

# CONSTITUTION

Lansing Community College Chapter  
Of the  
Michigan Association for Higher Education

## ARTICLE I. Name and Structure

The name of this organization shall be the Lansing Community College Chapter of the Michigan Association for Higher Education, which is affiliated with the Michigan Education Association and the National Education Association.

## ARTICLE II. Purposes

- Section 1. To improve and promote the role and functions of higher education in the state and community.
- Section 2. To promote the best possible education for all students in the college and all potential students in the community.
- Section 3. To offer an effective means of involving faculty in decision making on all academic and institutional matters.
- Section 4. To facilitate communication among all segments of the college.
- Section 5. To promote and improve the professional and economic status of all faculty.

## ARTICLE III. Membership

Section 1. Active Members: All professional persons, both full- and part-time, employed and engaged in instruction and related instructional services who meet the active membership requirements of the Michigan Educational Association may, upon payment of dues as herein provided, become active members of this Association.

Only active members may vote.

Section 2. NEA/MEA Members: Active members of this organization shall also be members of the Michigan Educational Association and the National Education Association.

Section 3. No member shall be censured, suspended, or expelled without a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by the Senate. An appeal may be made to the Regional Board of Reference or MEA Board of Reference if no Regional Board exists.

## **ARTICLE IV. Officers and Senate**

### Section 1. Officers

- A. The Association officers of the Chapter shall consist of:
  - 1. President
  - 2. Vice President
  - 3. Past President
  - 4. Secretary
  - 5. Treasurer
  - 6. Ombudsman/Grievance Chair
  
- A. Terms of officers shall be two (2) years except during negotiation years, when elections shall be held after contract ratification.
  
- B. All officers must be active full-time or part-time Chapter members at the time of election. (See Constitution, Article III for definition of Members.) Any officer no longer employed at the College must petition the Senate for approval to complete the term of office.
  
- C. All officers upon election must be completing at least their second year or fourth semester, whichever is longer, of employment at the College.

### Section 2. Governing Body (Senate)

- A. Chapter Officers – President, Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Ombudsman/Grievance Chair, and all Elected Delegates shall hold the same offices in the Senate.
  
- B. Senators shall be elected in each department/program. Senate representation shall be on the basis of one Senator for each thirty (30) active Chapter members or major portion thereof within each department/program. All departments/programs or divisions with fewer than fifteen (15) active Chapter members may elect one Senator.
  
- C. All Senators must be active Chapter members.
  
- D. The term of office of a Senator shall be two (2) years.
  
- E. Executive Council shall consist of the President, Past President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Ombudsman/Grievance Chair, and Chair or Co-Chairs for the faculty negotiation team.

- F. Replacement. Any member of the Senate who is absent from three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the Senate may no longer be considered a member of the Senate, and the position may be declared vacant by the Senate. Vacancies in office shall be filled according to procedures provided in the By-Laws.
- G. NEA Delegates, MEA-RA Delegates, MAHE Board Delegates and Region Council Delegates shall be Ex-Officio Senators.
- H. All members of the Executive Council shall be considered members of the Senate.

**ARTICLE V. Direct Legislation**

Section 1. Initiative and Referendum. The rights of popular initiative and referendum shall rest with the active membership of the Association. Upon receipt of a petition signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the active membership of the Association, the elected Secretary shall announce a general referendum as indicated on the petition within fifteen (15) calendar days for the purpose presented in the petition. A majority of the total active membership shall be required for its adoption, which shall take effect thirty (30) days later.

Section 2. Recall.

- A. Petitions for recall of any member of the Executive Council and any elected Delegate shall be filed with the elected Secretary of the Association.

Signatures of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the active membership of the Association shall be required to initiate a recall election. Within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of such petitions, the Secretary shall announce a recall election to be held within thirty (30) days after the announcement is made. A majority of the active membership shall be required for recall, and the office shall be immediately declared vacant.

- B. Petitions for recall of any Senator shall be filed with the elected Secretary of the Association. Signatures of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the active membership of the department shall be required to initiate a recall election. Within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of such petitions, the Secretary shall announce a recall election to be held within thirty (30) days after the announcement is made. A majority of the active membership of the department/program shall be required for the recall, and the office shall be immediately declared vacant.

## **ARTICLE VI. Membership**

The membership year shall be September 1 through August 31.

## **ARTICLE VII. Amendments**

Section 1. Constitution. Amendments to this Constitution may be introduced at any regular meeting of the Senate. A copy of the proposed amendment, together with the recommendations of the Senate, shall be sent to each member of the Association at least one (1) week before voting. Vote on the proposed amendment shall be at a meeting of the Chapter Membership no sooner than two (2) weeks after introduction but not later than two (2) subsequent regular Senate meetings or by ballot within thirty (30) days of introduction. A two-thirds affirmative vote of those casting ballots is required to adopt the proposed amendment, which shall become effective immediately upon adoption unless otherwise provided.

Section 2. By-Laws. The By-Laws may be amended by majority vote at any regular Senate meeting provided notice of the proposed amendment if filed with the Secretary and presented at a Senate meeting at least four (4) weeks before the one at which it is to be voted on. Amendments to By-Laws have immediate effect unless otherwise provided.

## **ARTICLE VIII. Dues**

The local dues of the Chapter shall be determined by the Senate for all members.

Section 1. Dues of the Association shall consist of the total amount of local, state, and national dues.

Section 2. The annual NEA, MEA, MAHE dues shall be paid to the Treasurer as provided for in the Master Agreement.

Section 3. Local dues shall be set by the Senate upon recommendation of the Treasurer and Executive Council.

Section 4. Special assessments may be levied on the recommendation of the Senate with the approval of the membership.

*Revised and Adopted January 29, 2007*