

# The Constitution of the Student Government of Virginia Wesleyan University

Article 1: Mission Statement

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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

**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.



- 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

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## 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