

# Western Illinois University – Quad Cities Academic Club for Engineering Constitution

Revised August 2023

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Academic Club for Engineering at Western Illinois University – Quad Cities is to enhance each member’s educational experience by providing academic resources, hands-on experience, and community service opportunities. Furthermore, the club will strive to represent and promote the Engineering Department at WIU-QC by hosting and participating in local engineering-related activities.

## Article I

### Name

**Section 1:** The name of this organization shall be the Western Illinois University Academic Club for Engineering (ACE).

## Article II

### Authorities and Power

**Section 1:** This organization is established under the policies and procedures of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees and through the University President and/or Vice President for Student Services. The exercise of ACE’s functions should be made subject to such conditions as they may prescribe.

**Section 2:** Authorities and powers vested in the student body of Western Illinois University shall be exercised by ACE except where otherwise described in this Constitution or Bylaws.

**Section 3:** ACE shall recognize authorities and powers vested in organizations representing specialized interests and activities on campus.

**Section 4:** This organization shall comply with all of WIU’s university and campus policies and regulations and local, state, and federal laws.

## Article III

### Membership

**Section 1:** Members and officers must be enrolled as part time or full-time students at Western Illinois University.

**Section 2:** Non-students may act as associate members, but may not vote or hold office.

## Article IV

### Non-Discrimination Clauses

**Section 1:** This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political affiliation, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or veteran status. This policy will include, but will not be limited to, recruiting, membership, organization activities, or opportunities to hold office.

**Section 2:** ACE shall be a safe environment conducive to respectful debate. Members shall not slander, libel, harass, threaten, intimidate, or make disrespectful comments or gestures of any kind toward anyone attending ACE functions. Violation of this rule may result in removal.

#### **Article V**

##### **Statement of Non-Hazing**

**Section 1:** This organization will not conspire to engage in hazing or commit any act that will cause or is likely to cause physical harm or personal degradation resulting in physical or mental harm of any person associated with ACE or Western Illinois University.

#### **Article VI**

##### **Governing Documents and Amendments**

**Section 1:** ACE constitution amendments require approval before a general assembly audience and shall require two (2) readings before a general assembly approval may take place.

**Section 2:** Amendments will go into effect immediately following approval from the general assembly and ACE advisor.

#### **Article VII**

##### **Composition and Duties of the Academic Club of Engineers**

**Section 1:** ACE shall consist of an executive branch charged with executing any and all necessary action required in the completion of all legislative decrees. The executive branch shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The executive branch shall represent ACE in all university activities either directly or indirectly as deemed by the President.

**Section 2:** ACE shall be overseen by advisors as deemed by the Office of Student Activities. Advisors shall be neutral overseeing agents, serve to aid effective partnership between ACE and university administration, and shall uphold the constitution while aiding membership in matters pertaining to ACE.

#### **Article VIII**

##### **Financial Obligation**

**Section 1:** A majority vote by a general assembly of ACE members may determine reasonable dues and fees assessed to each member at the beginning of each semester.

#### **Article IX**

##### **Elections**

**Section 1:** All officers shall hold their positions for one semester. Officers may be re-elected an unlimited number of terms and will not be prohibited from seeking different positions at the conclusion of a term.

**Section 2:** Elections for a given semester shall be held during the second week of that term.

- a. Only active members, who are present during elections, shall be allowed to nominate candidates and vote.
- b. A process of nomination and final voting will take place for each office before moving on to the next. The sequence will proceed as follows: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Individuals who do not gain a specific office will be allowed to seek other positions.

- c. Nominations will be conducted prior to final voting on the day of elections. Nominations may be self-derived, must be supported by at least one other member, and must be accepted by the nominated individual.
- d. Following nominations, each candidate will be given a chance to speak on their behalf to voting members, while their opponents wait in an isolated area.
- e. Following each candidate's opportunity to speak, voting members will be allowed to discuss the candidates until a motion to vote is put forward.
- f. Once a motion to vote has been put forward, all voting members will be given one vote or the option to abstain. A majority vote will decide the winner.
- g. In the event of a tie, excluding Presidential ties, the current President shall decide the winner. Presidential ties will be subject to another group discussion and vote until a winner is decided.

## **Article X**

### **Removal and Succession**

**Section 1:** Cause for removal from office or from the club shall be defined as noncompliance with duties described in Article VII of the ACE Constitution or behavior deemed detrimental to the image and operations of ACE.

**Section 2:** Upon recommendation of removal by a general assembly, the noncompliant ACE member must be offered an opportunity to defend himself or herself at the next meeting of the general assembly. A majority vote of the general assembly is required for a member to be removed.

## **Article XI**

### **Tax Status**

**Section 1:** This is a not-for-profit organization.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **Statement of Compliance with Campus Regulations**

**Section 1:** This organization shall comply with all university and campus policies and regulations as well as local, state, and federal laws.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **Statement on Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion**

**Section 1:** The Academic Club of Engineering at WIU joins other organizations across the country to support the Black Lives Matter Movement and call for the end of systemic racism in our country. We take a stand against racism in all its forms and support efforts to dismantle systems that disproportionately affect Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, and other marginalized peoples. We support the lives of our Black students and colleagues, and we are committed to end police violence and brutality, white supremacy, and all forms of racism.