

THE COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION



Preamble

We, the students at Columbus State University, deserving a more representative and efficient student government, wanting better communication between students and the University's administration and faculty, seeking to cultivate and preserve the ideals of good citizenship, and to maintain a more complete and fruitful atmosphere of learning, do hereby establish this Constitution for Student Government.

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Article I: Name

This organization shall be called the Student Government Association (SGA) of Columbus State University.

Article II: Objectives

1. To provide direct channels for responsible and effective participation in university governance.
2. To provide an official representative organization to receive concerns, consider problems and participate in making decisions impacting the University.
3. To support programs that may directly benefit students at the University.
4. To provide a means whereby students may gain experience and training in responsible political roles and leadership.
5. To review regulations and policies affecting the welfare of the University and other matters as it may maintain and promote the best interest of students.
6. To assist in the development of academic programs, co-curricular activities, and university policies which affect the student body.
7. To promote full understanding, communication, and cooperation between students, faculty, and administration.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Qualifications

All registered students at Columbus State University, who have paid the Student Activity Fee, are eligible to become members of the SGA.

Section 2: Non-Discrimination Policy

The Student Government Association will align itself with Columbus State University's commitment to prevent discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, color, sex (including pregnancy discrimination), disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, religion, veteran status, and other legally protected characteristics.

Section 3: Open Participation

The Student Government Association invites all members of Columbus State University to participate in all public events and meetings.

Article IV: General Organization

The Student Government Association is composed of three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. The Cabinet will perform administrative duties for the entire organization.

1. The Executive Branch shall be composed of the President of the student body, President-Elect, Treasurer, Speaker of the Senate, and the Speaker of the Representatives.
2. The Legislative Branch shall consist of no more than two (2) senators elected to represent each college, including the Honors College, Graduate school and no more than two (2) senators at-large. The Legislative Branch will also consist of a representative from each Registered Student Organization.
3. The Judicial Branch shall consist of the Chief Justice and no more than 8 justices.

4. The Cabinet shall consist of the Press Secretary, the Main Campus Community Advocate, Riverpark Community Advocate, and other positions as necessary.

Article V: The Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch shall consist of the Senate and Registered Student Organization Representatives. The Senate is a group of elected or appointed persons who represent themselves and their constituents, as well as the Executive Branch of the Student Government Association. Each college shall be represented by no more than 2 senators each, including the Honors College and Graduate School. There will be no more than 2 senators representing the campus at large. Registered Student Organization representatives are members of an active student organization recognized by the Office of Student Life & Development.

Section 1: Senators

1. Perform at least one (1) town hall within their respective college/area per academic year.
2. Be responsible for relaying any information they have gained pertaining to the student body to the Speaker of the Senate.
3. Perform those activities as may be delegated by the Speaker of the Senate.
4. Attend at least 65% of scheduled Forum meetings.
5. Attend all meetings scheduled by the Speaker of the Senate.
6. Senators must serve under committees recommended by the Speaker of the Senate.
7. Present ideas and requests to the SGA Speaker of the Senate and Forum through the written medium of resolutions.
8. Senators are not allowed to serve as Justices/RSO Representatives, in addition to their Senator position.

Section 2: RSO Representatives

1. Represent their respective RSO but also represent the student body as a whole.
2. Attend any meetings the committee may hold.
3. Report to the Speaker of the Representatives about what was discussed in the committee meeting.
4. Be responsible for relaying any new information regarding the student body to the Speaker of the Representatives.
5. Attend at least 65% of scheduled Forum meetings.
6. Complete monthly oversight reports.
7. Submit monthly events to be reported at Forum.
8. RSO Representatives are not allowed to serve as Justices/Senators, in addition to their representative role.
 - a. RSO Representatives are only allowed to serve for one organization.

Article VI: The Executive Branch

The Executive Branch shall be composed of the President of the student body, President-Elect, Treasurer, Speaker of the Senate, and Speaker of the Representatives.

Section 1: President

The President oversees the total operation and function of all executive officers of the SGA and committees; is responsible for working with the officers, judicial council, and chairpersons of

those committees in initiating programs for their areas of concern; and shall exercise the following duties:

1. Preside over Forum and act as a voting member only to break a tie.
2. Be the chief executive officer of the SGA and be responsible for the implementation of student government policies.
3. Serve as the official spokesperson and representative of the student body.
4. Chair the Executive Branch and have the power to veto any topic, recommendation, or subject brought up during the Executive Branch's meeting.
 - a. A two-thirds majority (2/3) of the Executive Branch's votes is required to override the veto.
5. Serve on committees as required by the University.
6. Act as a delegate to the Student Advisory Council and the Board of Regents.
7. Have a veto in the Forum, which can be overridden by a two-thirds majority (2/3) vote of the members present.
 - a. This veto can go towards any vote or motion that takes place during the Forum.
8. Assign University committees to the President-Elect, Speaker of the Representatives and Speaker of the Senate as their primary areas of concern.
9. Has the power to create committees to serve the Executive Branch at their discretion to research or create solutions to problems concerning the student body.

Section 2: President-Elect (Vice President)

The President-Elect is responsible for serving as the Vice President, investigating, developing, overseeing, and initiating policies and programs in their areas of concern.

1. Be responsible for formulating policies concerning academic areas that affect the student body, and for advising the Executive Branch and the Senate on all matters relative to the delegated areas of responsibility.
2. Chair any social and philanthropic projects within all of SGA.
3. Have the power to delegate responsibilities of the events to other members of the Student Government Association, including the Executive Branch and the Senate.
4. Serve on committees as required by the University.
5. Oversee the work of all standing committees on which students serve within the President-Elect's area, including dining, resolutions, and Educator of the Year.
6. Be responsible for advising the Cabinet on all matters relative to the delegated area of responsibility.
7. Serve on committees as required by the University.
8. Serve as the SGA President once term as President-Elect has been completed.

Section 3: Treasurer

The Treasurer manages funding, budgeting, and financial controls for SGA activities. Maintaining a current knowledge of organizational policies and procedures while adhering to the SGA Constitution.

1. Prepare a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which shall be submitted to the Executive Branch and approved by the Executive Branch.
2. Be responsible for advising the Executive Branch and the Senate on all matters relative to the delegated area of responsibility.

3. Be responsible for keeping a record of approved and denied money requests to use as guidance for future money requests.
4. Be responsible for overseeing all budget amendments and money requests.
5. Oversee the work of all standing committees on which students serve within the Treasurer's area.
6. Serve on committees as required by the University.
7. Shall be responsible for communicating all funding requests.

Section 4: Speaker of the Senate

The Speaker shall serve as the chair of the Senate and shall be nominated on and voted on by the Senators. As chair, the Speaker is responsible for the development and implementation of the goals and objectives of the Senate, serving as their representative to the Executive Branch.

1. Be responsible for accurately voicing the ideas and opinions of the Senators to the Executive Branch.
2. The Speaker is further responsible for relaying information from the Executive Branch back to the Senators.
3. Be responsible for establishing an attendance policy and meeting times for the Senators.
4. Must meet prior to the first forum.
5. Must meet a minimum of ten times per semester.
6. Be responsible for initiating and coordinating Senators to host at least one (1) town hall per academic year within their respective college.
7. Have the power to create committees to serve within the Senate.
8. Oversee the work of all standing committees in their respective areas.
9. Be responsible for hosting at least one (1) town hall per semester.

Section 5: Speaker of the Representatives

The Speaker of the Representatives is responsible for accurately voicing the ideas and opinions of the Registered Student Organizations representatives.

1. Oversee the work of all standing committees on which Cabinet members serve as chair.
2. Be responsible for accurately voicing the ideas and opinions of the Registered Student Organizations representatives to the Executive Committee.
3. The Speaker is further responsible for relaying information from the Executive Committee back to the organizational representatives.
4. Be responsible for establishing an attendance policy and meeting times for the representatives, if need be.

Section 6: Vacancies

1. Refer to Article VII of the Bylaws.

Article VII: Judicial Council

Section 1: Membership

The Judicial Council shall consist of Chief Justice and no more than (8) Justices.

1. Undergraduate students must have an institutional GPA of at least 2.0 and graduate students at least 3.0 to be nominated.
2. Judicial Council members may miss no more than three (3) Justice meetings and two (2) forums.

3. Justices are not allowed to also serve as Senators or Representatives, in addition to their Justice role.

Section 2: Jurisdiction

All students or organizations desiring to bring an action or have a hearing before the Judicial Council must submit a written request or email to the Chief Justice.

- The appellate duties of the Judicial Council will include judicial review of the Forum actions and interpretation of the SGA Constitution. Other duties will include hearing appeals related to library, posting fines, elections/campaigning infractions, and impeachment duties as defined in Article IX of this Constitution.

Section 3: Justices

1. Advise the Executive Branch and the Senate on constitutional matters upon request. Report to the Executive Branch and the Senate on Judicial Council activities.
2. Monitor and facilitate all voting that takes place during Forum and report the findings to the appropriate SGA officer or University official.
3. Serve on committees as required by the University.
4. Serve as a student representative on Student Conduct Hearing Panels. No justice shall serve on a Hearing Panel where a conflict-of-interest would arise.

Section 4: Chief Justice

1. Preside over the Judicial Council and outline jurisdiction of cases under adjudication.
2. Write the majority opinion and file a copy of reports with the appropriate University official.
3. Oversee the work of all standing committees in respective areas.
4. Be responsible for maintaining storage of all SGA files and submitting records to the Columbus State University Archives.
5. Track attendance and all voting procedures during Forum.
6. Swear in all new Executive Board members, Senators, and Justices.

Article VIII: The Cabinet

The Cabinet shall consist of the President-Elect, the Press Secretary, the Main Campus Community Advocate, and the RiverPark Community Advocate. Each Cabinet member shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by a majority vote within the Sitting of the Senate.

Section 1: Press Secretary

1. Oversee coordinating events, with the ability to branch out as deemed appropriate by the President, or President-Elect.
2. Coordinate events as deemed appropriate by the President, or President-Elect.
3. Report directly to the President Elect.
4. Represent the Student Government Association to all media outlets such as, but not limited to, local and campus newspapers and social media outlets.
5. Be responsible for all the SGA's social media accounts.
6. Serves as chair of the Public Relations Committee.

7. Be required to attend and take notes at Forum and Executive Board meetings.

Section 2: Main Campus Community Advocate

1. Be the primary liaison between the main campus students and the Executive Board.
2. Aim to serve the individual students, providing them with a platform to articulate their perspective and working on behalf of underserved campus communities.
3. Be responsible for addressing all matters of public health on campus.
4. Serve on resolutions committee.
5. Check virtual and in person comment boxes.
6. Attend all executive board meetings and forums.

Section 3: RiverPark Community Advocate

1. Be the primary liaison between the RiverPark campus students and the Executive Board.
2. Aim to serve the individual students, providing them with a platform to articulate their perspective and working on behalf of underserved campus communities.
3. Be responsible for addressing all matters of public health on campus.
4. Serve on resolutions committee.
5. Check virtual and in person comment boxes.
6. Attend all executive board meetings and forums.

Article IX: Administrative Committees

1. The President may appoint committees within Senate for the duration of one (1) year.
2. The Executive branch may serve in committees if membership requirements are not met.
3. Funding for all such committees shall be allocated in the budget of the SGA.
4. Funding for all committees will be allocated by the President-Elect, voted on by the Executive Branch, and then voted on by the Senate.

Section 1: Cougar Allocation Committee

The Cougar Allocation Committee is comprised of 7 Senators (1 for each college and 1 At-Large)
Chair: Treasurer

Section 2: Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee is comprised of 3 Senators and both Riverpark and Main Campus Community Advocates.
Chair: President-Elect

Section 3: Public Relations

The Public Relations Committee is comprised of 4 Senators.
Chair: Press Secretary

Section 4: University Committees

University committees' participation of SGA members may be requested, at the discretion of the institution.

Article X: Student Body Forum

The meeting that the SGA hosts will be known as the Student Body Forum. See Article II of the Bylaws.

Article XI: Impeachment & Removal

Section 1: Procedures

1. Procedures of Impeachment proceedings may be initiated by any student.
2. The impeachment will be submitted to the Chief Justice of the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council will determine if a probable cause exists for a trial. The impeachment may be submitted via a letter or an email, but not by word-of-mouth.
3. The Chief Justice, upon receiving the impeachment motion, will set the trial date within no more than five (5) school days.
4. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with established judicial procedure, with the Justices acting as a panel.
5. A three-fourth (3/4) vote of the forum present is required to pass the motion. The only punishment which can be incurred is removal from the office as a result of the above action.
6. In cases of impeachment of the President, the President Elect shall act as the presiding officer of the Student Government Association and Forum.

Section 2: Automatic Removal

Any SGA member whose GPA or enrollment status drops below the minimums as defined or who is suspended from the University shall be automatically removed from membership within SGA. The GPA and enrollment status of members of the SGA shall be confirmed at the beginning of each academic term.

- Automatic removals shall be officially recorded in the minutes of the first full Forum meeting of each academic term.

Section 3: Advisor Removal

Any SGA member may be subject to immediate removal from office by an SGA Advisor. Grounds for immediate removal shall be:

- Non-Academic Misconduct Violations.
- Failure to perform duties as defined in the Bylaws.

Section 4: Suspension of Campus Registered Student Organization

Failure of an organization to participate as defined shall result in suspension of that organization from the SGA during the current academic term.

- A suspended organization will not be eligible to apply for or receive any funding, or other assistance from the SGA during the suspension period. Suspensions shall be

officially recorded in the minutes of the first meeting of the Forum following the offense.

Article XVII: Amendments

Section 1: Proposal of Amendments

An amendment may be proposed at any time. All petitions must be presented to the President of the Student Government Association. The proposed amendment must be posted within two weeks to the Forum before it is voted upon.

Section 2: Adoption of Amendments

Such amendments shall be adopted if passed by a 51% majority vote of the Forum and approved by the President of Columbus State University.

Article XII: Bylaws

The SGA shall establish a set of bylaws that shall further clarify the policies and procedures of the SGA as well as specify the duties and privileges of each officer. Amendments or revisions of said Bylaws shall require majority approval of the SGA Executive Board with prior within two weeks to the Forum before it is voted upon and shall be adopted if passed by a 51% majority vote of the Forum and approved by the President of Columbus State University.

Article XVIII: Ratification

This constitution shall take effect upon the winning vote of the Forum and approved by the President of Columbus State University.

Date of Signing

President, Undrell Walker Jr
Columbus State University Student Government
Association

President, Dr. Stuart Rayfield
Columbus State University