

# The Constitution of the Student Government Association Of the University of West Georgia

(Revised March 2002)

## Article I Name

The name of this organization at the University of West Georgia shall be Student Government Association of the University of West Georgia, abbreviated as SGA.

## Article II Objectives

The basic objectives and duties of the Student Government Association are:

1. To provide an official voice through which student opinion may be expressed.
2. To enact programs necessary for the general welfare of the student body.
3. To promote unity among the students, faculty and staff of the University.
4. To encourage a higher quality of education and educational opportunities for all students attending West Georgia.
5. To participate actively in Faculty Senate Committees and governance structure of the University.
6. To give students a chance to defend themselves through the Judiciary Commission.

## Article III Student Body

- Section 1.** Membership in the student body shall be composed of students currently matriculated in the University of West Georgia.
- Section 2.** Any matriculating student at the University of West Georgia shall be entitled to vote in student elections.

## Article IV Membership

- Section 1.** The members of SGA shall include all members of the Executive Council, Student Congress and Judiciary Commission.
- Section 2.** All members of SGA shall be obligated to uphold the SGA Constitution, participate in SGA activities, meet their responsibilities and represent the interests of the student body of the State University of West Georgia.

- Section 1.** The student body shall elect the following governing officers each Spring Semester: President, Vice President, Judiciary Chairperson and Treasurer.
- Section 2.** To be eligible for the position of President, Vice President, Judiciary Chairperson, or Treasurer, a candidate must meet these minimum qualifications: must have accumulated at least 42 semester hours, a cumulative State University of West Georgia grade point average of 2.5, be currently matriculating in the University, and have been matriculated the preceding Fall Semester. All petitions for candidacy must be in accordance with the By-laws.
- Section 3.** All officers shall be elected by a majority vote. The terms of office for President, Vice President, Judiciary Chairperson or Treasurer shall extend from the beginning of Summer Semester through the end of the following Spring Semester of the academic school year.
- Section 4.** The duties of President shall include the following: organize committees to study issues and submit recommendations to SGA, appoint members of SGA to Faculty Senate and SGA committees, develop weekly agendas and schedule meetings for SGA, act as the presiding officer of SGA, chair the Executive Council, act as an ex-officio member of all SGA committees, serve on a Faculty Senate Committee, serve as the liaison between students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community, and; fulfill any additional responsibilities as stated in the By-laws.
- Section 5.** The duties of Vice President shall include the following: act in the absence of the President, keep the attendance for SGA functions, serve on the Academic Appeals Committee, serve on a Faculty Senate Committee, and perform any additional duties as the President may request, and possess voting rights in the Student Congress.
- Section 6.** The duties of the Judiciary Chairperson shall include the following: submit nominees for the Student Judiciary Commission to the Student Congress, chair the Traffic Appeals Committee, chair the Judiciary Commission, organize meetings of the Judiciary Commission, serve on academic appeals, and perform such additional duties as the President may request, and possess voting rights in the Student Congress.
- Section 7.** The duties of the Treasurer shall include the following: prepare a budget for SGA, submit an annual report to the Student Congress of all outlays, oversee the budgets receiving Student Activity Fee funding, serve as the chief financial officer of SGA, serve on a Faculty Senate Committee, perform such additional duties as the President may request, and possess voting rights in the Student Congress.
- Section 8.** In the event that the President resigns or is impeached, the Vice President is to succeed the President. In the case that the Vice President does not accept the position or is unable to accept, the Judicial Chair shall succeed the President. In the case that the Judicial Chair does not accept the position or is unable to accept, the Treasurer shall succeed the President. In the case that the Treasurer does not accept the position or is unable to

accept, the Committee Chair with the longest tenure and who also meets the EC criteria as set forth in the constitution shall succeed the President. In the case that the Committee Chair with the longest tenure does not accept or meet criteria, the Committee Chair with the second longest tenure and who also meets the EC criteria as set forth in the constitution shall succeed the President. In the case that more than one Committee Chair has an equal amount of tenure, the Student Congress will nominate and vote on the Committee Chair to succeed the President. In the case that no Committee Chair accepts the position or is unable to accept, nominees for President will be taken from the Senate and voted on by the Senate.

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| <b>Article VI</b> | <b>Executive Council</b> |
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- Section 1.** The Executive Council shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Judicial Chairperson, and Treasurer of SGA and be chaired by the President.
- Section 2.** The Executive Council shall nominate candidates to all vacancies in the Student Congress and nominate First Year and Graduate Senators.
- Section 3.** The Executive Council shall act on the behalf of the SGA at all times when the SGA is not in session.
- Section 4.** The Executive Council shall submit motions for consideration to the Student Congress and recommend members of the SGA for dismissal.
- Section 5.** Eligible candidates shall include all students with at least 12 Semester hours and a cumulative University of West Georgia grade point average of a 2.5. Term of office lasts the academic year.

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| <b>Article VII</b> | <b>Student Congress Section</b> |
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- Section 1.** All members of the Student Congress shall campaign and be elected in accordance with the By-laws.
- Section 2.** The Student Congress shall be composed of a minimum of 17 at-large representatives elected annually by the matriculated student body of the University of West Georgia. Three First Year senators and one Graduate senator are elected each fall by 2/3 vote of Student Congress. The Student Congress may expand the size of the body if needed.
- Section 3.** Eligible candidates shall include all students with at least 12 Semester hours and a cumulative University of West Georgia grade point average of 2.2. Term of office lasts the academic year.
- Section 4.** The Student Congress shall approve the SGA budget and any related budgetary matters, recommend the allocation of Student Activities Fees, draft resolutions regarding student concerns, and act as the legislative voice of the student body.
- Section 5.** The Student Congress determines election procedures for the Officers and the Student congress and approves nominations for the Judiciary Commission and the First Year and Graduate Senators.

**Section 6.** Members of the Student Congress shall serve on SGA and Faculty Senate Committees as stated in Article V, Section 4.

**Article VIII Student Judiciary Commission**

**Section 1.** The Student Judiciary Commission shall consist of the Judiciary Chairperson and 15 associate justices representing a cross-section of the student body, appointed by the Judiciary Chairperson, and approved by a 2/3 vote of the Student Congress. Members of the Commission shall elect from among its membership a Vice-Chairperson to serve in the absence of the Judiciary Chairperson.

**Section 2.** The Student Judiciary Commission shall be vested with appropriate judicial authority over members of the student body as established in University policy and in cooperation with the University's Chief Judicial Officer and the Vice President of Student Services in the enforcement of University rules and regulations.

**Section 3.** The Student Judiciary Chairperson shall, in accordance with University policy, preside over the Traffic Appeals Committee.

**Section 4.** The Judiciary Commission shall have exclusive original jurisdiction over cases and controversies involving questions of constitutionality.

**Article IX Summer Commission**

**Section 1.** A Summer Commission, which shall have limited authority as specified in the By-laws, shall be established to carry on the work of SGA during the summer semester. The Summer Commission shall take no step to alter makeup, procedures, structure, By-laws or purpose of the full SGA.

**Article X Meetings**

**Section 1.** The Student Government Association shall hold regular open meetings as stated in the By-laws.

**Section 2.** The President with at least 24 hours written or verbal notice of all members can call special sessions of SGA.

**Section 3.** A quorum of SGA shall consist of 10 members of SGA.

**Section 4.** The Rules contained in the most modern edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern SGA in all cases where they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and any special rules of order of the SGA.

**Article XI Removal from Office**

**Section 1.** Resignation: Any member of SGA will be asked to resign if for any reason he or she cannot or will not fulfill his or her duties as stated in the

Constitution and By-laws of Student Government Association of the University of West Georgia.

**Section 2.** Removal: Any member of the Student Congress who fails to meet his or her responsibilities or acts in a manner detrimental to the University of West Georgia or SGA, upon discretion of SGA, the member will be removed upon a 2/3 majority vote of the Student Congress.

**Section 3.** Impeachment: Any Officer of SGA who fails to meet his or her responsibilities or acts in a manner detrimental to the University of West Georgia or SGA, upon discretion of SGA, that member will be removed upon a 2/3 majority vote of the Student Congress.

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| <b>Article XII</b> | <b>By-laws</b> |
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**Section 1.** By-laws to this Constitution may be adopted upon the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the membership of the Student Congress present and voting in the presence of a quorum. Once adopted, the By-laws of the SGA may be changed by the membership of the Student Congress present and voting in the presence of the quorum.

**Section 2.** Proposed revisions of the By-laws shall be reported on to the Student Congress at least one week prior to the meeting at which the revisions will be voted on.

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| <b>Article XIII</b> | <b>Amendment to the Constitution</b> |
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**Section 1.** An amendment of the Constitution shall be proposed by a 2/3 vote of SGA and ratified by a simple majority of the votes cast by the student body in a University-wide referendum.

**Section 2.** At least one week prior to the date set for the election of SGA officers in the Spring, the Student Congress shall give public notice that (an) amendment(s) has been proposed for adoption by publishing the prioritized change(s) in the official University newspaper and the appropriate media.