Constitution Of the

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Massengale Residential Center Senate

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**Article I: Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Massengale Senate.

**Article II: Purposes**

A. To serve as the student government of the Massengale Hall at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

B. To continually work to initiate and coordinate efforts to enhance the living and the learning environment of the Massengale Residential Center to work jointly with the Division of University Housing and the Residence Hall Association to create and alter policies designed to establish and maintain such an environment.

C. To encourage and coordinate the all-campus representation of the residents of the Massengale Residential Center.

D. To communicate to the residents of the Massengale Residential Center any information pertinent to them.

E. To discuss, to act upon, and to communicate the opinion of the residents of the Massengale Residential Center on matters of interest to them.

F. To facilitate the acquisition of knowledge.

G. To promote unity and loyalty.

H. To encourage the development of leadership.

I. To establish a sense of belonging on campus.

J. To assist the Massengale Residential Center in the development of self-responsibility through participation.

**Article III: Membership**

Section 1: Eligibility

A. This organization shall not discriminate in the selection of members of appointments when discrimination is defined as denying individuals membership or appointment on the basis of a person’s age, race, national origin, color, gender, creed, handicap, or sexual orientation.

B. A student becomes a member of the Massengale Senate upon signing a contract for residence in the Massengale Residential Center and shall be entitled to participate in all its activities as here-in-after outlined as long as said student remains a resident of the Massengale Residential Center.

Section 2: Method of Selection Representatives of the Massengale Senate

A. Massengale Representatives Representatives

1. Massengale Hall representatives shall consist of two members from each floor unit.

2. Floor representatives shall be elected by each floor at the beginning of the fall semester to hold office for the following academic year.

3. Floor representatives shall consist of three representatives per floor. It is recommended that two representatives come from traditional housing style and one representative be from the apartment style housing.

Section 3: Revoking Membership

A. There is no way to revoke general membership in the Massengale Association of Resident Members, as long as said student is a resident of the Massengale Residential Center

B. Membership of the governing body of the Massengale Association of Resident Members- the Massengale Senate- shall be revoked as outlined in Articles IV and V of this constitution.

**Article IV: Executive Board**

The officers of the Massengale Senate shall be President, Primary Programmer (Vice-President), Treasurer, Secretary, Two RHA Representatives.

Section 1: Duties of Officers

A. President

1. The President shall call all meetings of the Massengale Senate and call and preside over all Executive Board meetings and Senate meetings.

2. The President may call special meetings at any time.

3. The President shall, with approval of the Massengale Senate, appoint members to special committees as called for by the Senate.

4. The President shall meet on a regular basis with the advisor of the Massengale Senate.

B. Primary Programmer (Vice-President)

1. The Vice-President shall supervise all committees and committee meetings to insure completeness and efficiency of the committee’s duties.

C. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall keep an itemized record of all receipts and disbursements of the Massengale Senate.

2. The Treasurer shall present a report of the financial standing of the Massengale Senate at every Senate meeting.

D. Secretary

1. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all Massengale Senate meetings, distribute minutes to Senate members, and take roll call at all Senate meetings.

E. Residence Hall Association Representatives

1. The RHA representative shall attend all RHA Senate meetings.

2. The RHA representative shall present a report of all RHA Senate meetings and activities to the Massengale Senate.

Section 2: Election of Officers

Each officer shall meet the following requirements in order to be eligible to hold an elected or appointed office.

A. Qualifications of Officers

1. Have a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0 or higher.

2. Be a resident of the Massengale Residential Center and be of good moral standing.

3. Not be an A-Line or B-line Housing Staff member of a student assistant.

B. Nomination and Election Procedures

1. Massengale will attempt to hold elections in the Spring to fill the offices of President, Primary Programmer (Vice-President), and Treasurer. If these positions are not filled, there will be an election in the Fall to fill the remaining positions.

2. Any Massengale Residential Center member interested in an officer position will complete an application process monitored by the advisor.

3. All residents of the Massengale Residential Center will be eligible to vote by secret ballot.

4. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared the winner. If any one candidate fails to receive a majority, a runoff shall be held immediately between the two candidates receiving the highest votes on the first ballot.

5. The winning candidate shall take office at the start of the semester for which they were elected and shall hold said office until a successor is elected or appointed.

Section 3: Procedure to fill vacancies

A. Should a permanent vacancy occur in the office of the Presidency, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President.

B. Should permanent vacancies occur in the positions of President and Vice-President, or any other executive position, these vacancies shall be filled in the manner described in Article IV, Section 2 of this constitution, with the exception that these elections shall be held at the Massengale Senate meeting immediately following notification of the vacancy.

Section 4: Impeachment Proceedings against Officers

A. Valid grounds for impeachment from office shall be failure to discharge the duties of office, failure to meet eligibility requirements for holding said office, or the commission of an act which is judged to be unfitting for the person holding said office.

B. An officer can be impeached by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Massengale Senate at regular meeting, or by a simple majority vote at a special meeting announced to the residents of the Massengale Residential Center one week in advance of the special meeting.

C. An officer being impeached shall have the right to defend oneself.

**Article V: Organization Structure**

Section 1: Executive Board

A. The executive board shall consist of all elected and appointed officers of the Massengale Senate as outlined in Article IV of this constitution, as well as the Massengale Senate Advisor.

B. The duties of the Executive Board shall be to review Massengale Senate policies and recommend any changes, to supervise the activities of the Massengale Senate, and represent the views of the residents of the Massengale Residential Center to other organizations and administrative bodies.

C. The executive board shall meet at least once between every regular Massengale Senate meeting.

D. The executive board shall coordinate the representation of the Massengale Senate during the Spring, Summer, and Winter breaks, as directed by the Massengale Senate.

Section 2: Massengale Senate

A. The Massengale Senate shall consist of all floor hall representatives and the Executive board.

B. The duties of the Massengale Senate are outlined in Article VIII of this constitution.

Section 3: Floor Governments

A. Each floor shall have its own representatives, of three (3) floor representatives, and any other officers deemed necessary for the proper functions of the floor. Floor government organization shall be determined by each individual floor.

B. Floor governments shall have floor representatives elected within two weeks of the opening of the residential center the next fall.

**Article VI: Meeting Procedure**

Section 1: Frequency

A. The Massengale Senate shall meet on a bi-weekly basis, or as established by the Massengale Senate.

B. The Massengale Senate shall meet only when such a meeting is called by the President.

Section 2: Attendance

A. Senate members shall be allowed two (2) unexcused absences. Missing three (3) or more regular meetings per semester without an approved excuse by the President or Advisor, constitutes that senate member’s resignation from office.

B. Floor government shall be allowed four (4) total unexcused absences for floor representatives per semester. Missing five (5) or more regular meetings shall result in a loss of the ability to submit legislation.

Section 3: Quorum

Quorum shall consist of at least 50% of all elected and appointed officers and representatives of the Massengale Senate.

**Article VII: Regulatory Powers**

The Massengale Senate shall be the supreme governing body of the Massengale

Residential Center. The Massengale Senate shall be the Legislative, Executive, and

Judiciary authority in all matters concerning the Massengale Complex, except as

specifically delegated by this constitution, the Massengale Senate, and University or State

and Federal regulations.

**Article VIII: Finance**

A. The Massengale Senate shall receive funding from an appropriation as specified by the Residence Hall Association.

B. The Massengale Senate shall not receive any additional funding from dues or any other financial obligation placed upon the residents of the Massengale Residential Center.

C. The Massengale Senate shall supervise all income from any source through the Massengale Senate Treasurer.

D. The Massengale Senate shall allocate funds through the legislative process.

D. The Treasurer shall act as a liaison between all income or receipts, funds

appropriated, and activities of the Massengale Senate.

E. All funding shall be handled through Student Organization Financial Services (SOFS).

**Article IX: Advisors**

A. An advisor of the Senate or Executive Board shall be an A-line or B-line administrative staff member or faculty member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

B. An advisor or advisors for the Senate or Executive Board, shall be appointed at the beginning of each academic year by the Executive Board with the approval of the Senate.

C. An advisor shall serve a term concurrent with a full academic year, unless removed by a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate.

D. An advisor of a body shall have the same rights of debate as a voting member of the body, but shall not have the right to make, second, or vote on the motions of the body.

**Article X: Petitions**

Section 1: Types

A. Initiative

A petition with verified signatures of five (5) percent of the general membership of the Massengale Association of Resident Members shall bring a proposal before the Senate. A proposal brought forth in this manner must be voted upon by the Senate within two (2) regular meetings after the petition’s verification.

B. Suspension

1. A petition with the signatures of ten (10) percent of the general membership of the Massengale Senate shall suspend a decision of the Senate.

2. A petition of this sort must be received by the President within twenty-eight (28) days of the decision.

3. Suspension of this sort shall take effect immediately upon verification of the petition.

4. A suspension of this sort may be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

C. Referendum

1. A petition with the signatures of fifteen (15) percent of the general membership of the Massengale Senate shall require the Massengale Senate to hold an election to approve or disapprove the proposal of the petition within two (2) weeks of the petition’s verification.

2. A proposal of this sort shall be approved by a majority of those general members voting in the said referendum election.

Section 2: Form and Content

A. The title “Massengale Senate Petition” and the request of the petition shall be clearly stated at the top of each page of the petition.

B. Each signer shall clearly sign name, hall, and room number, where applicable, for the signature to be valid.

C. The Executive Board shall verify a petition within 48 hours of its receipt by the President.

**Article XI: Amendments**

Section 1: Proposal

A. Amendments to the constitution may be proposed by:

1. A simple majority vote of the Massengale Senate.

2. A petition submitted with valid signatures of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the residents of the Massengale Residential Center.

B. Amendments to the Constitution must be proposed at least two weeks prior to the annual general election of officers.

Section 2: Adoption

A. Amendments to the constitution shall be adopted in a meeting of the Massengale Senate by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a seventy-five percent (75%) quorum meeting.

B. Amendments shall be approved by the ASUN and the Faculty Committee on Student Organizations.

**Article XII: Distribution of Finances/**

**Proper Business Activity**

No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, of other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payment and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, of otherwise participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing of distributions of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this constitution, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law)

**Article XIII: Process for Dissolution**

Upon the dissolution of the Massengale Association of residents, the officers and advisors shall after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities, dispose of all the assets of the Massengale Senate exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purpose as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization. Under section 501C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the officers and advisors shall determine. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Office of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, exclusively for such purposes to such organization(s), as determined by the Office of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

**Article XIV: Adoption of This Constitution**

This constitution shall go into effect immediately upon the approval of two-thirds (2/3) majority vote the Massengale Senate, and approval of ASUN, the Residence Hall Association, and the Faculty Committee on Student Organizations. This Constitution shall supersede any and all previous constitutions of the Massengale Senate.