senate until the end of the spring semester.

ARTICLE VI: GUIDELINES OF THE CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD

Section A: POWERS OF THE MEMBERS As stated in the S.G.A. Constitution, only the Commissioner of Finance, the Commissioner of Activities, the Director of Student Programs, the two faculty members, and the two student representatives shall have the right to vote. The Vice-President shall vote only in case of a tie. Section B: GOALS

In addition to the goals stated in the S.G.A. Constitution, the Campus Activities Board shall work to present at least two free events per semester.

Section C: SUB-COMMITTEES

Homecoming Committee, Parent's Weekends Committee, and Winter Weekend Committee shall be sub-committees of the Campus Activities Board. Each of the aforementioned shall consist of two students elected by the Senate, and such other persons as needed to assist them. The board may create and elect other subcommittees as are necessary to fulfill its purposes. Section D: GUIDELINES ON BOARD EXPENDITURES

Expenditures of over \$500.00 must have the approval of a majority of the members of the board. In the event that the whole board cannot convene, the Chair, Commissioner of Finance, and the Director of Student Programs shall act as an executive committee with the power to approve expenditures. Campus organizations planning activities open to the entire student body may petition the Board for financial assistance. Petitions must be stated in writing and presented to the Board in person by a representative of the organization making the request. At the discretion of the Board or its chair, the Senate may be consulted in regard to proposed expenditures. Section E: COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE'S VETO The Commissioner of Finance shall have sole veto power over any program planned by the board. The Commissioner must submit a financial reason for this veto to the Chair of the Campus Activities Board. The Board may override the veto with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all active members present. If the veto is overridden, the proposed program is referred to the Senate for approval.

Section F: ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD

In addition to the members specified in the S.G.A. Constitution, other persons may have membership on the Campus Activities Board in a non-voting capacity. These persons are not required to attend meetings of the Campus Activities Board, except when the Vice-President requests a progress report in their area of specialty or responsibility.

Director of Concert Planning

The Director of Concert Planning shall be appointed by the Vice-President. The Director of Concert Planning shall be responsible for the scheduling and managing of Campus Activities Board concerts. The Director of Concert Planning shall contact various artists' agents to secure information on availability, date, time, and other information for performances at Houghton; and may appoint the following individuals as deemed necessary: Paragraph a. Concert Reception Director who shall be responsible to see that all areas of the contract and rider dealing with food, lodging, and the comfort of the artist and company are fulfilled.

Paragraph b. The Director of Merchandising who shall be responsible for setting up, providing personnel for, and directing if necessary, concessions of the artist on the day of the concert.

Paragraph c. Head of Concert Security who shall be responsible for finding persons to work as security personnel before, during, and after the concert.

Paragraph d. Stage manager who shall be responsible for setting up concerts, direction of staging, and fulfilling any equipment requirements as specified by the artists' contract and rider.

2. Senate Spot Director

The Senate Spot Director shall be appointed by the Vice-President and shall be in charge of all scheduling and planning of spots sponsored by the Campus Activities Board and is responsible for the screening of any act. 3. Study Break Coordinator

The Study Break Coordinator shall be appointed by the Vice-President and shall be responsible for planning Campus Activities Board study breaks, late-night breaks, and other special events. 4. Coffee House Coordinator

The Coffee House Coordinator shall be appointed by the Vice-President and shall be responsible for planning Campus Activities Board coffee houses, arranging for varying types of performers, and arranging for snacks and refreshments.

Marketing Director

The Marketing Director shall be appointed by the Vice-President and shall coordinate all Campus Activities Board publicity, both on- and off-campus.

Sound Director

The Sound Director shall be appointed by the Vice-President and shall be in charge of managing and maintaining the Campus Activities Board equipment. 7. Other non-voting members

The Vice-President may appoint any non-voting members to coordinate activities as may be required. Section G: REMOVAL OF VOTING MEMBERS In order to remove any voting member from the Campus

Activities Board, the procedure as set out in the S.G.A. Constitution for removal of committee members must be followed.

ARTICLE VII: REVIEW OF S.G.A. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. It is the responsibility of the President to ensure that all S.G.A. financial statements are reviewed during the spring semester no later than three weeks prior to the General Elections. The President and the Executive Cabinet shall be responsible for the hiring of an independent accountant to perform this review.

2. The Senate shall have the power, if it so deems necessary, to require an additional review of all S.G.A. financial statements. This review shall require the hiring of an independent accountant and will require a majority (50% +1) vote of all active members of Senate. Such a review may only be performed once at the end of the Fall Semester.

ARTICLE VIII: SENATE ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment of the Senate meeting shall require a majority (50% + 1) vote of all active members present. The order of voting shall be **No vote**, **Yes vote**.