



Georgia Southwestern State University
Student Government Association
Constitution

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Preamble

We, the students of Georgia Southwestern State University, in order to promote a college-wide atmosphere for intellectual growth, high standards of conduct, university spirit, to stimulate common understanding and cooperation between the students, Faculty/Staff, and administration, to protect the rights and principles of the individual students, and to govern the Student Body, do establish and submit this constitution.

Article I **Objectives**

Section 1: Name

- a. The name of this student government shall be the Student Government Association (SGA).

Section 2: Location/Time

- a. The location for all governing body meetings will take place on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University in the Magnolia Manor Nursing Auditorium. All governing body meetings will take place bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 5:30pm.
- b. All committee meetings will meet bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 5:30pm when SGA governing meetings are not happening.

Section 3: Purpose

- a. The Student Government Association exists to promote interaction with the university administration concerning the student campus environment, to assist students in dealing with campus issues, to make recommendations to the President of Georgia Southwestern State University concerning the dispensation of student activity funds, to authorize the Student Conduct Board, and to vet funding proposals for campus activities.

Section 4: Honor Code

- a. We, the members of the Student Government Association (SGA), pledge to hold

ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Article 2 Membership

Section 1: Student Membership

- a. All currently enrolled; full-time students at Georgia Southwestern State University who are in good standing with the university and hold at least a 2.5 Grade Point Average are eligible for membership in Student Government Association (SGA). All members of the Student Government Association (SGA) are subject to this constitution, its amendments, bylaws, and the student code of conduct.

Section 2: Discrimination Policy

- a. Recognizing that the Georgia Southwestern State University is an important part of Americus, Sumter County, Georgia, and the United States, it should be incumbent upon every member to participate in activities that contribute to overall community wellbeing. 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, political affiliation, University organizational affiliation, or disability in compliance with the University of Georgia's non-discrimination and anti-harassment policy:
 - iii. Membership and all privileges, including voting, any political affiliation, University organizational affiliation, 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.
 - iv. Membership and all privileges, including voting, any political affiliation, University organizational affiliation, 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

- a. All meetings of Student Government Association (SGA) shall be open to all members of the Georgia Southwestern State University community, except where expressly for by this constitution.

Article 3
Legislative Branch

Section 1: Legislative Branch

- a. All legislative powers of the student body shall be vested in a governing body.
- b. The legislative branch shall be composed of:
 - i. Senators
 - ii. Representative
 - iii. Parliamentarian

Section 2: Powers of the Representatives

- a. A Representative shall have the power to:
 - a. Determine its rules of procedures;
 - b. Censure or expel a member by a two-thirds vote of the membership, provided the affected student senator has received prior written notice;
 - c. Shall sit on committees for the elections of the Student Body and be the sole judge of the validity of election results;
 - d. Shall sit on committees to decide all tie elections at its first meeting following validation;
 - e. Provide for the replacement of its members upon a vacancy in office;
 - f. Approve appointments and recommendations of the student body president to Student Government administrative agencies and university committees;
 - g. Provide for the control and disbursement of Student Body funds;
 - h. Approve, by resolution, affiliations between Student Government and any university, regional, or national organization;
 - i. Enact all laws necessary and proper for the general wellbeing of the Student Body; and
 - j. Exercise any other power or duty provided for in the constitution or laws of the Student Body.
 - i. Speak on behalf of their respective representative group;
 - ii. The following are representation groups which Representatives may choose to represent. Representatives may only represent one of the following. In addition to the duties listed above, all Representatives shall have added duties according to their individual representative group.
- b. Student Government Association must have at least two College Representative from each of the four colleges but may have a maximum of five representatives. College Representatives must advocate for their respective college. The following are the four Georgia Southwestern State University colleges:
 1. College of Arts/Sciences
 2. College of Business/Computing
 3. College of Education
 4. College of Nursing/Health Science
- c. Student Government Association must have at least two Class Representative from each of the four classifications but may have a maximum of five representatives. Class Representatives must speak on behalf of their respective class. The following are the four Georgia Southwestern State University classifications:
 1. Freshman

2. Sophomore
 3. Junior
 4. Senior
- d. The Student Government Association must have at least two Athlete Representatives from athletics but may have a maximum of five representatives. These members can be from GSW's Student Athletic Advisory Council. If no student athletes are present to represent, then any student may represent Student Athletes. The following are the Georgia Southwestern State University representative sports:
1. Baseball
 2. Softball
 3. Basketball
 4. Cross Country
 5. Tennis
 6. Golf
 7. Soccer
- e. The Student Government Association must have at least two Residential students from each residential hall but may have a maximum of 5 representatives. Residential Representatives must speak on behalf of their respective group.
1. Southwestern Oaks I
 2. Southwestern Oaks II
 3. Southwestern Magnolia I
 4. Southwestern Magnolia II
 5. Southwestern Pines
- f. The Student Government Association must have at least two Commuter Representatives but may have a maximum of five representatives. Commuter representatives must speak on behalf of their respected group.
1. Office Campus Students
- g. Student Government Association must have at least one representative from each Organization that is active based on records form Georgia Southwestern State University Student Activities Coordinator.
1. Registered Student Organizations

Section 5: Prohibitions

- a. The Student Senate shall not:
- a. Enact any law that abridges its powers delegated by the constitution;
 - b. Appropriate funds for a period of more than one year;
 - c. Increase or decrease a Student Government official's salary, except as specifically detailed in section 8 of this article;
 - d. Infringe the secrecy of the ballot in any Student Body election;
 - e. Deny speaking privileges in the Student Senate to the student body president, student body vice president, student body treasurer, Principal Advisor of Elections and Cabinets, Communication Director, chief justice or any justice of the supreme court, or any university administrative officer or college dean;
 - f. Meet in a closed session;
 - g. Conduct any vote by secret ballot;
 - h. Change the dates of Student Body elections in the nine weeks before the scheduled election;
 - i. Change the election laws one week before the scheduled election to be effective for that election; or

- j. Enact any law embracing more than one subject and matter properly connected to that subject.

Section 6: Procedures

- a. No bill shall become law unless a student senator introduces the bill, the bill is read, approved by the judiciary, and passes by majority vote during meetings of the Student Senate.
- b. No bill shall become law without the signature of the student body president, except when the student body president has not vetoed the bill within ten days after presentation, in which case the bill shall become law.
- c. The student body president may veto a proposed law.
- d. The university president or the university president's designee may veto a proposed law. The student body president must notify the senate no later than ten days after receiving the veto stating the reasons for the university president's veto.
- e. The Treasurer of the Student Body shall have veto equal to that of the President of the Student Body in all matters concerning Budget approval and revisions to said budget. The Treasurer of the Student Body shall have exclusive veto in matters concerning appropriations from Special Request Funds.
- f. Any Bill which the President of the Student Body and the Treasurer of the Student Body shall choose to veto, shall be considered as having been vetoed once.
- g. A vetoed bill may be enacted notwithstanding the veto of the President or Treasurer of the Student Body if it is read a third time in full and passed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Student Senate present and voting at a regular meeting.
- h. The Quorum necessary to conduct business shall be a majority of the total membership of the Student Senate; however, a lesser number, as determined by the Student Senate's rules of procedure, may compel the attendance of absent members.
- i. Legislation of the Student Senate shall only be classified as a(n);
 - a. Bill of law which is subject to veto;
 - b. Primary or subsidiary budgets, of which all budgets shall be considered bills of law and subject to veto as described in this section;
 - c. Special request authorization – an appropriation from special request funds requiring a two-thirds vote for enactment subject to veto as described in this section;
 - d. Authorization – a directive requiring a two-thirds vote for enactment that advises, orders, or prescribes the method for an officer to fulfill a duty provided for in the constitution and is not subject to veto;
 - e. Resolution – an expression of the sentiment of the Student Senate requiring a two-thirds vote for passage and not subject to veto.

Section 7: Budget Restrictions

- a. Budget Funding. — The Administration of Georgia Southwestern hereby administers and distributes the funding of this Student Government every academic year. However, This Student Government shall have full authority to access and use these funds in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and statues.
- b. Student Body Executive Salaries. – The Executive Members; Student Body Vice-President, Student Body Treasurer, Student Body Secretary, excluding the Student Body President, shall be stipend five-hundred dollars (\$500) a full term, two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) a semester. The Student Body President shall be given a scholarship from this University for tuition, one thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars (\$1250) per

semester. The senate shall by a majority vote change the amount or remove reward, with just cause, based on the criteria below;

- a. Misuse of position
- b. Failed to accomplish duties and responsibilities and /or Member is no longer qualified to hold office.

Article 4 **Executive Branch**

Section 1: Executive Powers

- a. All executive powers of the student body shall be vested in a Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Student body Treasure, and Student Body Secretary.

Section 2: Student Body President

- a. The Student Body President shall:
 - a. Act as the chief executive officer of the Student Body;
 - b. Shall meet with President, Executive Vice President, and Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs;
 - c. Present a State of the Student Government Association address;
 - d. Shall meet with Student Government Advisor weekly;
 - e. Attends USG Board of Regent Meetings;
 - f. Represents the Student Body in dealing with the Faculty, Administration, USG Board of Regents, and the State of Georgia;
 - g. Make student recommendations for all vacancies at Georgia Southwestern State University;
 - h. Shall have 2-4 office hours a week but a minimum of 2 hours;
 - i. Shall care that Student Body law is faithfully executed;
 - j. Have the power to veto legislation as provided for by Student Body law;
 - k. Present to the student body each university term a State of the Campus message;
 - l. Convene special meetings of the Governing Body, if deemed necessary;
 - m. Appoint aides or other officials not provided for by Student Body law, if deemed necessary; and
 - n. May appoint representatives with the senate's approval of majority.
 - o. Exercise all other powers and duties provided by Student Body law;
 - p. Serves on University committees, and Alumni Board;
 - q. Shall attend 3 conferences during term in office with the University System of Georgia. Conferences will be one (1) in Summer, Fall, and Spring.
- b. Cabinet- There shall be a cabinet, consisting of the heads of the executive departments and other Student Government officials that the Governing Body provides by law to be Cabinet level.

Section 3: Student Body Vice President

- a. The Student Body Vice President Shall:
 - a. Assist the Student Body President in the conduct of government;

- b. Exercise the powers and duties of the Student Body President in his/her absence;
- c. Exercise all other powers and duties provided by Student Body law;
- d. Shall serve as Chief Officer for the Supreme Court and preside over all Justices;
- e. Shall serve on university committees;
- f. Shall oversee university committees and make sure students are represented;
- g. Help oversee the directors under the Student Body President
- h. Shall have 2-4 office hours a week but a minimum of 2 hours;
- i. Work at least one (1) Preview Day.

Section 4: Student Body Treasurer

- a. The Student Body Treasurer S
- b. shall:
 - a. Act as the chief financial officer of the Student Body;
 - b. Prepares and manages the SGA Annual Budget;
 - c. Reviews the use of allocated funds by clubs and organizations and ensure proper use thereof;
 - d. Serves as an advisor to the Student Body President on issues relating to SGA financial policy and procedures;
 - e. Keep complete and accurate accounts of all Student Body funds on deposit with the University Controller;
 - f. Sign all requisitions on Student Body funds on order of the Student Senate;
 - g. Assist the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President in the conduct of government;
 - h. Exercise all other powers and duties provided by Student Body law.
 - i. Shall have 2-4 office hours a week but a minimum of 2 hours;
 - j. Work at least one (1) Preview Day.

Section 5: Student Body Secretary

- a. Meets regularly with Student Body President and Executive Cabinet;
- b. Maintain a permanent record of all executive business;
- c. Keeps records of all Executive Cabinet meetings;
- d. Keep and make available a permanent record of this Constitution, SGA rules and regulations, and the structure of all SGA departments and offices and take responsibility for distributing them to all newly elected officers of the SGA;
- e. Must make and print minutes and agenda for every Governing meeting;
- f. Perform other duties as the Student Body President may assign;
- g. Shall have 2-4 office hours a week but a minimum of 2 hours;
- h. Work one (1) Preview Day.

Section 6: President's Cabinet

- a. **The Director of Internal Affairs:**
 - a. Meet with the president regularly;
 - b. Oversee the Internal Affairs Committee;
 - c. Serve as a justice on the supreme court;
 - d. Director shall handle the following:
 - i. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

- ii. Health and Wellness
 - iii. Academic Affairs
 - iv. Auxiliary Affairs
 - e. Meets regularly with Student Body President;
 - f. Acts as a liaison between SGA and all external diversity initiatives as well as campus entities promoting a multicultural environment by serving on committees relating to campus diversity and inclusion;
 - g. Conveys to the Student Body the Current Status of Diversity initiatives and the status of Minority enrollment;
 - h. Meets with the GSW Counseling Center and Rec Well Staff;
 - i. Stay informed on health and wellness initiatives, practices, and issues;
 - j. Collaborate on at least two (2) health promotion related events per semester;
 - k. Complete training and any necessary sessions provide to inform student health by counseling center;
 - l. Provide any available training to members or the Student Body;
 - m. Meet with Deans when necessary to look at the success of our students in the classroom;
 - n. Oversees the dining hall committee to insure our students are getting what they need;
 - o. Shall handle any business that deals with the bookstore;
 - p. Shall handle any complaints or issues regarding the dining services and bookstore.
 - q. Attend 1 Preview Day.
- b. Director of Events:**
- a. Meet with the president regularly;
 - b. Oversee the Events Committee;
 - c. Serve as a justice on the supreme court;
 - d. Director shall handle all planning for SGA events;
 - e. Events include:
 - i. Blue and Gold Week
 - ii. Homecoming Week
 - iii. Recruitment Events
 - f. Shall work with Director of Elections to make sure candidates are prepared for spirit weeks;
 - g. Shall collaborate with CARES@GSW and Director of Internal Affairs for events;
 - h. Work 1 Preview Day.
- c. Director of Communications:**
- a. Meets regularly with Student Body President;
 - b. Oversee the Communications Committee;
 - c. Shall serve as a justice on the supreme court;
 - d. Works in conjunction with University Relations to make updates on the SGA Website, includes but not limited to, pictures, constitution, and bylaws;
 - e. Adds all minutes and agenda to the SGA Canes Connect;
 - f. Maintains the gswsga@gsw.edu email account;
 - g. Creates and publishes SGA monthly newsletter;
 - h. Works with University Relations to communicate what SGA is working on that is worthy of press coverage;

- i. Shall oversee all social media accounts;
 - j. Shall oversee the communications committee;
 - k. Exercise all other powers and duties provided by Student Body law;
 - l. Assist all other Executive heads in the conduct of government.
 - m. Shall have 3-5 office hours a week but a minimum of 3 hours;
 - n. Work one (1) Preview Day.
- d. Director of External Affairs:**
- a. Shall meet with the President regularly;
 - b. Oversee the External Affairs Committee;
 - c. Shall serve as a justice of the supreme court;
 - d. Shall propose and execute policies of the SGA in such areas as student concerns and issues in the Georgia legislature, Americus city council, Alumni Organizations, and other colleges and universities;
 - e. Shall propose and execute other projects, programs, and initiatives related to external affairs;
 - f. Meet with Alumni Engagement Specialist on issues or concerns dealing with Alumni Affairs;
- e. Director of Elections**
- a. Meets with the president regularly;
 - b. Oversee the Elections Committee;
 - c. Shall preside over all elections within Student Government;
 - d. Shall make sure that all applications are created;
 - e. Make sure students who apply for positions are meeting requirements;
 - f. Work with Director of Events to plan one register to vote event a semester;
 - g. Shall record votes during all governing meetings;
 - h. Shall work 1 Preview Day.
- f. Director of Service**
- a. Shall meet with the President regularly;
 - b. Oversee the Service Committee;
 - c. Shall serve as a justice of the supreme court;
 - d. Shall make sure members complete all service hours and report them;
 - e. Shall find service opportunities for members and other students;
 - f. Shall plan a SGA Day of Service;
 - g. Shall report the number of service hours monthly;
 - h. Attend 1 Preview Day.
- g. Director of Appeals**
- a. Shall meet with the president regularly;
 - b. Oversee the Appeals Committee;
 - c. Shall serve as a justice of the supreme court;
 - d. Serve as the chair of the appeals committee;
 - e. Shall handle all parking tickets appealed by the students

- f. Shall handle any appeals within SGA;
- g. Work 1 Preview Day.
- h. Director of Rules and Ethics**
 - a. Meets with the President regularly;
 - b. Oversee the rules and ethics committee;
 - c. Shall serve as a justice of the supreme court;
 - d. Shall handle all absence forms;
 - e. Keep a record of attendance;
 - f. Review all legislation and approve before sending it to governing body;
 - g. Work 1 Preview Day.

Section 7: Vacancies

- a. Upon vacancy in the office of Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President shall become Student Body President.
- b. Further succession to the office of Student Body President and succession upon vacancy in the offices of Student Body Vice President, Student Body Treasurer shall be prescribed by law.
- c. A successor shall serve for the remainder of the term.

Section 8. Executive Departments

- a. Executive departments may be established by Student Body law, with the head of each department to be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed with at least a concurrence of a majority of the Student Senate;
- b. Officers of the executive departments shall be responsible to the Student Body President for the execution of their duties and shall be subject to removal by the Student Body President;
- c. The heads of the executive departments may appoint subordinate aides or other officials not provided for by Student Body law, if deemed necessary;
- d. This will take effect when senate membership rises twenty (20) and above.

Article 5 **Judicial Branch**

Section 1: Judicial Power

- a.** All judicial power of the Student Body shall be vested in the Supreme Court;

Section 2: Administration

- a. The Vice President shall be the chief administrative officer of the judicial system;
- b. The Supreme Court shall adopt its own internal rules of practice and procedure for itself. (Refer to Procedures of Supreme Court)

Section 3: Supreme Court

- a. **ORGANIZATION.** - The Supreme Court shall consist of the Vice President and eight (8) justices. They shall be appointed by the President with approval of the senate, with a majority vote. The Vice President shall preside over the Supreme Court. Six members shall constitute a quorum. The concurrence in judgment of four members shall be necessary for a decision;
- b. **JURISDICTION.** -The Supreme Court: 1. Shall interpret any provision of the constitution or any law upon written: A. petition of three-fourths members of the Student Body; or B. request of the Student Body President. 2. Shall, upon written

petition of any member of the Student Body and for good cause shown, order any Student Government official or any officer of a student organization that receives Student Body funds to perform any lawful act or refrain or desist from an unlawful act. 3. Shall hear appeals from tribunals established by law. 4. May issue any writing necessary to the complete exercise of its jurisdiction. 5. Shall maintain a permanent election result file of every student body election;

- c. SUBPOENA POWER. - The Supreme Court shall have the power to issue subpoenas and subpoena duces tecum directed at any Student Government official or any officer of a student organization that receives Student Body funds, returnable before the Supreme Court or any tribunal it designates
- d. VACANCY IN OFFICE. - Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of the Vice President of the Supreme Court, the Student Body President shall fill the vacancy by appointment, subject to a two thirds confirmation vote by the Student Senate;
- e. CLERK AND MARSHAL. - The Vice President may appoint a clerk and a marshal for the Supreme Court who shall hold office during the pleasure of the Vice President and perform such duties as the Chief Justice directs.

Article 6 **Elections**

Section 1: Elections Committee

- a. The Election Committee shall be chaired by the Director of elections;
- b. Create an application for General Elections;
- c. Shall meet with all candidates planning to run for office the week before campaigning starts;
- d. Shall hold a runoff election if no one candidate receives a majority of votes in the first election;
- e. Runoff Election shall be the following Monday after elections are over;
- f. If any hour of any day of a general or runoff election conflicts with a religious or school holiday or if any other conflict exists, the governing body shall, by resolution, designate different days for the affected election or elections;

Section 2: Qualifications to Vote

- a. The student body, shall comprise the electorate;
- b. Each member of the electorate shall be entitled to vote in student body elections.

Section 3: Qualifications for Office

- a. Unless a more restrictive standard is stated in the constitution, to be eligible for an office within student government, a student must have and maintain an overall 2.5 GPA and for Student Body officers must maintain a 2.7 GPA;
- b. Candidates for the offices of student body president, student body vice president, student body treasurer, and student body secretary shall have completed a minimum of 1 or finishing one academic semester, at Georgia Southwestern State University;
- c. Shall be enrolled as a full-time student, 12 credit hours
- d. Shall be in good standing with the university (conduct and financial).

Section 4: Spring General Elections

- a. The first day of the spring election shall be the second Monday in April and last for five calendar days, Monday through Friday;
- b. The results of the General Election shall be sent out via SGA email by the Advisor;
- c. Result must first be submitted to the Advisor and the Director of Elections;
- d. Shall hold an event to announce the results of the Elections on the last day of

Election week to announce to the student body and allow the President-Elect to give first Student Body Remarks.

Section 5: Rules of Campaigning

- a. Campaigning shall start the second Monday of April and last until the last day of election week;
- b. Shall have all campaigning materials approved by the Director of Elections and Assistant Director of Greek Life and Leadership;
- c. Shall make at least one flyer for campaigning materials to post around campus and on social media;
- d. All approved students running to hold any office must meet the week before campaigning starts with the Director of elections.

Section 5: Time of Assuming Office

- a. Campus wide officers elected in the spring general election in races requiring a majority vote shall assume office after the completion of graduation ceremony for the spring semester and serve one full year;
- b. Representatives shall assume office at the first meeting for the governing body in the fall semester.

Article 7

Impeachment

Section 1. Who can be Impeached

- a. The student body president, student body vice president, student body treasurer, President's cabinet (secretaries, Agency chairs, and executive directors), vice president's cabinet (chair and directors), and justices of the supreme court may be impeached for misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, abuse of power, or conviction of a criminal offense while in office.

Section 2. Filing of Impeachment Resolution

- a. The governing body shall provide in its rules of procedure the definition of the filing date of an impeachment resolution, provided that a minimum of one student representative must co-file the impeachment resolution and that the affected person must receive a true copy of the impeachment resolution.
- b. This must be sent and due processed by the Supreme Court before moving to the governing body.

Section 3. Impeachment body

- a. The governing body, either the fall or spring elected representatives, that has served the greater amount of time on the filing date of an impeachment resolution shall be the body that impeaches.
- b. The Supreme Court shall clarify the laws that were breached, shall preside over the impeachment body and a two-thirds vote for membership of the impeachment body shall

be required to impeach.

Section 4. Suspension upon Impeachment

- a. A person impeached by the impeachment body shall be suspended from office until acquitted or found guilty by the trial body.
- b. The Student Body President, unless impeached, may, by appointment, fill the office until completion of the trial. If the Student Body President is impeached, the student body vice president shall act as president.

Section 5. Trial body

- a. All impeachments by the impeachment body shall be tried by the trial body which shall be the senate class that has served the least amount of time on the filing date of an impeachment resolution.
- b. The Student Bodu Vice President shall preside unless a member of the judiciary is being impeached, in which event the student body president shall preside. The presiding officer shall have no vote.
- c. A three-fourths vote of the membership of the trial body shall be required for conviction.

Section 6. Effect of Conviction

- a. Judgment of conviction in cases of impeachment shall remove the offender from office and, at the discretion of the trial body, may include disqualification to hold any elected or appointed Student Government office in the future.
- b. Conviction or acquittal shall not affect the civil or criminal responsibility of the person.

Article 8

Forums and Town Halls

Section 1: Purpose

- a. The purpose of the forum is to allow students to have the opportunity to meet with Administration, Faculty, and Staff to discuss issues and changes that are happening on campus.

Section 2: Composition

- a. Shall be composed of students, staff, faculty, and administration.

Article 9

Amendments to Constitution

Section 1: Proposal by the Governing Body

- a. The Student Senate may propose amendments to the constitution by a two-thirds vote in regular meetings occurring no later than twenty-eight days before the

ratification election. Each amendment proposed shall embrace only one subject and matter directly connected to that subject.

Section 2: Proposal by Initiative

- a. Students may propose amendments to the constitution upon a submission of a petition to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court joined by ten percent of the electorate not later than twenty-eight days before the ratification election. Each amendment Proposed shall embrace only one subject and matter directly connected to that subject.

Section 3: Requirement for ratification

- a. A three-fifths approval vote of those voting in the spring general election is necessary to ratify all constitutional amendments. Unless otherwise specified in the amendment, a ratified amendment shall be effective at the end of the meeting.

Section 4: Publication Requirement

- a. The text of all amendments and the ballot summary shall be published in a campus-wide print media publication one week before and on both days of the election.

Article 11

Miscellaneous

Section 1. Rules of construction.

- a. Unless otherwise qualified in the text, the following rules of construction shall apply to the constitution;
- b. References to a specific university department or position shall also include the successor department or position;
- c. In situations where different provisions of this constitution conflict, the more specific provision applies to the extent of the conflict;
- d. The first week of an academic term means the week that the drop/add period for undergraduate students ends;
- e. "Days" means calendar days;
- f. "Funding fee" means the revenue generating fee from which the Student Government makes appropriations. Currently, the funding fee is known as the activity and service fee;
- g. "Of the membership" means the total number of authorized seats in the body;
- h. "Primary budget" means the budget from which the Student Government appropriates revenue generated by the funding fee for a fiscal year. Currently, the primary budget is known as the activity and service fee budget;
- i. "Student body officer-elect" means a person elected who has not yet assumed office. A person that a student body officer-elect has appointed may not assume office until the student body officer-elect assumes office, even if the appointed person has been confirmed by the Student Senate;
- j. "Student body official" means any person who holds a position within Student

Government;

- k. “Subsidiary budget” means all budgets, excluding the primary budget. Currently, the subsidiary budgets are the organizational budget and the special events budget but shall also include all future budgets except the primary budget.

Section 2. Vacancy in office

- a. Vacancy in office shall occur upon the creation of an office, graduation without immediate re-matriculation, death, removal from office, resignation, failure To maintain the required residency or classification, or failure to qualify by the first day of the term of office.

Section 3. Laws preserved

- a. All laws enacted under the provisions of this constitution, as subsequently amended, and not contrary to the provisions of this constitution, shall remain in full effect until they expire by their terms or are repealed under the provisions of this constitution.

Section 4. Hierarchy of laws

- a. The provisions of the student body constitution are governed by and subordinate to the constitution as well as the policies of the Board of Regents and the University rules as set forth in the Georgia Administrative Code.