

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the student body of Auburn University, desiring to provide an effective organization for the administration of student activities:

- to promote official channels through which student opinions may be expressed;
- to promote academic freedom and academic responsibility;
- to improve student physical, social and cultural welfare;
- to promote students' rights and responsibilities;
- to foster awareness of the student's position in campus, local, state, national and international communities; and
- to promote full cooperation between student, faculty and administration; and recognizing that a student organization embodying these principles is necessary in the building of a great University, do ordain and establish this constitution in exercise of authority delegated to us by the Board of Trustees and the President of Auburn University.

ARTICLE I - NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization will be the "Student Government Association."

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP AND PRIVILEGES

Section 1: All registered students at Auburn University at Auburn, Alabama are, upon payment of the Student Activities Fee, members of this organization, such membership to be subject to all rules and regulations as may be herein and hereafter enacted by this organization.

Section 2: Members of this organization will be entitled to vote in Student Government Association elections.

Section 3: In Student Government Association school or college elections, members may vote only for candidates from the school and/or college in which they are enrolled.

ARTICLE III - GENERAL ORGANIZATION

Section 1: The Student Government Association shall be organized into three branches: the Legislative, the Executive and the Judicial.

Section 2: The organization of school governments will constitute an integral part of the government, and will be determined by Student Government Association law.

ARTICLE IV - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1: All Legislative powers granted herein shall be vested in a Student Senate.

Section 2: The Student Senate shall consist of thirty-four (34) members.

- (1) Twenty-nine (29) of the members of the Student Senate shall be elected from the various schools and colleges. The other five (5) shall be elected from the student body at large. Any new school or college shall be combined with an already existing school or college for representation until the first spring general election following the opening of the new school or college.
- (2) Each school and college shall have at least one (1) senator. Additional senators shall be apportioned annually by the Student Senate to reflect as nearly as possible school or college enrollment.
- (3) The five (5) senators at large shall be voted on by the entire student body. The candidates may be enrolled in any school or college.
- (4) All thirty-four (34) senators shall be elected during spring general elections by a plurality vote of those students registered and voting in their respective schools and colleges.
- (5) Installation of student senators shall be held as soon as possible after their election and prior to the end of spring semester.
- (6) Student senators shall serve a term of one (1) year or until their successors are installed.
- (7) No student may qualify for election from a school or college unless he or she is a member of that school or college according to the official fall Semester records of the University, or unless he or she provides evidence or states intent that he or she will be a member of that school or college which he or she will represent by fall semester. Each candidate must have completed at least one (1) semester in residence at Auburn University prior to the semester which he or she seeks office and have attained a 2.5 overall grade point average at Auburn University. In addition, each candidate must meet any other requirements as determined by Student Government Association law.
- (8) A senator shall automatically forfeit his/her membership in the Student Senate if he or she ceases to be enrolled in that school which he or she represents or if he or she is absent from five (5) regular meetings of the Student Senate.
- (9) All vacancies occurring in the Student Senate shall be filled by appointment of the president of the Student Government Association with the approval of two-thirds of the membership of the Student Senate.
- (10) The Student Senate shall have the right to appoint nonvoting liaison or advisor members at its discretion.

- (11) The President of Auburn University or his/her representative and the Chairman of the University Senate or his/her representative shall sit as nonvoting ex-officio members of the Student Senate except in an executive session.

Section 3: POWERS AND DUTIES

- (1) The Student Senate shall determine its rules and procedures, compel the attendance of its absent members, censure or expel a member by a two-thirds vote of its membership upon one (1) week written notice to him/her and fix the time and place of its meeting provided there are regular meetings with a fixed time and place at least once every two weeks.
- (2) The Student Senate shall elect its own officers, except the President of the Student Senate, who shall be the Vice President of the Student Government Association. In the event the Vice President assumes the office of the President of the Student Government Association, the Student Senate shall elect its own presiding officer.
- (3) The Student Senate shall recommend an allocation of the Student Activities Fee to the President of Auburn University. The Student Senate shall begin allocation hearings at a date recommended by the SGA Treasurer and the Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee to be approved by the majority of the Student Senate.
- (4) The Student Senate shall approve appointments of the President of the Student Government Association to Student Government Association administrative positions, Presidential or University Committees and offices in Student Government Association subsidiary organizations.
- (5) The Student Senate shall charter such subsidiary organizations as may be deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the government or the general welfare of the entire Student Government Association. All rules and regulations governing chartered organizations shall be provided for in individual chartered constitutions for each group. The charters must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Student Senate.
- (6) The Student Senate may require the President of the Student Senate to establish temporary and standing committees to study student problems and propose legislation and programs.
- (7) The Student Senate shall approve the date of special elections as recommended by the President of the Student Government Association.
- (8) The Student Senate shall apportion itself annually and establish election procedures; provided, however, that no acts amending the rules and regulations of elections become effective until at least thirty (30) days after passage by the Student Senate.
- (9) The Student Senate shall approve affiliation between the Auburn University Student Government Association and any other University, regional or national organization by two-third votes of the membership of the Student Senate.
- (10) The Student Senate may vote articles of impeachment against the President, Vice President or Treasurer of the Student Government Association or any other Student Government Association officer. Impeachment shall require a five-sixths vote of the membership of the Student Senate.
- (11) The Student Senate may establish or amend by a majority vote the Student Government Association Code of Laws. The laws shall be sent to the President and President of Auburn University for approval.
- (12) The Student Senate shall have the power to override a presidential veto by a vote of two-thirds of its membership.

Section 5: STUDENT SENATE PROCEDURES

- (1) The quorum for the conduct of business shall be two-thirds of the membership of the Student Senate.
- (2) All legislation of the Student Senate shall be categorized as follows:
 - (A) Bills of Law: Laws, the Budget and Organization Charters which are subject to veto as provided for by the Constitution.
 - (B) Resolutions: Expressions of the sentiments of the Student Senate which are not subject to veto.
 - (C) Commendations: Acknowledgments, congratulations, or recognition of worthy merits on behalf of the Auburn University student body which are subject to veto as provided for by the Constitution.

ARTICLE V — EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1: All executive powers granted herein shall be vested in the President of the Student Government Association who shall be assisted by a Vice President, a Treasurer and such other assistants as the President shall appoint.

Section 2: The President of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) to submit to the Student Senate for approval his/her proposed budget for the year.
- (2) to appoint all members of the Executive Cabinet with approval of two-thirds of the membership of the Student Senate.
- (3) to remove any executive officer that he/she has appointed.

- (4) to fill Student Senate vacancies with the approval of two-thirds of the membership of the Student Senate.
- (5) to call special meetings of the Student Senate.
- (6) to bring before the Student Jurisprudence Committee charges against any Student Senate approved organization for violation of provisions governing the regulations of such organizations.
- (7) to create or abolish Executive Cabinet positions with approval of the Student Senate.
- (8) to veto Bills of Law passed by the Student Senate. If the president does not veto such acts of the Student Senate within ten (10) days after passage, such acts can become law without the president's signature.
- (9) to require when requested a written interpretation by the Student Jurisprudence Committee on any provision of the Constitution or the Student Government Association Code of Laws.
- (10) to present to the Student Senate each University semester a report on Student Government Association activities.
- (11) to execute all powers and duties found in the Constitution and the Student Government Association Code of Laws.

Section 3: The Vice President of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) to execute the powers and duties of the President of the Student Government Association in his/her temporary absence.
- (2) to keep and make available a permanent record of the Constitution and the Student Government Association Code of Laws.
- (3) to preside over all meetings of the Student Senate and to cast a vote in the Student Senate only to make or to break a tie.
- (4) to perform such duties as the President of the Student Government Association shall assign to him/her.
- (5) to appoint the members of all committees of the Student Senate and serve as ex-officio members of all such committees.

Section 4: The Treasurer of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) to be responsible to the Student Government Association for any information related to Student Activities Fees.
- (2) to be responsible to the Student Senate for continuing surveillance of expenditures of the Student Activities Fees.
- (3) to present to the Student Senate and to have published in the official college newspaper bi-annually written financial reports on all activities supported by the Student Activities Fees.
- (4) to sign all requisitions for Student Government Association funds excluding those funds budgeted specifically for the president of the Student Government Association.
- (5) to establish, with Student Senate approval, Student Government Association financial procedures not provided elsewhere in this Constitution.
- (6) to review the financial condition of the Student Government Association and to submit monthly financial statements to the President of the Student Government Association, the Student Senate and members of the Executive Cabinet.
- (7) to assist the Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee in establishing a date to begin allocation hearings for the Student Activities Fees.

Section 5 ABSENCES

- (1) An Executive Officer of the Student Government Association shall be considered in absence when it is determined by a vote of five-sixths of the membership of the Student Senate he/she has failed to execute his/her powers and duties for a period of twenty (20) consecutive days.
- (2) If the President of the Student Government Association is determined by the Student Senate to be in absence, the Vice President shall take his/her place until the end of the semester in which the absence occurs.
- (3) If any executive officer other than the President of the Student Government Association is determined by the Student Senate to be in absence, the President shall appoint a substitute to serve until the end of the semester in which the absence occurs.

Section 6: VACANCY

- (1) Vacancy of the executive office of the President, Vice President or Treasurer of the SGA shall occur if, during any semester of the elected officer's term, the elected officer is not enrolled at Auburn University; or if the officer should resign.
- (2) If the office of President shall become vacant, the Vice President shall assume the office of the President.
- (3) If the office of Treasurer shall become vacant, the President shall appoint a replacement with approval of two-thirds of the membership of the Student Senate.

Section 7: ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- (1) Each candidate for President, Vice President and Treasurer must have completed at least two (2) semesters at Auburn University prior to the semester in which he or she seeks office, and have attained a 2.5 overall grade point average.
- (2) The President, Vice President and Treasurer of the Student Government Association shall be elected during the spring General Election via an instant runoff system. To win, a candidate must receive at least 50 percent of votes cast.
- (3) Elected Executive Officers shall serve a term of one year or until their successors are installed.

ARTICLE VI — JUDICIAL BRANCH

- Section 1:** All judicial powers granted herein shall be vested in a Student Jurisprudence Committee composed of seven students, one of whom shall serve as the Chief Justice and shall be appointed by the President of the Student Government Association with the approval of two-thirds of the membership of the Student Senate, and six of whom shall serve as Associate Justices and shall also be appointed by the President of the Student Government Association, with the approval of two-thirds of the membership of the Student Senate.
- Section 2:** One student shall be appointed by the President of the Student Government Association with the approval of two-thirds of the membership of the Student Senate to serve as Attorney General. He/she must have completed at least five (5) semesters at Auburn University and be in his/her third year.
- Section 3:** All members of the Student Judicial Court shall take office upon approval and shall serve on the Court for a period of no more than two (2) consecutive terms, or when their successors are appointed. The Attorney General shall serve for a period of one (1) year, or until their successor is appointed. No member of the Judicial Branch, including the Attorney General, may concurrently serve on the Legislative or Executive Branch, the campaign staff of any candidate, or the Elections Directorate or Board.
- Section 4:** The Student Jurisprudence Committee shall have the following duties and powers:
- (1) to have sole jurisdiction in all cases involving the interpretation of the constitution and Code of Laws of the Student Government Association and to have such interpretation published in the official college newspaper within one week after the rendering thereof.
 - (2) to have jurisdiction in all cases involving offense against the provisions of this constitution or the Code of Laws of the Student Government Association.
 - (3) to render within one week, upon written request, a written interpretation of any part of this Constitution or the Code of Laws of the Student Government Association.
 - (4) to hear and judge decisions by a two-thirds vote in all cases of impeachment.
 - (5) to elect at the first meeting a clerk from among the student members who will be responsible for keeping a permanent written record of Committee proceedings; such records are to be kept on file in the Student Government Association office. The members shall be notified at least two days prior to each meeting. Concerned parties shall be responsible for providing the Jurisprudence Committee with all pertinent information. The clerk shall be responsible for notifying interested parties at least two days prior to the meeting.
 - (6) to have appellate jurisdiction in cases involving infraction of Election Laws.
 - (7) to have jurisdiction in cases involving violations of policies regarding Auburn University campus organizations and Student Activity Projects.
- Section 4:** All decisions of the Student Judicial Court, except cases of impeachment, shall be decided by a majority of the student membership. The Court shall present its ruling in a written opinion disseminated to all parties involved within 48 hours of the hearing, except in cases involving elections violations, in which the Court shall deliver its ruling within 24 hours.
- Section 5:** Parties desiring a hearing before the Judicial Court shall deposit with the Attorney General a formal, written complain of the issue in question.

ARTICLE VII — SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

- Section 1:** Each school of Auburn University shall constitute a separate and distinct branch of the Student Government Association. School government organization shall be determined by Student Government Association law.
- Section 2:** Each school shall elect a president and vice president during spring General Elections.
- Section 3:** Qualifications and election procedures for school officers shall be the same as for school senators.
- Section 4:** All vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the president of the Student Government Association with the approval of two-thirds of the membership of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE VIII — METHOD OF AMENDMENT

- Section 1:** All amendments to this Constitution must be proposed by one of the following methods:

- (1) by a vote of four-fifths of the membership of the Student Senate.
- (2) by a petition presented in writing to the President of the Student Government Association carrying the signatures of 10 percent of the membership of the Student Government Association.

Section 2: Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be published in the official student newspaper in at least two issues prior to the date on which a vote is taken by the members of the Student Government Association.

Section 3: Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the students voting in the General Election or the Homecoming Election, provided that ballots are cast by at least 25 percent of membership of the Student Government Association.

Section 4: All proposed amendments of this Constitution must be approved by the President of the Student Government Association, the Division of Student Affairs, and the President of Auburn University.