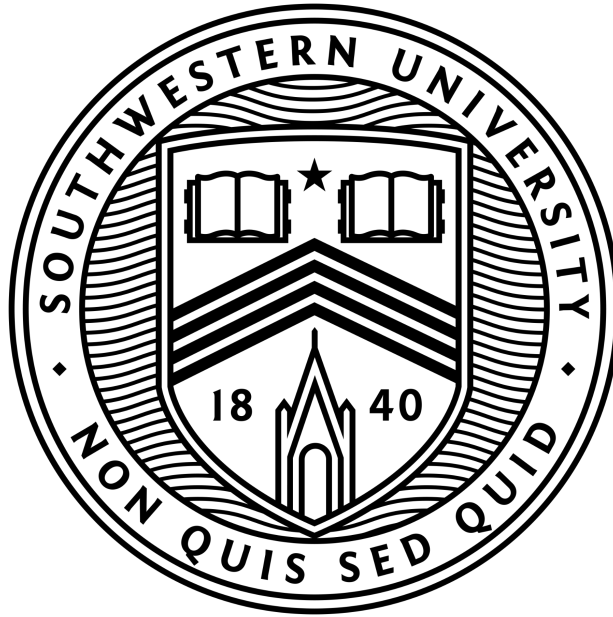




THE SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We, the Student Government Association at Southwestern University, do hereby establish the following Constitution to provide for governance for this Association and organize representation of our student constituents.

Table of Contents

Preamble	1
Table of Contents	1
Article I – Name	2
Article II – Organization	2
Article III – Membership	3

<u>Article IV – Membership Requirements</u>	4
<u>Article V – Student Government Association Meetings</u>	6
<u>Article VI – Student Government Association Internal Councils</u>	7
<u>Article VII – Student Body Forums</u>	7
<u>Article VIII – Executive Offices</u>	8
<u>Article IX – Committee Structure</u>	11
<u>Article X – General Elections</u>	12
<u>Article XI – Constitutional Amendments</u>	16
<u>Article XII – Ratification</u>	18

Article I – Name

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the Southwestern Student Government Association, herein referred to as the Student Government Association.

Article II – Organization

Section 1. Authority. The Student Government Association shall be the recognized governing entity of the student body of Southwestern University and its officers shall be the officers of the student body.

Section 2. Representation. The Student Government Association shall be composed of an appropriate number of members providing representation for all students as outlined in Article III, Subsection 2 of this Constitution.

Section 3. Committees. The Student Government Association will be responsible for slating students to fill representative seats for all the University's Governing Committees, where applicable.

Section 4. Meetings. The Student Government Association members will meet biweekly to share information from various Committees, to formulate student responses to Committee actions, discuss issues of student concern, and develop solutions with the appropriate areas of the University to improve campus life.

Section 5. Forums. The Student Government Association may choose to hold Student Body Forums, as well as other open forums, for students to voice concerns, per semester.

Section 6. Executive Council. The purpose of the Executive Council of the Student Government Association is to regulate the agenda for the General Assembly of the Student Government Association, incorporating issues, information, and policies of the University that are relevant to student life. The Executive Council shall meet on a regular basis at the discretion of the President.

Article III – Membership

Section 1. Membership. The membership of the Student Government Association is composed of current Southwestern University students.

Section 2. General Assembly Composition. The Student Government Association shall be composed as follows:

- (a) The Executive Council: President, Vice-President, Historian, Finance Chair, Events Chair, Parliamentarian, Communications Chair, Diversity Chair, Sustainability Chair, and Organizations Chair;
- (b) The General Assembly: (4) First-Year Representatives, (4) Sophomore Representatives, (4) Junior Representatives, (4) Senior Representatives, and (8) Members at Large. (Members at Large are students from any of the above categories who will serve as a representative of the university community as a whole rather than a representative of a specific constituency).
- (c) In its full capacity, the Student Government Association will consist of 10 Executive Council members and 24 General Assembly members.
- (d) Members of the General Assembly represent the entire student body. Distinctions between class year exist solely to elect a group of students who reflect the diversity of Southwestern University. Students may run for as many positions as they qualify for.
 - (i) In the case that a student's class year and credit hours differ, they may choose which class year position to run for but are limited to choosing only one.
 - (ii) Super-seniors shall qualify to run for Senior Representative.
- (e) Each student organization will have the opportunity to select a non-voting representative to sit on the Student Government Association. This representative is not required to come to every meeting.
- (f) All representatives are elected for a 1-year term.

Section 3. Executive Composition. Membership of the Executive Council shall be composed of ten members, selected as follows:

- (a) The President and Vice President are nominated internally by the Student Government Association and elected by a student body vote, as outlined in Article X, Section III.

- (b) The Parliamentarian, Events Chair, Communications Chair, Historian, Finance Chair, Organizations Chair, Sustainability Chair, and Diversity Chair will be appointed by a committee made up of the newly elected President and Vice President, the SGA Advisors, and others at the discretion of the President.

Article IV – Membership Requirements

Section 1. Good Standing. Student Government Association members must be in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University at the time of election and service.

Section 2. Attendance. The attendance policy for Student Body Forums and Student Government Association Meetings.

- (a) Student Government Association members shall be required to notify the Vice-President of any potential absence to a Student Government Association meeting or Student Body Forum at least one hour before the meeting begins.
- (b) Student Government Association members will be allowed a maximum of four unexcused absences per year (two per semester) for things such as school-sponsored events. Any Executive Council member can be notified prior of an absence, preferably the Vice-President, and with sufficient reasoning absences may be granted excusal. Failure, or late notice, of communication about the time and/or location of general assembly meetings shall count toward excused absences.
- (c) After two absences in a semester, the said member will be contacted by the Vice-President and put on probation for the rest of the year. After the third absence in a semester, the member will be contacted and removed from the Student Government Association.
- (d) Members abroad shall automatically be excused from all General Assembly meetings.
- (e) Failure, or late notice, to communicate the time and/or location of Student Body Forums or General Assembly meetings shall count toward excused absences.

Section 3. Attendance for External Council. Student Government Association members serving on a University Committee will be allowed two absences from their respective Committee meeting(s) per semester. If the member must miss more than two meetings, the Vice President must be contacted at least two weeks before the absence.

- (a) After two absences, the member shall be contacted by the Vice President and put on probation for the rest of the semester. After the third absence, the member will be contacted and removed from that Committee.
- (b) Members of the Executive Council are expected to attend all EC Meetings, but with sufficient reasoning, excused absences may be granted. After two unexcused absences, the officer will face dismissal by a vote of the regularly elected members of the Student Government Association. Failure, or late notice, on the part of the Executive Council to communicate the time and/or location of committee meetings to executive members shall count toward excused absences.
- (c) Failure, or late notice, on the part of the External Council to communicate the time and/or location of committee meetings to Student Government Association representatives shall count toward excused absences.

Section 4. Attendance for Campus Events. Student Government Association members shall be required to attend one Student Government Association co-hosted event per semester, if there are any.

- (a) After attending two, one unexcused absence for Student Government Association meetings shall be pardoned.
- (b) Failure, or late notice, to communicate that an event is co-hosted shall result in an excused absence.

Section 5. Vacancies. The Parliamentarian is responsible for ensuring that all vacancies are filled by notifying the President of what seats are eligible for nominations.

- (a) Any vacancies remaining within the General Assembly after the first election will be reopened at the beginning of the following semester.
- (b) If a vacancy emerges in the Executive Council, the following chain of command will be followed:
 - (i) President. In the event that the office of the President is vacant, the Vice-President will assume the office of the President for the remainder of the term with confirmation of a 2/3rds vote by the members of the Student Government Association. If confirmation fails, a special election shall be held externally to fill the position of President.
 - (ii) Vice-President. In the event that the office of the Vice-President is vacant, the President shall nominate a new Vice President which shall require the confirmation vote of 2/3rds of the elected Representatives. If the Presidency is vacant concurrently, then a special election for President and Vice President shall occur.

- (iii) If the Parliamentarian, Events Chair, Communications Chair, Sustainability Chair, Historian, Finance Chair, or Organizations Chair should vacate their office, the President will appoint a replacement during a regular meeting of the Student Government Association, with the consent of a simple majority of the Student Government Association members present.
- (c) Committee Members. If a student representative to a Committee is unable to fulfill their duties, the Vice-President will solicit interest in the vacant Committee seat from within the Student Government Association.

Section 6. Members Abroad.

- (a) Students who are abroad may not run, be elected, or be appointed to a legislative or executive position.
- (b) Members who hold a legislative seat and go abroad are entitled to appoint a proxy, who shall have the qualifications to run for said position.
 - (i) Proxy members must be communicated to the President, Vice President, and Parliamentarian before they attend a General Assembly meeting.
 - (ii) A proxy legislative member shall hold said office until the member abroad returns or ends their term of office.
 - (iii) A proxy legislative member shall have the same attendance requirements as a member in regular standing, and if unexcused absences reach three, a new proxy legislative member will need to be selected and the current one shall be removed.
- (c) Members who hold an executive seat and go abroad may recommend to the President who should fill their seat as an interim executive member.
 - (i) The President has the authority to appoint, without need for confirmation by the General Assembly, an individual to the position of an interim executive member.
 - (ii) An interim executive member shall hold said office until the member abroad returns or ends their term of office.
 - (iii) An interim executive member shall have the same attendance requirements as a member in regular standing, and if unexcused absences reach three, a new interim executive member will need to be selected and the current one shall be removed.

Article V – Student Government Association Meetings

Section 1. Quorum. A simple majority (50%+1) of Student Government Association members in good standing will be required in order to conduct business.

Section 2. Resolutions. Decisions made by the vote of the student body will be considered the official position of the student body.

Section 3. Parliamentary Authority. All Student Government Association meetings operate under the newest version of Roberts Rules of Order (RONR 12th edition).

Article VI – Student Government Association Internal Councils

Section 1. Quorum. A simple majority of Student Government Association members in good standing will be required to conduct business with council meetings.

Section 2. Objectives. Council objectives will be decided at the beginning of each semester by the Executive Council and will reflect the policy goals as determined by the President.

Section 3. Representation. Government members will be distributed amongst the Councils.

Section 4. Chairs. Executive Council members will act as Council Chair.

Section 5. Ex-officio. The President and Vice-President will serve ex-officio on Councils.

Section 6. Affirmation. Decisions made by the Student Government Association Councils must be affirmed by the Government at large during the General Assembly meeting immediately following the Council in which action was taken.

Article VII – Student Body Forums

Section 1. Forums. Student Body Forums shall be the official meetings of the student body in which all students present are able to discuss issues brought forth by any member of the campus community.

Section 2. Priority. Student Body Forums shall be acknowledged as Priority One events as defined by University policy, and no student shall be prohibited from attending because of other scheduled events.

Section 3. New Business. Topics of discussion not listed on the agenda may be submitted to any Student Government Association member for consideration as an agenda item prior to the Student Body Forum.

Section 4. Recognition. Non-agenda items shall not be discussed without recognition by the President.

Section 5. Format. All Student Body Forums shall operate in an organized open discussion format.

Section 6. Reservations. Student Government Association reserves the right to designate a theme or topic for the Student Body Forums, in order to bring in relevant speakers and respond to student interest. Relevant speakers must be deliberated upon by the President and SGA Advisors.

Section 7. Communication. Outside of these events, all members of the General Assembly are to communicate regularly with their constituencies on the work of the Student Government Association, while soliciting feedback, concerns, and ideas for the Student Government Association to develop and propose solutions or address matters regarding student life on campus.

Article VIII – Executive Offices

Section 1. Selection. Executive officers shall be selected as outlined in Article III, Section 3 of this Constitution.

Section 2. Meetings. The Executive Council shall meet as outlined in Article II Section 6 of this Constitution.

Section 3. Faculty Meetings. A minimum of two and a maximum of five members of the Executive Council must attend all faculty meetings. If less than two Executive Officers are unable to attend the meeting, General Assembly members may attend.

Section 4. Duties of the President. The duties of the President shall be as follows:

- (a) Presides over Student Government Association, Executive Council and Student Body Forums, and acts as a liaison between the Student Government Association and University administration and faculty, as well as other University organizations.
- (b) Tasked with establishing a vision for the student body for the upcoming academic year, and creating policy objectives in order to achieve that vision.
- (c) Leads discussions for setting Student Body Forum agendas; coordinates the scheduling of regular Student Government Association and Executive Council meetings; calls special meetings; is a representative to the General Faculty meetings and meetings of the Alumni Association.
- (d) The President shall have the right to serve on committees ex-officio, as needed.
- (e) Attendance at the General Faculty Meetings is mandatory for the President.

Section 5. Duties of the Vice President. The duties of the Vice-President shall be as follows:

- (a) The Vice-President assists the President in fulfilling their duties. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President presides over the Student Government Association, Executive Council, Government Councils, and Student Body Forums.
- (b) Upon the resignation of the President, the Vice-President assumes the Presidency of the Student Government Association with confirmation of a 2/3rds vote by the members of the Student Government Association. A new Vice-President will be selected as stated in Article IV, Section 4, Subsection b, Paragraph ii.
- (c) Serves as a manager of the Committees by maintaining contact with all Committee members and chairs in order to facilitate the legislative activities of the Student Government Association.
- (d) Ensures that Student Government Association members fulfill their duties as Committee members as defined in Article IV, Section 3, of this Constitution.
- (e) Assigns members of the General Assembly to Student Government Association Councils.

Section 6. Duties of the Historian. The duties of the Historian shall be as follows:

- (a) Keeps an official record of all Student Government Association Meetings and Events. They distribute official information and memoranda to all members of the Student Government Association.
- (b) Provides access to the minutes and agenda to the members of the Student Government Association before regularly scheduled meetings.
- (c) Maintains records of attendance concerning all members of the Student Government Association and Executive Council and provides notification of excessive absences to the Executive Council and the member in question under Article IV.
- (d) Tasked with updating the Student Government Association calendar.

Section 7. Duties of the Finance Chair. The duties of the Finance Chair shall be as follows:

- (a) Oversees financial obligations of the Student Government Association.
- (b) Maintains budget, and keeps detailed line-by-line reports of expenditures.
- (c) Tasked with keeping students informed of the financial situation of the University.
- (d) Required to sit on Fiscal/Monetary based committees.

Section 8. Duties of the Events Chair. The duties of the Events Chair shall be as follows:

- (a) Charged with scheduling of all events.

Section 9. Duties of the Parliamentarian. The duties of the Parliamentarian shall be as follows:

- (a) Ensures that the Student Government Association maintains full representation as outlined in Article III, Section 2, Subsection b.
- (b) Will keep records of all those who run for Student Government Association positions.
- (c) Will assume the role as Elections Chair for all regular and called elections, as outlined in Article X of this Constitution.
- (d) The Parliamentarian shall have the authority to take actions on behalf of the Elections Committee, unless they are not the chair, and Parliamentary Council and shall have the authority to task these bodies.
- (e) Know parliamentary rules and be able to lead discussions about legislation.
- (f) Responsible for new member education.
- (g) Make recommendations for amendments to this constitution.
- (h) Draft legislation on behalf of the Executive Council and General Assembly.

Section 10. Duties of the Communications Chair. The duties of the Communications Chair shall be as follows:

- (a) Tasked with creating an end of the year newsletter detailing the discussions and decisions of the Student Government Association.
- (b) Tasked with providing communication for events, discussions, and happenings of the Student Government Association with the student body.
- (c) Tasked with the upkeep of the Student Government Association website and social media outlets.

Section 11. Duties of the Organizations Chair. The duties of the Organizations Chair shall be as follows:

- (a) Tasked with representing the organizations' voices to the Executive Council.
- (b) Disseminates information about the Student Government Association to organizations.
- (c) Required to sit on the Student Organizations Committee under Article IX, Section 3.
- (d) Coordinating co-hosting events between organizations and the Student Government Association.

Section 12. Duties of the Diversity Chair. The duties of the Diversity Chair shall be as follows:

- (a) Connect and plan with other campus organizations that promote diversity and social awareness.
- (b) Inform the Student Government Association regarding inequalities and issues on campus.
- (c) Sit on DIBE Coalition meetings.

Section 13. Duties of the Sustainability Chair. The duties of the Sustainability Chair shall be as follows:

- (a) To report on sustainability initiatives here at Southwestern University to the Student Government Association's General Assembly on an annual basis.

Section 14. Removal of Executive Officers.

- (a) Grounds for removal are as follows:

- (i) Any membership violations as defined by Article IV.
 - (ii) Failure to remain in good academic or disciplinary standing with the University.
 - (iii) Failure to perform the duties of their office as defined within this Article.

- (b) Procedure for removal:

- (i) Any member of the Student Government Association may initiate removal proceedings against an executive officer under the conditions set forth in Section 14a of this Article.
 - (ii) The accusing member will present the nature of the alleged violations committed by the officer in question, who will then be allowed to respond to the charges made against him or her at a Student Government Association meeting.
 - (iii) After deliberation, the Student Government Association may remove an Executive Officer from his/her position if 2/3rds of all incumbent representatives vote in favor of removal.

Article IX – Committee Structure

Section 1. University/External Committees.

- (a) Student Government Association is responsible for filling all student representative seats designated as such by the University's Governance Structure.
- (b) In the event of a vacancy, the Student Government Association is responsible for finding a replacement.

Section 2. Internal Committees.

- (a) Student Government Association is responsible for convening the following committees as needed and ensuring there is adequate representation for each.
 - (i) Traffic Appeals
 - (1) This committee is composed of student, staff, and faculty members. Its function is to set policies pertaining to violations of traffic regulations and to hear appeal cases.

- (2) The committee shall make a report to the Student Government Association once a semester regarding activities, decisions, and recommendations for encouraging and improving student support for traffic safety on campus.
- (ii) Student Fees and Allocations Committee
 - (1) This committee is composed of the Finance Chair, students, and staff and faculty members.
 - (2) This committee is responsible for distributing University funds allocated for student organizations. Student organizations receive funding based on an evaluation of their financial needs as submitted by an application to the committee.
 - (3) The committee shall make a report to the Student Government Association regarding the disbursement of funds to student organizations at the first Student Government Association meeting following the allocations. Moreover, the committee must report any formal complaints it receives concerning its activities to the Student Government Association at the first meeting following the lodging of the complaint.
- (iii) Student Organizations Committee
 - (1) This committee is composed of the Organizations Chair, students, and staff and faculty members.
 - (2) The Student Organizations Committee considers all proposals for new student organizations and recommends their approval or disapproval.

Section 3. Ad Hoc Committees.

- (a) These committees shall be created by the Student Government Association to conduct business of a pressing, short-term nature, or to facilitate the efficient functioning of the student body. A simple majority of the Student Government Association is required for the establishment of such a committee, which may also be terminated by the Student Government Association by a simple majority vote.

Article X – General Elections

Section 1. The Elections Committee.

- (a) The Elections Committee shall preside over all elections.
- (b) The Parliamentarian will convene and chair this committee. If the Parliamentarian is running for the office of President or Vice President, the Parliamentarian will name a replacement chair.

- (i) Upon the beginning of elections, the Elections Committee Chair shall notify the SGA advisors and give them access to all filing forms and ballot responses, and have complete transparency with all processes used to facilitate the election; as well as, committee reports.
- (ii) Outside of the chair, the committee shall be composed of up to four additional students who shall be appointed by the Parliamentarian. No member of the committee should be running for the office of President or Vice President.

Section 2. Eligibility for Office.

- (a) All Presidential candidates running for Executive positions must have served on the Student Government Association for at least one semester.
 - (i) The elections committee shall establish whether this requirement shall be extended to Vice Presidential candidates in an election.
- (b) You must be eligible to be a member of the Student Government Association to run for an elected legislative or executive position.
- (c) The elections committee may make additional rules and regulations for ballot eligibility.

Section 3. Election of the President and Vice President.

- (a) Official nominations for President are to be nominated or self-nominated and require a second at a General Assembly. A nomination may be declined if someone does not wish to be nominated.
 - (i) Official nominations for President must be ratified by the Student Government Association through a majority vote of confidence.
 - (ii) After confirmation, during the same General Assembly meeting, a Presidential candidate shall select a Vice Presidential candidate who meets all requirements as established in the Constitution and by the Elections Committee.
- (b) The vote shall be open to all current Southwestern Students.
- (c) The winner is the ticket that receives a majority of votes.
 - (i) If there is only one ticket, voters may choose “For” or “Against” to confirm or deny the election of said ticket. If “Against” wins then a special election for this position will be held in the next semester, and the General Assembly shall elect someone via 2/3rds vote to fill the position in the meantime.
 - (ii) If more than two tickets are on the ballot, ranked-choice voting will be utilized.
 - (iii) In the event no ticket receives a majority, the ticket with the least first-choice votes shall be eliminated and their voters shall be

reallocated to their respective second-choice votes. This process will continue until one ticket has a majority of the votes.

- (d) Candidates must adhere to the Campaign Rules outlined in Article X, Section 5 of the Student Government Association Constitution and all rules outlined by the elections committee.
- (e) No one person shall hold, or be elected to, or run for more than one seat in the Executive.

Section 4. Election of the Representatives.

- (a) The Elections Chair shall make a filing form publicly available for sign-ups to begin for the legislative position of Representative.
- (b) To be eligible, candidates must qualify for membership as outlined in Article III of this Constitution.
- (c) Candidates may only sign-up for a maximum of two races (their class year seat and an at-large seat).
 - (i) In the event a candidate wins both, it shall be prioritized that they are awarded the class seat, and they shall be considered to be eliminated in the counting of ballots for the other race.
 - (ii) No one person shall hold, or be elected to, more than one seat in the General Assembly.
 - (iii) No one person shall hold, or be elected to, or run for both a legislative and executive seat.
- (d) The vote shall be open to all current Southwestern Students.
 - (i) Voting shall be conducted through approval voting up to the maximum seats available. Voters shall be able to cast up to four votes for their class-year representatives and up to eight votes for at-large representatives. If a voter casts more than this designated amount, their vote shall be discarded in the specific race in which they exceed the maximum.
 - (1) In the case that a student's class year and credit hours differ, they may choose which class year position to vote for, but are limited to choosing only one.
- (e) Candidates must adhere to the Campaign Rules outlined in Article X, Section 5 of the Student Government Association Constitution and all rules outlined by the elections committee.
- (f) Candidates not elected, or a member selected from the student-body, may be nominated by the President to fill vacancies for the remainder of the Fall or Spring Semester, given a 2/3rds vote of the General Assembly present, excluding all members of the executive and all legislative members who are

filling vacancies or are proxies; however, a special election will occur at the beginning of the Spring Semester to fill vacancies.

- (i) Appointed members to the General Assembly must be eligible to have run for said position in the first place.
- (ii) An at-large representative must vacate their at-large seat when appointed to be either a first-year, sophomore, junior, or senior representative. In this process of appointment, there shall be no need for a special election in the spring semester.

Section 5. Campaign Rules.

- (a) Campaign publicity must be in accordance with the publicity policy as stated in the Student Handbook of Southwestern University.
- (b) No candidate may send official, campus-wide, voice or electronic mail. No opponent's name shall appear on any campaign materials or in speeches. No campaigning or campaign materials are allowed in the area, as dictated by the Parliamentarian, where elections are taking place on Election Day.
- (c) Any destruction of an opponent's materials could result in disqualification of the voter's candidacy. The Elections Committee will review the case and a final decision will be made by a 2/3rds majority vote.
- (d) Candidates may schedule campaign appearances prior to the campaign period officially beginning, but all scheduled meetings must fall within the Elections Campaign period.
- (e) The elections committee shall be empowered to make additional rules and regulations.

Section 6. Ballots.

- (a) The procedures for an electronic ballot or poll are as follows:
 - (i) The voter will log into the designated polling site, as chosen and/or created by the Elections Committee.
 - (ii) The voter will follow the instructions listed at the top of every page throughout the voting process.
 - (iii) The Elections Committee shall make this electronic ballot or poll available in a visible manner that is available to the student body and shall give notification ahead of time of when voting starts to both candidates and the student body.
 - (iv) The Elections Committee, at its discretion, may release a sample ballot to the student body before the electronic ballot or poll is widely available.

Section 7. Post-Election Procedures.

- (a) In the case of online voting, only the Election Chair and a Student Government Association Advisor are to have access to the election ballot and its results.
- (b) The election results are only to be processed by the Election Chair and SGA advisors. The Election Chair may have access to close the ballot upon the designated closing time as decided upon by the Elections Committee.
 - (i) Upon the reviewing of results, the Election Chair shall be responsible for calculating Ranked-Choice Voting (if applicable) and approval voting (to invalidate any ballots with additional votes).
- (c) For the offices of President and Vice-President, the winner shall be the candidate who receives a majority of votes.
- (d) In the event there is an exact tie for an elected office, the General Assembly shall break said tie with the following method—
 - (i) The General Assembly shall elect from among its representatives, via a majority vote, a General Assembly Speaker, who shall not be a candidate for either President or Vice President, and who shall have been elected to the assembly, who will preside over the tie-breaking process and shall not vote in the tie-breaking process unless there is a tie in voting by delegations.
 - (ii) Appointed representatives, excluding proxies, shall be prohibited from voting in this tie-breaking process.
 - (iii) Each delegation of legislators (first-year, sophomore, junior, senior, and at-large) shall get one vote for their delegation.
 - (iv) Each delegation may only vote for one of the top candidates and this vote shall be determined by the majority of votes within said delegation.
 - (v) The candidate who gets the most delegation votes shall win.
 - (vi) In the event there is a tied vote within a delegation, their delegation shall be excluded from the tally in said round of voting.
 - (vii) In the event there is a tie in voting by delegations, the General Assembly Speaker shall vote to break said tie.

Section 8. Protests.

- (a) Official protests of election procedures must be filed in writing with the Elections Committee no later than twenty-four (24) hours following the posting of the results. Election Results will be considered unofficial until the protest period is over.
- (b) The Elections Committee must rule on the validity of the protest within seventy-two hours and make one of the following decisions
 - (i) Turn the protest down.

- (ii) Call a new election.
- (iii) Disqualify a candidate.
- (iv) Or any other option the Elections Committee ratifies during their ruling period.

Section 9. Announcements.

- (a) Official results after the protest period must be in the subsequent edition of the appropriate University publications.
- (b) Results, subject to protest, will be posted within twenty-four (24) hours following tallying of the votes.

Article XI – Constitutional Amendments

Section 1. Amendments.

- (a) Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed within a Student Government Association meeting.
 - (i) Proposed amendments must be published and posted for at least one week before their introduction as new business.
 - (ii) If ratified by 2/3rds of the members present at a Student Government Association meeting, then the amendments shall be valid as part of this Constitution.
 - (1) The Constitution must be updated to reflect changes made by ratifications and the date of ratification added to Article XII of the Constitution.
 - (2) An updated copy of the Constitution must be made available for Student Government Association members, the Vice-President of Student Life, the Dean of Students, the Director of Student Activities, and the Student Life Advisory Board.
- (b) Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed within a Student Government Executive Council meeting in the instance that–
 - (i) The General Assembly has not yet been elected as it is the beginning of the Fall Semester.
 - (ii) A quorum of the General Assembly is not present.
 - (1) An updated copy of the Constitution must be made available for Student Government Association members, the Vice-President of Student Life, the Dean of Students, the Director of Student Activities, and the Student Life Advisory Board.
 - (2) The Constitution must be updated to reflect changes made by ratifications and the date of ratification added to Article XII of the Constitution.

- (3) In this instance, a 2/3rds vote in favor of a proposed amendment from the Executive Council shall be required for ratification.
- (c) To provide for transparency, amendments to the constitution should be provided in a text format and generally include–
- (i) strikeout and red highlighting for the removal of text;
 - (ii) green highlighting for the additional text.
- (d) Votes to amend the constitution must occur in person and not via electronic communication or ballot.
- (e) The parliamentarian may amend the constitution to rectify clerical errors.
- (i) This shall include errors made in copying or writing and shall encompass, but not be solely confined to, typos, numbering issues, and other matters of formatting including font and sizing.
 - (ii) Edits by the parliamentarian will be accessible and communicated to members of the Student Government.
 - (iii) Edits shall not require documentation in Article XII.

Article XII – Ratification

Section 1. This constitution shall be ratified by the affirmative vote of 2/3 of those voting in called election and shall take effect in the Fall Semester, 2006.

Section 2. This constitution shall be ratified by the affirmative vote of 2/3 of those voting in a called election and shall take effect immediately, March 11, 2008.

Section 3. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative 2/3 vote of Student Congress members present at the meeting and will take effect immediately on December 2nd, 2014.

Section 4. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative 2/3 vote of Student Government Association members present at the meeting and will take effect immediately on October 17th, 2017.

Section 5. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of Student Government Association members present at the meeting and will take effect immediately on September 17th, 2019.

Section 6. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of Student Government Association members present at the meeting and will take effect immediately on November 9th, 2021.

Section 7. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of Student Government Association members present at the meeting and will take effect immediately on February 7th, 2023.

Section 8. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative 2/3rds vote of the Student Government Association Executive Committee members present prior to

the commencing of the Fall 2023 General Assembly. The amendments made shall take effect immediately on July 17th, 2023.

Section 9. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of Student Government Association members present at the meeting and will take effect immediately on October 3rd, 2023.

Section 10. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of Student Government Association members present at the meeting and will take effect immediately on October 17th, 2023.

Section 11. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of Student Government Association Executive Committee members present prior to the commencing of the Spring 2024 General Assembly. The amendments made shall take effect immediately on January 16th, 2024.

Section 12. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of Student Government Association members present at the meeting and will take effect immediately on February 6th, 2024.

Section 13. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of Student Government Association members present at the meeting and will take effect immediately on March 19th, 2024.

Section 14. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of Student Government Association members present at the meeting and will take effect immediately on April 2nd, 2024.

Section 15. This constitution was ratified by an affirmative $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of Student Government Association Executive Committee members present prior to the commencing of the Fall 2024 General Assembly. The amendments made shall take effect immediately on August 21st, 2024.