Preamble:
This document shall serve as the Constitution for the student government at Wentworth Institute of Technology. It shall provide the basis upon which the student government will function as a body politic of the Wentworth community.

Student Leadership Clause:
Wentworth Student Government shall abide by the rules and regulations of the Office of Student Leadership Programs, and Wentworth Institute of Technology. This Constitution, amendments made thereto, and the by-laws of this organization shall be written in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.

Article I: Introduction

Section A: Name
This organization shall officially be referred to as Wentworth Student Government, and shall be abbreviated as WSG.

Section B: Tenets
WSG shall have four tenets: Integrity, Community, Justice, and Leadership.

Section C: Term and Sessions
WSG shall function in two distinct sessions each term. Terms shall run from the first day of classes in the fall until the day before the first day of classes the following fall. Participation in regular session and summer session shall be required as long as a member is enrolled in Wentworth Institute of Technology and in Boston. WSG shall be in regular session from the first day of classes in the fall until the last day of finals in the spring. WSG shall be in summer session from the last day of finals in the spring until the first day of classes in the fall. Summer session shall be defined as an active session with at least three Executive Board members from regular session and at least three Representative Senate members from regular session. WSG shall operate under the same rules during summer session as during regular session, except that no major changes may be made to the Constitution.

Article II: Purpose
The purpose of WSG is to act as a conduit between the students, faculty, and staff at Wentworth Institute of Technology; to encourage responsibility through democratic self-governance; to work with the administration to influence educational programs, student life, and administrative management of the Institute; and to further the interests of the student body.

Article III: Membership

Section A: Eligibility
Any enrolled student at Wentworth Institute of Technology who maintains a 2.0 Grade Point Average shall be eligible for general membership.

Section B: Revocation of Membership
Clause 1: Review Committee
Should it be necessary, a Review Committee consisting of the Executive Board and the advisor shall be set up to evaluate the behavior of a member, general or elected.
Any member of the Executive Board subject to review shall not serve on the Review Committee.
All decisions regarding the removal of a member shall be made by the Executive Board acting in the capacity of the Review Committee. However, the advisor shall attend all meetings and make a recommendation to the Executive Board before a final decision is made. A two-thirds majority vote of the Review Committee, excluding the advisor, shall be required for the removal of a member from WSG.

**Clause 2: Reasons for Removal**

Should an infringement of academic or institutional regulations be made by a member of WSG, general or elected, that person shall be brought up for review.

Any member, general or elected, who has three unexcused meeting absences in any given semester, shall be brought up for review.

**Clause 3: Review Procedure**

A member subject to review shall be notified by the Review Committee and is expected to schedule a meeting with the Review Committee within one week of initial contact.

A member subject to review who does not respond within one week shall be suspended from WSG until they meet with the Review Committee.

**Article IV: Organizational Structure**

**Section A: The Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall be comprised of a President, Student Affairs Officer, Academic Affairs Officer, Internal Affairs Officer, Public Relations Officer, and a Financial Officer.

**Clause 1: Responsibilities of Executive Board members**

The duties of the individual members of Executive Board shall be as follows:

**President**

Act as a spokesperson for the student body.

Responsible for facilitating all internal communication.

Chair Executive Board and Senate meetings.

Set goals for WSG and report accomplishments to the student body.

Act as a liaison to outside organizations and other colleges.

Prepare an agenda for Senate and Executive Board meetings.

Call a special meeting of the Senate when a matter is imperative and cannot wait until the next Senate meeting.

Call open meetings of the Executive Board.

Plan the WSG retreat.

**Student Affairs Officer**

Act as Vice President when necessary.

Maintain and advise committees dealing with student affairs, which include but are not limited to residential life, student clubs and organizations and general student concerns.

Prepare reports for Executive Board meetings.

Act as liaison to the Division of Student Affairs.

Responsible for coordinating, overseeing and advising Residence Hall Association (RHA) Vice Presidents who serve in the Representative Senate.

**Internal Affairs Officer**
Oversee the elections processes and the Elections Committee.
Record minutes at Senate and Executive Board meetings.
Report the minutes from the previous Senate or Executive Board meeting at the start of each Senate or Executive Board meeting.
Maintain Lconnect “WSG Committee” group.
Responsible for managing and publishing a WSG newsletter.
Make general WSG announcements and be responsible for email contact.
Record attendance at Senate and Executive Board Meetings.
Maintain expert knowledge of the WSG Constitution.
Report members who have three unexcused absences for review to the Executive Board.

**Public Relations Officer**

Advertise and recruit for WSG.
Conduct research and polling.
Create and run WSG events.
Assist in student leadership training for clubs and organizations.
Prepare reports for the Executive Board meetings.
Organize at least one fundraiser per term to benefit WSG, other organizations on campus, or an outside charity.
Maintain Lconnect “WSG Forum” group and WSG Website.

**Academic Affairs Officer**

Maintain and advise committees dealing with academic affairs, which include but are not limited to concerns with academic clubs and organizations.
Prepare reports for Executive Board meetings.
Act as liaison to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

**Financial Officer**

Maintain WSG budget.
Prepare reports for Executive Board meetings.
Assist with student club and organization budget issues.
Act as WSG liaison to Student Financial Committee.

Clause 2: Responsibilities of the Executive Board

The duties of the Executive Board as a whole shall be as follows:

Act in the best interest of the student body at Wentworth as a whole.
Review decisions of the Senate when deemed necessary.
Review and accept applications for the WSG General Senate.
Act as the Review Committee for special circumstances including but not limited to judiciary matters.
Perform Joint Senate responsibilities.

Section B: The Representative Senate
Clause 1: Representative Positions

(a) The Representative Senate shall be comprised of as many as eleven seats for the following positions:

- The Vice President of each RHA, or another RHA member if there is no Vice President, shall serve as a WSG representative for their respective residence halls.
- One for non-residential students, including commuting and DPCS students.
- Two to represent the interests of the engineering departments, which include the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environment, the Department of Computer Science and Systems, and the Department of Electronics and Mechanical. These representatives shall maintain direct communications with their respective department heads.
- Two to represent the interests of the design departments, which include the Department of Architecture, and the Department of Design and Facilities. These representatives shall maintain direct communications with their respective department heads.
- One to represent the interests of the Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Management, and the Department of Math and Applied Sciences. This representative shall maintain direct communications with their respective department heads.
- One for all athletic teams and clubs. This representative shall maintain direct communications with the Athletic Director.
- One for all student clubs and organizations. This representative shall maintain direct communications with the Student Leadership Planning Director.
- One for the general student body.

Clause 2: Voting

Members of the Representative Senate shall vote on any proposals brought forth for which a vote is appropriate.

Members of the Representative Senate shall have one vote each.

Clause 3: Responsibilities

Voice the concerns of their constituent group, as well as those of the student body as a whole.

Report back to constituents.

Perform Joint Senate responsibilities.

Section C: The General Senate

The General Senate shall be comprised of all persons who apply and are accepted to the General Senate.

Clause 1: Membership

Membership in the General Senate is outlined as followed:

- Membership is defined as any person who attends the first meeting of the semester, obtains and completes an application, and is approved by the Executive Board. In order to retain membership, that person must attend the next meeting.
- A student wishing to join the General Senate mid-semester must fill out an application after any meeting and attend the next two meetings. That person is considered a member of the General Senate after role call of their third meeting following completion and approval of their application by the Executive Board.

Clause 2: Voting

Members of the General Senate have no voting rights except for non-binding consensus-gathering purposes.
Clause 3: Responsibilities
Perform Joint Senate responsibilities

Section D: The Joint Senate
The Joint Senate shall be comprised of all members of the Representative Senate, the General Senate, and the Executive Board.
The Joint Senate may be referred to in this document and elsewhere simply as the Senate; and whenever the term, the Senate, is used it shall be understood to refer to the Joint Senate and not either the Representative Senate or the General Senate, unless otherwise and specifically noted.

Clause 1: Responsibilities
Bring forth concerns of the Wentworth community.
Serve on committees to which they are appointed by members of the Executive Board.
Vote in their appointed committees.
Attend all Senate meetings.

Section E: Committees

Clause 1: Committee Structure
Each committee shall consist of Representative and/or General Senate members appointed by the appropriate or relevant Executive Board officer under which the committee’s issue falls. The officer shall either serve as or appoint a committee chair who shall keep the Executive Board officer informed of the progress of the committee. The chair shall also present findings at Senate meetings.

Clause 2: Standing Committees
(a) Elections Committee:

Responsibilities:
Organize and moderate official and impartial candidate debates, moderated discussions, forums and/or elections materials and events.
Coordinate the voting process.
Enforce the elections policies.

Impartiality assurance:
Any member serving in any capacity wishing to run for office shall not serve on the Elections Committee during the application and election processes.

Section F: The Advisor

Clause 1: Advisor Position
The WSG advisor shall be the Director of Student Leadership Programs.
In the absence of the advisor a temporary advisor may be appointed by the advisor with approval of the Executive Board.
The President of Wentworth Institute of Technology, the Vice President of Student Affairs, and the Dean of Students shall be honorary advisors if they so desire.

Clause 2: Responsibilities
Counsel the organization in a positive direction. The advisor shall not dictate the endeavors of
WSG.
Provide feedback on all relevant matters.
Remain informed regarding the actions, decisions and aspirations of WSG and consult frequently with the members of the Executive Board.
Assist in training and development of leadership roles in all members.
Verify candidate qualifications and eligibility as outlined in this document.

Article V: Meetings

Section A: Meetings of the Joint Senate

Clause 1: Requirements for Official Meetings
The President or Student Affairs Officer shall be present.
The Secretary or someone appointed by the Secretary to act in his/her capacity shall be present.
A quorum is required and is defined as one-half of the members of the Representative Senate plus one-half of the Executive Board.
Meetings shall be open to the Wentworth community unless closed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board. Accurate minutes must be kept for all closed meetings, as well as open meetings.
Following the acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting, the Secretary shall present any submissions from the general public in written form to the Senate. All submissions shall be read aloud by the Public Relations Officer or the President at this time.

Clause 2: Open Forums
There shall be an open forum allowing all members of the Wentworth community to participate in an open discussion regarding matters relevant to WSG and the Wentworth community at least once a month. This forum shall be announced to the campus at least one week in advance.

Any member of the Wentworth community wishing to address WSG during any Senate meeting may request to do so by contacting the President within a reasonable period of time beforehand. The President is not required to grant such a request, however, and may defer the comments and concerns of any non-members to the designated open forum times should he/she see fit, except for those submitted in written form which are to be read aloud at the start of each meeting.

Clause 3: Procedure

(a) Obtaining the floor
To obtain the floor, a member shall raise his/her hand and be recognized by the President.
In order for a member to be recognized, the member previously holding floor must have already yielded it.

(b) Motions
Only a member may make a motion.
In order for a motion to move forward, it must be seconded by another member.

(c) Debates

(i) Moving to debate
A member must first obtain the floor in order to move to debate.
Once a member has motioned to debate a topic, it must be seconded and accepted by the President.

The member who made the motion has the option to clarify the motion with the President before it is stated to the Senate.

(ii) **Conducting a debate**

Only the member holding the floor may speak.

When a member has concluded his/her point, he/she must yield the floor.

In the event that two members should seek recognition during a debate at approximately the same time, the following statements dictate the course of action as listed in order of preference:

(a) The member who is defending or clarifying his/her motion or statement is given preference.

(b) The member who has not yet spoken is given preference.

(c) The member with an opposing opinion of the one previously stated is given preference.

It is the duty of the President to suppress any disorder and protect the member who is entitled to the floor.

After a member has been awarded the floor he/shall cannot be interrupted by a member or the President, except by

(a) a motion to reconsider;

(b) a point of order;

(c) an objection to the consideration of the question;

(d) a call for the orders of the day, when they are not being conformed to;

(e) a question of privilege;

(f) a request or demand that the question be divided when it consists of more than one independent resolution on different subjects

(g) a parliamentary inquiry

(h) a motion to suppress a debate and move to vote on a question, for which a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate is required.

Once a motion to vote on a proposal has been made and seconded, the President shall obtain the proposal from the person who made the motion.

The President shall then ask the Senate if they are prepared to vote on the proposal. If none rises to debate further, the proposal shall be put forth for a vote.

(iii) **Suppressing a proposal, vote or debate**

A two-thirds majority vote of the Senate is required to suppress a proposal, vote or debate.

A majority vote by the Executive Board may also suppress a proposal, vote or debate if a vote to do so by the Senate has not already occurred and failed.

(iv) **Executive Board Review of Senate Decisions**

Once a decision has been made through a vote of the Senate on a proposal, it may be reviewed by the Executive Board, which may overturn any decision by a two-thirds majority vote as long as no more than two members of the Executive Board are absent or abstain from the review vote. Review of a decision shall be conducted in the following manner:
An Executive Board member must make a motion to review the Senate decision. In order to move forward to discuss and eventually vote on the decision to be reviewed, the motion to review must be seconded by a member of the Executive Board.

No more than five minutes per Senate proposal will be given for Executive Board review during a Senate meeting.

If the Executive Board so chooses, it may review a Senate decision at an Executive Board meeting, but any vote to overturn a Senate decision must be made within fourteen days. If the Executive Board fails to meet this deadline the Senate’s decision shall stand.

If the Executive Board overturns a Senate decision during a Senate meeting, it cannot be brought before the Senate in its original or an amended form until the next meeting.

Section B: Meetings of the Executive Board

Clause 1: Requirements For Official Meetings

The President or Student Affairs Officer must be present.

The Secretary must be present unless both the President and Student Affairs Officer are present. In the absence of the secretary, the Student Affairs Officer will assume the role of Secretary.

No more than two members of the Executive Board can be absent.

Clause 2: Meeting Policies

Meetings of the Executive Board shall be conducted as its members see fit.

Accurate minutes must be kept for all meetings of the Executive Board.

Meetings of the Executive Board shall generally be closed to the public. Meetings can be opened to the public at the President’s discretion.

Executive Board members shall use meeting time to review Senate decisions when deemed necessary, and discuss possible proposals to be brought before Senate committees and other business specific to the Executive Board.

Article VI: Elections

Section A: Term of Office

The term begins on August 1st and is released on July 31st of the following calendar year.

Section B: Qualifications

Clause 1: Executive Offices

All applicants must be a student of Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Applicants must have successfully completed 12 credits (earned hours) at Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5.

All applications must be completed.

Candidates must participate in any official and impartial candidate debates, moderated discussions, and/or elections materials and events administered by the Elections Committee.

A person must not be on any form of probation.

Applicants may only run for one position.

Clause 2: Representative Senate
Applicants must be enrolled at Wentworth Institute of Technology. Aside from the D.P.C.S. Representative, all applicants must be enrolled in at least 12 credits at the institute. Applicants must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0. Applications must be completed. Candidates must participate in any official and impartial candidate debates, moderated discussions, and/or elections materials and events administered by the Elections Committee. Applicants must not be on any form of judiciary probation. Applications may only run for one position.

Section C: Election Procedure

Clause 1: Elections Rules and Procedures
The Elections Rules and Procedures shall be written for each election by the election committee to put forth all requirements not stated here.

Clause 2: Application Process
Applications must be completed in the timeline set forth by the elections rules and procedures.

Clause 3: Election Process
The election process shall occur in the last month of the Spring semester. The candidate with a plurality shall assume the position to which they were elected. The position does not become official unless the candidate has accepted it. Should the winner of an election decline to accept the position, it shall be offered to the person who received the next highest number of votes, and so on.

Clause 4: Write-in Candidates
Write-in candidates shall be required to meet the qualifications described in the Elections Rules and Procedures. If a write-in candidate receives a plurality for their position, they shall assume the position to which they were elected. The position does not become official unless the write-in candidate has accepted it. Should the winner of an election decline to accept the position, it shall be offered to the person who received the next highest number of votes, and so on.

Clause 5: Sanctions
Violations of any WSG election rules shall be met with sanctions, as determined by the Elections Rules and Procedures.

Section D: Special Elections

Clause 1: Fall Elections
An election shall be held each fall to fill any positions that were not filled during the Spring Elections. This election shall have its own set of Election Rules and Procedures in which modifications to procedures can be made if seen fit by the Elections Committee. Elections for Residence Hall representatives shall be held by RHA during this election.

Clause 2: Impromptu Elections
An impromptu election shall be held in the case a position needs to be filled as soon as possible. The following guidelines will apply.
An impromptu election may be called for by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board.
Clause 3: Sanctions

Violations of any WSG election rules shall be met with sanctions, as determined by the Elections Rules and Procedures.

Article VII: Amendments

Section A: Making a Minor Change

Clause 1: Definition

Any change which would not alter the existing intent of the sentence, phrase, paragraph or contextual section in which the change is made constitutes a minor change.

Clause 2: Procedure

Minor changes shall be treated as a regular debate topic and are to be brought before the Senate, debated according to the rules of debate.

Section B: Making a Major Change

Clause 1: Definition

Any change which would alter the existing intent of the sentence, phrase, paragraph or contextual section in which the change is made, and/or the addition of new or removal of existing clauses constitutes a major change.

Clause 2: Review

All amendments shall be reviewed by the advisor, who may choose to issue a recommendation on passage, before the final vote, but shall not be subject to approval or denial by the advisor.

Clause 3: Procedure

(a) Internal Changes

The following shall be the procedures for making a major change to the Constitution.

The change shall be brought before the Senate and debated according to the rules of debate.

There shall be at least two public meetings to which the entire Wentworth community shall be invited, which shall be held at least one week in advance of a vote on the passage of the amendment. The Wentworth community shall be notified of the time, date and location of these meetings, at which all members of the community shall be allowed to offer comments.

The amendment shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the Representative Senate for passage.

Once the Representative Senate has passed the amendment, it shall then be considered for passage by the Executive Board, for which a two-thirds majority vote is also required.

An amendment passed by the Representative Senate and the Executive Board shall go into effect immediately, unless deferred to a later date as specified within the amendment itself.

(b) External Changes

A section of the Constitution may be challenged by the student
**For this to happen the following must occur.**

A petition shall be obtained from the WSG office.

The petition shall be submitted detailing the proposed change, including exact language, reasoning and the intended or desired results that the proposed change would elicit.

The petition shall contain signatures from no less than fifteen percent of the entire student body.

If the petition is valid, the change shall be addressed at the next Senate meeting, at which point a committee including members of the Representative Senate and the Executive Board shall be formed to organize a vote of the general student body, which must be held during or before the next scheduled spring or fall elections.

WSG may choose to take a stance or make a recommendation on the proposed change, which may appear as an opinion on the ballot.

A three-fifths majority vote of all students choosing to vote shall be required for passage of the proposed amendment.

An amendment passed by the general student body shall go into effect immediately, unless deferred to a later date as specified within the amendment itself.