Connors State College Native American Student Association Bylaws

Article I – Organization Name
This organization is called the Native American Student Association, often abbreviated as NASA.

Article II - Purpose
The Native American Student Association, serving Connors State College, is committed to promoting student engagement, leadership development, and cultural awareness on our campuses and in our communities. The organization accomplishes its mission by sponsoring campus events and participating in service projects.

Article III - Membership
All currently enrolled Connors State College students are eligible to join the Native American Student Association. At the beginning of each semester NASA holds a meeting welcoming any student who would like to become a member. Members remain in good standing by participating in at least one of the following per semester:

A. A cultural awareness based event.
B. A community service based event.
C. A Native American Student Association meeting.

Non-Discrimination Policy
The organization shall comply with the Connors State College Student Government Organizations Rules and applicable College policies regarding non-discrimination. Membership shall be open to all eligible Connors State College students, faculty, and staff without discrimination based on personal characteristics or beliefs, except for restrictions based on scholarship, achievement, or service as permitted by College rules. The organization shall not impose membership restrictions that violate College policy.

**Per a 2024 vote, our organization now assist all members in co-enrolling in AISES – Advancing Indigenous People in Stem.*
**Per a 2025 vote, our organization has submitted to be a recognized chapter of AISES.*

Article IV - Governance
Section I – Officers
The officers of this organization shall consist of a President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer, with an optional Recruiter position. At the beginning of each academic year, members shall determine by vote whether a Recruiter is needed based on current membership levels and recruitment needs. If established, the Recruiter position shall be filled through the organization's regular officer election process. The role of Student Government Association Representative will go to one of the officers as voted upon by the members.

A. The following are the roles of the officers:
Role of the President
- Presides at all meetings of the organization

- Calls special meetings of the organization
- Attends Recognized Student Organization Meetings
- Represents organization at official functions
- Maintains contact with organization advisor
- Remains fair and impartial during organization decision making processes
- Votes in cases where there is a tie
- Coordinates Organization elections
- Other duties as required

Role of the Vice President

- Assume the duties of the President as needed
- Coordinates organizational recruitment efforts
- Represents organization at official functions
- Remains fair and impartial during organizational decision making processes
- Coordinates organization elections
- Other duties as required

Role of the Secretary/Treasurer

- Keeps a record of all members of the organization
- Keeps a record of all activities of the organization
- Creates and distributes agendas for each meeting of the organization
- Represents organization at official functions
- Remains fair and impartial during organization decision making process
- Coordinates organization elections
- Keeps all financial records of the organization
- Coordinates fund raising drive
- Represents organization at official functions
- Remains fair and impartial during organization decision making processes
- Other duties as required

Role of the Recruiter

- Leads efforts to increase student membership in the organization
- Promotes the organization through outreach, events, and communication with prospective members
- Works with officers to ensure recruitment aligns with organizational goals
- Maintains records of membership and potential recruits
- Welcomes new members and helps with orientation into the organization
- Other duties as required

Section II - Officer Elections

A. Nominating Method: Any current member can nominate officers from the floor during a meeting, submit nominations privately to officers for a ballot or make other arrangements. Voting on the nominations will be done in the following meeting.

B. Voting Procedure: (1) **Quorum:** At least one fourth of the members must be present to make a vote valid. (2) **How a Vote Carries:** At least 51% of those present must vote for a person for that person to be elected as an officer.
C. The following language is recommended: The counting and handling of the ballots will be the responsibility of the *President* and the Advisor. **If the *President* is running for office, this responsibility will fall to the next ranking officer who is not on the ballot.**

Section III - Terms of Office: Officers are elected in the Spring of each school year. If a position is not filled at the beginning of the Fall semester a special election will be held.
*Note: A member may be elected to office for more than one year. Officers cannot serve for more than 7 semesters.

Section IV: Vacancies in Officer Positions
The Vice President will assume the President's position for the remainder of the term if the President graduates or is no longer able to serve in the position. All other positions will be put to a special vote if an officer must be replaced.

Section 2 - Removal of Members and Officers
Removal of Members: A member may not be removed arbitrarily. Failure to meet the membership requirements, violation of rules explained in the Student Handbook, failure to abide by the policies of the Native American Student Association, and conduct unbecoming of the organization are all reasons for possible removal of a member.

Reasons for Removing Officers: Officers are expected to fulfill all responsibilities of their offices and those of standard membership. Failure to fulfill the responsibilities of his or her office listed in Article IV are grounds for removal.

Procedure for Removing Members and Officers: Minimum due process must be followed: The accused person must be **provided written charges and an opportunity to defend him/herself** before the President and Advisor make a decision on the person's status as a member/officer.

Article V - Meetings

Indicate:
A. NASA meets at least once per month during the Fall (beginning in September) and Spring Semesters (beginning in February) of the school year.
B. Meeting times will be determined by a vote of the members during our second meeting.
C. Members will be emailed to let them know when there is a meeting or if there needs to be a special meeting.

Article VI - Committees

Ad-hoc Committees: It is often helpful to authorize the President of the organization to appoint committees to address a specific issue. In these situations, the committee should report on its work and progress to the organization as a whole during meetings.

Article VII - Finances

Funds may be generated from any or all of the following:

Section 1 – Dues
Dues are to be collected from members if there is a vote to collect dues during the first meeting of the school year, if there is a vote to collect dues:

A. Officers will discuss the amount for dues and members will vote on which option they choose.
B. Dues will be collected by Thanksgiving Break to maintain membership.

Section 2 – Fundraising
All members are expected to participate in fundraising efforts. At least one fundraiser will be held each school year.

Article VIII - Advisors

Section 1: Selection
Every student organization is required to have a **faculty sponsor and a faculty or staff member** willing to serve as an advisor for the organization. Officers will vote on who to approach to maintain these sponsorships.

Section 2: Duties
To reserve rooms, vans, etc., the advisor must sign appropriate forms. The advisor is also required to attend or find a person approved by the university to attend out-of-town events in which the student organization participates. The advisor's role is not to run the organization, but to give advice to members and officers and to facilitate an experience rich in opportunities for intellectual, cultural and personal growth.

Article IX - Amendments

In order to propose and pass changes to the organization's bylaws a vote must be held. The membership must vote on any changes. Members should have the appropriate time to consider changes before a vote is taken on their approval. Unless otherwise stipulated, a quorum is sufficient to pass any changes.