Recommendation:
Recommend the Student Body of Northern Kentucky University vote to approve revisions to the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Northern Kentucky University.

Background:

Constitution of the Student Government Association of Northern Kentucky University

Executive Summary of Major and Minor Changes

In the 2010-2011 academic year, members of the Student Government Association [SGA] began reviewing and editing of the Constitution. Ultimately, this review failed to be endorsed. Two years later, the current 2012-2013 SGA sought to refine that work, and a comprehensive revision began in September 2012. A review of the Constitution was deemed necessary due to administrative shifts within SGA, as well as a collective desire to ensure the efficiency of its inner-workings in an effort to most effectively serve the student body.

The framework of the Constitution came from the most current version located on the SGA website (last updated November 2009), and the revisions made by 2010-2011 SGA (Kevin Golden and Chad Howe) in conjunction with the Dean of Students Office Staff (Dr. Jeffrey Waple and Steve Meier). An ad-hoc committee was formed within SGA to conduct most of the initial review process relating to consistency and syntax. Major changes to content were drafted by the Legislative Liaison in consultation with the SGA executive board and advisors (Steve Meier was also consulted due to his experience relating to Constitutional revisions). Drafting and re-drafting took place from October 2012 through January 2013. When an acceptable draft was obtained, the document was submitted to the SGA Executive Board and Advisors (including Steve Meier) for final comments. Comments were provided in January 2013, and a final draft was also completed in January 2013.

Listed below are the major revisions to the Constitution:

Addition of a fourth committee

Recommendation: Add a fourth Student Senate committee pertaining to Student Academic Success. This can be found in Article IV, Sec. 1, subsection (B) (3) (a).

Rationale: A fourth Student Senate committee would add a more defined focus among the three existing committees, and help to reduce the overpopulation of the University Improvements Committee. Additionally, this committee would allow SGA to be more consistent with President Mearns’s goals for student success.
**Change in Definitions of Majority**

**Recommendation:** Remove definition of simple majority, define majority as one more than 50% of voting members, and add definition of “supermajority” as \((2/3)\) of voting members. This can be found in Article II, Sec. 1, subsection (A).

**Rationale:** The current definitions of majority as two thirds \((2/3)\) and simple majority as one more than 50% allow for misinterpretation and inconsistency regarding their definitions, as well as the definition of quorum, and the intricacies of senate consent. The new definitions are easier to understand, and avoid the misnomer of equating majority with two thirds \((2/3)\).

**Addition of Legislative Liaison Position**

**Recommendation:** Add position to the Executive Cabinet. This can be found in Article IV, Sec. 1, subsection (A) (7). Also, transfer responsibility for coordinating with committee chairs from the Vice President to the Legislative Liaison. This can be found in Article IV, Sec. 1, subsection (A) (7) (c).

**Rationale:** The Legislative Liaison position currently exists in SGA. The re-assignment of responsibility is for the sake of practicality, as the Legislative Liaison is already responsible for editing all legislation of the Student Senate.

**Listed below are the minor changes to the Constitution:**

**Student Senate**

**Recommendation:** Refer to the SGA senate as the “Student Senate.”

**Rationale:** This change adds consistency, while differentiating the SGA senate from other legislative bodies.

**Secretary of Student Involvement Responsibilities**

**Recommendation:** Added co-chair of the Student Organization Board to this position’s responsibilities. This can be found in Article IV, Sec. 1, subsection (A) (5) (d).

**Rationale:** Responsibility has been added since last revision of the Constitution.

**Grammar, Syntax, and Spelling**

**Recommendation:** Corrected grammatical, spelling, and compositional errors in the Constitution.

**Rationale:** Self-evident