

The Constitution of the Student Government Association of Ursinus College

The Students of Ursinus College, aware of the need of good student governance for good student life, with the intent of establishing a new student government which is active, inclusive, ethical, independent, permanent, and supreme, have created this new Constitution of the Student Government of Ursinus College, and hereby enact it with immediate effect.

Article I. Definition and Purpose

Section 1.01

The Ursinus College Student Government Association, hereafter SGA, is the governing and representative institution of the student body. It seeks to foster student unity, establish better student-faculty and student-administration cooperation, pursue and defend students' interests, and develop and maintain the quality of student life on campus.

Section 1.02

All full-time students of Ursinus College are full and equal member of the Ursinus College community and are thus afforded the full rights and privileges of an Ursinus Student. No Student will be denied the right to serve on SGA based on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, political affiliation, or disability.

Article II. The Executive Board

Section 2.01 Definition and Purpose

The Executive Board is the primary decision making and executive body of SGA. It is responsible for ensuring the successful execution of the responsibilities and actions in pursuit of the goals outlined in this Constitution.

Section 2.02 Composition

The Executive Board is composed of 5 voting members: a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Social Chair.

Section 2.03 Powers and Duties

(a) A: President

- (i) *The President shall be the chief executive officer of SGA and may direct the actions of the SGA when direction from the Executive Committee as a whole is not available.*
- (ii) *The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, directs the budget of SGA.*
- (iii) *The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, sets the agenda of the SGA for the upcoming term.*
- (iv) *The President will be the default chairperson of the Student Senate unless they delegate the responsibility to an individual or delegates the responsibility of selecting a chair to the Senate. The President will not vote on substantive matters in the Student Senate except in the event of a tie.*
- (v) *The president is responsible for directing the SGA to satisfy all requirements and pursue all goals outlined by this Constitution and the Bylaws.*
- (vi) *The president is responsible for communicating with and overseeing SGA committees and student-representatives to Student-Faculty Committees.*
- (vii) *The President may direct the other members of the Executive Board as needed to complete tasks necessary to the functionality of the SGA in accordance with decisions made by the Executive Board, except in matters of debate and voting, wherein each elected officer is entitled to maintain independent stances.*

(b) B: Vice-President

- (i) The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President should the President be temporarily unavailable or indisposed, and should the office become vacant, shall serve as President with all the powers of the President.*
- (ii) The Vice-President will have a current copy of the constitution and its bylaws and will serve as parliamentarian for the Executive Committee.*
- (iii) The Vice-President will serve as the President's Chief of Staff, and will manage the administrative functions of the SGA, including but not limited to:*
 - 1) ensuring that all Executive Board members are fulfilling their responsibilities as specified in this Constitution and the Bylaws,
 - 2) ensuring that class council members are faithfully fulfilling their responsibilities as specified in this Constitution and the Bylaws.
- (iv) With the collaboration of the Student Engagement office and SGA Executive Board, the Vice President may suspend the activity privileges of opted- in organizations of the senate that fail to meet the policies laid out in the Student Senate Bylaw until further notice.*
- (v) With the collaboration of the Student Activities office and SGA Executive Board, the Vice President may suspend additional funding of opted- in organizations of the senate that fail to meet the policies laid out in the Student Senate Bylaw until further notice.*
- (vi) With the collaboration of the Student Activities office and SGA Executive Board, the Vice President may suspend campus email privileges of opted- in organizations of the senate that fail to meet the policies laid out in the Student Senate Bylaw until further notice.*
- (vii) The Vice-President will perform other duties as directed by the President.*

(c) Secretary

- (i) The Secretary will serve as the SGA's clerk and historian, and thus shall keep records of all agendas, meeting notes, communications, and attendance records.*
- (ii) The Secretary will maintain schedules of SGA events and ensure that the necessary information is available to SGA officers and associates and the student body.*
- (iii) The Secretary shall be responsible for managing the correspondences of SGA and the upkeep of the SGA email account.*
- (iv) The Secretary will be responsible for management of the Student-Faculty Committees*
- (v) The Secretary will perform other duties as directed by the President*

(d) Treasurer

- (i) The Treasurer will manage the finances, financial plans, and fundraising activities of the SGA, and will at all times remain knowledgeable about the SGA's financial situation.*
- (ii) The Treasurer shall prepare and maintain a report to be presented at Senate meetings containing a list of all receipts and disbursements to the Executive Board.*

(iii) *The Treasurer shall audit clubs which receive AFAC funding at least once per year and will submit a report to the Executive Board each semester with the results of that semester's audits. 4: The Treasurer shall be the Chairperson of the Activities Fee Allocation Committee (AFAC).*

(iv) *The Treasurer will perform other duties as directed by the President.*

(e) Social Chair

(i) *1: The Social Chair is responsible for organizing any SGA sponsored events on campus.*

(ii) *2: The Social Chair is responsible for overseeing Class Council events.*

(iii) *3: The Social Chair shall be responsible for keeping a photographic record of all events sponsored by SGA.*

(iv) *4. The Social Chair shall be responsible of managing the social media accounts along with anyone else the President charges with the social media accounts.*

(v) *5: The Social chair will perform other duties as directed by the President.*

Article III. Subsidiary Bodies of SGA

Section 3.01 Student Senate

(a) Definition and Purpose

(i) *The Student Senate is the primary deliberative and advisory body within the SGA. It is responsible for debating issues, serving as an open forum at which students can voice concerns and acts as the voting body for the student populous for issues that are brought to the senate.*

(b) Composition

Student Senate meetings are open to all students, but voting power may be granted to

(i) *Clubs that have completed the OAP process and are in good standing with SGA, Student Engagement, and the College.*

(ii) *Greek organizations*

(iii) *The four SGA Class Representatives,*

1) *Class Representatives should be sourced from Class Councils and primarily be filled by the Class President. This position can be delegated to any other member of the Class Council when required.*

(c) Powers and Duties

(i) *The Senate may appoint subcommittees of its members and delegate its authority as passed by the executive board by a vote of two-thirds of the Senate.*

(ii) *The Senate may overturn bylaws and decisions passed by the executive board by a vote of two-thirds of the Senate.*

(iii) *The Senate may request the initiation of impeachment through a formal letter to the Committee of the Student Judiciary.*

(iv) *The Senate may amend the constitution by adding or removing amendments, pre-ambulatory clauses, subjective clauses, SGA bylaws, and/or legislation proposed by the SGA.*

(v) *Senators have the choice of voting Yes or No or, if they so wish, may abstain from voting.*

- 1) The removal or addition of an amendment or clause can only be passed with a two-thirds vote from the senate

Section 3.02 Class Council

(a) Definition and Purpose

- (i) *SGA is responsible for overseeing the elections and activities of all Class Councils. Elections to these boards are held annually unless one is removed by the SGA or resigns from the position.*

- 1) The term of office for Class Council Officers shall be from the third Monday of April to the third Monday of April of the following year. Elections will take place no earlier than the third week of March, and no later than the second week of April.

(b) Section 3.05: Composition

All Class Councils will be comprised of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Social Event Coordinator.

(c) Section 3.06: Powers

Responsibilities of Council members will be stipulated by SGA Class Council bylaws.

Section 3.03 Student Judiciary and Academic Discipline Committee's

(a) The Executive Board is responsible for nominating student members of the Judicial Board and Academic Discipline Committee. The Senate must approve these appointments.

(b) The student members of these two committees are automatically also members of the Committee of the Student Judiciary (see section 5.0.2), which is responsible for handling constitutional disputes and impeachments as outlined in this Constitution.

(c) Appointments to these judicial committees are not permanent and will be appointed on a rolling basis

- (i) *Students may exit the position via: resignation, away from campus for more than 60 days, physical or mental health concerns, or is impeached.*

- 1) Impeachment of Judicial committee members follows the same requirements and procedures for Executive officer impeachments specified in this Constitution, except that the hearing is facilitated by the Executive Board.

Section 3.04 Student-Faculty Ad-Hoc Committees

(a) The Executive Board may create any ad-hoc and/or student committees with a two-third vote from the Student Senate.

(b) The Executive Board is responsible for appointing student representatives to Student-Faculty committees.

(c) All students in good academic and disciplinary standing are eligible to serve on committees. If during any point of the academic year a student is placed on academic or disciplinary probation they will be automatically removed from the committee and the SGA Executive board will appoint another student after the conclusion of all parts of the judicial process.

(d) The Executive Board may appoint eligible representatives by a vote of two thirds

- (e) All committee appointees may be removed from office by a two thirds vote of the Executive Board.

Article IV. Elections

Section 4.01 Positions for Election:

- (a) SGA President and Vice President, for which candidates will run on a two-person ticket
- (b) SGA Secretary, Treasurer and Social Chair
 - (i) *The term of office for Executive Board Officers shall be from April 1st to April 1st of the following year. Elections will take place no earlier than the tenth day of March, and no later than the twentieth day of March.*
- (c) Class Council positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Social Event Coordinator, and Secretary.
- (d) No student may run for more than one position on the Executive board and class council.

Section 4.02 Eligibility

- (a) A candidate must be a full-time Ursinus College student for the upcoming elected term as determined by the Student Affairs Office.
- (b) A candidate may not be on Academic Probation or Disciplinary Probation, as determined by the Student Affairs Office.
- (c) Students who are studying abroad within the time of their term (April 1st- April 1st) cannot run for office.

Section 4.03 The Election Process

- (a) Nominations
 - (i) *To be on the ballot for election, potential candidates must submit an application to the Student Engagement Office (SEO), which includes information specified in the SGA application.*
 - (ii) *The dates of the election and candidacy deadline must be announced at least one week before they occur. There must be between 72 hours and one week of time between the candidacy deadline and the elections opening.*
- (b) Election Oversight
 - (i) *All elections will be overseen and conducted by the SEO*
 - (ii) *All dates for the election process will be determined and published by SEO*
 - 1) The Freshman Class Council election process will be run by the SGA Executive Board.
- (c) General Election
 - (i) *Elections will be held at the end of the spring semester with the exception of incoming freshman class council.*
 - (ii) *The election will be held on the dates set by the SEO but should not occur later than the second week of April.*
 - (iii) *SEO will set any additional rules for the election pertinent to the system they create for voting. These rules will be distributed to all candidates prior to campaigns opening.*
 - (iv) *Any voting issues need to be reported to the SEO prior to the conclusion of voting.*

(v) *First Year Class Elections will be hosted approximately three weeks into the fall semester and should end no later than the fifth week of classes.*

Article V. Bylaws and Acts

Section 5.01

The Executive Board may govern the actions of the SGA through the passage of Bylaws Acts.

Section 5.02

All parts of the SGA Constitution supersede the Bylaws and Acts in authority. Any member of the Executive Board or any group of 5 Senators may request that the Committee of the Student Judiciary examine a Bylaw or Act for constitutionality.

Section 5.03

The passage of a Bylaw is required for: the creation of any new standing committee or any committee to which specific authorities of the executive board are delegated. Section 5.04: Any Bylaw or Act created by the SGA may be passed and set in motion with a two-thirds vote within the SGA Executive board to determine presentation to Senate.

Article VI. Impeachment

Section 6.01

If a SGA elected officer is placed on disciplinary or academic probation, they will be immediately suspended from office, and after the conclusion of any pending appeals, will be automatically removed from office if the probation stands unless the Senate votes by two-thirds to prevent the officer's removal.

Section 6.02

A motion to remove an elected officer from their position may be brought before the Executive Board or the Student Senate on the grounds that the officer has willfully violated this Constitution or the SGA Bylaws, or that the officer has consistently neglected the requirements of their position as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws, or that the officer has violated school policy significantly enough that he/she cannot be a trustee of the interests of the student body, or that the officer is no longer fit for office for health reasons.

Section 6.03

Whichever body receives the motion for impeachment must forward it and all associated records to the other body. Both bodies must then debate whether the motion merits consideration. If either body decides that the motion merits consideration, then the Senate will decide whether the case should be handled by the Student Judicial Committee or Senate. The officer under consideration may not be present at any of the discussions listed in this subsection. 2C: The officer under consideration must be presented with the accusations against them and all associated evidence one week in advance of their hearing. The officer will be given an opportunity to defend themselves at a meeting held by either the Student Judicial Committee or Senate.

Section 6.04

- (a) In the event of a vacancy, the President may appoint a new officer to the position pending a two thirds majority vote from the SGA executive board followed by a two thirds majority vote from the Senate.

(b) If a majority vote is not met within the Senate, then the SGA executive board will continue to bring forth appointees until the position is filled.

(i) If they so wish, the Senate may make suggestions as to who may fill the position, but these suggestions must pass the SGA executive board with a two thirds majority vote.

Article VII. Amendment

Section 7.01

Any student of Ursinus College may propose an amendment to this constitution. To do so, the said amendment should be submitted in writing along with rationale to the Executive Board.

Section 7.02

Upon an amendment being accepted for debate by the Senate, amendments must be emailed to the Student Body by the Executive Board.

Section 7.03

In order for an amendment to pass, a majority vote of two thirds must be passed by the SGA executive board followed by a two thirds majority vote from the Senate.

Revised: May, 2023