



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

## *Student Government Association*

### Constitution of the Student Government Association of the University of Georgia

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**ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

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*Section 1. Procedure*

## PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of Georgia, in order to preserve the rights and privileges of student self-governance, to guarantee a student voice within the University, to advocate on behalf of the common interests of all students, to promote responsible and effective student leadership, and to train ourselves in democratic government, do hereby establish this Constitution.

### **Article I. Name**

This organization shall be the Student Government Association of the University of Georgia (abbreviated hereafter as SGA).

### **Article II. Purpose**

SGA shall be the organized voice for each student of the University of Georgia; shall protect students' rights; shall serve as a liaison between students, administrators, and organized governing bodies of the University; and shall advocate on behalf of the students' overall well-being.

### **Article III. Membership**

#### *Section 1. Student Membership*

All University of Georgia students are members of SGA upon payment of their Student Activity Fee. Elected Officials and Appointed Officials are considered Active.

#### *Section 2. Non-Discrimination Policy*

Recognizing that the University of Georgia is an important part of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, and the United States, it should be incumbent upon every member to participate in activities that contribute to overall community well-being. Active members shall:

- I. Uphold the laws of the United States of America, the State of Georgia, and their respective communities.
- II. Respect all members of the community regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, gender identity or disability in compliance with the University of Georgia's non-discrimination and anti-harassment policy:
  - A. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students without regard to race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.
  - B. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students as stated in the University of Georgia Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects people from discrimination based on race, color or national origin in programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states that: No person in the

United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

*Section 3. Open Meetings*

All meetings of SGA shall be open to all members of the University community, except where expressly provided for by this Constitution.

**Article IV. General Organization**

*Section 1: Constitutional Supremacy*

Upon ratification, this Constitution and its associated codes shall supersede all previous governing documents, which shall be deemed null and void.

*Section 2. Branches*

Paragraph A. Organization

SGA shall be organized into three branches: the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial.

- I. The branches are considered to be separate bodies whose powers are enumerated in this Constitution and expanded upon in the statutes.
  - A. The Legislative Branch shall consist of all Legislative Officers and the Members of the Senate.
  - B. The Executive Branch shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, other appointed Executive Officers and other bodies as dictated by the statutes.
  - C. The Judicial Branch shall consist of a Supreme Court with one Chief Justice with no fewer than four and no greater than eight Associate Justices where the final total of justices is an odd number.

Paragraph B. Statutory Responsibility

All positions and committees outlined in this Constitution must additionally abide by the Statutes of SGA

**Article V. Legislative Branch**

*Section 1. Officers*

Paragraph A. President of the Senate

- I. The President of the Senate must have been elected and served a full term as a senator or served a full term as a First-Year Senator in order to qualify to run as a candidate for President of the Senate. If fewer than two senators fulfill this requirement, then any regularly elected Senator may run for President of the Senate.
- II. Shall be elected by a majority vote (50% +1 vote) - hereafter referred to as absolute majority - of the Senate at the first meeting of the new Senate.

- III. Shall be the presiding officer of the Senate.
- IV. Shall have the power to call meetings of the Senate.
- V. Shall communicate any veto delivered by the President of the Student Government Association to the Senate and the student body.

Paragraph B. President Pro-Tempore

- I. The President Pro-Tempore of the Senate must have been elected and served a full term as a senator or served a full term as a First-Year Senator in order to qualify to run as a candidate for President Pro-Tempore of the Senate. If fewer than two senators fulfill this requirement, then any regularly elected Senator may run for President Pro-Tempore of the Senate.
- II. The President Pro-Tempore shall be elected by an absolute majority vote of the Senate at the first meeting of the new Senate
- III. Shall fulfill the duties and obligations of the President of the Senate, including acting as the presiding officer of the Senate, in the absence of the President of the Senate.

Paragraph C. Additional Officers

Additional officers may be defined in the statutes.

*Section 2. The Senate*

Paragraph A. Purpose

All legislative powers of the University of Georgia student body shall be vested in the Senate.

Paragraph B. Composition

- I. Shall be composed of Senators and the members of First-Year Senate.
- II. Voting members of the Senate shall include elected and appointed Senators as well as the proportional number of First-Year Senators.

Paragraph C. Duties

- I. Senators shall attend all Senate meetings as scheduled by the presiding officer.
- II. Senators shall not be required to attend Senate meetings between the Spring and Fall terms.
- III. Senators with voting rights must be present in order to vote on any item or issue; there shall be no voting by proxy.
- IV. A quorum of the Senate is considered to be two-thirds of all voting members of Senate on the roll, including Senators and the proportional number of voting First-Year Senators, who must be present in order to conduct official business.
- V. A two-thirds vote of the Senate overrides a presidential veto.

### *Section 3. Senators*

#### Paragraph A. Purpose

The purpose of the senators will be to represent the needs and interests of their defined constituency within the University of Georgia student body.

#### Paragraph B. Senators of Schools and Colleges

- I. Shall be elected from each of the schools and colleges of the University of Georgia in proportion to the student enrollment within the school or college using the formula of one Senate seat for every one-thousand students in a college and one Senate seat for any college with less than one-thousand enrolled.
- II. Shall be registered as full-time students as defined by their degree or program of study and must maintain an institutional G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale throughout the term.
- III. Shall be enrolled in a major or intended major in the school or college in which they stand for election.
- IV. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot and inaugurated no later than three weeks before the end of the Spring term as defined by the academic calendar.
- V. If a Senator ceases to be enrolled in the school or college they were elected to represent, then their membership status will be subject to review by the Supreme Court.

#### Paragraph C. At-Large Senators

- I. Shall be elected from the student body as a whole using the formula of one Senate seat for every 4,000 students.
- II. Shall be registered as full-time students as defined by their degree or program of study and must maintain an institutional G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale throughout the term.
- III. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot and inaugurated no later than three weeks before the end of the Spring term as defined by the academic calendar.

#### Paragraph D. Campus Life Senators

- I. Shall be elected from the student body as a whole using the following formulas:
  - A. One seat allotted for Health & Humanities
  - B. One seat allotted for Community Involvement
  - C. One seat allotted for Access & Opportunity
  - D. One seat allotted for Sustainability
- II. Shall be registered as full time students as defined by their degree or program of study and must maintain an institutional G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale throughout the term.
- III. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot and inaugurated no later than three weeks before the end of the Spring term as defined by the

academic calendar.

Paragraph E. Duties

- I. Senators of Schools and Colleges shall represent and advocate on behalf of students within the school or college from which they were elected.
- II. At-Large Senators will represent and advocate on behalf of the student body's overall interests.
- III. Campus Life Senators will advocate on behalf of the issues contained in their area of representation.
- IV. Each Senator shall have one vote in Senate.

*Section 4. First-Year Senators*

Paragraph A. Purpose

The purpose of the First-Year Senators will be to represent the concerns and needs of the First-Year class to the Senate. The First-Year Senators' term shall commence upon the installation of the body at a meeting of the Senate and shall expire upon the end of the current Senate term.

Paragraph B. Composition

- I. Shall be composed of no greater than twenty and no fewer than the proportional number of first-year students.
- II. Voting members shall be proportional to the first-year student enrollment within the University of Georgia using the formula of one voting Senate seat for every one-thousand students enrolled.

Paragraph C. Membership Selection

- I. An application process shall be held during the beginning of the fall semester to select members for the term.
- II. The First-Year Senator Selection Committee shall oversee the selection process.
- III. The First-Year Senator Selection Committee shall consist of two legislative officers, hereafter referred to as the Chairs of First-Year Senate, the President of the Senate, and the Director(s) of First-Year Programs where each member has one (1) vote.
- IV. The First-Year Senator Selection Committee shall be chaired by the President of the Senate
- V. The First-Year Senator Selection Committee shall set the guidelines of the selection process, including criteria used for screening applicants.
- VI. Every member of the First-Year Senator Selection Committee must be present in order for the committee to conduct business.

Paragraph D. Duties

- I. Shall represent and advocate on behalf of the First-Year class.
- II. Shall fulfill all mandatory obligations as defined by the Chairs of First-Year Senators.



- III. Shall have a proportional number of votes in Senate, which will rotate among the members of the First-Year Senators.

### *Section 5. Legislative Cabinet*

#### Paragraph A: Purpose

Legislative Cabinet shall serve to coordinate and implement the initiatives of the Senate through the usage of Legislative committees.

#### Paragraph B. Composition of Legislative Committees

- I. The President of the Senate shall establish the number, subjects, and all further details of the legislative committees as the President of the Senate thinks proper and defined in the statutes.
- II. All Senators shall serve on one of a number of legislative committees.
- III. First-Year Senators are a standing Legislative Committee

#### Paragraph C. Chairs of Legislative Committees

- I. Shall be appointed by the President of the Senate before the second meeting of Senate.
- II. Shall be confirmed with an absolute majority approval of the Senate.

#### Paragraph D. Legislative Cabinet Membership

- I. The Chairs of Legislative Committees shall serve on the Legislative Cabinet, which shall meet regularly as determined by the statutes.
- II. The President of the Senate shall serve as the Chair of Legislative Cabinet, and the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate shall serve as Vice-Chair.
- III. The Chair(s) of the First-Year Senators shall also serve as ex officio, non-voting members.

### *Section 6. Rules Committee*

#### Paragraph A. Purpose

The purpose of the Rules Committee is to ensure the legitimacy of the Legislative process.

#### Paragraph B. Composition

- I. Shall be chaired by the President Pro-Tempore and consist of the President of the Senate, who is an ex officio, non-voting member, and the proportional number of Senators who shall be appointed by the President Pro-Tempore and approved by an absolute majority vote of the Senate.
- II. Votes require a majority of the committee members present to adopt the motion; motions failing to secure a majority are not to advance beyond the committee.

#### Paragraph C. Duties

- I. Shall correct all semantic errors in proposed legislation.

- II. Shall catalog all legislation presented before the Senate.
- III. Shall rectify any code in accordance with approved bills.
- IV. Shall rectify the Constitution in accordance with approved constitutional amendments.

### *Section 7. Legislation*

#### Paragraph A. Resolutions

- I. Shall be drafted to recommend or encourage a new program, project, or initiative to be executed by the Senate.
- II. Shall be submitted to the Rules Committee for semantic revision before appearing before the Senate.
- III. Shall require one reading at a Senate meeting. The presiding officer of the Senate shall entertain debate and amendment, and the Senate will vote on the proposed Act of Law.
- IV. Shall require an absolute majority vote of the Senate.
- V. Shall be sent to the President of the Student Government Association for approval or shall take effect one week after being presented to the SGA President.

#### Paragraph B. Proclamations

- I. Shall be drafted to express an official position of the Senate on behalf of the student body.
- II. Shall be submitted to the Rules Committee for semantic revision before appearing before the Senate.
- III. Shall require one reading at a Senate meeting. The presiding officer of the Senate shall entertain debate and amendment, and the Senate will vote on the proposed resolution.
- IV. Shall require an absolute majority vote of the Senate.

#### Paragraph C. Bills

- I. Shall be drafted to alter any code or other governing document other than the Constitution.
- II. Shall be submitted to the Rules Committee for semantic revision before appearing before the Senate.
- III. Shall require one reading at a Senate meeting. Upon first reading, the presiding officer of the Senate shall entertain debate and amendment, and the Senate will vote on the proposed bill.
- IV. Shall require an absolute majority vote of the Senate
- V. Shall be sent to the President of the Student Government Association for approval or shall take effect one week after being presented to the SGA President.

### *Section 8. Parliamentary Authority*

#### Paragraph A. Rules and Procedures

- I. The Senate may determine the rules of its own proceedings.
- II. These rules may be codified in the statutes and/or in a separate piece of

legislation.

Paragraph B. Rules for Debate

Shall be determined within the rules and procedures of the statutes.

**Article VI. Executive Branch**

*Section 1. Composition*

The Executive Branch shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Attorney General, Director(s) of First-Year Programs, and other appointed Executive Officers at the authority of the President.

*Section 2. Officers*

Paragraph A. President

- I. Must be registered as a full-time student as defined by the President's degree or program of study, and must maintain an institutional GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale throughout the term.
- II. Shall establish rules and procedures in accordance with the academic calendar.
- III. Shall run as a ticket with the Vice President and Treasurer
- IV. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot and inaugurated no later than three weeks before the end of the Spring term as defined by the academic calendar.
- V. Shall be responsible for the following:
  - A. Shall speak on behalf of SGA.
  - B. Shall maintain a working relationship with the President of the Graduate Student Association to inform and collaborate on initiatives affecting all students.
  - C. Shall make appointments to University-wide committees and governing bodies that have student representation and shall select students to represent the student body outside the University.
  - D. Shall serve as the University delegate to the Student Advisory Council of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and shall have the authority to appoint Student Advisory Council delegates.
  - E. Shall have the ability to create committees that expire at the end of each term.
  - F. May veto legislation passed by the Senate within a week of passage. Such a veto must be in writing and delivered to the President of the Senate.
  - G. Shall present to the student body an official report on SGA activities at the end of each elected term.
  - H. Must attend all Senate meetings.
  - I. Must give an officer report at every official SGA meeting at which the President's attendance is required.

Paragraph B. Vice President

- I. Must be registered as a full time student as defined by the Vice President's degree or program of study, and must maintain an institutional GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale throughout the term.
- II. Establishing rules and procedures in accordance with the Constitution of SGA.
- III. Shall run as a ticket with the President and Treasurer.
- IV. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot and inaugurated no later than three weeks before the end of the Spring term as defined by the academic calendar.
- V. Shall be responsible for the following:
  - A. Shall assist the President in the fulfillment of presidential duties and oversight of special projects.
  - B. Shall act in full capacity of the President should the President be unable to fulfill the duties of office.
  - C. Shall preside over the Executive cabinet and all official meetings of the executive branch.
  - D. Shall make appointments to University Council committees that require undergraduate representatives.
  - E. Shall ensure all undergraduate seats on University Council are filled with an appropriate undergraduate representative in accordance with bylaws and statutes of University Council.
  - F. Must attend all Senate meetings.
  - G. Must give an officer report at every official SGA meeting in which the Vice President's attendance is required.

Paragraph C. Treasurer

- I. Must be registered as a full time student as defined by the Treasurer's degree or program of study, and must maintain an institutional G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale throughout the term.
- II. Shall establish rules and procedures in accordance with the Constitution of SGA.
- III. Shall run as a ticket with the President and Vice President.
- IV. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot and inaugurated no later than three weeks before the end of the Spring term as defined by the academic calendar.
- V. Shall be responsible for the following:
  - A. The finances, financial records, and financial transactions of SGA.
  - B. Giving a report on the current state of the budget at each Senate meeting
  - C. Student Activity Fee allocation processes
  - D. Must attend all Senate meetings.
  - E. Must give an officer report at every official SGA meeting in which the Treasurer's attendance is required.

Paragraph D. Attorney General

- I. Shall be a non-Senator appointed by the President with an absolute majority approval of the Senate.
- II. Shall act as a liaison between the three branches.
- III. Shall make eligibility checks each academic term on all active SGA members.
- IV. Shall inquire, investigate, and gather evidence, testimony, or written statements relevant to possible or alleged violations of the Constitution and all other governing documents by any elected or appointed official.

*Section 3. Elections Committee*

Paragraph A. Purpose

- I. Shall act on authority of the President, upon confirmation by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, and defer to the Judicial Branch on Constitutional questions.
- II. Shall plan, monitor, manage, and define all elections procedures, by processes outlined in the governing documents of SGA in order to maintain an effective and meaningful process as prescribed by the Constitution.

Paragraph B. Composition

- I. Shall be chaired by the Attorney General, who shall vote only in the case of a tie.
- II. Shall be comprised of the President of the Senate, two non-active members of SGA and two active members of SGA appointed by the President – at the recommendation of the Attorney General – and approved by an absolute majority vote of the Senate.
- III. The majority of students on this committee must be graduating seniors.
- IV. Should the President of the Senate not be able to impartially serve on the Elections Committee, they must recommend a Senator to serve on the Committee.
- V. Quorum shall consist of four of the five voting members and the Attorney General.

Paragraph C. Elections Code

Shall be the rule upon which the Elections Committee operates and will be defined in the Statutes.

*Section 4. Forum*

Paragraph A. Purpose

The purpose of Forum is to develop first-year leaders through leadership training, community projects, and outreach.

Paragraph B. Composition

Shall be composed of no greater than one-hundred first-year

students.

Paragraph C. Membership Selection

The Director(s) of Forum shall have the authority to establish eligibility requirements.

*Section 5. Connect*

Paragraph A. Purpose

The purpose of Connect is to develop future leaders by serving the student body through campus and community projects and participating on student committees.

Paragraph B. Composition

Shall be composed of no greater than thirty-six and no fewer than twenty-eight first-year students.

Paragraph C. Membership Selection

The Director(s) of Connect shall have the authority to establish eligibility requirements.

**Article VII. Judicial Branch**

*Section 1. Purpose*

The purpose of the Judicial Branch will be to uphold all initiatives, legislation, organized bodies, and active members of the Student Government Association to the governing documents of SGA which include but are not limited to the Constitution, Statutes, Code of Ethics, and Elections Code.

Section 2. Composition

The Judicial Branch shall consist of a Supreme Court.

Section 3. Supreme Court

Paragraph A. Jurisdiction

- I. Shall hear alleged violations of the Constitution or any other governing documents by any elected or appointed official as presented by a member of the student body of the University of Georgia.
- II. Shall determine the constitutionality of any legislation passed through the Senate.
- III. Shall determine the constitutionality of the statutes.
- IV. Shall determine the constitutionality of the manner in which legislation is passed.
- V. Shall be consulted by the President, Vice President, and Treasurer in the creation of the rules and procedures that shall outline the process for judicial proceedings.

Paragraph B. Rights of the Accused

- I. Shall be given one week's notice if they are to be reviewed by the Supreme Court.
- II. The charges must be formally presented to the accused by the Attorney General.
- III. The accused may present any necessary or desired materials that demonstrate contrary evidence to the alleged accusation.

#### *Section 4. Officers*

##### *Paragraph A. Chief Justice*

- I. Shall be appointed from among the current Justices by the President with an absolute majority approval of the Senate. If fewer than two Justices fulfill this requirement, the President may appoint any student to this position.
- II. Shall call and preside over all meetings of the Supreme Court.
- III. Shall align with a majority opinion or may elect to file a dissenting opinion jointly with the Associate Justices or individually.
- IV. Shall present the majority opinion of the Supreme Court, both verbally and in writing, to the Senate without disclosing personal information, including but not limited to health, legal, or academic records.
- V. Shall have one vote in every judicial hearing.
- VI. Shall preside over the impeachment hearing should the President, Vice President, or Treasurer face impeachment.

##### *Paragraph B. Associate Justices*

- I. No fewer than four and no greater than eight (where the final total of justices is an odd number) Associate Justices shall be appointed by the Chief Justice with an absolute majority approval of the Senate.
- II. Shall serve no more than four consecutive semesters.
- III. Shall align themselves with a majority opinion or may elect to file a written dissenting opinion either jointly or individually.
- IV. Shall issue a written majority opinion authored by either the Chief Justice or Associate Justices.
- V. Shall each have one vote in each judicial hearing.

##### *Paragraph C. Alternate Justices*

- I. Shall be appointed as needed by the Chief Justice in accordance with the statutes.
- II. Shall fulfill the duties of Associate Justice should a temporary vacancy occur.

### **Article VIII. Impeachment and Removal of Constitutional Officers**

#### *Section 1. Conduct for Removal*

All active members of SGA shall be subject to removal of office for any one or more of the following:

- I. Incompetence, malfeasance, or misfeasance in office;
- II. Failure to possess the academic qualifications for office;
- III. Willful violation of any express provision of this Constitution or any

- other governing documents;
- IV. Abandonment of office;
- V. Failure, for any other cause, to perform the duties of office;
- VI. Violation of the University of Georgia Code of Conduct.

*Section 2. Procedure for Removal*

- I. Any student wishing to remove any active member of SGA shall file a petition for impeachment and removal to the Attorney General setting forth in writing one or more of the grounds found in Paragraph A of this Article that the stated position holder within SGA has violated.
- II. This petition must include the signatures of at least one-third of Senators wishing to investigate the stated position holder within SGA.

*Section 3. Preliminary Investigation*

- I. Upon filing of a petition with the Attorney General, a committee composed of the Attorney General, President of the Senate, Chief Justice and one Associate Justice - appointed by the Chief Justice - shall review the claim or claims stated in the petition for impeachment and removal.
- II. If a petition for impeachment and removal has been filed against the Attorney General, President of the Senate, or the Chief Justice, then the Attorney General, President of the Senate, or the Chief Justice shall be ineligible from serving on the committee.
- III. In the event that the Attorney General, President of the Senate, or Chief Justice is ineligible or recuses themselves from serving on the committee, the vacated seats will be filled by Associate Justices.
- IV. If a petition for impeachment and removal has been filed against an Associate Justice, then the accused Justice or Justices shall be ineligible from serving on the committee.

*Section 4. Committee Decision*

If an absolute majority of the committee finds that the claims stated in the petition for impeachment and removal meet the grounds for removal found in this Constitution, then they shall send the petition for impeachment and removal to the Senate for a formal impeachment hearing by the Senate.

*Section 5. Senate Impeachment Hearing*

- I. The Senate shall consider the claims for impeachment and removal during the two scheduled consecutive Senate meetings immediately following the release of the committee's decision.
- II. The Attorney General or the designated member of the committee shall notify all those accused and the filer of the petition for impeachment and removal of the dates, times and procedure for the Senate Impeachment Hearing.
- III. A Senator who is accused in the petition for impeachment and



removal shall not vote in the Senate impeachment and removal process.

- IV. In the first Senate session following the release of the committee's decision, the Senate shall formally hear the claims for impeachment and removal through a presentation of the facts and evidence presented by the Attorney General.
- V. Following the presentation of the facts and evidence, the accused, the filer of the petition, and any necessary witnesses shall appear before the Senate to answer questions.
- VI. The accused and the Attorney General shall be allowed to make brief statements to state their case at the end of this Senate session.
- VII. In the second Senate session following the release of the committee's decision, the Senate shall vote to impeach and remove the accused position holder or holders from their office.
  - A. A two-thirds majority of the full membership of the Senate must vote to impeach and remove in order for the position holder to be removed from office; however, the Senate must only have quorum to hold proceedings.
  - B. If the Senate lacks quorum, then the Senate shall stand in recess until quorum is reached. Immediately upon reaching quorum, the Senate must vote on the impeachment and removal of the accused position holder or holders.
  - C. If two-thirds of the full membership of the Senate votes to impeach and remove the accused position holder from office, then the accused position holder or holders shall immediately lose their SGA office and all the rights and privileges afforded that office.

## **Article IX. Vacancies**

### *Section 1. Vacancy in the Office of the President*

The Vice President shall assume said office for the remainder of the elected term. The current Vice President will be sworn in as President at the next immediate Senate by the Chief Justice. The Office of the Vice President shall then be considered vacant.

- I. Should the office of the President and Vice President both become vacant within 30 days of each other, the originally elected Treasurer will be sworn in as President at the next immediate Senate by the Chief Justice. The Office of the Treasurer shall then be considered vacant.
- II. Should the originally elected Treasurer no longer be in office, the point directly above is null and void.

### *Section 2. Vacancy in the Office of the Vice President*

The President of the Student Government Association shall have the power to make an appointment to the position of Vice President of the Student Government Association. The appointment must be confirmed by an absolute majority of the senate (50% + 1 vote) before role can be assumed by appointee.

*Section 3. Vacancy in the Office of the Treasurer*

The President shall appoint a Senator to said office for the remainder of the term upon two-thirds approval of the Senate. Said Senate seat shall be considered vacant.

*Section 4. Vacancy in the Office of the President of the Senate*

The President Pro-Tempore of the Senate shall assume said office for the remainder of the term.

- I. The current President Pro-Tempore of the Senate will be sworn in as President of the Senate at the next immediate Senate by the Chief Justice. The Office of the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate shall then be considered vacant.
- II. Should the office of the President of the Senate and President Pro-Tempore of the Senate both become vacant within 30 days of each other, a new election for both offices shall be held at the next immediate Senate.

*Section 5. Vacancy in the Office of the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate*

Upon vacancy a new President Pro-Tempore of the Senate will be elected by the Senate at the next immediate Senate session.

*Section 6. Vacancy in the Office of a Senator*

- I. All students who meet the defined qualifications of the seat for which they are seeking office may apply for a vacant seat.
- II. Applicants must file a Statement of Intent and acquire the appropriate number of signatures within the defined constituency of the seat for which they are seeking office as defined in the Elections Code.
- III. Applicants will be selected by the Legislative Cabinet and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

*Section 7. Vacancy in the Office of a Justice*

- I. Vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice will be filled by appointment of an Associate Justice by the President.
- II. Vacancy in the office of an Associate Justice will be filled in the manner outlined in the Statutes.

*Section 8. Resignation*

An elected or appointed official who wishes to resign shall submit a resignation in writing to the head of their respective branch. If the head of a branch resigns, they must submit their resignation to the heads of the other two branches.

**Article X. Recall and Referendum**

*Section 1. Recall*

- I. A recall election for any elected officer may be called by a petition

signed by at least ten percent of the electing body. For Senators, the electing body is the college, school, or constituency that they represent, and for the President, Vice President, and Treasurer, it is the entire University student body.

- II. Only one recall election per Senator or Officer per term of office shall be held.

### *Section 2. Referendum*

- I. A referendum on any question may be called by a petition by at least five percent of the student body.
- II. A referendum may also be called by two-thirds of the Senate.
- III. The President of the Senate, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall set the date of the referendum.

## **Article XI. Constitutional Review**

### *Section 1. Constitutional Revision Commission*

After the first Senate of the fall semester of the 2017-2018 academic year, and each fourth Senatorial term thereafter, there shall be established a Constitutional Revision Commission.

#### Paragraph A. Composition

- I. Shall be composed of nine (9) voting members: the President, Vice President, Attorney General, President of the Senate, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, the Chief Justice, one (1) Senator, and two (2) non-active members of SGA.
  - A. The Senator shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and approved by an absolute majority vote of the Senate.
  - B. One (1) non-active member shall be appointed by the SGA President and approved by an absolute majority vote of the Senate.
  - C. One (1) non-active member shall be appointed by the Chief Justice and approved by an absolute majority vote of the Senate.
- II. The Attorney General shall chair this committee.
- III. Vacancies occurring on the commission shall be filled by appointment by the Attorney General approved by an absolute majority vote of the Senate from the same constituency as the original member.
- IV. All meetings of the Commission are open to the general student body.

#### Paragraph B. Duties

- I. Shall evaluate the effectiveness of the current SGA Constitution.
- II. If significant deficiencies are found with the current document, a new Constitution shall be drafted and presented for Ratification.
- III. If the Constitutional Revision Commission deems the document can be updated through individual amendments, such amendments will be drafted and submitted to the Senate in accordance with the amendment

- process.
- IV. Shall forward a copy of any constitutional changes to the President who shall notify the entire student body of the impending changes by using the most effective method possible.

## **Article XII. Oath of Office**

All constitutional officers must take the following Oath of Office in order to assume elected and appointed position. "I, (name of nominee), do hereby affirm that I will faithfully support and defend the Constitution and all other governing documents of the Student Government Association of The University of Georgia; and I will endeavor to fulfill my obligations to the students and my duties as (name of office), to the best of my ability."

## **Article XIII. Amendments to the Constitution**

### *Section I. Procedure*

Paragraph A. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by legislation of the Senate or by petition of ten percent of the Student Body.

- I. Shall be submitted to the Rules Committee for semantic revision before appearing in front of the Senate body.
- II. Shall require a first and second reading at a Senate meeting. Upon first reading, the presiding officer shall not entertain debate. At least one week shall transpire between the first and second reading. Upon second reading, the presiding officer shall entertain debate and amendment, and the Senate may vote on the proposed amendment.
- III. Shall require a two-thirds majority vote.

Paragraph B. Amendments shall be ratified by a vote of two-thirds of the students voting on the amendment.

- I. Referenda on amendments shall be held only during the spring SGA election or the fall Homecoming election.
- II. Amendments proposed within twenty-eight days of the fall homecoming election or spring student government election shall have their ratification proceedings deferred until the next ratification availability.

Paragraph C. The full text of the amendment or amendments shall be published online at the website of the SGA at least two weeks prior to the referendum. The full text of the amendment or amendments may also be published in the campus newspaper at the discretion of the President on the condition that the President signs his or her name to the bill that proposes any amendment or amendments.