

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY**

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the students of Southeastern Louisiana University, in order to promote communication between ourselves and the community of which we are a part, to further educational and social interest, to learn, and to maintain an atmosphere congenial to the advancement of our lives, do ordain and establish this constitution for the Student Government Association.

## **ARTICLE I: ENACTMENT**

### **SECTION 1: NAME**

The organization shall be known as the Student Government Association of Southeastern Louisiana University henceforth referred to as SGA.

### **SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP**

All students enrolled at this university may be members of SGA and are entitled to and granted the privileges of membership in SGA.

### **SECTION 3: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization shall be as follows:

- A. To determine the attitude of the student body on all problems of student activity or interest and provide for all general welfare of the student body.
- B. To serve as the channel of communication between the student body and the faculty and administration, and all levels of state and federal government.
- C. To establish and execute programs and projects beneficial to the students of Southeastern Louisiana University.
- D. To promote and improve relations between the local community and students of Southeastern Louisiana University.
- E. To initiate measures necessary to implement the above clauses.

### **SECTION 2: COMPOSITION**

The governing body shall be composed of the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch.

## **ARTICLE II: OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1: QUALIFICATIONS**

The qualifications for eligibility for office in SGA are as follows:

- A. Be a full-time student as defined by the university with the exception of graduating seniors, as defined by the university.

- B. Students other than first semester freshmen must maintain the qualifications as noted within the Student Government Association Election Code published by the Office of Student Organizations qualifications for officers' positions.
- C. Have not been impeached by previous session of SGA within one year.

## **SECTION 2: DUAL OFFICE HOLDING**

A student shall never simultaneously hold more than one elected or appointed office, defined by and provided in this Constitution or the Bylaws of SGA.

## **SECTION 3: ELECTED OFFICES**

All elections must adhere to the Student Government Association Election Code published by the Office for Student Engagement.

# **ARTICLE III: EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

## **SECTION 1: PURPOSE**

The executive powers of SGA shall be vested in the President.

## **SECTION 2: COMPOSITION**

The Executive Branch shall be composed of the President and their designated representatives collectively known as the Cabinet.

## **SECTION 3: QUALIFICATIONS**

Eligibility for the office of President:

- A. Completed at least 45 college credit hours with a minimum of 15 credit hours completed at Southeastern Louisiana University.
- B. Additional qualifications and requirements are located in the Student Government Association Election Code as published by the Office of Student Engagement.

The Cabinet:

- A. With the approval of the Senate, the President shall have the authority to appoint and remove members of the Cabinet. In the event of a Senate recess, the President has the executive decision to appoint and remove members, to be voted upon by the Senate when they return to session.

## **SECTION 4: DUTIES**

Duties/Authorities of the President shall be:

- A. To coordinate and direct the duties of the Cabinet and to advocate for and support the initiatives of SGA.
- B. To appoint Justices, upon the advice and consent of the Chief Justice, to vacant seats within the Student Supreme Court with simple majority approval from the Senate.
- C. To appoint Senators, upon the advice and consent of the Vice President, to vacant seats within the college in which they are enrolled with the approval of a simple majority vote of the Student Senate.
- D. To call special sessions of the Senate, as deemed necessary by the President and/or two-thirds majority of the Senate.

- E. To approve or veto any legislation originating from the Senate.
- F. To stand and/or serve on committees and positions as deemed necessary by the university.

Duties of the Cabinet shall be:

- A. Attend Cabinet Meetings
- B. To complete duties deemed necessary by the President.
- C. To provide an annual report and all documentation to be passed on to the successor of their respective positions.

### **SECTION 5: SUCCESSION**

In the event of vacancies in the offices of President, the powers and duties of Presidency shall fall upon the line of succession.

- 1. Vice President
- 2. Chief Justice
- 3. Senate Pro Tempore
- 4. Associate Chief Justice
- 5. Chief of Staff

## **ARTICLE IV: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

### **SECTION 1: NAME**

The Legislative Branch shall be referred to as the Student Senate.

### **SECTION 2: COMPOSITION**

The Legislative Branch shall be composed of the Vice President, hereafter referred to as the President of the Senate, the Senate Pro Tempore, and the Student Senate.

### **SECTION 3: OFFICES**

The Legislative Branch shall be composed of the following offices:

- A. The Vice President, hereafter referred to as the President of the Senate.
- B. The Senate Pro Tempore, whom shall be elected from within the Student Senate.
- C. Senators, elected by a majority from each academic college of the university in the proportion of one senator for each 500 students or a fraction thereof enrolled in that college during the semester in which the election is held.
- D. Five Senator At-Large positions which will be elected by a majority of the students in the university which will remain available to any student.
- E. Two freshmen senators elected by the freshmen student body during the fall semester.

Terms for members of the Student Senate shall end upon the swearing in of the newly elected Senators in April.

## **SECTION 4: DUTIES**

Duties of the President of the Senate shall be:

- A. Serve as the Chairman of the Capital Outlay Committee.

Duties of the Senate Pro Tempore shall be:

- A. Record all minutes during Senate Meetings.
- B. Reside over Senate meetings in the absence of the President of the Senate.

General Duties

- A. Pass legislation necessary to implement and defend the rights, privileges, and duties vested by the Constitution and Bylaws in SGA.
- B. Reside over all SGA Senate meetings.
- C. Reside over SGA Presidential responsibilities in the absence of the President, or at the discretion of the President.
- D. Determine the attitude of the student body on all issues of student activity and interest.
- E. Stand on University Committees as appointed by the SGA President.
- F. Review SGA policies and recommend changes in order to better pursue justice for each and every student.

Specific Duties

- A. Review and take action upon the SGA budget and the appropriation of SGA funds.
- B. Review and take action upon nominations to appointed offices of SGA.
- C. Impeach any Legislative, Executive, or Judicial officer of SGA under the guidelines prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws.
- D. Call for special elections and referendums.
- E. Override a veto by the President of SGA by a three-fourths majority in favor of overriding veto.
- F. Present all appropriate measures to the President for approval.

## **SECTION 5: SUCCESSION**

In the event of vacancies in the office of Vice President, the powers and duties of Vice Presidency shall fall upon the Senate Pro Tempore.

## **SECTION 6: LEGISLATION**

The Senate shall conduct their business through Legislative action as stated within the Bylaws.

## **SECTION 7: MEETINGS**

The Senate shall hold a regular meeting every Monday during the fall and spring semesters, excluding any holidays. A special session may be called by the SGA President.

## **ARTICLE V: JUDICIAL BRANCH**

### **SECTION 1: NAME**

The Judicial Branch of SGA shall be referred to as the Student Supreme Court.

## **SECTION 2: COMPOSITION**

The Student Supreme Court shall be composed of the Chief Justice and Justices.

## **SECTION 3: OFFICES**

The Student Supreme Court shall be composed of the following offices:

- A. The Chief Justice.
- B. Six Justices to be appointed by the President until resignation, removal, or graduation upon the advice and consent of the Chief Justice.
  1. The position of Associate Chief Justice shall be elected by majority vote of the Student Supreme Court from those within the Judicial Branch.

## **SECTION 4: DUTIES**

Duties of the Chief Justice shall be:

- A. To preside over the Judicial Branch
- B. Serve as Election Board Chair, if qualified.
- C. Meet with the Office of Student Conduct at least once per semester and serve on the Student Hearing Board

Duties of the Associate Chief Justice shall be:

- A. To assist the Chief Justice with all branch matters.
- B. To fill the role as Chief Justice in their absence, or should that individual need to step down.
- C. To take the minutes of all Judicial Branch Meetings.

The Student Supreme Court of SGA shall have the following authorities and duties:

- A. Rule on all questions of interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws of SGA.
- B. To rule on all questions of interpretation of legislation passed by the Student Senate.
- C. To be in collaboration with the Student Government Association Election Code as published by the Office for Student Engagement.
- D. To adjudicate appeals from the Student Judicial Committees recognized or sanctioned by the SGA.
- E. To try all impeachments, except those of its own members.
- F. To serve on the Office of Student Conduct's Student Conduct Hearing Board, and participate in at least one (1) student hearing per semester.

## **ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS**

### **SECTION 1: AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed by:

- A. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate with the authorized signature of the President of SGA.

**SECTION 2: AMENDMENT BALLOT**

The Election Board shall see that the amendment is placed on the ballot in referendum form with the following questions and responses preceding the wording of the amendment:

Do you favor the adoption of the following as an amendment to the Student Government Association Constitution?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 3: ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT**

The amendment shall be adopted if a majority of the voting membership reply in the affirmative.

**SECTION 4: SIGNED CONSTITUTION**

Four copies of the Constitution, updated as amended, and of each individual amendment, with the vote count as adopted by the student body and the date adopted, shall be duly signed. One copy shall be filed with the SGA advisor and one with the head of each of the three branches of Student Government.

**ARTICLE VII: RATIFICATION**

**SECTION 1:**

This Constitution is as adopted by the Student Government Association upon approval as amended by the student body in March 2016.

**SECTION 2:**

Any persons holding office under the authority of SGA at the time of adoption of this Constitution shall continue to exercise his/her powers and duties until that term ends or his/her successor takes office.

**SECTION 3:**

All contracts and agreements binding on the time of the adoption of this Constitution will be honored under this Constitution.

**SECTION 4:**

The Student Government Association hereby recognizes the authority of the President of the University to withdraw, suspend, or modify, for cause, any authority granted to the Student Government Association by this Constitution. The University of Louisiana System Board in conjunction with University Administration’s policies and procedures supersede those contained in this document.

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