



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

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## 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~~ all students of the University of Georgia (UGA); shall protect students' rights; and 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.~~ Active members are those elected by the student body, confirmed by the Senate, or appointed as otherwise specified herein.

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

~~Recognizing that~~ The University of Georgia is an important part of Athens-Clarke County, the State of Georgia, and the United States, ~~it should be incumbent upon e.~~ Every member ~~to~~ should 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 compliance with the University of Georgia's ~~n~~Non-discrimination and ~~a~~Anti-harassment (NDAH) 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.~~ **Relocated to Article IV.**

**Article IV. General Organization**

*Section 1. Constitutional Supremacy*

Upon ratification, this Constitution ~~and its associated codes~~ shall supersede all previous ~~governing documents~~ **constitutions**, which shall be deemed null and void. **The Constitution and Statutes shall constitute all governing documents of SGA, and the Constitution shall at all times be superior to the Statutes which operate under authority granted by this Constitution. All active members must additionally abide by all governing documents of SGA.** **Relocated from Art. IV §2(b).**

*Section 2. Branches*

~~Paragraph A. Organization~~

SGA shall be organized into three branches: the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial, **separate bodies united in serving the students.**

~~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.~~ **Relocated to Art. V §2(b)(i).**



~~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.~~

*Relocated to VI §1.*

~~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.~~ *Relocated to Art. VII §2.*

**Paragraph B. Statutory Responsibility**

~~All positions and committees outlined in this Constitution must additionally abide by the Statutes of SGA.~~ *Relocated to Art. IV §1.*

**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. *Relocated from Article III.*

**Article V. Legislative Branch**

*Section 1. Officers*

**Paragraph A. ~~The~~ 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 prior to their election as 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 an absolute 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. ~~The~~ President Pro Tempore of the Senate**

~~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 prior to their election as 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.~~

~~H. 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. Relocated to Art. V §2(b)(i). Relocated to Art. V §4~~

### Section 21. The Senate

#### Paragraph A. Purpose

All legislative powers of the University of Georgia student body shall be vested in the Senate, where each voting member has one (1) vote.

*Relocated from Art. V §5*

#### Paragraph B. Composition

I. The Senate shall be composed of Senators, and the members of First-Year Senate, and other officer or staff positions created by statute to assist with the discharge of its duties.

~~H. Voting members of the Senate shall include elected and appointed Senators as well as the proportional number of First-Year Senators.~~

*Relocated to Art. V §2(c).*

#### Paragraph C. Duties

I. Senators shall attend all Senate meetings as scheduled by the presiding officer, except between the Spring and Fall terms.

~~H. Senators shall not be required to attend Senate meetings between the Spring and Fall terms. Relocated to Art. V §2(c)(i).~~

III. Senators with voting rights must be physically 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 the 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 shall constitute a quorum.



- V. A two-thirds vote of the Senate overrides a presidential veto.
- VI. Elected Senators, appointed Senators, and a proportional number of First-Year Senators rotating among their total number, shall constitute voting members of the Senate.  
*Relocated/Modified from Art. V §2(b)(ii).*

## Section 32. Senators

### Paragraph A. Purpose

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

### Paragraph A. Qualifications 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.~~  
*Relocated to Art. V §3(b)(vi).*
- II. ~~At-Large Senators will represent and advocate on behalf of the student body's overall interests.~~ *Relocated to Art. V §3(c)(iv).*
- 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.~~
- IV. ~~Each Senator shall have one vote in Senate.~~  
*Relocated to Art. V §2(a)*
  - I. Senators 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. *Relocated from Art. V §3(b-d).*
  - II. Senators 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. *Relocated from Art. V §3(b-d).*

### Paragraph B. Senators of Schools and Colleges

- I. Shall be elected from each ~~of the schools~~ and college **headed by a dean**s 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.



- ~~H. — 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. Relocated to Art. V §3(e).~~
- 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. Relocated to Art. V §3(e).~~
- V. If a Senator ceases to be enrolled in the school or college they were elected to represent, they shall resign or face removal ~~then their membership status will be subject to review by the Supreme Court.~~
- VI. ~~Senators of Schools and Colleges s~~ Shall represent and advocate on behalf of students within the school or college from which they were elected.  
*Relocated from Art. V §3(e)(i).*

Paragraph C. At-Large Senators

- I. Shall be elected from the whole student body ~~as a whole~~ using the formula of one Senate seat for every 4,000 students.
- ~~H. — 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. Relocated to Art. V §3(e).~~
- ~~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. Relocated to Art. V §3(e).~~
- IV. ~~At-Large Senators will~~ Shall represent and advocate on behalf of the student body's overall interests. *Relocated from Art. V §3(e)(ii).*

Paragraph D. Campus Life Senators

- I. Shall be elected from the whole 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
- ~~H. — 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. Relocated to Art. V §3(e).~~



~~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.~~ *Relocated to Art. V §3(e).*

IV. ~~Campus Life Senators will~~ Shall advocate on behalf of the issues contained in their area of representation.

### Section ~~4~~3. First-Year Senators

#### Paragraph A. Purpose

~~The purpose of the~~ First-Year Senators shall ~~will be to~~ represent ~~the concerns and needs of~~ the First-Year class ~~to in~~ 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. **First-Year Senate** S shall be composed of no greater than twenty (20) 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 (1) voting Senate seat for every one-thousand **first-year** students enrolled.
- III. Voting power shall rotate alphabetically by last name among ~~the members of~~ the First-Year Senators each session. *Relocated from Art. V §4(d)(iii).*

#### 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, **chaired by the President of the Senate. Moved from IV below**
- III. The First-Year Senator Selection Committee shall consist of **the Director(s)** ~~two legislative officers, hereafter referred to as the Chairs~~ of First-Year Senate, the President of the Senate, and two (2) active members appointed to the committee by the President of the Senate, ~~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. First-Year Senate nominees shall share a brief, written biography with the Senate prior to a confirmation vote. *Moved to II above*
- VII. ~~Every member~~ A majority of the First-Year Senator Selection Committee shall constitute a quorum which 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.~~ *Redundant with Art. V §4(a).*
- I. Shall fulfill all mandatory obligations as defined by the ~~Chairs~~ Director(s) of First-Year ~~Senators~~ Senate.
- II. ~~Shall have a proportional number of votes in Senate which shall rotate among the members of the First-Year Senators.~~ *Relocated to Art. V §4(b)(iii).*

*Section 4. Officers*

Paragraph A. The President of the Senate

- I. ~~The President of the Senate m~~ Must have been elected and served a full term as a senator or served a full term as a First-Year Senator prior to their election as ~~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 an absolute 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. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate

- IV. ~~The President Pro Tempore of the Senate m~~ Must have been elected and served a full term as a senator or served a full term as a First-Year Senator prior to their election as ~~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.

V. ~~The President Pro Tempore~~s Shall be elected by an absolute majority vote of the Senate at the first meeting of the new Senate.

VI. 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.~~ *Relocated to Art. V §2(b)(i).*

### Section 5. *The Legislative Cabinet & Senate Committees*

#### Paragraph A. Purpose

The 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 consistent with ~~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~~ *nominated* by the President of the Senate before the second meeting of the Senate and confirmed by an absolute majority vote of the Senate.
- II. The Director(s) of the First-Year Senate, who shall be the chairs of the First Year Senate in its capacity as a committee, shall be nominated by the President of the Senate and confirmed by an absolute majority of the Senate.

A. If a Director is not a sitting Senator, they shall not have a vote.

*Added after Session 38-06*

- III. ~~Shall be confirmed by with an absolute majority vote approval of the Senate.~~ *Moved to point above*



Paragraph D. Legislative Cabinet Membership

- I. The Chairs of Legislative Committees shall serve on the Legislative Cabinet, which shall meet regularly **at the discretion of the President of the Senate** ~~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 Director(s) ~~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~~ **shall** ensure the legitimacy of the ~~L~~ legislative process.

Paragraph B. Composition

- I. **The Rules Committee s**hall 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 **Chairs of Legislative Committees** ~~proportional number of Senators who shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore and approved by an absolute majority vote of the Senate.~~
- II. **Motions may be adopted by an absolute majority vote.** ~~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 - **The Rules Committee**

- 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 **ratified** ~~approved~~ constitutional amendments.

Section 7. Legislation

Paragraph A. General Requirements

- I. **Shall be sponsored by at least one (1) senator and authored by any student.**  
***Moved from statutes***
- II. **Shall be submitted to the Rules Committee for semantic revision before appearing before the Senate.** ***Relocated from below.***



- III. Shall require one reading at a Senate meeting, unless otherwise noted. The presiding officer of the Senate shall entertain debate and amendment, and the Senate will vote on the proposed legislation. *Relocated from below.*
- IV. Shall require an absolute majority vote of the Senate. *Relocated from below.*
- V. Shall bypass the committee process upon a two-thirds vote of the Senate. *Relocated from Statute 207.6*

Paragraph **AB**. 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. *Relocated to Art. V §7(a)(i).*~~
- ~~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. *Relocated to Art. V §7(a)(ii).*~~
- ~~IV. Shall require an absolute majority vote of the Senate. *Relocated to Art. V §7(a)(iii).*~~
- II. 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 **BC**. 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. *Relocated to Art. V §7(a)(i).*~~
- ~~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. *Relocated to Art. V §7(a)(ii).*~~
- ~~IV. Shall require an absolute majority vote of the Senate. *Relocated to Art. V §7(a)(iii).*~~

Paragraph **CD**. Bills

- I. Shall be drafted to create or alter statutes necessary and proper for SGA. ~~any code or other governing document other than the Constitution.~~



- ~~H. — Shall be submitted to the Rules Committee for semantic revision before appearing before the Senate.~~ *Relocated to Art. V §7(a)(i).*
- ~~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.~~ *Relocated to Art. V §7(a)(ii).*
- ~~IV. — Shall require an absolute majority vote of the Senate~~ *Relocated to Art. V §7(a)(iii).*
- 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,~~ **codified in statute.**
- ~~H. — 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 staff.** ~~appointed Executive Officers at the authority of the President.~~

### *Section 2. Officers*

#### **Paragraph A. Officer Requirements**

- I. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Attorney General shall be registered as full time students as defined by their degree or program of study and maintain an institutional G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale throughout the term.**
- II. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall attend all Senate sessions. *Moved, Changed to “sessions” instead of “meetings”***
- III. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall run as a ticket.**



- IV. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer 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 AB. The 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.~~ Relocated to Art. VI §2(e)(i).
- ~~II. Shall establish rules and procedures in accordance with the academic calendar.~~
- ~~I. Shall run as a ticket with the Vice President and Treasurer~~  
Relocated to Art. VI §2(a)(iii)
- ~~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.~~ Relocated to Art. VI §2(e)(iv).
- ~~V. Shall be responsible for the following:~~
- VI. Shall speak on behalf of SGA.
- VII. Shall maintain a working relationship with the President of the Graduate Student Association to inform and collaborate on initiatives affecting all students.
- VIII. 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.
- IX. 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. Shall deliver vetoes via written memoranda May veto legislation passed by the Senate within a week of passage. Such a veto must be in writing and delivered presented 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 Shall attend all Senate meetings.~~ Relocated to Art. VI §2(a)(ii)
- I. Must Shall give an officer report at every official SGA meeting at which the President's attendance is required.



Paragraph **BC**. 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.~~ **Relocated to Art. VI §2(e)(i).**
- ~~H. — Establishing rules and procedures in accordance with the Constitution of SGA.~~
- ~~I. — Shall run as a ticket with the President and Treasurer.~~ **Relocated to Art. VI §2(a)(iii)**
- ~~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.~~ **Relocated to Art. VI §2(e)(iv).**
- ~~V. — Shall be responsible for the following:~~
- VI.** Shall assist the President in the fulfillment of presidential duties and oversight of special projects.
- VII.** 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 **and its** 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.~~ **Redundant with above.**
- ~~F. — Must~~ **Shall** attend all Senate meetings. **Relocated to Art. VI §2(a)(ii)**
- ~~G. — Must~~ **Shall** give an officer report at every official SGA meeting in which the Vice President's attendance is required.

Paragraph **ED**. 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.~~ **Relocated to Art. VI §2(e)(i).**
- ~~H. — Shall establish rules and procedures in accordance with the Constitution of SGA.~~
- ~~III. — Shall run as a ticket with the President and Vice President.~~ **Relocated to Art. VI §2(a)(iii)**



- 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.~~ Relocated to Art. VI §2(e)(iii).
- V. ~~Shall be responsible for the following:~~
- VI. ~~TS~~ Shall maintain the finances, financial records, and financial transactions of SGA.
- VII. ~~Giving~~ Shall give a report on the current state of the budget at each Senate meeting.
- VIII. Shall oversee Student Activity Fee allocation processes under the purview of SGA.
- IX. ~~Must~~ Shall attend all Senate meetings. Relocated to Art. VI §2(a)(ii)
- X. ~~Must~~ Shall give an officer report at every official SGA meeting in which the Treasurer's attendance is required.

Paragraph ~~D~~E. Attorney General

- I. Shall be a non-Senator ~~appointed~~ nominated by the President ~~with and confirmed by~~ an absolute majority ~~vote~~ 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 members of 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 active member. ~~elected or appointed official.~~

Paragraph F. Principal Staff

- I. Shall be non-Senators appointed by the President to positions created by statute.
- II. Shall supervise other staff or initiatives of SGA.
- III. Shall serve at the pleasure of the President and may be dismissed by the same at any time for any reason, provided that the dismissal adheres to the governing documents.
- IV. Shall be subject to attendance requirements and other eligibility checks as required by the governing documents.

Paragraph G. General Staff





- I. Shall be non-Senators appointed by the President or a principal staff member.
- II. Shall not have a supervisory role over any other individuals.
- III. Shall be subordinate to the President, Vice President, and Treasurer, and any principal staff member made their superior.
- IV. Shall serve at the pleasure of the President and may be dismissed by the same at any time for any reason, provided that the dismissal adheres to the governing documents.
- V. Shall be subject to attendance requirements and other eligibility checks as required by the governing documents.

*Section 3. Elections Committee* ~~*Relocated to Art. VII*~~

~~Paragraph A. Purpose~~

- ~~I. Shall be 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~~ *Move to Statutes, to allow for year-by-year modification.*

~~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 14 students.~~

~~Paragraph C. Membership Selection The Director(s) of Forum shall have the authority to establish eligibility requirements.~~

~~Section 5. Connect~~ *Move to Statutes, to allow for year-by-year modification.*

~~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 **shall ensure** ~~will be to uphold~~ all initiatives, legislation, organized bodies, and active members of the Student Government Association **comply with** ~~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 **with one (1) Chief Justice and eight (8) Associate Justices, and the Election Committee.** *Relocated from Art. IV §2(a)(i)(b).*



### *Section 3. Supreme Court*

#### Paragraph A. Jurisdiction

- I. Shall hear alleged violations of the Constitution or any other governing documents by any active member, or any inactive member involved with SGA through an election, investigative procedure, or participation in an official function of SGA, ~~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 ~~by~~ through the Senate and the manner in which the legislation was passed.
- III. Shall have appellate jurisdiction over claims arising from Elections Committee adjudication and where otherwise defined by legislation, and original jurisdiction in all other cases.
- ~~IV. Shall determine the constitutionality of the statutes.~~
- ~~V. Shall determine the constitutionality of the manner in which legislation is passed.~~
- ~~VI. 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 (1) week's notice if they are to be reviewed by the Supreme Court.
- II. The accusations ~~charges~~ must be formally presented in writing to the accused by the Attorney General.
- III. The accused may present any necessary or desired materials that demonstrate contrary evidence to the alleged violation. ~~accusation~~.

### *Section 4. Officers*

#### Paragraph A. Chief Justice

- I. Shall be ~~appointed~~ nominated from among the current Associate Justices by the President with and confirmed by an absolute majority ~~approval~~ vote of the Senate. If fewer than two Associate Justices fulfill this requirement, the President may ~~appoint~~ nominate any student ~~to~~ for 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. Relocated to Art. VII §4(c)(i).~~
- 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. Relocated to Art. VII §4(c)(iii).~~
- 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 six~~ There shall be a total of eight (8) ~~(where the final total of justices is an odd number)~~ Associate Justices on the Supreme Court, who shall be appointed nominated by the Chief Justice and confirmed by with an absolute majority vote approval of the Senate.
- II. Associate Justices 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. Relocated to Art. VII §4(c)(i).~~
- ~~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. Relocated to Art. VII §4(c)(iii).~~

#### Paragraph C. General Requirements

- I. Justices shall align themselves with a majority opinion or may elect to file a written dissenting opinion either jointly or individually.
- II. The Court shall issue a written majority opinion authored by either the Chief Justice or Associate Justices.
- III. Justices shall have one vote in each judicial hearing.
- IV. A quorum of six (6) Justices will be required to conduct business.
- V. In the event that a vote on a case is split evenly, the status quo shall stand.

#### Section 5. 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; and manage; ~~and define~~ all elections procedures in accordance with; ~~by processes outlined in~~ the governing documents of SGA ~~in order~~ to maintain an effective and meaningful process, ~~as prescribed by the Constitution~~; while deferring to the Supreme Court on constitutional questions.

#### Paragraph B. Composition

I. Shall be chaired by the Attorney General, who shall vote only in the case of a tie.

II. Shall consist of the President of the Senate, two non-active members of SGA and two active members of SGA nominated ~~appointed~~ by the President, – at the recommendation of the Attorney General, – and approved by a two-thirds 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

There shall be an Elections Code within the statutes that is ~~Shall be~~ the rule upon which the Elections Committee operates and governs the election. ~~and will be defined in the Statutes.~~

### Article VIII. Impeachment and Removal of ~~Constitutional Officers~~ **Active Members**

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

All active members of SGA shall be removed from office for impeachment for and conviction of ~~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 written petition for impeachment and removal with to the Attorney General setting forth in-writing one or more of the grounds found in Section 1 Paragraph A of this Article that the stated active member position-holder within SGA has violated.
- II. This petition must include the signatures of at least one-third fifteen (15) of Senators wishing to investigate the stated active member. position-holder within SGA.
- III. The Attorney General shall conduct a thorough investigation into the claim or claims alleged in the petition, and shall argue on behalf of the Student Government Association in a hearing before the Supreme Court.
  - A. In the event that the Attorney General is subject to an impeachment inquiry, they shall recuse themselves, and the Chief Justice, with the advice of the President of the Student Government Association and President of the Senate, shall appoint an active member from the Legislative or Executive Branches to investigate the claims and argue before the Supreme Court.
- IV. Upon hearing the presentation by the Attorney General and defenses by the accused individual, the Supreme Court shall vote on whether to recommend impeachment conviction to the Senate and deliver this decision in writing and orally to the Senate at its next scheduled session.
  - A. The Senate shall vote on the final question of impeachment after an impeachment trial at the next Senate session following the Supreme Court's recommendation. The procedure for the impeachment trial shall be governed by the rules of procedure of the Senate.
- V. Two-thirds of the voting members of the Senate shall be required for a conviction of an impeachable offense.
  - A. There is no avenue for appeal of impeachment; an impeached individual has no standing to challenge their impeachment with the Supreme Court.
- VI. Immediately after conviction, the convicted active member shall lose their office, rights, and privileges within SGA by virtue of their position.
  - A. The Senate may additionally, by a two-thirds vote, disqualify the convicted individual from future active membership.



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

- I. The presidential line of succession shall be the Vice President, the Treasurer, the President of the Senate, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.**
- ~~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.~~
- ~~H. 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 vote of the Senate (50% + 1 vote) before the role can be assumed by appointee.~~

The President shall nominate an elected Senator to the office for the remainder of the term. The Senate seat shall be vacant upon an absolute majority vote of the Senate confirming the nomination.

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

The President shall ~~nominate~~ ~~appoint a~~ an elected Senator to ~~the said~~ office for the remainder of the term. ~~upon two-thirds approval of the Senate.~~ The ~~Said~~ Senate seat shall be ~~considered~~ vacant upon an absolute majority vote of the Senate confirming the nomination.

*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~~ shall be sworn in as President of the Senate at the next immediate Senate session by the Chief Justice. The Office of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall then be considered vacant.

~~I. — 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 shall ~~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. De Facto not used; number set at zero~~



- 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 nomination of an Associate Justice by the President and confirmation by the Senate.~~
- II. ~~Vacancy in the office of an Associate Justice will be filled in the manner outlined in the Statutes. Covered by Art. VII. §7(a)(ii)~~

*Section 8. Resignation*

An **active member** ~~elected or appointed official who wishes to~~ **may** resign by ~~shall~~ submitting 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*

- A. A recall election for any elected officer may be called by a petition signed by at least **five (5)** ~~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.
- B. Only one recall election per ~~Senator or O~~ officer per term of office shall be held.

*Section 2. Referendum*

- A. A referendum on any question **except constitutional amendments** may be called by a petition **of by** at least five **(5)** percent of the student body **or a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.**
- ~~B. A referendum may also be called by two-thirds of the Senate.~~
- C. The President of the Senate, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall set the date of the referendum, **no later than twenty-eight (28) days after receiving a referendum in writing.**

**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.~~

~~H. 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.~~

~~H. 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~~ **active members** ~~must take~~ **shall affirm** the following Oath of Office ~~in order to assume elected and appointed position~~ **before assuming office**. “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 1. Procedure

#### Paragraph A. Proposal by the Senate

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by ~~legislation of a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate and or by petition of ten percent of the Sstudent Bbody.~~ *Moved down*

- 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.~~ *Moved up*

#### Paragraph B. Proposal by the Student Body

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by petition of at least five (5) percent of the student body.

#### Paragraph BC. Ratification

Amendments, regardless of proposal method, shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote ~~a vote of two-thirds~~ of the students voting on the amendment during the spring SGA election.

- ~~I. Referenda on amendments shall be held only during the spring SGA election. or the fall Homecoming election.~~
- II. Amendments proposed within twenty-eight (28) days of the ~~fall homecoming election or~~ spring SGA ~~student government~~ election shall have their ratification proceedings deferred until the next election. ~~ratification availability.~~

#### Paragraph ED. Notice

The full text of the amendment or amendments shall be published on the SGA website ~~online at the website of the SGA~~ at least two weeks prior to the start of the voting period. ~~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.~~

**Paragraph E. Effect**

Amendments take effect twenty-four (24) hours after ratification by the student body. No amendment may apply retroactively to actions taken under a previous version of the Constitution; and no amendment may apply proactively to alter the procedures or questions used in the same election in which it is approved.

# Appendix A



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

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## **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 (SGA).

### **Article II. Purpose**

SGA shall be the organized voice for all students of the University of Georgia (UGA) ; shall protect students' rights; and shall serve as a liaison between students, administrators, and organized governing bodies of the University.

### **Article III. Membership**

#### *Section 1. Student Membership*

All University of Georgia students are members of SGA upon payment of their Student Activity Fee. Active members are those elected by the student body, confirmed by the Senate, or appointed as otherwise specified herein.

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

The University of Georgia is an important part of Athens-Clarke County, the State of Georgia, and the United States. Every member should participate in activities that contribute to overall community well-being. Active members shall:

- III. Uphold the laws of the United States of America, the State of Georgia, and their respective communities.
- IV. Respect regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, gender identity, or disability compliance with the University of Georgia's Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment (NDAH) 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.

## **Article IV. General Organization**

### *Section 1. Constitutional Supremacy*

Upon ratification, this Constitution shall supersede all previous constitutions, which shall be deemed null and void. The Constitution and Statutes shall constitute all governing documents of SGA, and the Constitution shall at all times be superior to the Statutes which operate under authority granted by this Constitution. All active members must abide by all governing documents of SGA.

### *Section 2. Branches*

SGA shall be organized into three branches: the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial, separate bodies united in serving the students.

### *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 V. Legislative Branch**

### *Section 1. The Senate*

#### **Paragraph A. Purpose**

All legislative powers of the University of Georgia student body shall be vested in the Senate, where each voting member has one (1) vote.

#### **Paragraph B. Composition**

- III. The Senate shall be composed of Senators, members of First-Year Senate, and other officer or staff positions created by statute to assist with the discharge of its duties.



Paragraph C. Duties

- VII. Senators shall attend all Senate meetings, except between the Spring and Fall terms.
- VIII. Senators with voting rights must be physically present to vote; there shall be no voting by proxy.
- IX. Two-thirds of all voting members of the Senate on the roll, including Senators and the proportional number of voting First-Year Senators shall constitute a quorum.
- X. A two-thirds vote of the Senate overrides a presidential veto.
- XI. Elected Senators, appointed Senators, and a proportional number of First-Year Senators rotating among their total number, shall constitute voting members of the Senate.

*Section 2. Senators*

Paragraph A. Qualifications

- III. Senators shall be registered as full-time students as defined by their degree or program of study and maintain an institutional G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale throughout the term.
- IV. Senators 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 B. Senators of Schools and Colleges

- VII. Shall be elected from each school and college headed by a dean in proportion to the student enrollment within the school or college using the formula of one Senate seat for every one-thousand students and one Senate seat for any college with less than one-thousand enrolled.
- VIII. Shall be enrolled in a major or intended major in the school or college in which they stand for election.
- IX. If a Senator ceases to be enrolled in the school or college they were elected to represent, they shall resign or face removal.
- X. Shall represent and advocate on behalf of students within the school or college from which they were elected.

Paragraph C. At-Large Senators

- V. Shall be elected from the whole student body using the formula of one Senate seat for every 4,000 students.



- VI. Shall represent and advocate on behalf of the student body's overall interests.

Paragraph D. Campus Life Senators

- V. Shall be elected from the whole student body 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
- VI. Shall advocate on behalf of the issues contained in their area of representation.

*Section 3. First-Year Senators*

Paragraph A. Purpose

First-Year Senators shall represent the First-Year class in 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

- IV. First-Year Senate shall be composed of no greater than twenty (20) and no fewer than the proportional number of first-year students.
- V. Voting members shall be proportional to the first-year student enrollment within the University of Georgia using the formula of one (1) voting Senate seat for every one-thousand first-year students enrolled.
- VI. Voting power shall rotate alphabetically by last name among the First-Year Senators each session.

Paragraph C. Membership Selection

- VIII. An application process shall be held during the beginning of the fall semester to select members for the term.
- IX. The First-Year Senator Selection Committee shall oversee the selection process, chaired by the President of the Senate.
- X. The First-Year Senator Selection Committee shall consist of the Director(s) of First-Year Senate, the President of the Senate, and two (2)



active members appointed to the committee by the President of the Senate, where each member has one (1) vote.

- XI. The First-Year Senator Selection Committee shall set the guidelines of the selection process, including criteria used for screening applicants.
- XII. First-Year Senate nominees shall share a brief, written biography with the Senate prior to a confirmation vote.
- XIII. A majority of the First-Year Senator Selection Committee shall constitute a quorum which must be present for the committee to conduct business.

Paragraph D. Duties

- III. Shall fulfill all mandatory obligations as defined by the Director(s) of First-Year Senate.

*Section 4. Officers*

Paragraph A. The President of the Senate

- VI. Must have been elected and served a full term as a senator or served a full term as a First-Year Senator prior to their election as President of the Senate. If fewer than two senators fulfill this requirement, any regularly elected Senator may run for President of the Senate.
- VII. Shall be elected by an absolute majority vote (50% +1 vote) of the Senate at the first meeting of the new Senate.
- VIII. Shall be the presiding officer of the Senate.
- IX. Shall have the power to call meetings of the Senate.
- X. Shall communicate any veto delivered by the President of the Student Government Association to the Senate and the student body.

Paragraph B. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate

- VII. Must have been elected and served a full term as a senator or served a full term as a First-Year Senator prior to their election as 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.
- VIII. Shall be elected by an absolute majority vote of the Senate at the first meeting of the new Senate.
- IX. 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.



*Section 5. The Legislative Cabinet & Senate Committees*

Paragraph A. Purpose

The Legislative Cabinet shall coordinate the initiatives of the Senate.

Paragraph B. Composition of Legislative Committees

- IV. 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 consistent with the statutes.
- V. All Senators shall serve on one of a number of legislative committees.
- VI. First-Year Senators are a standing Legislative Committee.

Paragraph C. Chairs of Legislative Committees

- IV. Shall be nominated by the President of the Senate before the second meeting of the Senate and confirmed by an absolute majority vote of the Senate.
- V. The Director(s) of the First-Year Senate, who shall be the chairs of the First Year Senate in its capacity as a committee, shall be nominated by the President of the Senate and confirmed by an absolute majority of the Senate.
  - A. If a Director is not a sitting Senator, they shall not have a vote.

Paragraph D. Legislative Cabinet Membership

- IV. The Chairs of Legislative Committees shall serve on the Legislative Cabinet, which shall meet regularly at the discretion of the President of the Senate.
- V. 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.
- VI. The Director(s) of First-Year Senate shall serve as ex officio, non-voting members.

*Section 6. Rules Committee*

Paragraph A. Purpose

The Rules Committee shall ensure the legitimacy of the legislative process.

Paragraph B. Composition



- III. The Rules Committee 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 Chairs of Legislative Committees.
- IV. Motions may be adopted by an absolute majority vote.

Paragraph C. Duties - The Rules Committee

- V. Shall correct all semantic errors in proposed legislation.
- VI. Shall catalog all legislation presented before the Senate.
- VII. Shall rectify any code in accordance with approved bills.
- VIII. Shall rectify the Constitution in accordance with ratified constitutional amendments.

*Section 7. Legislation*

Paragraph A. General Requirements

- VI. Shall be sponsored by at least one (1) senator and authored by any student.
- VII. Shall be submitted to the Rules Committee for semantic revision before appearing before the Senate.
- VIII. Shall require one reading at a Senate meeting, unless otherwise noted. The presiding officer of the Senate shall entertain debate and amendment, and the Senate will vote on the proposed legislation.
- IX. Shall require an absolute majority vote of the Senate.
- X. Shall bypass the committee process upon a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

Paragraph B. Resolutions

- V. Shall be drafted to recommend or encourage a new program, project, or initiative to be executed by the Senate.
- III. 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 C. Proclamations

- V. Shall be drafted to express an official position of the Senate on behalf of the student body.

Paragraph D. Bills

- VI. Shall be drafted to create or alter statutes necessary and proper for SGA.



- VII. 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

- III. The Senate may determine the rules of its own proceedings, codified in statute.

**Article VI. Executive Branch**

*Section 1. Composition*

The Executive Branch shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Attorney General, and staff.

*Section 2. Officers*

Paragraph A. Officer Requirements

- V. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Attorney General shall be registered as full time students as defined by their degree or program of study and maintain an institutional G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale throughout the term.
- VI. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall attend all Senate sessions.
- VII. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall run as a ticket.
- VIII. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer 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 B. The President

- I. Shall speak on behalf of SGA.
- II. Shall maintain a working relationship with the President of the Graduate Student Association to inform and collaborate on initiatives affecting all students.
- III. 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.



- IV. 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.
- V. Shall deliver vetoes via written memoranda presented to the President of the Senate.
- VI. Shall present to the student body an official report on SGA activities at the end of each elected term.
- VII. Shall give an officer report at every official SGA meeting at which the President's attendance is required.

Paragraph C. Vice President

- I. Shall assist the President in the fulfillment of presidential duties and oversight of special projects.
- II. Shall act in full capacity of the President should the President be unable to fulfill the duties of office.
- III. Shall make appointments to University Council and its committees that require representatives.
- IV. Shall give an officer report at every official SGA meeting in which the Vice President's attendance is required.

Paragraph D. Treasurer

- XI. Shall maintain the finances, financial records, and financial transactions of SGA.
- XII. Shall give a report on the current state of the budget at each Senate meeting.
- XIII. Shall oversee Student Activity Fee allocation processes under the purview of SGA.
- XIV. Shall give an officer report at every official SGA meeting in which the Treasurer's attendance is required.

Paragraph E. Attorney General

- V. Shall be a non-Senator nominated by the President and confirmed by an absolute majority vote of the Senate.
- VI. Shall act as a liaison between the three branches.
- VII. Shall make eligibility checks each academic term on all active members of SGA.





- VIII. 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 active member.

**Paragraph F. Principal Staff**

- V. Shall be non-Senators appointed by the President to positions created by statute.
- VI. Shall supervise other staff or initiatives of SGA.
- VII. Shall serve at the pleasure of the President and may be dismissed by the same at any time for any reason, provided that the dismissal adheres to the governing documents.
- VIII. Shall be subject to attendance requirements and other eligibility checks as required by the governing documents.

**Paragraph G. General Staff**

- VI. Shall be non-Senators appointed by the President or a principal staff member.
- VII. Shall not have a supervisory role over any other individuals.
- VIII. Shall be subordinate to the President, Vice President, and Treasurer, and any principal staff member made their superior.
- IX. Shall serve at the pleasure of the President and may be dismissed by the same at any time for any reason, provided that the dismissal adheres to the governing documents.
- X. Shall be subject to attendance requirements and other eligibility checks as required by the governing documents.

**Article VII. Judicial Branch**

*Section 1. Purpose*

The Judicial Branch shall ensure all initiatives, legislation, organized bodies, and active members of the Student Government Association comply with the governing documents of SGA.

*Section 2. Composition*

The Judicial Branch shall consist of a Supreme Court with one (1) Chief Justice and eight (8) Associate Justices, and the Election Committee.



### *Section 3. Supreme Court*

#### Paragraph A. Jurisdiction

- VII. Shall hear alleged violations of the Constitution or any other governing document by any active member, or any inactive member involved with SGA through an election, investigative procedure, or participation in an official function of SGA, as presented by a member of the student body.
- VIII. Shall determine the constitutionality of legislation passed by the Senate and the manner in which the legislation was passed.
- IX. Shall have appellate jurisdiction over claims arising from Elections Committee adjudication and where otherwise defined by legislation, and original jurisdiction in all other cases.

#### Paragraph B. Rights of the Accused

- IV. Shall be given one (1) week's notice if they are to be reviewed by the Supreme Court.
- V. The accusations must be formally presented in writing to the accused by the Attorney General.
- VI. The accused may present any necessary or desired materials that demonstrate contrary evidence to the alleged violation.

### *Section 4. Officers*

#### Paragraph A. Chief Justice

- VII. Shall be nominated from among the current Associate Justices by the President and confirmed by an absolute majority vote of the Senate. If fewer than two Associate Justices fulfill this requirement, the President may nominate any student for this position.
- VIII. Shall call and preside over all meetings of the Supreme Court.
- IX. 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.
- X. Shall preside over the impeachment hearing should the President, Vice President, or Treasurer face impeachment.

#### Paragraph B. Associate Justices

- VI. There shall be a total of eight (8) Associate Justices on the Supreme Court, who shall be nominated by the Chief Justice and confirmed by an absolute majority vote of the Senate.



VII. Associate Justices shall serve no more than four consecutive semesters.

Paragraph C. General Requirements

- VI. Justices shall align themselves with a majority opinion or may elect to file a written dissenting opinion either jointly or individually.
- VII. The Court shall issue a written majority opinion authored by either the Chief Justice or Associate Justices.
- VIII. Justices shall have one vote in each judicial hearing.
- IX. A quorum of six (6) Justices will be required to conduct business.
- X. In the event that a vote on a case is split evenly, the status quo shall stand.

*Section 5. Elections Committee*

Paragraph A. Purpose

- III. Shall monitor and manage all elections procedures in accordance with the governing documents of SGA to maintain an effective and meaningful process, while deferring to the Supreme Court on constitutional questions.

Paragraph B. Composition

- VI. Shall be chaired by the Attorney General, who shall vote only in the case of a tie.
- VII. Shall consist of the President of the Senate, two non-active members of SGA and two active members of SGA nominated by the President, – at the recommendation of the Attorney General, and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.
- VIII. The majority of students on this committee must be graduating seniors.
- IX. 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.
- X. Quorum shall consist of four of the five voting members and the Attorney General.

Paragraph C. Elections Code

There shall be an Elections Code within the statutes that is the rule upon which the Elections Committee operates and governs the election.



## **Article VIII. Impeachment and Removal of Active Members**

### *Section 1. Conduct for Removal*

All active members of SGA shall be removed from office for impeachment for and conviction of any one or more of the following:

- VII. Incompetence, malfeasance, or misfeasance in office;
- VIII. Failure to possess the academic qualifications for office;
- IX. Willful violation of any express provision of this Constitution or any other governing document;
- X. Abandonment of office;
- XI. Failure, for any other cause, to perform the duties of office;
- XII. Violation of the University of Georgia Code of Conduct.

### *Section 2. Procedure for Removal*

- VII. Any student wishing to remove any active member of SGA shall file a written petition for impeachment and removal with the Attorney General setting forth one or more of the grounds found in Section 1 of this Article that the stated active member within SGA has violated.
- VIII. This petition must include the signatures of at least fifteen (15) Senators wishing to investigate the stated active member.
- IX. The Attorney General shall conduct a thorough investigation into the claim or claims alleged in the petition, and shall argue on behalf of the Student Government Association in a hearing before the Supreme Court.
  - A. In the event that the Attorney General is subject to an impeachment inquiry, they shall recuse themselves, and the Chief Justice, with the advice of the President of the Student Government Association and President of the Senate, shall appoint an active member from the Legislative or Executive Branches to investigate the claims and argue before the Supreme Court.
- X. Upon hearing the presentation by the Attorney General and defenses by the accused individual, the Supreme Court shall vote on whether to recommend impeachment conviction to the Senate and deliver this decision in writing and orally to the Senate at its next scheduled session.
  - A. The Senate shall vote on the final question of impeachment after an impeachment trial at the next Senate session following the Supreme Court's recommendation. The procedure for the impeachment trial shall be governed by the rules of procedure of the Senate.



- XI. Two-thirds of the voting members of the Senate shall be required for a conviction of an impeachable offense.
  - A. There is no avenue for appeal of impeachment; an impeached individual has no standing to challenge their impeachment with the Supreme Court.
- XII. Immediately after conviction, the convicted active member shall lose their office, rights, and privileges within SGA by virtue of their position.
  - A. The Senate may additionally, by a two-thirds vote, disqualify the convicted individual from future active membership.

## **Article IX. Vacancies**

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

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

- II. The presidential line of succession shall be the Vice President, the Treasurer, the President of the Senate, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

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

The President shall nominate an elected Senator to the office for the remainder of the term. The Senate seat shall be vacant upon an absolute majority vote of the Senate confirming the nomination.

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

The President shall nominate an elected Senator to the office for the remainder of the term. The Senate seat shall be vacant upon an absolute majority vote of the Senate confirming the nomination.

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

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall be sworn in as President of the Senate at the next immediate Senate session by the Chief Justice. The Office of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall then be considered vacant.

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

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



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

- IV. All students who meet the defined qualifications of the seat for which they are seeking may apply for a vacant seat.
- V. Applicants will be selected by the Legislative Cabinet and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

*Section 8. Resignation*

An active member may resign by submitting 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*

- C. A recall election for any elected officer may be called by a petition signed by at least five (5) 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.
- D. Only one recall election per officer per term of office shall be held.

*Section 2. Referendum*

- D. A referendum on any question except constitutional amendments may be called by a petition of at least five (5) percent of the student body or a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.
- E. The President of the Senate, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall set the date of the referendum, no later than twenty-eight (28) days after receiving a referendum in writing.

**Article XI. Oath of Office**

All active members shall affirm the following Oath of Office before assuming office. “I, (name), 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 XII. Amendments to the Constitution**

*Section 1. Procedure*

Paragraph A. Proposal by the Senate



Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate and

- IV. Shall be submitted to the Rules Committee for semantic revision before appearing in front of the Senate.
- V. 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.

Paragraph B. Proposal by the Student Body

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by petition of at least five (5) percent of the student body.

Paragraph C. Ratification

Amendments, regardless of proposal method, shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the students voting on the amendment during the spring SGA election.

- III. Amendments proposed within twenty-eight (28) days of the spring SGA election shall have their ratification proceedings deferred until the next election.

Paragraph D. Notice

The full text of the amendment or amendments shall be published on the SGA website at least two weeks prior to the start of the voting period.

Paragraph E. Effect

Amendments take effect twenty-four (24) hours after ratification by the student body. No amendment may apply retroactively to actions taken under a previous version of the Constitution; and no amendment may apply proactively to alter the procedures or questions used in the same election in which it is approved.