

# The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

## Student Government Association

### Constitution

#### ***Preamble***

We, the students of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, acting in the belief that the student is the basis of the university, recognizing that individual responsibility is the right of every student, believing that there is honor and dignity in self-government, and in accordance with the authority granted by the Chancellor, do ordain and establish this Constitution for our Student Government Association.

#### ***Article I. Statement of Support for Higher Education***

We, the students of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, actively support Article IX, Section IX of the Constitution of North Carolina, which states:

“The General Assembly shall provide that the benefits of The University of North Carolina and other public institutions of higher education, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense.”

#### ***Article II. Name***

The name of this organization shall be “The Student Government Association of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.”

#### ***Article III. Purpose***

The purpose of the Student Government Association shall be to participate in the overall framework of the University governance and to address the interest and concerns of students and the University community through student representation.

#### ***Article IV. Membership & Eligibility to Vote***

All students of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro are *ipso facto* members of this organization. The Student Government Association is open to all students who wish to participate regardless of age, race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity and expression, disability, socioeconomic status, or creed. All students shall be eligible to vote in Student Government Association elections and referendums.

#### ***Article V. Structure***

**Section 1.** All Legislative power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Legislative Branch; all executive power shall be vested in the Executive Branch; and all judicial powers shall be vested in the Judicial Branch.

**Section 2.** The academic school year and term of office for all members of Student Government Association shall begin on the last Student Senate meeting of the Spring semester and end on the last meeting of the Spring semester of the following year.

## ***Article VI. The Legislative Branch***

### **Section 1. Student Senate**

#### A. Student Senate Structure

1. The Student Senate shall be composed of the following:
  - a. Four Freshman Senators (4)
  - b. Four Sophomore Senators (4)
  - c. Four Junior Senators (4)
  - d. Four Senior Senators (4)
  - e. Two Graduate Senators (2)
  - f. Five Commuter Senators (5)
  - g. Three Residential Senators (3)
  - h. Two Adult Student Senators (2)
  - i. Ten At-Large Senators (10)
  - j. One (1) Senator from each of the following schools and colleges:
    - i. College of Arts and Sciences
    - ii. School of Business and Economics
    - iii. School of Education
    - iv. School of Health and Human Sciences
    - v. School of Music, Theater and Dance
    - vi. School of Nursing
    - vii. Lloyd International Honors College
  - k. Five (5) Student Organization Senators to represent all recognized student organizations.
  - l. Senators At-Large shall be elected from the Student Body. After Fall elections, the Vice President shall have up to five (5) appointments in the academic year to fill any vacant Senator At-Large seat. Any student meeting membership requirements may be appointed as a Senator At-Large.
1. When less than thirty five (35) seats are filled, it is the responsibility of the Vice President to have the Elections Committee call a special election.
2. The Elections Committee is required to initiate the special elections process within two (2) weeks of the Vice President's notification.

#### A. Powers of the Student Senate

1. The Student Senate shall meet on Tuesday nights at 7 o'clock when school is in session during the Fall and Spring semesters in order to conduct the necessary business of the Student Government Association, unless a majority of the Student Senate votes otherwise.
2. The Student Senate shall have the power to bring forth legislation dealing with matters of concern that affect any portion of the student body, campus, or University. Student Senate legislation shall take the form of resolutions, appropriations, and any other general policy statements reflecting the attitude or position of the Student Government.
  - a. To become effective, all legislation must be passed by the Legislative Branch of SGA.
  - b. The Student Senate may override a Presidential Veto with a two-thirds vote in the affirmative of those Senators present and voting.

- c. The Student Senate shall have the power to create all necessary committees. The purpose, powers and membership of such committees shall be outlined in the Bylaws of the Senate.
- d. The Student Senate shall have the power to adopt any rules and regulations necessary for carrying its powers into implementation. These rules shall take the form of Bylaws and Special Rules of Order. The adoption of Bylaws and Special Rules of Order for the Student Senate shall require a two-thirds vote of those Senators present and voting.
- e. The Student Senate shall have the power to confirm or deny all Officer appointments by the President and Vice President. Approval of appointments shall require a majority of Senators present and voting. Confirmation by the Student Senate shall be necessary before the appointee can take office.
- f. Punitive Powers of the Student Senate
  - i. The Student Senate shall have the power to publicly censure any member of the Student Government Association-in accordance with its Bylaws.
  - ii. The Student Senate shall have the power to impeach any person holding any Student Government office in accordance with the Bylaws, and with a two-thirds vote in the affirmative of those Senators present and voting.
    - a.) Any member of the Student Body has the ability to bring forth charges of impeachments to the Student Senate.
    - b.) The Student Senate will hear the charges and will vote to let the charge fail or in the affirmative to impeach and remand to the Superior Court for action.
    - c.) The decision of the Superior Court shall be the final level of appeal.
  - iii. Any member of the Student Senate who fails to comply with the Constitution or the Bylaws may be removed with a two-thirds vote by the Senate.
    - a.) Once a member or Officer of the Senate is removed, he or she may not return as a member or Officer to the Student Senate for the remainder of his or her term of office.

## B. Officers and Members

### 1. The Vice President

#### a. Qualifications

- i. The Vice President shall be elected by and from the Student Body. The Vice President shall have served as a sworn representative of the Student Government Association for at least eight (8) weeks in the academic year he or she runs for office.

- ii. The Vice President shall have and maintain, while in office, a cumulative GPA of no less than 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
- iii. The Vice President shall be enrolled for no less than nine (9) undergraduate or three (3) graduate hours at UNCG per semester while in office.
- iv. The Vice President-Elect before being sworn into office must complete two (2) parliamentary workshops with the sitting parliamentarian.
- v. The Vice President shall be in good conduct standing as determined by the University.
- vi. The Vice President cannot hold any other position in the Student Government Association with the exception of *ex officio* membership.
- vii. If any measure passed by the Student Senate is not acted upon within seven (7) days after its passage, the Vice-President shall automatically forward it to its proper mandates.

b. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities

- i. The Vice President shall fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the President in his or her absence.
- ii. The Vice President shall serve as the presiding officer of the Student Senate and can only vote in a tie-breaking vote. The Vice President may choose to turn leadership of the meeting over to the Chairman Pro-Tempore in order to speak on an issue. In this capacity, he or she serves as a Senator for the duration of the meeting, with all rights and privileges of a Senator. In the case of a tie, the presiding chair shall cast the deciding vote.
- iii. The Vice President shall have the authority to appoint the following members of the Legislative Board including a Legislative Secretary, a Treasurer, a Parliamentarian and Senate committee chairpersons. All Vice Presidential appointments shall require the approval of the Student Senate before they are considered official, and shall serve until resignation, impeachment, or expiration of the academic year and must be sworn in by the President at a Student Government Association meeting.
- iv. The Vice President shall be responsible for the supervision of the Legislative Board.
- v. The Vice President shall create a Legislative Annual Report due by the end of the academic year. This report shall be submitted to the Chancellor incoming Vice President and SGA Advisor.
- vi. The Vice President may add items to the agendas of any Student Government Association meetings up to forty-eight (48) hours prior to the start of the meeting.

- vii. The Vice President shall appoint the membership of all Student Senate committees from the Senate Body. The Vice President shall have up to five (5) appointments per academic year to fill any vacant Senator At-Large seat.
- viii. The Vice President shall hold an Officer orientation conference for Legislative Board members prior to the first Student Senate meeting in the Fall semester. The Vice President shall see that the newly appointed Officers are properly trained.
- ix. The Vice President shall hold a Senator orientation conference at the first Student Senate meeting after the Vice President has been sworn in. In the event of appointments or special elections, the Vice President shall see that the newly elected or appointed Senators are properly trained.
- x. The Vice President shall serve until resignation, removal from office, or installation of the incoming Vice President.

#### The Chairman Pro-Tempore

##### a. Qualifications

- i. The Chairman Pro-Tempore shall be elected by the Student Senate before the Student Government Association Inauguration in the Spring semester.
- ii. The Chairman Pro-Tempore shall have and maintain, while in office, a cumulative GPA of no less than a 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
- iii. The Chairman Pro-Tempore shall be enrolled for no less than nine (9) undergraduate or three (3) graduate credit hours at UNCG per semester while in office.
- iv. The Chairman Pro Tempore cannot hold any other position in the Student Government Association with the exception of *ex officio* membership while acting as Vice President, or serving as Chair of the Student Senate.
- v. The Chairman Pro-Tempore shall be in good conduct standing as determined by the University.
- vi. The Chairman Pro-Tempore shall be elected from the incoming or and returning Senators . The Chairman Pro-Tempore shall have served as a member of the Student Government Association for at least eight (8) weeks in the academic year he or she runs for office.
- vii. The Chairman Pro-Tempore, before being sworn in to office, must complete two parliamentary workshops with the sitting Parliamentarian.

##### b. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities

- i. The Chairman Pro-Tempore shall conduct meetings in the Student Senate in the absence of the Vice President. The Chairman Pro-

Tempore shall maintain order and enforce attendance policies during Senate meetings.

- ii. The Chairman Pro-Tempore shall attend all Legislative Board meetings scheduled by the Vice President.
- iii. In the event of the resignation or removal from office of the Vice President, the Chairman Pro-Tempore shall immediately assume all duties, powers and responsibilities of the Vice President.
- iv. The Chairman Pro-Tempore shall serve until resignation, removal from office, or installation of the incoming Chairman Pro-Tempore.
- v. The Chairman Pro-Tempore shall serve as a Senator, with all of the duties, powers, and responsibilities of that position, with the exception that the Chairman Pro-Tempore may not hold the Chairmanship of a standing committee.

### 3. The Legislative Board

- a. The purpose of the Legislative Board shall be to assist the Vice President in his or her duties as outlined in Article VI.
- b. The Board shall include a Treasurer, Legislative Secretary, Committee Chairs, Chairman Pro-Tempore, and Parliamentarian. The Legislative Board shall have no more than four members plus the number of standing committee chairs funded by SGA; however, the number of volunteer positions shall not be limited.
- c. All other Student Senate Officers authorized by this document or the Bylaws shall have qualifications, duties, powers, and responsibilities outlined in the Bylaws.

### 4. Senators

#### a. Qualifications

- i. Senators shall be elected by and from the student body.
- ii. Each Senator shall have and maintain, while in office, a cumulative GPA of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale with the exception of anyone without a UNCG GPA.
- iii. Each Senator shall be enrolled for no less than six (6) undergraduate or three (3) graduate credit hours per semester at UNCG while in office.
- iv. Each Senator shall be in good conduct standing as determined by the University.
- v. Senators must be a member of the constituency they represent during the Fall semester of their term of office.

#### b. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities

- i. Each Senator shall be required to serve on at least one (1) standing committee of the Student Senate.
- ii. Each Senator is allotted one (1) vote in the Student Senate.
- iii. Each Senator shall serve until resignation, removal from office, or installation of the incoming Senators.
- iv. Each Senator or group of Senators representing one constituency shall actively communicate with his or her constituency about Student Government business at least three times a semester.
- v. Each Senator is required to attend all Student Senate meetings. If a Senator acquires two (2) unexcused absences in a semester, he or she shall receive a warning via email. If a Senator acquires more than two (2) unexcused absences in a semester, they may be subject to removal from the Student Senate at the discretion of the Vice President

## **Section 2. Protests**

Any member of the Student Body reserves the right to object to any official action by the Student Government Association and the objection must be entered into the minutes.

## ***Article VII. The Executive Branch***

### **Section 1. The President**

#### A. Qualifications

1. The President shall be elected by and from the student body.
2. The President shall have served as a sworn member of the Student Government Association for at least eight (8) weeks in the academic year he or she runs for office.
3. The President shall have and maintain, while in office, a cumulative GPA of no less than a 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
4. The President shall be enrolled for no less than nine (9) undergraduate or three (3) graduate credit hours per semester while in office.
5. The President shall be in good conduct standing as determined by the University.
6. The President cannot hold any other position in the Student Government Association with exception of *ex officio* membership.

#### B. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities

1. The President shall act as the chief representative of all UNCG students to the Administration, faculty, staff, and community.
2. The President shall appoint students to organizations, committees, or bodies of the University, when such groups expressly give that authority to the President.

3. The President shall have the authority to veto legislative acts of the Student Senate, with the exception of bills of censure or impeachment, within six (6) days of its passage. The President shall be required to present a written explanation of the veto to the Legislative Branch at the next Student Senate meeting.
4. The President shall have the responsibility to forward all Student Senate legislation to its proper mandates within seven (7) days of Presidential approval.
5. The President shall present a State of the Campus Address to the Student Body on the third meeting of the Student Senate in the Fall and Spring semester.
6. The President shall prepare the operational budget of the Student Government Association in consultation with the Treasurer, and may appoint a representative to observe the Finance Committee student group allocation hearings.
7. The President shall appoint his or her Executive Cabinet to be sworn in by the President at a Student Government meeting.
8. The President shall be a member of the Council of Presidents of the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments and is expected to attend all UNCASG meetings. The President shall appoint three delegates from the University to represent UNCG at UNCASG meetings. The President shall report back to the Student Senate following the UNCASG meeting. UNCG SGA shall take into consideration the opinions of UNCASG, but shall not be bound to follow the decisions of UNCASG.
9. The President shall serve as a member of the UNCG Board of Trustees with full voting rights. The President shall attend all Board of Trustees meetings, and report back to the Student Senate at the following meeting.
10. The President shall serve until resignation, removal from office, or installation of the incoming President.
11. The President shall hold an Officer Orientation conference for Executive Cabinet members prior to the first Student Senate meeting of the Fall semester. The President shall see that the newly appointed Officers are properly trained.
12. The President shall create an Executive Annual Report in conjunction with the Vice President due by the end of the academic year. This shall be submitted to the incoming President, SGA Advisor, and Chancellor.

## **Section 2. The Executive Cabinet**

- a. The Purpose of the Executive Cabinet shall be to assist the President in his or her duties as outlined in Article VII. Section B. The Cabinet can include but not be limited to a Chief of Staff, Representative for the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments, Secretary of Academic Affairs, Secretary of Student Affairs, Secretary of Business Affairs, and a Secretary of Media Affairs. The Executive Cabinet will consist of no more than six (6) paid positions; however the number of volunteer positions shall not be limited.
- b. Qualifications
  1. These positions shall be appointed by the President-Elect and be shall be confirmed and sworn in at the last Student Senate meeting of the Spring semester.



2. These positions shall have and maintain, while in office, a cumulative GPA of no less than a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
3. The members of the Executive Cabinet shall be enrolled for no less than nine (9) undergraduate or three (3) graduate hours at UNCG per semester.
4. The members of the executive cabinet shall be in good conduct standing as determined by the University.
5. The members of the Executive Cabinet cannot hold any other position in the Student Government Association with the exception of *ex officio* membership.

## ***Article VIII. The Judicial Branch***

### **Section 1. The Attorney General**

#### A. Qualifications

1. The Dean of Students, in consultation with the President-Elect, shall nominate the Attorney General. The Attorney General shall be brought before the Student Senate for confirmation and sworn in at the last Senate meeting of the Spring semester.
2. In the event that the Attorney General is not confirmed by the Student Senate, it shall be the responsibility of the Dean of Students or designee to appoint an interim Attorney General until the Senate is able to confirm a permanent Attorney General.
3. In the event that the office of the Attorney General becomes vacant, the Dean of Students, in consultation with the President, shall appoint a new Attorney General in a timely and efficient manner to be confirmed by the Student Senate at the following Senate meeting.
4. The Attorney General shall have at least one year of experience serving on the Dean of Students Conduct Team prior to being confirmed.
5. The Attorney General shall have and maintain, while in office, a cumulative GPA of no less than 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
6. The Attorney General shall be enrolled for no less than nine (9) undergraduate or three (3) graduate credit hours per semester at UNCG while in office.
7. The Attorney General shall be in good conduct standing as determined by the University.
8. The Attorney General cannot hold any other position in Student Government with the exception of *ex officio* membership.

#### B. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities

1. The Attorney General shall advise The Student Government Association on constitutional matters.
2. The Attorney General shall interpret and clarify the legality of any SGA rule, policy, or legislation for any Student Government Association Officer or member whenever the need arises.
3. The Attorney General may be an *ex officio* member of any committee.

4. The Attorney General shall act as the liaison between the SGA and the Dean of Students Office.

## **Section 2. The Superior Court**

- A. The Superior Court shall consist of three (3) Senators appointed by the Vice President and three (3) students appointed by the Attorney General. The Vice President's appointments must be approved by the second Student Senate meeting of the Fall semester. The Attorney General's appointments must be students familiar with the conduct process.
- B. The Superior Court shall be the Court of Appeals for any decision made by the Student Government Association, its committees, or Officers. The Superior Court shall be the final court of appeals.
- C. Reversal of any decision a two-thirds vote of the members of the Superior Court.
- D. The Superior Court, when needed, shall be convened by the Attorney General and Vice President in a timely manner.

## ***Article IX. The Executive Council***

**Section 1.** The Executive Council of the Student Government Association shall be comprised of its highest Officer positions: the President, Vice President, and Attorney General.

**Section 2.** No member of the Executive Council of the Student Government Association has the authority to commit resources, people, or the name of SGA or the Student Senate without the consent of his or her respective body.

**Section 3.** The Executive Council shall meet weekly with the SGA Advisor to discuss the business of SGA.

## ***Article X. Line of Succession***

**Section 1.** If the President is removed, or resigns from office, the Vice President shall become the President. If the Vice President is unable to perform the duties of the President, the Chairman Pro Tempore shall assume the office of President until a special election can be held in accordance with Section 3 of this article.

**Section 2.** If the Vice President is removed, or resigns from office, the Chairman Pro Tempore of the Senate shall assume the office of Vice President until a special election can be held in accordance with Section 3 of this article.

**Section 3.** The special election for the office of President or Vice President must be initiated within ten (10) business days in the Fall or Spring semester, unless this ten (10) day period falls during Spring elections. In this event, the person assuming the office shall remain until the newly elected Officer is sworn in.

## ***Article XI. Elections***

**Section 1.** The Student Senate shall prescribe the time, location, and manner of all Student Government Association elections as outlined in the Election Guidelines of the SGA Statutes.

**Section 2.** All Officers and Senators must have the academic, conduct, and experience qualifications of the office they seek at the time that they file for candidacy.

**Section 3.** All Officers and Senators, except freshmen, shall be elected before the final two (2) meetings of the Student Senate in the Spring semester. Freshman Senators shall be elected by the fifth meeting of the Student Senate in the Fall semester.

**Section 4.** All Senator candidates shall run for the constituency they expect to represent during the first semester of the academic year after elections. Classification shall be determined by those standards set forth by the University. Officers and Senators shall be sworn in at the last Student Senate meeting of the Spring semester, and shall serve until their successors are sworn into office, with the exception of Freshman Senators.

### ***Article XII. Initiation and Referendum of Laws***

Students shall have the right to propose legislation by petition. Such measures must contain the full text of the proposal, and be signed by 500 members of the student body. The Vice-President shall validate any such proposal, and bring it as a referendum to the student body within three weeks. If two-thirds of those students voting approve the referendum, the President shall forward it to its proper mandates. The students shall have the power, by this referendum process, to repeal legislative acts of the Student Senate.

### ***Article XIII. Parliamentary Authority***

Within the limits of the University guidelines and regulations, all proceedings of the Student Government Association shall be governed by the following order of precedence: The Constitution of the Student Government Association, all Student Government Association Bylaws and Special Rules of Order, Statutes, the Student Code of Conduct, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, and the Attorney General's interpretation.

### ***Article XIV. SGA Advisor***

**Section 1.** The purpose of the SGA Advisor is to serve as a role model, facilitate learning, assist in the efficient and effective administration of the organization, and provide guidance and resources for decision making, strategic planning, budgeting, program planning and all facets of the organization's operation.

**Section 2.** Pursuant to authority of the NC General Statutes, consistent with the provisions of the Code of The University of North Carolina system, and under such policies as may be prescribed by the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees, the Chancellor is responsible for the regulation of roles and functions of any participation in the governance of any aspect of institutional programs and services. The Chancellor has delegated authority and responsibility to The Office of Campus Activities and Programs for day-to-day administrative advising, administration and support.

### **Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities**

- A. The SGA Advisor shall provide comprehensive advice and guidance to all members of the SGA as well as students who have questions on the structure and functioning of the Association.
- B. The Advisor shall provide information on University policies, state and federal laws, and general information about University and community affairs.
- C. As the administrative liaison for SGA, the SGA Advisor shall attend meetings and advise members when needed or requested to do so, facilitate SGA communication with University faculty and administration and enforce University and SGA policies when necessary.

**Section 4.** If, in the opinion of the Student Senate, the SGA advisor is not meeting his or her duties and responsibilities, the Senate may request the Chancellor provide a new advisor. This request shall come in the form of legislation, and shall include the reasoning behind the request. This legislation shall require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative of the Senators present and voting to pass.

## ***Article XV. Review and Revision of the SGA Governing Documents***

**Section 1.** Every three years, a Constitution Review committee will be created from the Student Senate consisting of five (5) members total, including the chair. Members of this committee shall be appointed by the Attorney General, and must be confirmed by the Student Senate. The Attorney General will also act as an advisor to the committee.

**Section 2.** Special review and revision, if necessary, of the Student Government Association Constitution, its Bylaws and any other governing document of the Student Government Association may be called for by any student of the University through a proposal approved by a two-thirds majority of the Student Senate, by a petition signed by 500 members of the student body (as validated by the Vice President) or by the Chancellor or Chancellor's designee.

**Section 3.** Any review or revision, if necessary, of this Constitution, its Bylaws or any other governing document of the Student Government Association shall be expedited in a timely and efficient manner.

### **Section 4. Revision**

- A. Any revision of this Constitution must be approved following the procedure to amend as set forth in Article XVI of this Constitution.
- B. Any revision of the Bylaws of the Student Government Association Constitution must be approved following the procedure to amend as set forth in the Bylaws.
- C. Any revision of any other governing document of the Student Government Association must be approved by the Legislative Committee. If approved by the Legislative Committee, it must be approved by two-thirds of present and voting Senators within the Student Senate.

## ***Article XVI. Amendments***

### **Section 1. Proposal**

- A. Any member of the Student Government may propose amendments to this Constitution. Amendments may be placed on a referendum for the student body by a two-thirds majority of present and voting Senators.
- B. Amendments may also be placed on a referendum at the request of five percent of the student body. Such a request is to take the form of a petition to the Vice-President, who shall verify the validity of the signatures within fourteen days of receiving it. A petition for referendum must have the proposed amendments attached to it for all signers to see when signing the petition.
- C. An amendment shall become part of this Constitution when approved by two-thirds of those members of the Student Body voting by secret ballot in a campus-wide referendum, and approved by the Chancellor.

## ***Article XVII. Effective Date***

This document shall take effect July 1, 2012.