

The Constitution of the Student Government of Virginia Wesleyan University

Article 1: Mission Statement

Section 1. We the Students of Virginia Wesleyan University ratify this Constitution in order to establish and organize a Student Government for the purpose of defending the interests of the Student Body, creating a desirable campus experience, and promoting social outreach in the Virginia Beach region to be achieved through the democratic legitimacy granted to them by We the Students.

Article 2: Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of this Student Government (henceforth referred to as SGA) is outlined in the following articles. Their task is to meet regularly to create and maintain programs for achieving the aforementioned missions.

Article 3: Interpretation

Section 1. The Student Body is defined as all current registered students of Virginia Wesleyan University (henceforth referred to as VWU). The Student Body is granted voting rights in all matters brought to a popular vote.

Section 2. The SGA is defined as the members of the Student Body elected to represent the entire Student Body in closed door meetings. Each member is granted voting rights in matters brought to a closed vote.

Section 3. The SGA shall consist of an Executive Board consisting of a President, a Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Events Chair. There shall also be a Student Senate consisting of four representatives from each class. This should add up to sixteen Student Senators and five Executive Board Members.

Section 4. To be eligible to hold an SGA office, individuals must be in good academic standing. Good academic standing is defined as a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 for members of the Student Senate and 2.5 for the Executive Board. The individual must not be on disciplinary probation or any more severe of a sanction when running for or holding an SGA office.

Section 5. Any individual who has ever received official disciplinary sanctions from Virginia Wesleyan University is ineligible to run for or hold SGA office for one (1) year from the date of sentencing

Section 6. Upon resignation, dismissal or any other means by which a vacancy of an elected official's position occurs, the President of the SGA will nominate and/or take nominations from the floor, for the name of the student to complete the remaining term. This individual may be the student who had received the highest vote count in the previous election and had not been

elected. If the Presidential office is vacated, the Vice President automatically attains the Office of the President and must, within one week, nominate a vice-presidential candidate. In order to assume any of the above offices by nomination, the nominee must be ratified by 2/3rds of the Student Senate at the next senate meeting. In the case of a rejection by the Senate or a refusal by the proposed nominee to accept the nomination, a special election may be conducted by the Student Government.

Section 7. The SGA shall have the power to organize the recall of any student from his/her committee position or elected office through the following procedure.

- A. The initiation of this procedure is the prerogative of any student in the University and must be endorsed by ten percent (10%) of the Student Body by written petition. The initiation of this procedure can also be initiated by any member of the SGA. and must be endorsed by ten percent (10%) of the SGA by written petition. However, the accused must be made aware of these proceedings in a written letter. However, the accused must be made aware of these proceedings in a written letter.
- B. The SGA. shall be required to provide, in the presence of all parties involved, an open hearing on the reasons for which this action has been initiated.
- C. The parties involved in this action shall be provided an opportunity to defend his/her position.
- D. The SGA. shall then go into a closed session, with the accused not present, for further discussion.
- E. The SGA. must decide by two-thirds majority secret ballot vote of its total membership whether the accused shall be removed from office. If this majority is not obtained, the matter shall be considered closed.
- F. The member on trial shall abstain from voting or vetoing.

Article 4: Amendment Procedure

Section 1. Any amendments to the Constitution of the Student Government of Virginia Wesleyan University must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote.

Section 2. The amendment procedure may be initiated by any sitting member of the SGA.

Section 3. The vote for the proposed amendment(s) may occur no sooner than one week after the amendment is proposed.

Article 5: Election Procedure

Section 1. Elections shall be held twice a year, once in the spring for the Executive Board, Senior Class Senators, Junior Class Senators, and Sophomore Class Senators, and once in the fall for Freshmen Class Officers.

Section 2. Student Government Association members must be able to serve from graduation to graduation; the full-term to which they were elected as a continually enrolled student.

Section 3. The president and vice-president, during their term, must not be the head (or title of equal value) of a campus club or organization, which does not include athletic teams and/or honor societies.

Section 4. All students who are running for a position in the Student Government Association must be in good academic standing according to the duties of their position.

Section 5. The current SGA President, Vice President, primary and secondary advisors shall constitute an electoral commission which will organize, announce, supervise and set rules for the election of S.G.A. officers. If the electoral commission finds that a candidate breaks the campaigning rules, it will be their job to disqualify the candidate. If the SGA President and Vice President decide to re-run, the primary and secondary advisors will constitute the electoral commission.

Section 6. The election timeline for all elected positions shall be determined by the electoral commission.

Section 7. The official vote totals in all elections for Student Government officers shall be made available to the Student Body upon request.

Section 8. If the tabulated vote totals indicate a tie, the Advisors will break the tie in the Presidential/Vice Presidential Election and the Current President/Vice President will break the tie in the Student Senate Election.

Section 9. Late petitions shall not be accepted. If it is discovered that less than the necessary number of candidates are running, the normal election shall proceed with those who have submitted petitions. If there are vacant seats, a special election shall be held to fill those seats.

Section 10. The Student Government Association may hold a special election at any time the need arises. The electoral commission will determine all guidelines and procedures for each special election.

Article 6: Description of Duties

Section 1. The duties of Student Senators are as follows:

- A. Attend all functions.
 - a. Any Student Government Association meeting shall be considered a Student Government Association function.
- B. Serve as a voting member of the Student Senate for all official votes.
- C. Serve on committees of their choosing.

Section 2. In order for a vote to proceed in the Student Senate, a quorum of 2/3 of the elected senators must be present for the vote. This applies for both Constitutional revisions and general procedures of the Student Senate.

Section 3. The duties of the Student Government President are as follows:

- A. The President shall serve as ex-officio member of the Student Government Association senate. In this capacity, the Student Government Association president must attend all meetings and events of the Student Government Association, but is granted no vote at Student Senate Meetings.

- B. The President shall have the ability to veto any decision made by the Senate and, thus, must be informed of any and all votes and decisions which occur in the senate. The veto may only be overruled by a vote of the Judicial Review Board.
- C. The President shall serve as the official liaison between the administration of the University and the student body.
- D. The President shall fulfill any other duties set forth in amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution.

Section 4. The duties of the Student Government Vice President are as follows:

- A. The Vice President shall serve as chairperson and a non-voting member of the Student Senate and, as such, shall be responsible for scheduling, announcing, conducting and controlling all meetings of the Student Senate.
- B. In the case of a tie vote in the senate, the Vice President will "break the tie".
- C. The Vice President shall be responsible for relaying all messages and announcements between the Student Senate and the President.
- D. The Vice President shall make sure that all the representatives remain in good academic and disciplinary standing.
- E. The Vice President shall fulfill any other duties set forth in amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution.

Section 5. The duties of the Student Government Secretary are as follows:

- A. The Secretary shall record minutes at all meetings of the Student Senate.
- B. The Secretary is responsible for coordinating all guests invited to meetings of the Student Senate.
- C. The Secretary shall record minutes at all Executive Board Meetings, which the Secretary is required to attend.
- D. The Secretary shall fulfill any other duties set forth in amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution.

Section 6. The duties of the Student Government Treasurer are as follows:

- A. The Treasurer will authorize any and all uses of SGA funds, co-signed by the President of the Student Body.
- B. The Treasurer will provide regular financial updates at all Executive Board Meetings, which the Treasurer is required to attend.
- C. The Treasurer shall fulfill any other duties set forth in amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution.

Section 7. The duties of the Student Government Events Chair are as follows:

- A. The Events Chair shall Chair the Events Committee and coordinate each SGA Event.
- B. The Events Chair will maintain all SGA Social Media.
- C. The Events Chair will provide regular event updates at all Executive Board Meetings, which the Chair is required to attend
- D. The Events Chair shall fulfill any other duties set forth in amendments to the Student Government Association Constitution.

Section 8. The Vice President of Student Affairs shall serve as an advisor of the S.G.A. In addition, a secondary advisor may be added, at the discretion of the President and Advisor.

Section 9. Duties of the Advisor(s) shall be:

- A. To attend all meetings and functions.
- B. To meet with the executive board weekly regarding planning and evaluation of the Senate's meetings and activities.
- C. To attend all meetings and functions of the Student Senate.
- D. To advise the S.G.A. regarding policies, procedures, and protocol.
- E. To review and endorse all publicity plans.
- F. To help with the budget and assist in the authorization of all expenditures.

Article 7: Committees

Section 1. The permanent SGA Committees are as follows:

- A. Judicial Review Board
 - a. The Judicial Review Board is organized each year and is composed of a Chief Justice and four (4) Associate Justices.
 - b. The Chief Justice is elected by the Student Senate as well as the Executive Board.
 - c. The Chief Justice cannot also be a member of the Executive Board.
 - d. Associate Justices are elected by the Student Senate as well as the Executive Board
 - e. The Student Government President cannot hold any office on the Judicial Review Board.
 - f. The responsibilities of the Judicial Review Board are as follows:
 - i. Evaluate the constitutionality of actions of the SGA and relevant bills for review of the SGA.
 - ii. Attend all meetings of the Judicial Review Board.
 - iii. Draft both the majority and the minority opinion on any ruling handed down from Board Reviews.
 - g. The Judicial Review Board has the following powers and privileges:
 - i. The power to override the Presidential veto on any votes of the Student Senate
 - ii. Administrative Recall Procedure - Administrative recall will only apply to internal student government disciplinary problems. Any member of the S.G.A. may initiate this procedure. A special closed meeting will take place. The Judicial Review Board must decide by two-thirds majority secret ballot vote of its total membership to recall the member in question. The accused shall have no vote or veto during this procedure.
- B. Treasury Committee
 - a. This Committee is organized each semester and is composed of one (1) Chairperson and more than one (1) voting member.
 - b. The Chairperson of the Treasury Committee is the Executive Board Treasurer.
 - c. Members are volunteers from the Student Senate and the Executive Board.
 - d. The responsibilities of the Treasury Committee are as follows:

- i. Keep a running total of all SGA expenditures against the yearly budget.
 - ii. Approve or Reject funding for SGA events or partnerships.
- C. Election Committee
 - a. This Committee is organized each year and is composed of one (1) Chairperson and more than one (1) voting member.
 - b. The Chairperson of the Election Committee is the Senior Class President.
 - c. Members are volunteers from the Student Senate and the Executive Board.
 - d. The responsibilities of the Election Committee are as follows:
 - i. Coordinate the election process for Freshmen in the fall and all other positions in the spring.
- D. Rules and Means Committee
 - a. This Committee is organized each semester and is composed of one (1) Chairperson and more than one (1) voting member.
 - b. The Chairperson of the Rules and Means Committee is
 - c. Members are volunteers from the Student Senate and the Executive Board.
 - d. The responsibilities of the Rules and Means Committee are as follows:
 - i. Maintain the intention of the Constitution through Amendments and Revisions.
 - ii. Update the Constitution as issues or conflicts arise.
- E. Community Outreach Committee
 - a. This Committee is organized each semester and is composed of one (1) Chairperson and more than one (1) voting member.
 - b. The Chairperson of the Community Outreach Committee is The President of the Student Government.
 - c. Members are volunteers from the Student Senate and the Executive Board.
 - d. The responsibilities of the Community Outreach Committee are as follows:
 - i. Find creative ways to use SGA funds and efforts to alleviate the struggles of people in our community.
- F. Events Committee
 - a. This Committee is organized each semester and is composed of one (1) Chairperson and more than one (1) voting member.
 - b. The Chairperson of the Events Committee is the Executive Board Events Chair.
 - c. Members are volunteers from the Student Senate and the Executive Board.
 - d. The responsibilities of the Events Committee are as follows:
 - i. Work with Student Activities to create/support events that elevate the student experience.

Section 2. Temporary Committees can be founded at any time with the majority approval of the Executive Board. A committee can be founded for any purpose, granted that there be a chairperson and at least two other people willing to serve on the committee (known as the Rule of Three).

Article 8: The Community Council

Section 1.

Article 9: The Emergency Powers Act

Section 1. The Executive Board can declare a State of Emergency for any number of reasons deemed fit by the combined efforts of the Executive Board and the Judicial Review Board. This allows actions to be taken that traditionally would be prohibited by the constitution.

Section 2. Declaring a State of Emergency must be approved by a 4/5 vote of the combined Executive Board and the Judicial Review Board.

Section 3. All actions that are taken by the Student Government during the State of Emergency will be reviewed by the Judicial Review Board after the fact. Any lasting effects of the actions taken during the State of Emergency can be prevented and/or overturned by the rulings of the Judicial Review Board.

Article 10: Meeting Procedure

Section 1. Official meetings of the Student Government Association shall follow the following agenda:

- Roll
- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Continuing Business
- New Business
- Questions for Officers
- Closure of Meeting

Section 2. At meetings, the following protocols will be maintained:

- A. Any person desiring to speak must be recognized by the Vice-President prior to beginning to speak.
- B. Any person asking a question must be recognized by the Vice-President prior to speaking.

Section 3. If the need arises, the President may call for a paper/digital meeting.

Article 11: Ratification

This the Constitution of the Student Government of Virginia Wesleyan University has been ratified on _____ by the undersigned