

CONSTITUTION of the STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION of ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Ratified 4/10/2023

PREAMBLE

"As a member of the ABAC community, students possess certain rights and responsibilities in their pursuit of a life-changing experience which affords them the opportunity to prepare for their role in the communities in which they will live and work. All members of the ABAC community bear a responsibility to contribute to an environment that is conducive to the educational experiences of teaching, studying, learning, and participating."

- ABAC Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities

We, the students of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, desiring a more representative and efficient Student Government; wanting better communications between students and the college's administration, faculty, and staff; seeking to cultivate and preserve the ideals of good citizenship on the campus; and hoping to maintain a more complete and fruitful atmosphere of learning at this college, do hereby establish this Constitution for the Student Government Association (SGA), subject to the statutory regulations of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) and the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

If any part of the SGA Constitution conflicts with Board of Regents (BOR), University System of Georgia (USG), or ABAC policies and procedures, then BOR, USG, and ABAC policies and procedures will take precedence over the SGA Constitution.

SGA Constitution Page 1 of 16

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the SGA shall be to represent and voice the concerns of all students of ABAC in all institutional matters, while creating legislation and developing programs and activities of practical value to the student body.

Section 1: Vision Statement

Our vision is to help make Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College the best place in the
world to receive an education: a place where students boldly pursue their academic and life
goals, a place where there is widespread student access to on-campus resources and
support, and a place where there is collaboration between students, faculty, and
administrators.

Section 2: Mission Statement

- Our mission is to empower student organizations, embody student opinions, preserve student integrity, and enrich the student experience.

ARTICLE II: ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association (hereinafter referred to as the "SGA") of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Section 2: Power and Responsibilities of the Student Government Association

The primary purpose of the SGA shall be to represent and voice the concerns of all students of ABAC in all institutional matters, while creating legislation and developing programs and activities of practical value to the student body. It is recognized that Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is a state educational institution operating under the authority of Board of Regents Policy. Since the Board of Regents dictates that each state educational institution has an established student government, the Student Government Association derives its power from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Section 3: Branches of Government

- 1. The ABAC SGA shall be divided into two branches: The Executive Branch, consisting of the Executive Cabinet, and the Legislative Branch, consisting of the Senate. These branches shall work closely to fulfill the mission of the SGA.
- 2. No power or authority belonging to one branch shall be applied to the other unless otherwise stated in this Constitution.

SGA Constitution Page 2 of 16

Section 4: Membership

- All students, by virtue of their enrollment at ABAC (hereinafter referred to as "the student body") shall be subject to this SGA Constitution, the SGA Bylaws, and the Student Code of Conduct.
- 2. The right to vote in any student body election or referendum shall be outlined under the SGA Election Codes.
- 3. All students shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the institution, but these rules shall at no time and in no way abridge the students' rights as defined under the Constitution of the United States of America or the Constitution of the State of Georgia.
- 4. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, shall be extended to all students without regard to age, ethnicity, gender, disability, color, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or sex and gender identity.

Section 5: Advisor of Student Government Association

The advisor to the SGA shall be appointed by the Provost, in consultation with the Dean of Students, and shall serve a term of office at the discretion of the Provost and Dean of Students. Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, the Provost should confer with sitting SGA officers before assigning an advisor. The advisor will be selected by the Provost and Dean of Students from within the faculty ranks. The advisor may attend SGA meetings and participate in discussion and debate. However, the SGA advisor may not vote, make motions, or second motions. The SGA advisor will work closely with the Dean of Students to ensure that members of the SGA maintain the integrity of their respective offices and represent ABAC's diverse student body. The SGA advisor, alongside the Dean of Students/Office of Student Affairs, reserves the right to recommend official administrative removal of Officers and Senators who fail to uphold the Student Code of Conduct, SGA Code of Conduct, and/or respect for ABAC students, staff, faculty, or administration. The SGA Advisor will ensure that officers adhere to non-discrimination and non-harassment policies as specified in the Student Handbook.

Section 6: Constitutional Committees

Within the Student Government Association there will exist Constitutional Committees as deemed necessary by SGA. Their creation and installation alongside the committees' duties and powers shall be enumerated in the SGA By-laws.

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SGA Constitution Page 3 of 16

ARTICLE III: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1: Composition

The Student Government Association Executive Cabinet (hereinafter referred to as the "Executive Cabinet") shall consist of the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Judiciary. The Office of Student Affairs, SGA Advisor, and Executive of Bainbridge shall exist within the Executive Branch and the Executive Cabinet, along with necessary deputies and assistants.

Section 2: Powers and Responsibilities of the Executive Branch

The Executive branch of this government shall have authority to execute all necessary legislation and action as defined within the limits of this Constitution and the SGA Bylaws. The specific powers and responsibilities of the Executive Branch are as follows:

- 1. The purpose of the Executive Branch shall be to supervise, maintain, and advise on policies, regulations, and recommendations that are formulated by the Legislative Branch in the interest, convenience, and necessity of the student body.
- 2. The Executive Branch will initiate and maintain projects of interest, which have been approved through the proper channels, for the student body and shall recommend to the Legislative Branch any legislation deemed necessary.

Section 3: Duties of the SGA President

- 1. Shall serve as the liaison between students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community.
- 2. Shall execute, supervise, and maintain all such policies, regulations, and recommendations as formulated by the Legislative Branch.
- 3. Shall represent the students of ABAC at official institutional functions.
- 4. Shall have full discretion to appoint members to committees and councils of the college as requested by the Faculty, Staff, and Administration.
- Shall appoint the positions of Treasurer and Secretary from among the sitting SGA Senators.
- 6. Shall be the head of the Executive Branch and Executive Cabinet.
- 7. Shall have the power to call a special session of the entire SGA, shall have the authority to call an emergency meeting of the Executive Cabinet, shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees of the SGA, and shall see that all SGA business is being executed properly. Notice to the required attendees must be given at least three (3) days before the called meeting.
- 8. Shall serve as the institution's delegate to the Student Advisory Council of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.
- 9. May be appointed to any standing institutional committee or board other than those of the SGA or may appoint a representative to serve in such capacity.

SGA Constitution Page 4 of 16

- 10. May create positions, fill positions, and remove appointees from positions within SGA (e.g., Social Media Liaison and Officer of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) to promote the general welfare of the SGA with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Senate.
- 11. The power to veto any measure, legislation, or other presented documentation from the SGA Senate before its passage and before its acceptance by the student body, in part or as a whole, is solely vested in the Office of the SGA President. The SGA President has one week to issue a veto.

Section 4: Duties of the Vice President

- 1. Shall serve as the President of the Senate and preside over the meetings of the Senate.
- 2. Shall assume any duties that may be delegated by the SGA President.
- 3. Shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the SGA President if the office of SGA President is vacated for any reason.
- 4. Shall serve in any capacity that will assist the SGA President in the execution of actions taken by SGA.
- 5. Shall report all business concerning Category 2 organizations of the Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs).
- 6. Shall serve as the institution's delegate to the Student Advisory Council of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in the event the SGA President cannot attend.
- 7. Shall report any legislation passed by the Senate and provide any necessary Senatorial information to the SGA President and the SGA Executive Cabinet.

Section 5: Duties of the Executive of Bainbridge

- 1. Shall serve as the liaison between students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community for the Bainbridge campus.
- 2. Shall assume any duties that may be delegated by the SGA President.
- 3. Shall maintain proper communication between campuses for coordination of SGA activities and SGA matters in Bainbridge.
- 4. Shall head any respective SGA initiative residing in Bainbridge.
- 5. Shall report all business concerning Recognized Student Organizations (RSO) of Bainbridge and assume the responsibility of all RSO communication of Bainbridge.
- 6. Shall use allocated funds by the SGA Budget for Bainbridge to their discretion with approval from the Office of Student Affairs by way of the SGA Treasurer.

Section 6: Duties of the SGA Secretary

- 1. Shall retain all Senatorial privileges and voting rights.
- 2. Shall be the recorder of the Senate and Executive Cabinet.
- 3. Shall oversee communication efforts of the organization.
- Shall maintain attendance records of Senate members and guests to meetings and notify the Judiciary of any SGA members whose official attendance relates to expulsion from SGA.

SGA Constitution Page 5 of 16

- 5. Shall compile and organize approved SGA business by the SGA President to be released to the student body and shall disseminate it in a timely fashion.
- 6. Shall disseminate Senate meeting minutes to all members of the Senate as well as the student body through the designated communication channels in a timely fashion.
- 7. Shall be the liaison of all legislation requiring executive action to the SGA President.
- 8. Shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining all records and files that pertain to SGA.
- 9. Shall coordinate supply orders and event reservations on behalf of the SGA.
- 10. Shall assume any duties that may be delegated by the President and Vice President.

Section 7: Duties of the SGA Treasurer

- 1. Shall retain all Senatorial privileges and voting rights.
- 2. Shall head any and all SGA budget allocations as approved by SGA.
- 3. Shall be responsible to get approval for all uses of monies for both campuses by the Office of Student Affairs for SGA.
- 4. Shall supervise the proper expenditure of all monies of the SGA and shall give reports on these expenditures upon the request of the Executive Cabinet.
- 5. Shall see the proper dispersion of monies as based on the allocated percentages as based in the SGA By-Laws for the Executive of Bainbridge and the Senators.
- 6. Shall maintain records of all business transactions which involve the SGA funds.
- 7. Shall assume any other duties delegated by the SGA President and Vice President.

Section 8: Duties of the Judiciary

- 1. Shall oversee the proper procedures and execution of SGA elections by way of communicating with the Office of Student Affairs.
- 2. Shall govern and interpret all provisions and guidelines dictated in the SGA Constitution.
- 3. Shall bring forth the attention of failures to maintain qualifications and requirements of any SGA officials as detailed in the SGA Constitution to the SGA Advisor.
- 4. Shall act as an advisor to SGA presiding officers on matters of parliamentary procedure through Robert's Rules of Order.
- 5. Shall head the Election Committee and oversee the election process, with its respective allocation of electoral votes, as carried out by the Office of Student Affairs

Section 9: Election of the Executive Branch

All election procedures of the Executive Branch shall be dictated by the SGA Election Codes and carried out by both the Judiciary and the Office of Student Affairs.

SGA Constitution Page 6 of 16

ARTICLE IV: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1: Composition

The Student Government Association Senate (hereinafter referred to as the "Senate") shall consist of the President of the Senate, the Judiciary, two (2) Senators for the School of Agriculture & Natural Resources, two (2) Senators for the Stafford School of Business, two (2) Senators for the School of Arts & Sciences, and two (2) Senators for the School of Nursing & Health Sciences.

Section 2: Powers and Responsibilities of the Legislative Branch

The Senate shall formulate such policies, regulations, and recommendations that shall relate to the student body. The specific powers and responsibilities of the Senate are as follows:

- 1. The Senate shall have the power to make recommendations on issues relevant to the general welfare of the student body.
- 2. The Senate shall have the power to pass legislation, consisting of bills, resolutions, and amendments.
- 3. The Senate shall have the power to make statutes governing the operations of the SGA.
- 4. Senators must be present, whether physically or virtually, in order to vote on any item or issue. There shall be no voting by proxy.
- 5. A quorum of the Senate shall be considered two-thirds of all members of the Senate on roll and must be present in order to conduct official business (A first reading of proposed legislation is allowed in the absence of a quorum; however, no voting may take place until a quorum is present.)
- 6. The process of passing legislation shall use an absolute majority (50%+1) vote in determining the outcome of the respective legislation.
- 7. The Senate shall have the power to override an SGA Presidential veto on any statute or recommendation by two-thirds vote of the entire voting membership of the Senate.

Section 3: Duties of the President of the Senate

- 1. Shall be the SGA Vice President who shall preside over and conduct all meetings of the Senate
- 2. May, in the case of a tie, vote on any measure before the Senate.
- 3. Shall create Senate committees and appoint committee members from the sitting Senators.
- 4. Shall have the power to withhold vote on any measure before the Senate to encourage further consideration for up to one week unless such directive is overridden by two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.
- 5. Shall organize all business to be conducted on the Senate meeting agendas and disseminate in a timely fashion to Senate officials.
- 6. Shall assist in the coordination of meetings between Senators and college personnel.
- 7. Shall work in conjunction with the SGA Secretary and the Senate to ensure Senators fulfill their duties.

SGA Constitution Page 7 of 16

- 8. Shall report any SGA President-approved discussions from the Executive Cabinet to the Senate.
- 9. Shall appoint the Senate President Pro-Tempore from among the sitting SGA Senators with a two-thirds majority of the Senate.

Section 4: Duties of Senate President Pro-Tempore

- 1. Will perform all duties and responsibilities of the SGA Vice-President in the event the Vice-President is absent from a meeting.
- 2. Shall retain all Senatorial privileges and voting rights unless in filling the vacancy of the President of the Senate.
- 3. Shall actively assist with the appointment of members to Senate committees.
- 4. Shall take up special tasks, projects, or initiatives as deemed necessary by the SGA Vice President regarding both internal and external matters.
- 5. Shall assist the SGA President and Vice President to ensure that legislation approved by the Senate is considered by the Administration (and/or other authorities) and is enacted with expediency, when possible.

Section 5: Duties of Senators

- 1. Shall propose legislation on behalf of the student body. Legislation is defined as bills, resolutions, and amendments.
- 2. Have meetings with their respective School's Dean every two weeks.
- 3. Shall report all business concerning Category 3 organizations within their respective School in the Recognized Student Organizations meetings.
- 4. Attend all Senate meetings and assigned Senate committee meetings.
- 5. Shall have the authority, along with three other Senators, to call a special meeting of the entire SGA. Notice to the required attendees must be given at least three (3) days before the called meeting.
- 6. Shall use allocated funds by the SGA Budget for their respective School to their discretion. Use of allocated funds are communicated by the SGA Treasurer to the Office of Student Affairs and approved by the Dean of Students.

Section 6: Research and Solution Committees

Any Senator may propose a research and solution committee to the Senate. Once approved by an absolute majority (50%+1), the Senator who proposed the special committee will serve as chair and may recruit non-SGA members to assist in creating a research and development report to be submitted to the SGA President, who will then present the report to senior ABAC administration.

Section 7: Election of the Legislative Branch

All election procedures of the Legislative Branch shall be dictated by the SGA Election Codes and carried out by both the Judiciary and the Office of Student Affairs.

SGA Constitution Page 8 of 16

ARTICLE V: LEGISLATION

Section 1: Legislation Types

1. Bills

a. Shall be drafted to propose allocation of SGA funds, creation of initiatives, formation of events, etc.

2. Resolutions

a. Shall be drafted to express an official position of the SGA on behalf of the ABAC student body.

3. Amendments

a. Shall be drafted to change a section of the Constitution of the SGA and listed under the SGA By-Laws.

Section 2: General Procedures

- 1. While members of the Executive Branch may recommend or request legislation, only Senators may introduce legislation for passage in Senate meetings.
- 2. Bills and Resolutions are to be proposed in Senate meetings and voted on by the sitting Senators. The author of the bill/resolution shall draft a proposal to present for Senate discussion. If the bill or resolution is passed by an absolute majority vote (50%+1), the author of the bill or resolution shall present it to the President of the Senate, who will present the bill or resolution to the SGA President for approval or veto.
- 3. All legislation passed shall abide by the proper process of ratification, including sending a signature request to the SGA President on Senate-approved legislation.

Section 3: Amendment Procedures

- 1. When a proposed amendment is presented, no debate shall occur about the amendment. The President of the Senate shall provide both notice and the proposed amendment to the Judiciary, Office of Student Affairs, and SGA Advisor.
- 2. With the presence of the Judiciary, a member of the Office of Student Affairs, SGA Advisor, and at least two-thirds of the Senate at the following Senate meeting, entertainment and discussion of the amendment may begin.
- 3. In the event of the amendment passing the Senate with an absolute majority vote (50%+1), the amendment must be sent to the student body for review and will be voted on at the next student body meeting by the RSOs.
- 4. If the amendment has passed both the Senate and RSOs with an absolute majority vote (50%+1) in both, then it requires the signature of the SGA President.
- 5. Upon receiving the SGA President's signature, the amendment takes immediate effect in the SGA By-Laws.

SGA Constitution Page 9 of 16

6. If the SGA President vetoes the amendment, two-thirds of the Senate may override the President's decision and the amendment takes immediate effect in the SGA By-Laws.

Section 4: SGA President in Legislation

- 1. The power of vetoing any measure by the SGA Senate before its passage and before its acceptance by the student body, in part or as a whole, is solely vested in the Office of the SGA President.
- 2. Any bill or resolutions passed by the Senate must be approved by the President within 5 business days of the bill or resolution's passage.

ARTICLE VI: TERM OF OFFICE

A term of office begins for SGA members the day after Spring graduation of the academic year when the members were elected. The term of office will carry through to the following Spring graduation when the term of office begins for newly elected SGA members, pending the administration of the Oath of Office (e.g., term includes the Summer following the Spring election and continues to the following Spring graduation). If someone assumes the duties of another office in SGA through way of impeachment, removal, or resignation of the vacating member, then that member will serve in the assumed role until the next election cycle or a special election. For an SGA member to be legitimate, the member must take the SGA Oath of Office. The SGA Oath of Office may be administered by the President of ABAC, Provost, Dean of Students, or SGA Advisor, depending on availability, in the presence of at least two (2) witnesses.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1: Student Body Meetings

During regular Fall and Spring semesters, Student Government Association meetings for the student body shall be throughout the ABAC semester, generally twice per month, open to all members of ABAC's community with proceedings administered to the student body through official SGA communications. In these meetings, SGA will oversee official SGA matters and all Recognized Student Organizations business and will serve as a resource, leadership forum, and advocacy group for RSOs.

Section 2: Executive Cabinet Meetings

The Student Government Association Executive Cabinet, consisting of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Judiciary, shall meet twice a month during the Fall and Spring semesters at the discretion of the SGA President, generally alternate of the student body meetings, with invitations extended to the Dean of Students, SGA Advisor, and the Executive of Bainbridge along with necessary deputies and assistants.

SGA Constitution Page 10 of 16

Section 3: Senate Meetings

The Student Government Association Senate, comprised of the President of the Senate, Senators of each school, and the Judiciary, shall meet every week of the Fall and Spring semesters to discuss student concerns and other campus issues, with invitation extended to the SGA President. The Dean of Students and SGA Advisor, along with necessary deputies and assistants, shall attend when requested by the Senate.

Section 4: Attendance of Student Government Association Members

All Student Government Association Officers and Senators are expected to attend all meetings but may miss four (4) meetings per semester without penalty with provided excuses to the following: the presiding officer of meeting, the Judiciary, and the SGA Advisor. Without proper excuse and/or exceeding the four absences, the Judiciary may recommend a removal from office at the discretion of the SGA Advisor if the officer is found in dereliction of duties. If approved by the SGA Advisor, the Judiciary will present Articles of Impeachment to the Senate. Failure to attend meetings based upon the rules and provisions set forth in the SGA By-Laws may also result in removal from office.

Section 5: Special Meetings

The purpose of any special meetings as called by any SGA member shall be stated in the request to meet. Except in cases of emergency authorized by the Dean of Students or SGA Advisor, at least three (3) days' notice shall be given to members through telephone or email.

ARTICLE VIII: THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

To maintain the accessibility and integrity of SGA elections, the SGA Election Committee is hereby established to oversee the proper procedures and rules of all governing SGA documents, specifically the SGA Elections Code, are adhered to.

Section 1: Members

Headed by the Judiciary, a minimum of three (3) students without ties to any candidates in the upcoming election or if they are a candidate themselves, approved by the Senate, will oversee the process of SGA elections and ensure that the respective election procedures outlined in the SGA Elections Code are fulfilled.

Section 2: Purpose and Responsibilities

The purpose of this constitutional committee is to allocate electoral votes to each respective school, ensure that all ABAC students are eligible to vote in an election, confirm SGA election results are both sound and legitimate before the respective results are dispersed, and supervise any other SGA election business.

SGA Constitution Page 11 of 16

Section 3: Approval of Decisions

The committee shall use an absolute majority system (50%+1) to approve/decide on election results and other matters that deem a vote.

ARTICLE IX: RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Recognized Student Organizations (hereinafter referred to as RSO) shall be defined as a group of club and organization representatives united by a common purpose as stated by the RSO Guidelines with an elected Category 4 Chair. RSO is formed to contribute to those students' educational growth, recreation, and/or personal development.

Section 1: Purpose

- 1. To provide a forum for communication among recognized organizations on campus.
- 2. To provide guidance to the various clubs and organizations in planning, executing, and evaluating activities.
- 3. To represent recognized organizations on campus issues in the form of recommendations to the Office of Student Affairs.
- 4. To organize and promote joint organizational events for the benefit of ABAC students.
- 5. To increase the quality of campus social, cultural, and educational life through organizational activities.

Section 2: Structure

The structure of RSO consists of representatives from each club and organization attending the SGA's student body meeting, generally twice per month. The SGA President shall preside over the meetings with the SGA Vice President, SGA Executive of Bainbridge, SGA Senators, and Category 4 Chair reporting on behalf of their respective categories' clubs and organizations.

Section 3: Duties of Category 4 RSO Chair

- 1. Shall perform the duties related to RSO function as assigned by the RSO Advisor.
- 2. Shall be responsible for promoting attendance and participation at all SGA meetings concerning RSO business by Category 4 RSO club representation.
- 3. Shall serve as the liaison between Category 4 RSOs, all other RSOs, the SGA, and RSO Advisor.

Section 4: Election of Category 4 RSO Chair

All election procedures of the Category 4 RSO Chair shall be dictated by the SGA Election Codes and carried out by both the Judiciary and the Office of Student Affairs.

SGA Constitution Page 12 of 16

ARTICLE X: VACANCIES

Section 1: Executive Cabinet

- 1. If the President of SGA position becomes vacant, the Vice President of SGA shall assume the position and all responsibilities and duties therein.
 - a. In response to the Vice President becoming President, the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate shall assume the duties of the Vice President, leaving a vacant Senator seat.
 - b. The new Vice President will follow the appropriate procedures to replace the vacant Senator seat left by the transition.
- 2. If the Vice President of SGA position becomes vacant, the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate shall assume the position and all responsibilities and duties therein.
 - a. In response to, the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate becoming Vice President, the new Vice President will follow the appropriate procedures to replace the vacant Senator seat left by the transition.
- 3. If the any appointed position in the Executive Cabinet (Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) becomes vacant, the SGA President shall appoint a sitting Senator to fill the position with appropriate procedure.
- 4. If the Judiciary position becomes vacant, the SGA Advisor shall appoint from the student body with a two-thirds majority confirmation of the Senate.

Section 2: Senate

- 1. If a Senator position becomes vacant or left unfilled after an election, the Vice President/President of the Senate will coordinate with the respective Dean of the Senator's School to appoint a new Senator to the position.
 - a. The appointed Senator by the School Dean must meet all qualifications required of an SGA Senator and must be confirmed by the Senate with a two-thirds majority ballot vote.
- 2. If any appointed position of the Senate becomes vacant, the President of the Senate may appoint a sitting Senator to fill the position with appropriate procedures.

ARTICLE XI: IMPEACHMENT

Section 1: Impeachment

The steps and procedures required for impeachment are as follows:

1. Any SGA official who wishes to have a member of the SGA impeached should gather all necessary evidence in order to present articles of impeachment to the Senate.

SGA Constitution Page 13 of 16

- a. Impeachable offenses include deliberate disregard of SGA governing documents, habitual poor or offensive decorum at meetings, violating the SGA Code of Conduct, as well as ignorance or incompetence of the responsibilities of one's SGA office.
- 2. After the SGA official has gathered all evidence, the official must provide evidence to the Dean of Students/Office of Student Affairs and SGA Advisor in order for all evidence to be reviewed and be advised on all rights of impeachment.
- 3. Upon notifying the Dean of Students/Office of Student Affairs and SGA Advisor, the next available SGA Senate meeting shall hear the articles of impeachment.
- 4. After charges have been brought before the Senate, a brief discussion of the prepared evidence will be held. The member being charged shall not be present during discussion of the evidence.
- 5. At the conclusion of the discussion a vote shall be held to formally impeach the accused member. An absolute majority vote (50% + 1) of present SGA Senators is required to impeach any member.
 - a. This vote does not remove the accused from SGA.
- 6. If impeached, a date will be set for a trial. This trial will be a closed meeting of the Senate with the trial being headed by the SGA Advisor in which evidence may be discussed in detail, witnesses may be asked to testify, and the accused may present a defense. After all evidence has been discussed and all members have finished debate, a vote by the Senators shall be held to formally expel the accused from SGA. A two-thirds vote of the SGA Senate is required to remove any member from their SGA position through the impeachment process.
- 7. If any member of the SGA is found guilty at the conclusion of an impeachment trial, they shall be subject to the following restrictions.
 - a. If the impeached individual was a member of the Executive Branch, they shall be forbidden from ever holding a position in the Executive Cabinet and may only seek a Senate position one year after the next election occurring after the impeachment trial.
 - b. If the impeached individual was a member of the Legislative Branch, they shall be forbidden from ever holding a position in the Executive Cabinet and may only seek a Senate position one year after the next election occurring after the impeachment trial.
- 8. Actions that may be considered minor offenses (including but not limited to chronic failure to use parliamentary procedure and one-time failures to perform minor duties) are to be judged by the Dean of Students/Office of Student Affairs and SGA Advisor and brought before the Senate if they deem necessary.

SGA Constitution Page 14 of 16

ARTICLE XII: REMOVAL & RESIGNATION

Section 1: Removal

In the event any Officer and/or Senator of SGA is removed from their position, procedures of vacancies will be initiated by the Judiciary.

Section 2: Resignation

Any Officer and Senator of SGA may have the authority to submit a letter of resignation to the SGA Advisor and Judiciary. The Judiciary will notify the SGA President immediately to follow the vacancy procedures.

ARTICLE XIII: FINANCES

Section 1: Financial Autonomy

The SGA shall ensure responsible, prudent oversight and use of all allocated funds by the College consistent with Institutional and University System of Georgia Board of Regents Policy. The Student Government Association is entitled to a budget to use at the discretion of the association.

Section 2: Dispersion of Funds

The SGA Treasurer shall be the head contact for all SGA budget concerns and allocation of funds by way of the SGA By-Laws. After proper approval from SGA officials and the approval from the Office of Student Affairs, the SGA Treasurer shall make funds appropriate to the respective point of contact.

ARTICLE XIV: GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Section 1: Governing Documents

The Senate shall have the power to establish and amend the SGA By-Laws, SGA Elections Code, and SGA Code of Conduct through the passage and approval of an SGA Amendment. Once approved, the amendment is ratified and listed in the SGA By-Laws.

- 1. The SGA Bylaws shall further clarify the structure and rules of the SGA.
- 2. The SGA Code of Conduct shall be established to outline the expectations of SGA members including attendance.
- 3. The SGA Elections Code shall be established to outline SGA Elections.

SGA Constitution Page 15 of 16

ARTICLE XV: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Section 1: Procedures

While members of the Executive Branch may recommend or request a Constitutional Convention, only Senators may introduce the proposal for a Constitutional Convention in a Senate meeting.

- 1. Any Senator who wishes to have a Constitutional Convention must propose it to the Senate.
- 2. After the Senator has gathered all evidence for a Constitutional Convention to be held, the Senator shall meet with the Dean of Students/Office of Student Affairs and SGA Advisor in order for all evidence to be reviewed and possibly resolved.
- 3. If the solution is believed to be a Constitutional Convention after meeting with the Dean of Students/Office of Student Affairs and SGA Advisor to address certain issues and concerns, the Senate may entertain discussion and debate of a Constitutional Convention.
- 4. In the event the Constitutional Convention passes with the required two-thirds majority of the Senate, a committee of students shall be formed by the Dean of Students and/or SGA Advisor.
- 5. After a revised constitution is drafted and approved by both the committee of students and SGA Advisor, the SGA Senate and RSOs must vote on the proposed constitution.
- 6. If the proposed constitution receives an absolute majority vote (50%+1) in both meetings of the Senate and the student body meeting with RSOs, then the constitution will be forwarded to the SGA President for the presidential signature.
- 7. In the event of receiving a presidential signature, it is passed with immediate effect.
- 8. If the SGA President vetoes the constitution, two-thirds of the Senate may override the President's decision and the constitution is replaced and ratified.
- 9. After ratification, the Presidential Cabinet of ABAC shall be notified of the passing of and provided with a copy of the new SGA Constitution.

SGA Constitution Page 16 of 16