

**MIAMI SOUTHRIDGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT BODY GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION**

(Ratified December 5, 1980)

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be Miami Southridge Senior High School Student Body Government.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Miami Southridge Senior High School Student Body Government is to help develop an understanding between student and administration; to provide leadership for the student body; to develop a sense of unification within the school and community; and give equal representation for each student at Miami Southridge Senior High School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

The power of Student Body Government shall be defined and approved by the Principal. The Principal shall have authority to veto any action or legislation developed by the Student Body Government, however, this should only take place after discussion between the Executive Board and of the Student Body Government and the Principal, in order to show good faith.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

The Student Body Government will consist of a House of Representatives. These individuals shall be elected by fellow classmates in their respective homeroom.

An alternate shall be elected by each homeroom and will be the runner-up in the representative election. The alternate may attend meetings of the House of Representatives only if the representative is unable to attend.

ARTICLES V: OFFICERS OF THE STUDENT BODY GOVERNEMENT

The officers of the Student Body Government shall consist of an elected President, Vice President and Secretary. The Student Body Government Senator will be appointed by the sponsor of the Student Body Government. A Sergeant at Arms will be voted on by the House of Representatives at the first meeting of the year.

The President, Vice President and Secretary shall be elected during the last grading period, prior to the year in which the officer will serve. The term of office will be for one school year.

All officers must have a 2.5 average in Scholarship, with no grade below a C. The officers must have a 2.5 average in conduct with no grade below a C. If an officer receives a grade report which is unsatisfactory, the officer shall be placed on probation for one grading period. If the academic and conduct performance of the officer is not brought up to satisfactory standards, then they will be forced to submit a letter of resignation to the Sponsor of the Student Body Government.

PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES: acts as chairperson at all meetings; attend all meetings; keep meetings orderly; appoint all committee chairpersons; represent the Student Body Government in all meetings with Principal, PTSA, County Student Government Presidents Association; read the morning announcements daily on the P.A; represent the Student Body Government in Inter-Club Council; Keep the academic and conduct standards of this constitution.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES: attend all Student Government meetings; take the place of the chairperson in the absence of the President; remind representatives of parliamentary procedure; serve as chairperson on a committee if asked to do so by the president; serve as President of Inter-Club Council; chair all Inter-Club Council meetings; read the morning announcements on the P.A; keep the academic and conduct standards of this constitution.

SECRETARIAL DUTIES: attend all meetings of the Student Body Government; take the minutes at all meetings; keep accurate accounts of all business of the Student Body Government and have all transcripts up to date and ready for inspection at all times; keep the academic and conduct standards of this constitution.

SERGEANT AT ARMS DUTIES: attend all meetings of the Student Body Government; maintain order and see that the conduct of the House of Representatives is one that will prove productive and courteous to all concerned; keep the academic and conduct standards of this constitution.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

The Student Body Government shall meet once every month. Publicity concerning a scheduled meeting will be announced two days in advance, so preparation can be made to assure the attendance of all representatives.

Alternates attending the meetings in place of the elected representative, have full voting privileges.

Each member of the House of Representatives has one vote per issue. The elected officers of the Student Body Government may only cast a vote in case there in a tied ballot.

In order for any business to be presented for a vote of House of Representatives, two-thirds of the House of Representatives must be present.

ARTICLES VII: AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

For any articles or clause to be amended by the House of Representatives, the motion must pass by a three-quarters majority.

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS

Elections of officers will be held during the last grading period of the year proceeding that in which the candidate will serve.

Applications will be available to all students interested in running for office. Publicity concerning the application dates will be read on the P.A. system daily during the application period. The cutoff date for applications to be turned in will be two (2) before the election. The number of posters and displays a candidate may have will be determined by the number of people running for office and Student Government Body Sponsor.

The House of Representatives will determine the number of signs each candidate may have in a general vote.

A \$20.00 limit for campaign expenses will be enforced. All candidates may discuss campaign issues at the gym steps during all appropriate breaks.

All candidates will be allowed to make a speech on the P.A. system, not to exceed one minute in length.

ARTICLE IX: VOTING AND BALLOTING

Each student of Miami Southridge Senior High School shall have the opportunity to cast a ballot for the candidate of their choice at the polling stations set up in separate areas of the school. Each student voting shall be required to show a picture I.D. card.

In order for a candidate to be declared an outright winner of an election, the candidate must win by 5% or more of the total vote.

If a candidate does not win by the 5% margin, then a run-off election will be held. The winner of the run-off election need only win by one vote. Only the top two candidates of the original election shall be placed in the run-off.

Ballots will be available for inspection by any student in the presence of one of Southridge Administrators.

ARTICLE X: TRI-ETHNIC COUNCIL, STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Student Body Government will take applications from students who wish to be considered for membership in the TEC or SAC. The purpose of these organizations is to deal with inter-racial problems and serve as an advisory committee to the principal. These members will be selected after short interviews in front of the House of Representatives.

ARTICLE XI: GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

The grievance Committee of the Student Body Government shall be voted on by the House of Representatives. The purpose of this organization is to hear appropriate complaints dealing with school in general, student problems, and administration. The finding of this committee shall be forwarded to the Principal for consideration.

ARTICLE XII: IMPEACHMENT

The procedure established to impeach an officer of the Student Body Government is as follows:

(1) take the grievance against the officer to the grievance committee of the Student Body Government; (2) have the findings of the grievance committee reported to the Principal; (3) have the officer come in front of the grievance committee to answer questions on the charges; (4) have the grievance committee vote as to whether or not the issue should go to the House of Representatives; (5) if the committee votes to take the issue to the House of Representatives, the issues, records, and all information concerning the charge will be brought in front of the House. The House will then serve as a jury and will vote as to the innocence or guilt of the officer; (6) the vote will determine the next step in the impeachment of the officer.

If the officer is found guilty by the House of Representatives, the officer will be removed from the Executive Board and a new officer election will be mandatory. If the President of the Student Body Government is impeached and found guilty, the Vice President will step into the role of President. The office of Vice President will then be vacant and a new Vice President shall be elected.

The election of a new officer after an impeachment trial will be open to all students. Applications for the vacant office will be accepted by the Activities Director. These names will be placed on a ballot and distributed to each of the members of the House of Representatives. The Representatives will take a homeroom vote on each of the candidates. The candidate securing the most votes from the representative's homeroom will be the candidate the Representative casts their vote for in the next meeting of the House of Representatives. This electoral election will be locked in, and the Representative will not have a choice in the candidate that they vote for. Each Representative will not have a choice in the candidate that they vote for. Each Representative must cast their vote for the candidate that their homeroom elects.

ARTICLE XIII: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS

There shall be no limitation placed on any officer of the Student Body Government concerning the number of organizations one can belong to, and the offices that one holds.

ARTICLE XIV: DROPPING MEMBERSHIP OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

A one month waiting period must be enforced for any individual who drops out of one service club to join another service club.

ARGUMENTS:

As stated before, we realized the danger of hasty and immature actions, but we also feel that situations warranting legislation of a minor nature (as we feel this to be) can and should be addressed. The idea of senior privileges is not unprecedented, and has existed in various forms for several decades. The measure is not discriminating to seniors to the disadvantage of underclassmen; they will one day be seniors and this bill will apply to them. Also, the student government is composed of more sophomores and juniors than seniors, and a discriminating bill could not be passed.

SENIOR PRIVILEGE BILL

Section 1: Effective December 5, 1980: all seniors shall be released five (5) minutes early from fourth period on Friday's at to allow them to avoid the long lines in the cafeteria and parking lot.

Section 2: The right of administration shall be acknowledged at any time, suspending the privilege for a particular day as special situations might warrant or upon a conference with the student government officers at the time, suspend it indefinitely.

COMMENTS:

We, the student government of the 1980-81 school year, realize that in the past student government has rarely, if ever, attempted to pass legislation. We feel that the functions of government in our school can provide a unique learning experience in the area of “real” government, and to facilitate that process we feel that legislation concerning certain student privileges is within our sphere. We realize the danger of irresponsible and immature actions however, and will attempt to justify our position by maintaining an official, responsible position.

IMPLEMENTATION:

This bill, upon being ratified as prescribed in the Student Government Constitution, shall be signed by the officers and advisor of student government. It will then be presented to the principal by the officers for approval or veto. If vetoed, the bill is dead and will not be re-submitted. If approved, a memo will be sent to all teachers and the representatives will be responsible for informing their homeroom classes. It will be the student’s responsibility to know of their privilege. No announcement will be made, however; the burden of informing the student body will fall to the representatives.

*to be eligible for privileges, seniors must be properly identified by wearing their senior class jerseys or other approved identification.