

# **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

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## **Article I**

### The Student Body

#### Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be called the Student Government Association (SGA) of the University of South Carolina, Union.

#### Section 2: Jurisdiction

All students, full and part time, currently enrolled at the University of South Carolina Union are considered members of the student body and shall be subject to this Constitution and to its bylaws.

#### Section 3: Franchise

- A. All students currently enrolled at USC Union shall be entitled to vote in the general and special elections of the SGA.
- B. Student Rights and Freedoms information is presented in the current USC Union Bulletin.

## **Article II**

### Executive Branch

#### Section 1: Executive Powers

All executive powers of the SGA shall be vested in a President and Vice President who shall compose the executive branch of the Student Government Association. The Vice President, elected representatives, and appointed members of the SGA will have full voting privileges related to policies and procedures within the SGA, as well as voting privileges in general and special elections.

#### Section 2: Duties and Powers of the President

- A. Call and preside over meetings of the SGA and represent the student body at special functions.
- B. Appoint all **SGA** temporary and standing committee chairpersons.
- C. Appoint committee members as the official representatives of the student government, in all matters pertaining to the students.
- D. Call executive sessions (closed meetings for executive officers).

- E. Together with the Director of Student Affairs and an SGA Advisor, develop a budget for the expenditure of Student Activities Fund, which will be submitted to the Student Affairs Committee. All other student organizations will coordinate their budget submissions with the Director of Student Affairs. The Director of Student Affairs will then submit all budgets to the Student Affairs Committee, which will, in turn, submit its recommendations to the Regional Campus Dean.
- F. Have voting privileges in case of tie vote.
- G. Coordinate SGA budget expenditures with the Director of Student Affairs.
- H. Write SGA assessment report and review data from previous year's assessment report.

### Section 3: Duties and Powers of the Vice President

- A. Assist the SGA President in his/her duties.
- B. Assume the duties of the President in his/her absence and/or in his/her inability to perform.
- C. Advise the President with respect to the appointment of committee members and chairs.
- D. Assist the President in developing the SGA budget for submission to the Student Affairs Committee.
- E. Maintain a record of all minutes at every meeting of the SGA, and submit them accordingly.
- F. Be responsible for all records of the SGA to be deposited at the end of each school year with the Director of Student Affairs.

## **Article III**

### Student Government Association

#### Section 1: Legislative Powers

All legislative powers of the student body shall be vested in the SGA. The SGA shall be the legislative body and its statutes shall have a binding effect on all students.

#### Section 2: Composition of the SGA

- A. President of Student Body
- B. Vice President of Student Body
- C. Senators: No more than seven elected Senators from each respective class
  - a. Freshmen: students with fewer than 30 semester hours credit.
  - b. Sophomores: students with 30 or more semester hours credit.

### Section 3: Powers and Duties of the SGA

- A. Power to recommend any rules or regulations which are necessary and proper for the efficient conduct of the SGA and student body.
- B. Enact by majority vote, bylaws to this Constitution, to be known as Student Body Statutes.
- C. Propose, by two-thirds vote, amendments to this Constitution.
- D. To keep the student body informed.
- E. Open all meetings to the entire student body.
- F. Establish its own meeting time and rules of procedure unless said time conflicts with existing University policy and procedure.
- G. Provide a structure for class representation.
- H. Establish all rules and arrangements in conducting elections; disseminate same to student body and campus administration.

### Section 4: Powers and Duties of SGA Senators

- A. Serve on appointed committees.
- B. Represent the student body at SGA meetings.
- C. Vote on proposed items.
- D. Assist in the development of the SGA Budget.
- E. Assist in the appointment of candidates for Executive office.
- F. Promote student involvement in SGA.
- G. Act as an advocate for students in their respective classes.

### Section 5: Committees

Two student representatives shall serve on the following committees:

- A. Academic Affairs Committee: Student representatives are subject to review and approval of this committee.

- B. Financial Affairs Committee: Student representatives are subject to review and approval of this committee.
- C. Student Affairs Committee: The SGA President and Vice President shall serve on the Student Affairs Committee except in cases that would constitute a conflict of interest as judged by the chair of the Student Affairs Committee. In such cases, the Director of Student Affairs will appoint substitute student representative(s).

#### **Article IV: Requirements for Office**

##### Section 1: SGA Executive Officer and Senator Status Requirements

- A. SGA executive officers and senators shall be full-time students (i.e., enrolled in at least 12 hours at USC Union during their term of office.)
- B. The SGA President and Vice President must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in the USC system.

##### Section 2: SGA Executive Officer and Sophomore Senator Grade Point Requirements

- A. Each senator must have and maintain a minimum 2.00 GPA scholastic average (based on the 4.00 system) at the time of election.
- B. Each executive officer must have and maintain a minimum 2.00 GPA scholastic average (based on the 4.00 system) at the time of election.

##### Section 3: Freshman Senator Grade Point Requirements

In the case of Freshman Senators, a 2.00 GPA scholastic average (based on the 4.00 system) must be attained on the basis of fall semester work. If such a GPA is not attained, the SGA is obliged, under removal from office article, to remove the senator and appoint a new senator.

##### Section 4: SGA Executive Officer Limitations

An SGA executive officer may not simultaneously hold any other major office within any chartered student organization at USC Union. Major offices are to be defined as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, or their equivalents.

## Section 5: SGA Executive Officer and Senator Candidacy Restrictions

No student may be a candidate for any office who is under penalty imposed by the University for misconduct or on academic probation.

## Section 6: Attendance Policy

Any SGA officer or senator who misses more than three scheduled SGA student events or SGA meetings (general or special) without a viable excuse (illness with medical documentation; death in immediate family with documentation; other documentation as established by the SGA) during an academic year will be subject to dismissal from office by a majority vote of the Vice President and senators.

## **Article V**

### Term of Office

#### Section 1: Sophomore Senators

Sophomore senators for the next academic year shall be elected during the month of March.

#### Section 2: Freshman Senators

Freshman senators shall be elected during the month of September.

#### Section 3: Election of Executive Officers

No more than 10 days following the election of sophomore senators, the Director of Student Affairs or designee will convene a special meeting of the newly elected senators and the current senators. The Director of Student Affairs or designee will preside at this meeting. A President and a Vice President for the upcoming academic year will be nominated by this body. This group will meet no later than 14 days hence to elect a President and a Vice President. The Director of Student Affairs or designee will preside at this meeting. A simple majority will constitute quorum. All votes will be conducted by secret ballot. The election of each executive officer shall be a simple majority of the senators present.

Section 4: All Student Government Association Officials shall, upon the beginning of their term of office, take the following Oath of Office in the presence of witnesses:

"I, (official's name) do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I shall faithfully represent the interests of the Student Body of the University of South Carolina Union, that I will dutifully uphold and preserve the Student Body Constitution, and that I will faithfully execute the office of (name of office) for the (academic year) academic year."

- a. The oath shall be administered to the Executive Officers by the Director of Student Affairs on the day he/she is to take office.
- b. The Student Body President shall administer the oath to all of the SGA Senators.

#### Section 5: Executive Officer Termination and Assumption Date

All offices shall terminate on the last day of the spring semester. SGA executive officers and sophomore senators for the following year will assume office the next day.

#### Section 6: Office Vacancies

In case of vacancies in any elected office, except the President, the SGA executive officers and senators shall appoint a SGA member to fill vacant seats. Senators shall be appointed by the SGA officers and senators from the student body.

### **Article VI**

#### Removal from Office

##### Section 1: Conditions for Removal

Any SGA officer or senator may be removed from office by majority vote of 60% of SGA senators for violation of the following:

- A. Absence from three or more scheduled meetings or events per semester.
- B. Violation of the Code of Student Conduct as established in the USC Union Bulletin.



- C. Conviction by the Student Affairs Committee of a violation of academic honesty.
- D. Failure to meet afore stated GPA requirement.
- E. Documented violation of the Carolinian Creed as established by the University of South Carolina.
- F. Dereliction of duties.
- G. Conviction of a felony as defined by the state of South Carolina Code of Laws.

## Section 2: Procedure for Removal

- A. A motion must be made by a SGA officer or senator for removal.
- B. The Chairperson of the Student Affairs Committee shall be notified within 24 hours and must appoint a committee, not to include the person who brought forth the motion, of no more than five no less than three SGA senators to conduct a hearing no less than seven days from the formation of said committee. The chairperson of the Student Affairs Committee shall preside over this hearing.
- C. The accused and accuser shall be allowed to state his or her case and provide evidence to support his/her position.
- D. The committee shall then make a recommendation to the SGA executive officers and senators, who may, by majority vote, enact or reject the committee's recommendation.
- E. No more than one motion may be made against a SGA officer or senator per semester.

## **Article VII**

### Amendments

Amendments to the SGA Constitution may be proposed by two-thirds vote of the SGA executive officers and senators, or by petition signed by not less than ten percent of the student body. A proposed amendment shall become effective when ratified by a two-thirds majority of those voting in a campus-wide election. All amendments shall be voted on within 14 days, excluding holidays and exam periods, after being proposed. Any proposed amendment must be publicized on the Student Government's bulletin board not less than seven days before the

election in which it is to be considered. No amendment shall become effective until recommended by the SGA and the Student Affairs Committee.

### **Article VIII**

#### Ratification

The Constitution shall take effect upon proper ratification by a two-thirds majority of those voting in a campus-wide election and by the approval of the Student Affairs Committee.