



**Constitution
of the
Georgetown University Student Association**

PREAMBLE

Students have a right to play a clearly defined and significant role in the formation and application of institutional policy affecting both academic and student affairs. A democratic student government is the best means by which this role may be played. Therefore, we the undergraduate students of Georgetown University, hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the Student Association of Georgetown University.

ARTICLE I: LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. All legislative powers herein shall be vested in a Senate of the Student Association of Georgetown University.

SECTION 2. Every undergraduate student of Georgetown University shall be entitled to elected representation in the Senate on the basis of their class standing as determined by the Registrar, notwithstanding at-large representation.

SECTION 2.1. The Senate shall have the power to enact bylaws which determine the total number of Senators, apportionment of the Senate, the timing of the elections, and other issues reasonably related to how Senate seats are distributed among the undergraduate student body. Such bylaws shall only be adopted or amended by a five-sixths majority of the entire Senate membership.

SECTION 2.2. Candidates for the Senate shall run to represent only the class standing of which they are a part, notwithstanding at-large representation, and voters shall only vote for Senators of their own class standing, notwithstanding at-large representation.

SECTION 3. The Senate shall choose its Speaker, who shall be the presiding officer, and its Vice-Speaker, respectively, by majority. Both the Speaker and Vice-Speaker of the Senate shall exercise all the duties and privileges of their respective positions.

SECTION 4. Senators shall assume office upon formal seating into the full Senate and administration of an oath of office by the current President, thus terminating the previous Legislative Term of Office.

SECTION 5. A majority of the Senate shall constitute a quorum to do business. The Senate shall determine the rules of its sessions upon the proposal of the Speaker, maintaining a record of its proceedings which shall be thus published.

SECTION 6. All sessions of the Senate shall be open to the public, and votes shall not be taken by secret ballot.

SECTION 7. The Senate shall have full power to secure the protection of student rights, interests, and free expression; to promote the preservation of academic freedom and responsibility; to finance, and administer a central student activities fund; to constitute and certify elections and returns, to charter independent enterprises as deemed appropriate under University policy, to enter into agreements that promote the fulfillment of the provisions of this Constitution, to establish all councils, commissions, boards, and agencies of the Student Association; to provide for the establishment of Executive departments and elements thereof; to investigate and act in any matter which affects and promotes the general welfare of the student body of Georgetown University or elements thereof; to act upon any other area which the University may delegate, and to make any Act which shall be necessary and proper for executing the foregoing powers, as well as all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Student Association of Georgetown University.

SECTION 8. The Senate shall have the plenary power to appropriate all Student Association funds, including the aggregate funds from the Student Activities Fee, among the agencies, funding boards, organizations and initiatives it deems fit, including its own annual Operating Budget; all budgets shall be voted upon by two-thirds majority of the Senate following consultation by University administrators and any and all advisory boards and GPB as specified in the by-laws, and presented to the President of the Student Body for their signature or veto by a time stipulated in the by-laws. The Senate shall also have the power as stipulated in the by-laws to obtain full disclosure of any and all financial records from all advisory boards, organizations and initiatives that are funded by the Student Association.

SECTION 9. Every Act, which shall have been adopted by the Senate, shall be presented to the President of the Student Body, and thus enter into full force and effect, unless the President shall not approve of the Act, in which case the Act shall be returned to the Senate citing the President's objections, where it must achieve at least a two-thirds vote to enter into force without the assent of the President. If any Act shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to the President, the same shall be a law, in like Manner as if the President had signed it.

SECTION 10. In the event of a tie vote within the Senate, the Vice President of the Student Association of Georgetown University shall cast the deciding vote.

ARTICLE II: EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. The executive power of the Student Association of Georgetown University shall be vested in a President of the Student Association.

SECTION 2. Both the President and the Vice President shall assume office upon formal administration of an oath of office by the outgoing President, thus terminating the previous Executive Term of Office.

SECTION 3. The President shall have the full power to support and uphold this Constitution, execute the legislation of the Senate, uphold the decisions of the Constitutional Council, appoint student representatives to the boards, councils, and committees of the University, both standing and special,

established by any element of the University administration to perform functions of governance over the affairs of Georgetown University; appoint all Executive departments, committees, councils, commissions, boards, agencies and other offices of the Student Association with the advice and consent of the Senate, govern and regulate all such Executive departments, committees, councils, commissions, boards, agencies and other offices of the Student Association; and further make all other appointments with the advice and consent of the Senate that are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Act of the Senate, provided that the President may be vested by the Senate to make certain appointments alone.

SECTION 4. The President shall further have the power to call the Senate into special session, investigate specified matters as current situations demand, and act in other such areas not provided herein that the Senate may establish.

SECTION 5. The President shall convene an Executive Cabinet, which together with the President and the Vice President shall consist of an Executive Secretary of the Student Association, a Historian of the Student Association, a Treasurer of the Student Association, as well as other individuals that the President may deem appropriate. The Executive Cabinet shall act to advise and assist the President in all matters that may be necessary and appropriate in the fulfillment of the President's duties and of this Constitution, and shall act in any such matter that the President may so delegate.

ARTICLE III: INTERPRETIVE AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. The interpretive power of the Student Association of Georgetown University shall be vested in one Constitutional Council, which shall consist of three Councilors, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each Councilor shall assume office upon formal administration of an oath of office by the outgoing President, thus terminating the previous Interpretive Term of Office.

SECTION 2. The Councilors of the Constitutional Council shall be ineligible to serve in any other elective or non-elective office of the Student Association so long as they serve on the Constitutional Council.

SECTION 3. The interpretive power of the Constitutional Council shall extend to all cases upon appeal under the Constitution of the Student Association of Georgetown University, which require interpretation as it applies to this Student Association and all elements thereof.

SECTION 4. Any and all decisions reached by the Constitutional Council shall be binding upon this Student Association and all elements thereof.

ARTICLE IV: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

SECTION 1. Senators, the President of the Student Association, the Vice President of the Student Association, and the Councilors of the Constitutional Council shall be removed from office for failure to execute their duties of office or gross violation of Student Association and/or University regulations.

SECTION 2. Senators may be expelled from office as provided in this Constitution and all other relevant documents by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate. Such vote for expulsion shall occur no less than ten and no more than fourteen days after the call for expulsion was issued within the Senate.

SECTION 3. The President or the Vice President may be impeached as provided in this Constitution and all other relevant documents by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. The President or the Vice President shall then be removed from office as determined by a majority of those voting in a special recall election of the undergraduate student body, conducted no less than fifteen days and no more than thirty days upon the issue of impeachment from the Senate, University holidays and final examination periods excepted, provided that no less than one-fourth of the undergraduate student body shall have voted in the recall election.

SECTION 4. A Councilor of the Constitutional Council may be impeached as provided in this Constitution and all other relevant documents by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. A Councilor shall then be removed from office as determined by a three-fourths majority vote of the Senate. Such vote for removal shall occur no less than ten days and no more than fourteen days following impeachment, University holidays and final examination periods excepted, and such vote for removal shall not occur within the same session of the Senate in which impeachment was issued.

ARTICLE V: VACANCIES

SECTION 1. In the case of the removal, death, permanent incapacitation or resignation of the President of the Student Association, the Vice President of the Student Association shall become President.

SECTION 2. In case of the removal, death, permanent incapacitation or resignation of both the President and the Vice President, the Speaker of the Senate shall become President. They shall nominate a new Vice President, to be confirmed by majority vote of the Senate.

SECTION 3. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President of the Student Association, the President shall nominate a successor who shall take the oath of office upon confirmation by a majority vote of the Senate.

SECTION 4. In the case of the non-permanent incapacitation of the President of the Student Association, the Vice President shall become Acting President until the President shall resume their duties. In case of the non-permanent incapacitation of both the President and the Vice President, the Speaker of the Senate shall become Acting President until the President and Vice President shall resume their duties. The Vice-Speaker of the Senate shall become Acting Speaker until the Speaker shall resume their duties.

SECTION 5. In the event of the absence, removal, death, permanent incapacitation or resignation of the Vice-Speaker of the Senate, new elections shall be called.

SECTION 6. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Senator, the President of the Student Association shall issue writs of election, with a special election to take place within thirty days of the vacancy, University holidays and final examination periods excepted. Such elected successor shall hold that Senatorial seat until the termination of the remaining Legislative Term of Office.

ARTICLE VI: GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. The Student Association of Georgetown University shall stand and so affiliate with Georgetown University as the sole official representative instrument of the undergraduate student body of Georgetown University.

SECTION 2. Participation in the Student Association shall not be restricted on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, ability or disability, source of income, or place of residence or business, or any other characteristic protected by federal law or the law of the District of Columbia.

SECTION 3. The Senate of the Student Association of Georgetown University shall have the power to adopt Bylaws to provide for governance in matters not expressed in this Constitution. The Senate shall also have the authority to compile a Code of all official legislative business.

ARTICLE VII: ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. This Constitution shall be adopted upon the affirmative referendum of a majority of the undergraduate student body so voting, and shall enter into full force and effect on the fifth day of March, 1990, superseding any and all governing documents and instruments existing prior to that date.

SECTION 2. This Constitution, and all Acts of the Student Association which shall be made in pursuance thereof, shall be the supreme authority of the Student Association of Georgetown University, and any and all other documents and actions of the Student Association shall be inferior to it.

SECTION 3. The Senate, whenever two-thirds of its total membership deems it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, upon the specific application of one-fifth of the total undergraduate student body, shall accept a call for a proposed amendment, provided that such application has been certified for validity by the Constitutional Council. In either case, each proposed amendment shall be ratified individually as a valid part of this Constitution for all intents and purposes upon the affirmative referendum of no less than one-fourth of the entire undergraduate student body, provided that this affirmative vote constitutes the majority of the total votes cast in the referendum. Such referendum for ratification of amendments shall occur no less than twenty-one days following the proposal of such amendments.

SECTION 4. Each proposed amendment to the Constitution shall appear fully on the referendum ballot. Precise notice of each proposed amendment to this Constitution, as it shall appear on the referendum ballot, shall be presented to the undergraduate body no less than fourteen days prior to their referendum, University holidays and examination periods excepted.