Summary of Proposed Constitution of the Student Government Association of the University of Georgia

This year, SGA’s Constitutional Revision Committee took on the heavy task of reviewing, revising, and revamping our organization’s current governing document. Our committee’s main goal was to provide our elected and appointed student representatives a Constitution that would give them the ability to serve the needs of our growing and ever-diversifying student body. After months of hard work, collaboration, and amending, we feel that we have met our goal in serving you, the students of UGA.

The following summary will provide insight into the changes - both big and small - included in the proposed Constitution. Please note that any articles, sections, or clauses not mentioned in this summary were either not changed, or were simply edited for formatting or grammar. Please also note that updates such as name changes or general requirements were edited throughout the document:

- Preamble drafted to impart a purpose to the governing document.
- SGA’s non-discriminatory policy updated to reflect institution-wide policy.
- Branches of SGA - Legislative, Executive, and Judicial - defined and re-ordered to reflect similar governing documents such as the United States Constitution.
  - EX: Legislative branch is denoted first, followed by Executive and Judicial.
- Article V. Legislative Branch:
  - Section 3
    - Purpose updated to reflect needs of student body.
    - Types of Senators updated to define constituents, duties, and requirements of office.
  - Section 4
    - Name change from “Freshman Board” to “First-Year Senators” to reflect inclusivity of representatives.
    - Proportional formula added to ensure adequate representation.
  - Section 7
    - Types of legislation expanded to resolutions, proclamations, and bills
  - Section 8
    - Determination of Senate rules and procedures given to Senate
● Article VI. Executive Branch
  ○ Section 2
    ■ Election and Inauguration timeline edited to provide flexibility for changing academic calendars
    ○ Sections 4 & 5 - Term “Freshman” removed from titles to reflect inclusivity of members
● Article VII. Judicial Branch
  ○ Purpose established
  ○ Section 4
    ■ Requirements for Chief Justice, Associate Justices, and Alternate Justices expanded and clarified to ensure fair processes
● Article VIII
  ○ Impeachment and removal process established to ensure due process for both members of the student body and active members of SGA who wish to file a petition of impeachment for any active member suspected of violating the SGA Constitution, Code of Ethics, Statutes, or any other governing documents.
● Article IX. Vacancies
  ○ Line of succession in the event of vacancies updated to include Treasurer.
  ○ Requirements for filling a Senate vacancies expanded to ensure fair representation of constituents.
● Article X.
  ○ Percentages and offices for recall and referendums updated.
● Article XI.
  ○ Number of voting members updated from 11 to 12.
● Article XII.
  ○ Oath updated to include “and all other governing documents”
● Article XIV.
  ○ Article drafted to ensure procedural diligence when amending the Constitution of the Student Government Association.