**ARKANSAS COMMUNICATION AND THEATRE ARTS ASSOCIATION**

**BYLAWS OF THE**

**ARKANSAS STUDENT CONGRESS**

*Updated on September 9, 2017*

**ARTICLE I. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY**

**SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT.** The Arkansas Student Congress, was established 1968 by the Arkansas State Communication Association (now the Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association, herein after “ACTAA) as the state’s first (now oldest) model legislative competition for high school and college students. Student Congress duplicates as nearly as possible the structure of the United States Congress. This activity provides a unique and invaluable experience for those who wish to understand the legislative process.

**SECTION 2. PURPOSE.** The specific purpose of the legislative assembly is to furnish both high school and college students with insight into the legislative process and the proper use of parliamentary procedure. This objective is accomplished 1) by providing practical legislative speaking experience on bills and resolutions prepared by the delegates; and 2) by stimulating realistic political situations through committee meetings, party caucuses, elections and legislative floor debate.

**SECTION 3. ARKANSAS STUDENT CONGRESS PHILOSOPHY.** Student Congress exists to facilitate an environment that encourages and rewards delegates and delegations for their excellent speaking ability, knowledge of parliamentary procedure, and ability to work to develop/improve policies in a cooperative/ constructive atmosphere that develops the integrity of the parliamentary/legislative process for the good of the larger body (Student Congress as a whole). We welcome all delegations that seek such an environment. **Judges will apply negative sanctions to delegates who do not participate within the spirit of the Student Congress Philosophy.**

**ARTICLE II. STRUCTURE.**

**SECTION 1. ACTAA STUDENT CONGRESS COMMITTEE.** The Arkansas Student Congress shall be governed by the ACTAA Student Congress Committee (herein after the “Student Congress Committee”); chaired by the Student Congress Director. The Student Congress Director, in consultation with the parliamentarians and *Robert’s Rules of Order*, *newly revised* when necessary, shall have final authority to make any necessary adjustments, changes, rulings or judgment calls on all issues that may arise, including suspending rules and order established by these Bylaws.

**SECTION 2. BICAMERAL SYSTEM.** The Arkansas Student Congress shall consist of two legislative bodies; namely a Student Senate, composed of college and university students, and a House of Representatives, composed of high school students. The House of Representatives shall be divided into two separate houses, namely House I and House II.

**SECTION 3. POLITICAL PARTIES.** Delegates shall be allowed to caucus into either the Democratic or Republican parties to nominate candidates for office and establish political platforms. Delegates shall be required to declare their party affiliation on the registration form; and shall not be allowed to change party affiliation once Student Congress begins. Each delegation shall consist of an equitable apportion of delegates affiliated with each respective party.

**SECTION 4. STUDENT CONGRESS NATIONAL DELEGATION.** Per a mutual agreement between the ACTAA Student Congress Committee and the Hot Spring Family YMCA, Arkansas Student Congress shall be the official selection entity for the Arkansas student delegation to the YMCA Conference on National Affairs (YMCA CONA), a national student model government competition hosted by the YMCA Youth & Government program.

a) *Selection of the National Delegation*. The delegates having received a Mary Ingalls Award (for each House respectively), the Melinda Valdez-Milloway Award, and the Patrica Treadway Award shall be appointed by the Congress Director to be a delegate to represent the State of Arkansas at the national YMCA CONA the following summer. Having been selected to be a national delegate, each student shall be responsible for any and all fees, travel, and expenses to attend the YMCA CONA in Black Ridge, North Carolina through coordination with YMCA CONA officials.

b) *Selection of Alternate National Delegates*. The Congress Director shall also appoint the delegates that received the next greatest total scores from Committee, Caucus, Opening Session, Floor Debate, and Parliamentary Procedure not receiving a Mary Ingalls Award (for each House), Melinda Valdez-Milloway Award, and Patrica Treadway Award to be alternate delegates to the national competition. In the event a national delegate is unable to attend the YMCA CONA, the Congress Director shall appoint an alternate delegate from the same house to serve as a national delegate assuming the same privileges and responsibilities of the same.

**ARTICLE III. ENTRIES AND REPRESENTATION.**

**SECTION 1. HIGH SCHOOL DELEGATIONS.** Any high school in the state of Arkansas, sponsored by an active member of ACTAA, may enter as many as six (6) student delegates in Student Congress. In addition, each delegation may bring up to two (2) pages.

**SECTION 2. COLLEGIATE DELEGATIONS.** Any junior college, college, or university in the state of Arkansas, sponsored by an active member of ACTAA, may enter up to eight (8) student delegates who have participated in Student Congress less than five (5) years on the collegiate level. Collegiate delegations do not bring pages.

**SECTION 3. DELEGATION ENTRY FEES.** Regardless of the total number of delegates, the entry fee for collegiate delegations shall be $150.00; and a high school delegation shall be $125. There shall also be a $5.00 additional fee assessed by the Student Congress Committee for each substitution in an entry and drop of a judge after the registration deadline.

**SECTION 4. DELEGATE CREDENTIALS.** The Student Congress Director shall issue credentials to each delegate being registered by their delegation sponsor by the time of the beginning of the Student Congress. Delegates shall be required to wear said issued credentials during the entirety of Student Congress. Once Student Congress begins, and credentials have been certified by the Student Congress Director, no substitutions of delegates or additional delegations shall be allowed.

**SECTION 5. DELEGATE PRIVILEGES.** All credentialed delegates shall have the privilege to, subject to provisions of these Bylaws, hold office, serve on committees, and discuss any measure in committee or on the floor of the assembly.

**ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND DUITES.**

**SECTION 1. OFFICERS AND POSITIONS.** Those delegates who aspire to the candidacy of a Student Congress Office should prepare themselves for the responsibility. Sponsors should be involved in this decision and make every effort to ensure that their candidates are willing, qualified, and ready for the task. Officers must uphold Congress rules, and the nature, purpose, and philosophy of Congress. Judges will evaluate officers negatively if they fail to meet their responsibilities.

(A) *Director Appointed Positions*. The Congress Director shall appoint a faculty Coordinator for each house and party caucus, a faculty Parliamentarian for each house, faculty Judges for each session (Committee, Party Caucus, and Legislative Session), a student Sergeant-at-Arms and Head Page for each house and party caucus, and a student Chairperson and Clerk for each standing committee.

(B) *Student Elected Positions.* Student Congress shall elect from its delegates the following:

1. Republican Party Secretary
2. Democratic Party Secretary
3. Republican Party Leader
4. Democratic Party Leader
5. House I Clerk
6. House II Clerk
7. House I Speaker
8. House II Speaker
9. Senate Clerk
10. Senate President Pro-tempore

(C) *Student Appointed Positions*. The Senate President Pro-tempore and House Speakers shall, upon taking the office, appoint from respective house a Chamber Chaplain, a Resolutions Committee, and a Rules Committee. Duties for the above mentioned respective positions shall be referenced in *Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised*.

**SECTION 2. FILING FOR OFFICE.** Delegates who run for an office should have strong command of parliamentary procedure as well as excellent communication skills.

(A) *Limitations*. Individual delegates shall not be allowed to be a candidate or seek the nomination for more than one office. Delegations may field only one candidate for each office listed in Article IV § 1 of these Bylaws.

(B) *Candidate Registration*. Delegates seeking election to office must declare their candidacy by the published deadline for delegation registration. A list of qualified registered candidates will be publically posted at registration on the first day of Student Congress. No changes will be allowed during registration except to substitute a dropped delegate within a delegation, if the substituted delegate is to seek candidacy of the originally registered delegate. Only delegates registered and certified as qualified by the Student Congress Director may be considered by the delegates for election to office or nominations; expect in cases where no qualified registered candidates exist for a nomination or office.

**SECTION 3. OFFICERS DUTIES.** Delegates who run for an office should have strong command of parliamentary procedure as well as excellent communication skills. The following shall be duties of the respective officers.

(A) *Senate/ House/ Party Coordinator*. It shall be the duties of the faculty coordinator appointed by the Student Congress Director to provide guidance in the administration and compliance to these bylaws of their respectively assigned bodies. Coordinators shall represent the Student Congress Committee within chambers, but do not serve as a member of the committee. Coordinator shall evaluate the performance of the leadership as described in these bylaws.

(B) *Parliamentarian*. It shall be the duties of the faculty parliamentarian appointed by the Student Congress Director to provide parliamentary guidance and compliance to these bylaws and *Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised* in their respectively assigned bodies. Parliamentarians shall evaluate the knowledge and appropriate use of parliamentary procedure for each delegate during legislative sessions.

(C) *Democratic/ Republican Party Secretary*. The Party Secretary should be prepared to record the minutes and follow the proceedings of the party meeting. The Party Secretary will be required to assist in counting ballots; and will be required to submit a copy of the party’s minutes to the Student Congress Director.

(D) *Democratic/ Republican Party Leader.* The Party Leader should be prepared to guide the party through the nomination and election process for their respective Party Secretary, Senate, House I, and House II Officers, and any necessary party platform before the first legislative session. The Party Leader shall chair the meetings of the party in accordance to the rules established in these Bylaws and *Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised*. House leaders may relinquish the chair to a designated delegate for a specified period of time to express he/she opinion during floor debate for said bill. The chair must retain the chair after the debate on said bill has concluded.

(E) *Senate/ House Clerk Clerks*. Clerks should be prepared to record the minutes and follow the proceedings of their respective legislative meetings. Clerks will be required to assist in counting ballots, take meeting minutes, to submit a copy of the party’s minutes to the Student Congress Director, and retain records of the order of speakers.

(F) *Senate President Pro-tempore/ House Speaker*. The house leaders should be prepared to guide the body through the election process for the house’s respective clerk. The house leaders shall chair the meetings of their respective house in accordance to the rules established in these Bylaws and *Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised*.

(G) *Sergeant-at-Arms*. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be a student page appointed by the Student Congress Director to guard the doors of party, house and senate chambers. The Sergeant-at-Arms reports to the session coordinator securing the room for the voting process, and ensuring guests/ delegates entering and exiting the chambers do not disrupt floor activities.

(H) *Head Page.* The Head Page shall be a student page appointed by the Student Congress Director to act as a coordinator with the other pages assigned to the respective chamber. A Head Page shall be appointed to the party, house and senate chambers. The Head Page reports to the session coordinator and the Student Congress Committee assisting with communicating with pages and reviewing messages delivered by pages for appropriate content.

**SECTION 4. OATH OF OFFICE**.  Senators & Representatives and all officers of Arkansas Student Congress, before entering on the duties of their respective offices, shall take and subscribe to the following oath of affirmation: “I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, the Bylaws, decorum, and spirit of Arkansas Student Congress, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of \_\_\_\_\_, upon which I am now about to enter.”

**SECTION 5. THE RULES AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEES.** The Rules and Resolutions Committees, appointed by the presiding officer of each house, shall meet at the appointed agenda time. The recommendations of these committees shall be presented to their respective houses at the scheduled Rules and Resolutions Session for majority approval. After the acceptance of these recommendations and resolutions, the chair will present them to Joint Session for approval.

**ARTICLE V. CAMPAIGNING, PARTY CAUCUSES, AND ELECTIONS.**

**SECTION 1. CAMPAIGNING.** Campaigning shall be considered the distribution, circulation or communication of any material or messaging promoting a delegate for the selection, nomination, or election to office or leadership position as a part of Student Congress.

(A) *Time Limitations*. All delegates may campaign for the candidates beginning at 1:00PM the first day of Student Congress until nominating speeches begin. There shall be no campaigning before the 1:00PM the first day of Student Congress. There shall be no Student Congress related contact in any form between delegations of students of school sending delegations. This includes campaigning or announcing candidacy via social network mediums, emails, faxes, phone calls and/or direct mail; inter-delegation practice caucuses and floor debate sessions; senate delegations mentoring house delegations; and contacting former coaches, committee delegates, or other delegations prior to Congress. Violations of campaigning procedures may result in the disqualification of a candidate or an entire delegation.

(B) *Campaign Materials*. Delegates may distribute appropriate campaign materials during the authorized campaign period. However, the delegation in which a candidate represents shall be required to remove all campaign materials from meeting rooms after party caucuses end.

**SECTION 2. PARTY CAUCUSES.** Each party shall host a caucus to elect party leadership, nominate candidates for government offices and establish political platforms.

(A) *Party Leadership*. At the first formal caucus of each party, the parties are to elect delegates to serve as Party Leader and Secretary. The Caucus Coordinator shall preside over the caucus meeting until the Party Leader is elected. The Caucus Coordinator will appoint a temporary secretary to serve until a Party Secretary is elected.

(B) *Party Elections General*. All elections shall be by secret ballot on ballots provided by the Student Congress Committee. All elections will be made by a simple majority (at least, fifty percent (50%) of the votes casted) of those delegates present and voting. In the event that no candidate receives a simple majority, a run-off election will be immediately held between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes.

(C) *Open Floor Nominations*. Expect in cases where no qualified registered candidates exist for a nomination or office, no nominations will be allowed for a delegate who is not registered and certified as qualified by the Student Congress Director to run for a respective office. If no qualified registered candidates exist for a nomination or office, the Party Leader will take open nominations from the floor in the same procedure outlined in Article V § 2 or 3, respectively, of these Bylaws. After open nominations for a position has ceased, the list of nominated candidates shall be taken immediately to the Student Congress Director for certification. The Director shall verify each nomination is not in violation of Article IV § 2(A) of these Bylaws; and that each nominee’s delegation is not fielding a candidate for the same position in the opposing party. All nominations in compliance with these provisions, shall be certified as qualified by the Student Congress Director; and approved to seek the respective office.

(D) *Election of Party Leaders*. Upon calling to order the first formal caucus of each party, the Caucus Coordinator, shall open the floor to nominations of qualified registered candidates for Party Leader. After all nominations have been made, the Caucus Coordinator shall close the floor to nominations. Each nominee will be allowed a total of five (5) minutes allotted for nominating speeches by one (1) or more other delegates advocating for the election of said nominee. After all nominating speeches have been made, each nominee will be allotted three (3) minutes to deliver a campaign speech. After all campaign speeches have been made, the Caucus Coordinator will order the Sargent-at-Arms to bar the doors to the caucus floor for the voting process. During the election process no delegate is allowed to enter or exit the caucus floor; and delegates will be asked to remain seated during voting process. Voting will then be held via secret ballot; unless there is only one candidate, then via voice vote. After all ballots being received, the Caucus Coordinator and Judge shall count the ballots. The nominee receiving the majority of votes (at least, 50% of the total votes cast) shall be elected to the Party Leader. If no nominee receives a majority vote, immediately thereafter, the Caucus Coordinator shall announce the names of the nominees whom received the greatest and second greatest number of votes. Immediately thereafter, an election in the same manner described above shall be held for the two finalist nominees. The nominee receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to the respective position. The newly elected Party Leader shall then take the oath of office administered by the Caucus Coordinator, preside over of the remainder of the caucus, and shall not be allowed to relinquish the duties of position for any reason.

(E) *Election of Party Secretaries.* Upon taking office, the Party Leader shall open the floor to nominations of qualified registered candidates for Party Secretary. After all nominations have been made, each nominee will be allotted two (2) minutes to deliver a campaign speech. There shall be no nominating speeches by other delegates for Party Secretaries. After all campaign speeches have been made, the Party Leader will order the Sargent-at-Arms to bar the doors to the caucus floor for the voting process. During the election process no delegate is allowed to enter or exit the caucus floor; and delegates will be asked to remain seated during voting process. Voting will then be held via secret ballot; unless there is only one candidate, then via voice vote. After all ballots being received, the Party Leader and Caucus Coordinator shall count the ballots. The nominee receiving the majority of votes (at least, 50% of the total votes cast) shall be elected to the Party Secretary. If no nominee receives a majority vote, immediately thereafter, the Party Leader shall announce the names of the nominees whom received the greatest and second greatest number of votes. Immediately thereafter, an election in the same manner described above shall be held for the two finalist nominees. The nominee receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to the respective position. The newly elected Party Secretary shall then take the oath of office administered by the Caucus Coordinator, clerk the remainder of the caucus, and shall not be allowed to relinquish the duties of position for any reason.

(F) *Party Nomination Order*.Following the election and installation of party leadership, each caucus shall select their respective nominee for government offices; namely House I Clerk, House II Clerk, House I Speaker, House II Speaker, Senate Clerk, and Senate President Pro-tempore.

(G) *Nomination of House and Senate Clerks*. Qualified registered candidates for House I Clerk, House II Clerk, and Senate Clerk shall be required to be nominated by their respective party to qualify for election before their respective body. Party nominees for House I Clerk, House II Clerk, and Senate Clerk shall be selected in the same manner and procedure as required for the election of a Party Secretary.

(H) *Nomination of House Speakers and Senate President Pro-tempore*. Qualified registered candidates for House I Speaker, House II Speaker, and Senate President Pro-tempore shall be required to be nominated by their respective party to qualify for election before their respective body. Party nominees for House I Speaker, House II Speaker, and Senate President Pro-tempore shall be selected in the same manner and procedure as required for the election of a Party Leader.

**SECTION 3. ELECTION OF OFFCERS**. Candidates being nominated by their respective party shall seek election to leadership of their respective body at the first assembly of the house.

(A) *Election of House Speakers*. Upon calling to order the first formal session of each House, the House Coordinator, shall open the floor to nominations of party nominated candidates for House Speaker. After all nominations have been made, the Caucus Coordinator shall close the floor to nominations. Delegates shall be allowed to make a three (3) minute nominating speech for either candidate. After all nominating speeches have been made, each nominee will be allotted three (3) minutes to deliver a campaign speech. After all campaign speeches have been made, the House Coordinator will order the Sargent-at-Arms to bar the doors to the chambers for the voting process. During the election process no delegate is allowed to enter or exit the chambers; and delegates will be asked to remain seated during voting process. Voting will then be held via secret ballot; unless there is only one candidate, then via voice vote. After all ballots being received, the House Coordinator and Head Page shall count the ballots. The nominee receiving the majority of votes (at least, 50% of the total votes cast) shall be elected to the House Speaker. The newly elected House Speaker shall then take the oath of office administered by the House Coordinator and preside over of the remainder of Student Congress.

(B) *Election of House Clerks*. Upon taking office, the House Speaker shall open the floor to nominations of party nominated candidates for House Clerk. After all nominations have been made, the House Speaker shall close the floor to nominations. Each nominee will be allotted two (2) minutes to deliver a campaign speech. There shall be no nominating speeches by other delegates for House Clerk. After all campaign speeches have been made, the House Speaker will order the Sargent-at-Arms to bar the doors to the chambers for the voting process. During the election process no delegate is allowed to enter or exit the chambers; and delegates will be asked to remain seated during voting process. Voting will then be held via secret ballot; unless there is only one candidate, then via voice vote. After all ballots being received, the House Speaker and House Coordinator shall count the ballots. The nominee receiving the majority of votes (at least, 50% of the total votes cast) shall be elected to the House Clerk. The newly elected House Clerk shall then take the oath of office administered by the House Coordinator and shall clerk the remainder of Student Congress.

(C) *Election of Senate President Pro-tempore*. Upon calling to order the first formal session of the Senate, the Senate Coordinator, shall open the floor to nominations of party nominated candidates for Senate President Pro-tempore. After all nominations have been made, the Senate Coordinator shall close the floor to nominations. Senate Coordinator shall then ask for each delegation’s nominating speakers. During the nomination process for Senate President Pro-tempore, each delegation shall be allowed two (2) nomination speeches, including nominees campaign speeches. After all nomination speech intentions have been made, declared speakers shall be allowed to make a two (2) minute nominating speech for either candidate. After all nominating speeches have been made, each nominee will be allotted three (3) minutes to deliver a campaign speech. After all campaign speeches have been made, the Senate Coordinator will order the Sargent-at-Arms to bar the doors to the chambers for the voting process. During the election process no delegate is allowed to enter or exit the chambers; and delegates will be asked to remain seated during voting process. Voting will then be held via secret ballot; unless there is only one candidate, then via voice vote. After all ballots being received, the Senate Coordinator and Head Page shall count the ballots. The nominee receiving the majority of votes (at least, 50% of the total votes cast) shall be elected to the Senate President Pro-tempore. The newly elected Senate President Pro-tempore shall then take the oath of office administered by the Senate Coordinator and preside over of the remainder of Student Congress.

(D) *Election of Senate Clerk*. Upon taking office, the Senate President Pro-tempore shall conduct the election of the Senate Clerk in the same manner and procedure as required for the election of a Senate President Pro-tempore. Each delegation shall only be allow four (4) speeches during the Senate President Pro-tempore and Senate Clerk election process in the Opening Session.

**ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES.**

**SECTION 1. COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP.** The Student Congress Director shall appoint a Chairperson, Clerk, and Judge (who shall also serve as parliamentarian) for each of the permanent standing committees of the House and the Senate.

(A) *Committee Chairperson Duties*. Committee Chairperson should be prepared to chair a meeting and understand parliamentary procedure. Chairpersons shall be responsible for keeping order and a productive flow of debate during meetings, appointing majority and minority reporters, and providing the Student Congress Director a list of “do pass” bills.

(B) *Committee Clerk Duties*. Committee Clerk should be prepared to clerk a meeting and understand parliamentary procedure. Clerks shall be responsible to taking minutes of committee meetings, aiding the Chairperson, and ensuring bill paperwork is completed, including clear copies of any amendments are attached to bills.

**SECTION 2. STANDING COMMITTEESS.** Each house shall have standing committees, which shall review and recommend to the respective houses legislation for consideration by the Student Congress. The Student Congress Director shall arbitrarily appoint an equitable apportion of delegates to the following respective committees; making every effort to put bill authors in the same committee as their bill.

(A) *Senate Committees*. The Senate Committees shall include:

1. Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry (AN&F)
2. Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (BH&U)
3. Foreign Relations (FR)
4. Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)
5. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HS&GA) Finance (F)
6. Finance (F)

(B) *House I Committees*. The House I Committees shall include:

1. Agriculture (AG)
2. Appropriations (A)
3. Financial Services (FS)
4. Education and the Workforce (EW)
5. Foreign Affairs (FA)
6. Natural Resources (NR)
7. Judiciary (J)

(C) *House II Committees*. The House II Committees shall include:

1. Homeland Security (HS)
2. Veterans Affairs (VA)
3. Energy and Commerce (E&C)
4. Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I)
5. Ways and Means (W&M)
6. Small Business (SB)
7. Intelligence (I)

**SECTION 3. COMMITTEES, GENERAL PROCEDURE.** The purpose of the committee is to recommend action to the appropriate legislative body on each bill assigned to that committee. Committee members are judged on their use of parliamentary procedure and the quality of their contribution to the committee. Committees are not encouraged to fail bills in committee without merit, just cause, or an effort to improve the bill through creative problem solving and proper parliamentary procedure

(A) *Committee Agendas*. With approval from the committee, committee chairs shall establish the agenda of all committee meetings.

(B) *Special rules of order*. Committees shall not suspend the rules. Committees shall not move the previous question, after debates ceases, the committees shall vote whether or not to make a “do pass” recommendation to the appropriate legislative body. Committee business shall be conducted using parliamentary procedure for small boards as referenced in *Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised*.

(C) *Authorship speeches.* In committee meetings, the authorship speech shall be given by the primary sponsor of the bill. The Student Congress Director may, with just cause, authorize a co-sponsor to deliver an authorship speech, if the co-sponsor has been assigned to the same committee as said bill at the time of beginning of Student Congress. In no circumstances shall the co-sponsor be allowed to travel out of their respective assigned committee to contribute in discussion, including delivering an authorship speech, on a bill if said bill is assigned to a different committee.

(D) *Committee Reports*. Before a committee adjourns, for all bills that received a “do pass” recommendation to be considered by their respective legislative body, committee chairs shall appoint a majority and minority reporter for each said bill. Chairs shall justly appoint a member which supported the “do pass” recommendation of a bill, to deliver the committee’s majority report; and if opposition existed, shall also justly appoint a member which did not support the “do pass” recommendation of said bill, to deliver the committee’s minority report. If a bill received unanimous support, there shall be no minority report from the committee.

(E) *Bill Prioritization*. Before a committee adjourns, the committee shall prioritize all bills that received a “do pass” recommendation to be considered by their respective legislative body. Prioritization shall indicate the order (namely, “first, second, third, etc.”) which the committee wishes their respective legislative body to consider its bills.

**ARTICLE VII. LEGISLATIVE BODIES**

**SECTION 1. ORDER OF CONSIDERATION.** All bills that received a “do pass” recommendation shall be grouped by their respective legislative body and committee prioritization. Then the corresponding bill numbers shall be placed in separate squirrel cages. At the first legislative session, there shall be public draw before each legislative body of all first priority bills of that respective body. The order in which first priority bills shall be considered before the legislative body shall be the order which bill numbers are first drawn from the squirrel cage. Once the Order of Consideration is established, it shall not be changed. There shall be no suspension of the rules for consideration of a bill out of this Order of Consideration.

**SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.** The following order shall be used when a legislative body of Arkansas Student Congress is considering a bill presented before them.

(A) *Title Reading*. Before a bill or piece of legislation may be reported on or considered for debate, the presiding officer shall order the Clerk to read the title aloud and any amendments for said bill.

(B) *Committee Reports*. After the reading of a bill title, the presiding officer shall allow for three (3) minutes each for designated committee members to deliver a majority and minority reports on said bill. At the conclusion of the majority report, the reporter shall move for the adoption of the bill.

(C) *Authorship Speech*. After committee reports have been completed, the presiding officer will then permit the primary author of the bill to speak on the bill for three (3) minutes. The authorship speech shall not constitute debate. Following the authorship speech, five (5) minutes will be designated for questioning.

(D) *Floor Debate*. Following questioning for the bill author, the presiding officer will open the floor to floor debate on the bill. The presiding officer shall grant delegates to speak in affirmation or negation on a bill in a maximum of three (3) minute intervals. Preference shall be given to the co-author to deliver the first affirmative debate speech on bill if he/she so desires. If the co-author is not available, preference will be given to a committee member supporting the bill. Un-expired time may be relinquished once within the three-minute periods to an unnamed friendly speaker on the same side. The presiding officer must recognize the friendly speaker. Debate on any one bill and related amendments shall not last more than ninety (90) minutes from the time the bill is introduced by the Clerk. If the bill is not disposed of by this time, the presiding officer shall call for an immediate vote on that bill. The bill cannot be reconsidered just because discussion time ran out. Houses may not extend debate time; however, they may limit debate to a lesser amount of time with a ⅔ vote.

(E) *Speaking Order*. The presiding officer shall follow *Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised* to recognize a delegate for debate and must observe all rules of impartiality. Delegates who have not spoken, or who have spoken less, and wish to be recognized, shall be given priority. The Clerks are required to keep a record of which delegates have been recognized to speak and to assist the presiding officer in identifying speaker order.

(F) *Bill Passage.* After discussion and debate, or upon a call of the question, the presiding officer will call for the vote on the bill. A simple majority of a body’s membership shall pass any bill, except amendments to the United States Constitution, which requires a ⅔ majority. Once a bill passes the presiding officer and clerk must sign and certify the date and time the bill passed, and imminently send the bill to the Student Congress Director to que in the bill hopper for its second house consideration.

(G) *House of Second Consideration*. All bills that pass in its house of origin shall be sent to the alternate house for consideration during Legislative Session V only. House I and House II bills, alternately, shall be sent for consideration before the Senate; and Senate bills shall be sent for consideration before House I and House II, alternately. Only after all pending bills from the other houses have been considered may that house return to debate on its own remaining bills. No committee reports shall be given in consideration of a bill outside its house of origin. The bill’s primary sponsor shall be allowed a three (3) minute authorship speech followed by up to five (5) minutes of question/answer period before debate on the bill. After author’s question/answer period, the bill sponsor shall return to their assigned house; and shall not be allowed to participate in debate on said bill in the house of second consideration.

(H) *Laws of Student Congress*. Bills which having passed in the same form both the Houses of Representatives and Senate, shall be sent to the Student Congress Director to be signed and shall be considered Laws of Student Congress. After the completion of Student Congress, a marked-up version of all Laws of Student Congress shall be presented to the Governor of the State of Arkansas (or a designee) for consideration and review.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENTS**. Any delegate wishing to amend an enacting clause of a bill may do so during committee or during floor debate. A bill’s short title and resolution clauses shall not be allowed to be amended. Before moving to amend a bill, delegates must file a written amendment form with the body’s clerk.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENTS IN HOUSES OF SECOND CONSIDERATION**. If a bill is amended in its house of second consideration, after all debate has ended, all amendments to said bill shall be immediately sent to its house of origin for consideration. This amendment(s) shall be given preference on the agenda of the bill’s house of origin. If the amendment(s) are approved, the amendment(s) shall be the immediately sent to the bill’s house of second consideration for final approval of the bill as amended.

**SECTION 4. CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**. If a bill is amended in its house of second consideration, but the amendment(s) are not approved by the bill’s house of origin, the presiding officers of said houses shall appoint two members of the respective houses to serve on a Conference Committee in order to resolve the differences and make recommendation to the respective presiding officers. If said presiding officers agree to the recommendations, the bill shall become a Law of Student Congress. If no resolution can be made, or if both presiding officers do not agree to the recommendations respectively, the bill shall die.

**SECTION 5. STUDENT RESEARCH MATERIALS**. Student research of bills should take place prior to competition. Students are allowed to use preloaded research on laptop computers in committee, caucus, and chambers. Students should never access the Internet during any Congress event. Students who do not comply with the no-internet policy will be removed from competition and forfeit all points for the entire Congress. Coordinators, committee members, and pages will monitor computer use throughout the session. Delegates should not use phones or other electronic devices outside of preloaded laptops in committee, caucus, or chambers. Pages are prohibited from using electronic devices of any kind.

**ARTICLE VIII. LEGISLATION.**

**SECTION 1. BILL SPONSORS**. Every bill submitted for consideration at Arkansas Student Congress shall have a primary sponsor who shall be considered the author of said bill. Bills may be allowed to have one additional co-sponsor from the same delegation and assigned in the same house. A delegation shall not be allowed to change the primary sponsor of a bill, unless the primary sponsor is dropped from the delegation; in which case, the bill may be assigned the co-sponsor or the delegate replacing the dropped delegate to serve as the primary sponsor of the bill for the entirety of Student Congress. No new co-sponsors can be added to a bill during Student Congress.

**SECTION 2. BILL LIMITATIONS**. No delegate shall be allowed to be the sponsor or co-sponsor for more than one bill. Collegiate delegations may submit no more than four (4) bills; high school delegations may submit no more than three (3) bills. Bills not received by the registration deadline will not be considered at Student Congress.

**SECTION 3. STRUCTURE AND CONTENT**. The Student Congress Committee shall publish a sample bill form to provide delegates help to establish a universal format for bills to be considered at Arkansas Student Congress. Bills shall be limited to one page, be printed in Times New Roman 12 point font, include resolution clauses which prove background and justification for the bill, and enactment clauses which shall cause action by the Student Congress. Bill must conform to the sample bill form published by the Student Congress Committee. No bill shall be added or modified after the publication of the Bill Book, unless there was a direct error of the Student Congress Committee.

**SECTION 4. BILL BOOK**. After receiving the bills for consideration by Student Congress from each delegation by the published deadline, the Student Congress Director shall publish a Bill Book; which shall include a copy of all bills approved for consideration by Student Congress and their assigned bill number, a listing of all delegates and their delegate number, a posting of candidates whom have filed for office, and all committee assignments.

**SECTION 5. ORIGINAL STUDENT WORK**. The bills and speeches are to be the original work of the student delegates attending Student Congress.

(A) *Plagiarism*. No teacher, lawyer, legislator, or other professional shall be allowed to write the bills or speeches for the participants. Coaches are urged to screen for plagiarism. Coaches may edit student bills for grammar and spelling and to assure that the bill is submitted in the correct form. Delegations shall not be allowed to submit more than one bill for consideration with similar topics.

(B) *Previous Year’s Legislation*. No delegate shall be allowed to submit a bills for consideration by Student Congress relating to topics from bills considered at the immediate previous year. The Student Congress Director shall publish a list of the titles of the previous year’s legislation.

(C) *Existing Legislation*. No delegate shall be allowed to submit bills for consideration by Student Congress that is legislation, or a slightly modified legislation, currently under consideration of a city, county, state or national governing body.

**SECTION 6. BEST BILL.** The Student Congress Director shall appoint a third party professional to review all bills published in the Bill Book for consideration of “Best Bill” for each house. Bills not complying with rules established in these Bylaws shall not be considered for Best Bill.

**ARTICLE IX. SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER.**

**SECTION 1. ORDER OF BUSINESS**. The Order of Business for each house shall be conducted in compliance with these bylaws, including the following:

1. Invocation

2. Call to Order

3. Reading of any Reports or Announcements

4. Orders of the Day

5. Committee Reports

6. Consideration of Bills

7. Announcements

8. Adjournment

**SECTION 2. FREEDOM OF CHAMBERS**. No delegate(s) will be allowed freedom of the chambers for the duration of the congress. Each delegate must properly gain the floor for a specific purpose.

**SECTION 3. OBTAINING THE FLOOR**. Before speaking, a delegate must identify themselves each time he/she attains the floor by loudly stating their last name and assigned delegate number.

**SECTION 4. RELINQUISHING THE CHAIR**. A presiding officer may relinquish the chair to another delegate for a specified limited period to express his/her opinion as a member of the body on a particular item. The presiding officer must resume the chair after that particular bill has been resolved.

**SECTION 5. NAME PLACARDS.** All delegates shall have a name placard for which the delegate is responsible. The delegate’s name, school number and delegate’s letter should be printed at 80 point (or less) Arial font in BLOCK LETTERS in black ink on white paper or cardstock. The placard should be folded at the top, making a two-sided “stand-on-its-own” placard. Each side should measure 4 1/4” tall by 11” long. Uniform size and color is a must for fairness. Delegates not complying with this rule may not be allowed to participate until they have secured an appropriate placard. (See below)



**SECTION 6. RECORD KEEPING.** The Student Congress Director shall make a copy of all records of action taken at Student Congress, including minutes of committee, party, and house proceedings, awards, the bill book, and Laws of Student Congress, and deliver said documents to the ACTAA Archivist to be archived in the organizations official archives.

**ARTICLE X. PAGES.**

**SECTION 1. PAGE DUTIES.** High Schools shall be allowed to bring pages, students that have no delegate privileges but serve as messengers during committee meetings, party caucuses, and legislative sessions.

**SECTION 2. CAMPAIGNING**. Pages and Observers shall not campaign for any candidate during official meetings of the Student Congress, including party caucuses, committee meetings, and legislative sessions.

**SECTION 3. PAGE LIMITS**. Pages shall not participate in discussion, research, or assist in any capacity in Student Congress outside of passing communication originating from a delegate or a Student Congress official.

**XI. DELEGATION SPONSORS AND COACHING.**

**SECTION 1. SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS**. Each delegation is required to have a faculty sponsor authorized to represent the school or institution the delegation is representing and be a an ACTAA member in good standing. The sponsor shall be the same person who worked with the squad in preparation for Congress.

**SECTION 2. SPONSOR PRESENT AT CONGRESS**. Sponsors shall be solely responsible for their delegation, including pages and observers. Sponsors are required to be on site of Student Congress the entire time of the competition. If a sponsor needs to leave the Student Congress location, for a short amount of time, the sponsor can obtain permission from the Student Congress Director.

**SECTION 3. REGISTRATION**. It shall be the responsibility of the sponsor to register their delegation before all deadlines. At the beginning of Student Congress, sponsors shall be required during a designated registration period to review their delegation’s information (entry, authors, committee assignments, candidates, etc.) and shall be the only individual representing a delegation that can require changes to an entry.

**SECTION 4. COACHING**. Sponsors are encouraged to work with their delegations between scheduled formal sessions and meetings. However, sponsors shall not communicate on subjects germane to debate with delegates, pages, parliamentarians, judges, or coordinators during the sessions. They may coach between sessions and observe delegate performance when not assigned to judge.

**SECTION 5. ARKANSAS STUDENT CONGRESS PHILOSOPHY**. Sponsors are encouraged to support the efforts of the Student Congress Committee, offer encouragement, write suggestions for improvements for next year, maintain a positive attitude in conversations, identify issues that are not visible to the committee, volunteer to help, and in general promote the spirit and philosophy of Student Congress.

**SECTION 6. APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS**. Sponsors shall observe the following process if an issues arises. The sponsor should first calm students involved and remain professional. The sponsor(s) (not the delegates) should then request an audience with the Student Congress Committee. The Committee may offer immediate ruling or may request conference with the parliamentarian and coordinator. The Student Congress Committee will make every effort to address concerns raised in a professional, timely, consistent and objective manner. All Committee decision are final on said matters.

**XI. CONGRESS EVALUATION AND AWARDS**

**SECTION 1. EVALUATION**. In order to obtain the maximum educational value from the Congress, delegates will be evaluated and instructed throughout Student Congress. The Student Congress Director shall appoint faculty judges to evaluate the quality of discussion and speeches given during sessions, including grading each delegation of said participation in Party Caucuses, Committee Meetings, and Legislative Meetings of the Houses and Senate.

**SECTION 2. TABULATION.** The following shall be used to tabulate points received during Arkansas Student Congress.

(A) *Participation Points*. In party caucus, committees, and legislative sessions (floor debate), appointed judges shall evaluate the contribution a delegate made to sessions; including quality of speech, usefulness of action, and overall contribution. Expect in the Opening Session, house & senate leadership shall not be judged in floor debate. The following scale shall be used to rate delegates participation in a session:

1. Superior = 5 points

2. Excellent = 4 points

3. Good = 3 points

4. Fair = 2 points

5. Poor = 1 point

6. Non-participation = 0 points

(B) *Parliamentary Procedure Points.* The appointed parliamentarian for each house shall be the judge of delegates’ use of parliamentary procedure. Using the scale established above, parliamentarian shall rate each delegate based on their use of parliamentary procedure during the entire duration of legislative sessions cumulatively.

(B) *Party Leadership*. In party caucuses, appointed judges shall evaluate the successfulness and ability of the Party Leader and Secretary fulfill their positions and to provide leadership during the party meetings; rating the officers using the scale established above.

(C) *House & Senate Leadership*. The appointed house coordinator for each house shall evaluate the successfulness and ability of the House Speaker, Senate Present Pro-Tempore, and Clerks to fulfill their positions and to provide leadership during the legislative sessions. Using the scale of a minimum of 5 points to a maximum of 25 points, house coordinators shall rate each officer based on the entire duration of legislative sessions cumulatively.

(D) *Best Bills*. Delegates who was the primary sponsor of a bill that was awarded recognition in the Best Bill section, shall receive the following additional points:

1. Best Bill, First Place – 10 points
2. Best Bill, Second Place – 5 points
3. Best Bill, Third Place – 3 points.

(E) *Passage of Bills*. No delegate or delegation shall receive points for a bill passing in committee, house, or become a Law of Student Congress. Bills that do become a Law of Student Congress shall receive recognition at the Joint Session of Student Congress.

**SECTION 3. SUPERIOR AND EXCELLENT AWARDS.** Delegates who received a score of five (5) in following areas shall receive a superior medallion. Delegates who received a score of four (4) in following areas shall receive an excellent pin.

1. Party Caucus, Excellent & Superior
2. Committee Meetings, Excellent & Superior
3. Parliamentary Procedure, Excellent & Superior
4. Floor Debate, Excellent & Superior

**SECTION 4. BEST DELEGATIONS, HOUSE I & HOUSE II.** Thehigh school delegation that received the greatest total of points in their respective house from Committee, Caucus, Opening Session, Floor Debate, Officer Points, Parliamentary Procedure, and Best Bill shall receive the award of Best Delegation. The high school delegations receiving the second and third greatest total of points in this category shall also be awarded respectively.

1. Best House I Delegation, First Place
2. Best House I Delegation, Second Place
3. Best House I Delegation, Third Place
4. Best House II Delegation, First Place
5. Best House II Delegation, Second Place
6. Best House II Delegation, Third Place

**SECTION 5. BEST OVERALL DELEGATION.** The high school delegation that received the greatest total of points amongst both houses and the senate delegation that received the greatest total of points from Committee, Caucus, Opening Session, Floor Debate, Officer Points, Parliamentary Procedure and Best Bill shall receive the award of Best Overall Delegation. The delegations receiving the second and third greatest total of points in this category shall also be awarded respectively.

1. Best Overall House Delegation, First Place
2. Best Overall House Delegation, Second Place
3. Best Overall House Delegation, Third Place
4. Best Overall Senate Delegation, First Place
5. Best Overall Senate Delegation, Second Place
6. Best Overall Senate Delegation, Third Place

**SECTION 6. BEST OVERALL FLOOR DELEGATE.** A delegate in each house that presents themselves during the legislative sessions to be exceptional delegates shall be awarded by the House(s) and Senate Coordinators the award of Best Overall Floor Delegate engraved plaque or trophy.The Student Congress Committee will supply the coordinators of each house with a list up to ten (10) delegates receiving the greatest scores in floor debate and parliamentary procedure. House coordinators shall select the most deserving student from the list. Delegates may be selected to receive this award in more than one year.

1. House I Best Floor Delegate
2. House II Best Floor Delegate
3. Senate Best Floor Delegate

**SECTION 7. BEST DELEGATE OF EACH DELEGATION.** The delegate of each delegation that received the greatest total of points amongst their delegation from Committee, Caucus, Opening Session, Floor Debate, Officer Points, Parliamentary Procedure and Best Bill shall be awarded the Best Delegate medallion.

1. Best Delegate (one per school)

**SECTION 8. HIGHEST SCORING DELEGATE.** The delegate that received the greatest total of points from Committee, Caucus, Opening Session, Floor Debate, Officer Points, Parliamentary Procedure and Best Bill shall be awarded the Best Overall Delegate trophy.

1. Best Overall Delegate

**SECTION 9. PRESIDING OFFICERS AWARDS.** The delegates that were duly elected to Party Leader, Speaker and Senate President Pro-tempore shall receive the following awards:

1. Democratic Party Leader, a Gavel
2. Republican Party Leader, a Gavel
3. House I Speaker, a Gavel and Block
4. House II Speaker, a Gavel and Block
5. Senate President Pro-tempore, a Gavel and Block

**SECTION 10. CLERKS AWARDS.** The delegates that were duly elected to Party Secretary, and Clerk shall receive an engraved trophy.

1. Democratic Party Secretary
2. Republican Party Secretary
3. House I Clerk
4. House II Clerk
5. Senate Clerk

**SECTION 11. BEST BILLS.** The Student Congress Director shall appoint a third party individual to review all bills published in the Bill Book for consideration of Best Bill for each house. The bill judge shall award first, second, and third places for the “best bills” in each house. The delegates who sponsored the bill shall receive a trophy for best bill.

1. Best House I Bill, First Place
2. Best House I Bill, Second Place
3. Best House I Bill, Third Place
4. Best House II Bill, First Place
5. Best House II Bill, Second Place
6. Best House II Bill, Third Place
7. Best Senate Bill, First Place
8. Best Senate Bill, Second Place
9. Best Senate Bill, Third Place

**SECTION 12. MARY INGALLS AWARDS.** A delegate in each house who is found to have exceptional knowledge and appropriate use of parliamentary procedure shall be awarded by the house parliamentarians the Mary Ingalls Award of a copy of *Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised* signed by the respective houseparliamentarian. The Student Congress Committee will supply the parliamentarians of each house with a list of up to ten (10) delegates receiving the greatest scores from Committee, Caucus, Opening Session, Floor Debate, and Parliamentary Procedure. Parliamentarians shall select the most deserving student from the list. This award shall not be required to be given every year, if the parliamentarian chooses to not recognize a delegate. A delegate shall only qualify to receive the award once in participation history.

1. House I Mary Ingalls Award
2. House II Mary Ingalls Award

**SECTION 13. MARGUERITE METCALF AWARD.** A delegate in the Senate who is found to have exceptional knowledge and appropriate use of parliamentary procedure shall be awarded by the Parliamentarian, the Marguerite Metcalf Award of a copy of *Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised* signed by the SenateParliamentarian. The Student Congress Committee will supply the Senate Parliamentarian with a list of up to ten (10) delegates receiving the greatest scores from Committee, Caucus, Opening Session, Floor Debate, and Parliamentary Procedure. The Parliamentarian shall select the most deserving student from the list. This award shall not be required to be given every year, if the parliamentarian chooses to not recognize a delegate. A delegate shall only qualify to receive the award once in participation history.

1. Marguerite Metcalf Award

**SECTION 14. MELINDA VALDEZ-MILLOWAY AWARD.** The delegate in House I who received the greatest total combined points from Committee, Caucus, Opening Session, Floor Debate, Officer Points, Parliamentary Procedure and Best Bill shall be awarded the Melinda Valdez-Milloway Award of a copy of *Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised* signed by Melinda Milloway or the Student Congress Director. A delegate may receive the award more than once, if he/she has received the greatest total combined points in competition in multiple years.

1. Melinda Valdez-Milloway Award

**SECTION 15. PATRICIA** **TREADWAY AWARD.** The delegate in House II who received the greatest total combined points from Committee, Caucus, Opening Session, Floor Debate, Officer Points, Parliamentary Procedure and Best Bill shall be awarded the Patricia Treadway Award of a copy of *Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised* signed by Patricia Treadway or the Student Congress Director. A delegate may receive the award more than once, if he/she has received the greatest total combined points in competition in multiple years.

1. Patricia Treadway Award

**SECTION 16. MARY MELEKIAN RICHARDSON AWARD.** The delegate in the Senate who received the greatest total combined points from Committee, Caucus, Opening Session, Floor Debate, Officer Points, Parliamentary Procedure and Best Bill shall be awarded the Mary Melekian Richardson Award of a copy of *Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised* signed by Mary Richardson or the Student Congress Director. A delegate may receive the award more than once, if he/she has received the greatest total combined points in competition in multiple years.

1. Mary Richardson Award

**SECTION 17. PAGE SERVICE PIN.** House coordinators may choose to recognize pages for exceptional service during Student Congress.

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