

The Student Association Senate

Bill 2021-10-17-01

Introduced by: SENATOR Balçay (2023), SENATOR Gordon (2024)

Endorsed by: VICE PRESIDENT Sanchez, Dakyung Ham

Georgetown University Student Association

In the school year 2021-2022

An ACT OF REFERENDUM to Replace, Repurpose, and Restructure the Student Senate, Constitutional Council and Executive

WHEREAS, two decades after the establishment of the GUSA Senate, it has come time to thoroughly assess its role in the Student Association,

WHEREAS, over the last decade, the GUSA Senate has become an overly bureaucratic, inefficient, and redundant institution,

WHEREAS, a student government does not necessitate the same structural method of checks and balances as the United States government,

WHEREAS, a student government should advocate for policy changes with a united front

WHEREAS, the structure of the Senate and the Executive fails to adequately serve student organizations' funding needs,

THEREFORE, be it ENACTED by the Georgetown University Student Association Senate as follows:

Section 1: The following referendum regarding the structure of the Student Association shall be proposed to the undergraduate student body of Georgetown University on 06 November 2021, to be placed on the ballot in the form of one question with two answers, phrased as follows:

Do you agree with the following amendment to the Georgetown University Student Association Constitution?

-Yes

-No



**Constitution
of the
Georgetown University
Student Association**

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Georgetown University, hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the Student Association of Georgetown University. The Georgetown University Students Association shall serve as a membership association open to all undergraduate students at Georgetown University. Each student shall be free to exercise all the rights and duties of membership.

The Georgetown University Students Association shall serve the Student Body and represent it before the Faculty and the Alumni of Georgetown University. The Georgetown University Students Association shall support the activities of the Student Body, serve, and represent all student communities, organizations, and interests, and supervise the allocation of all available financial and other resources to student activities and campus culture. The Georgetown University Students Association shall integrate the activities of the Student Body with those of the Administration, Faculty and Alumni, foster mutual understanding and cooperation and promote the welfare of the Student Body and the University.

ARTICLE I: GOVERNANCE

SECTION 1. So forth, all powers herein shall be vested in the Assembly of the Student Association of Georgetown University under the direction and coordination of the Secretary of the Assembly as appointed by the election of the Students of Georgetown University.

SECTION 2. The Policy Committees will be formed under the direction of the Assembly Members to represent and advocate for the interests of the students of Georgetown University and will be responsible for research, activism, and execution of policy in their respective areas.

SECTION 2.1. The primary responsibility of Assembly Members shall be to coordinate the activities of their respective committees, as Principal Coordinators.

SECTION 2.2. The slate of Policy Committees shall be updated at the last Assembly session of each Term of Governance.

SECTION 2.3. Each Assembly Member shall be eligible for becoming the Principal Coordinator of any Policy Committee, regardless of class year or previous experience.

SECTION 2.4. Policy Committees may contain multiple elected members if so specified in their mandates per the bylaws of the Assembly.

SECTION 3. Each Assembly Member shall assume office upon formal administration of an oath of office by the representative of the outgoing elected body, thus terminating the previous Term of Governance.

SECTION 4. Whereas the Assembly shall be governed by the bylaws of the Assembly which shall decide the total number of Assembly Members, the timing of elections and other issues reasonably related to how Assembly seats are distributed among the undergraduate student body. Such bylaws shall only be adopted or amended by a five-sixths majority of the Assembly.

SECTION 4.1. Candidates for the Assembly shall run to represent only their class, notwithstanding at-large representation, and voters shall only vote for Assembly Members of their own class standing, notwithstanding at-large representation.

SECTION 5. Among its duties the Assembly shall have the responsibility 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 a two-thirds majority of the Assembly following consultation by university administrators and any and all advisory boards or relevant parties as specified in the by-laws.

SECTION 5.1. The Assembly 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 5.2. The final budget may only be overturned if four-fifths of beneficiary organizations file an objection with the Secretary of the Assembly.

SECTION 6. Regarding GUSA-affiliated organizations, the Assembly shall 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.

SECTION 7. During the Term of Governance activities of GUSA shall be overseen by the Ethics and Oversight Committee, which shall be chaired by a non-Assembly Member, nominated, and appointed by the Assembly in the first meeting after each election.

SECTION 7.1 The Ethics and Oversight Committee shall be composed of Assembly Members and students from the student body, through criteria outlined through the bylaws of the Assembly.

SECTION 7.2. All bylaws shall be carried over from the previous Term of Governance of the elected student body.

SECTION 8. The Assembly shall only convene at the start and end of the Term of Governance, for discussing the budget proposed by the Budget Committee, and other conditions dictated per bylaws.

SECTION 8.1. For the good of the order, meetings of the Assembly shall be chaired by an Assembly Member appointed by the Assembly in the first meeting after each election.

SECTION 9. The Secretary of the Assembly shall be responsible for representing the Assembly Members as the primary representative in external meetings and as the point of contact.

SECTION 9.1. The Secretary of the Assembly shall be designated during the election of Assembly Members; candidates shall indicate that they seek the role of Secretary of the Assembly and candidates for Secretary of the Assembly shall be voted on separately from other Assembly Members.

SECTION 9.2. The Secretary of the Assembly shall also be responsible for attending meetings of the Administrative Committee.

SECTION 9.3. The Secretary of the Assembly may be mandated to deputise other Assembly Members, shall the need arise, for administrative tasks outlined by the bylaws.

SECTION 10. The activities of the Policy Groups shall be aided through an Administrative Committee, which shall direct the support units of GUSA and shall be composed of at least 1/3 elected officers.

SECTION 10.1. The elected officers serving in the Administrative Committee shall be rotated on a bimonthly basis.

SECTION 11. The Assembly shall form a Budget Committee, whose chair will be elected among the Members of the Assembly during the first session of the Term of Governance. The Budget Committee shall be responsible for liaising with all relevant organizations and formulate a proposal for the Assembly to discuss. The composition of the Budget Committee shall be specified by the bylaws of the Assembly.

ARTICLE II: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

SECTION 1. Assembly Members and Secretary of the Assembly 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. Assembly Members may be impeached and removed from office as provided in this Constitution and all other relevant documents by a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly. Such a vote for expulsion shall occur no less than ten and no more than fourteen days after the call for expulsion was issued within the Assembly.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of the Assembly may be impeached as provided in this Constitution and all other relevant documents by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly. The Secretary of the Assembly 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 Assembly, 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.

ARTICLE III: 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, private affiliation, colour, 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 Assembly 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 Assembly shall also have the authority to compile an agenda of all official legislative business.

SECTION 4. Unbecoming behaviour, defined by the bylaws, shall merit a single month-long suspension of an Assembly Member, if alleged by a majority vote of the Ethics and Oversight Committee and shall be considered grounds for removal as per Article II.

ARTICLE IV: 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 Assembly, 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 Committee on Ethics and Oversight. 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.

SECTION 5. Changes approved by referendum shall go into effect at the conclusion of the Term of Governance unless otherwise specified in the framing of the amendment.

Section 2: The following rules shall govern the above referendum:

1. Voting on the referendum will be open for no less than twenty-four (24) hours.
2. The GUSA Election Commission shall conduct the referendum.
3. All University rules and regulations regarding advertising and campaigning shall apply to this referendum.

Section 3: If this referendum is passed with a requisite number of votes, the following amendments to the Georgetown University Student Association Senate Bylaws will go into effect on the next executive election designated by the Election Commission:

Certification

We hereby certify that the foregoing legislation was duly considered by the Senate at a meeting at which a quorum was present and that the same was approved by a vote of 14 in favor and 3 opposed, this 17th day of October, 2021.

Leo Rassieur
Speaker

Rowlie John Flores
Vice Speaker

I hereby sign this legislation into law.

Nile Blass
President of the Student Association