

CONSTITUTION OF THE APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Ratified May 2, 2023
Amended November 28, 2023

Preamble

We, the Students of Appalachian State University, affirm the fundamental rights of all students. From this, the Student Government Association derives several core tenets. These tenets are: advocacy, community, engagement, creation of opportunities, and equitable representation for the Student Body. The Appalachian State Student Government Association commits to prioritizing equitable representation of all students by acknowledging that each student has different and crucial needs. We commit to giving each individual's values the space and attention they deserve. Furthermore, we strive to uplift and support ideas for the betterment of student life, giving a platform for student voices that would not be acknowledged otherwise. We aim to establish a community of peers where there is room for all student voices to be heard and elevated. We provide the opportunity to make positive impacts within the Appalachian State University community through leadership and collaboration. Above all, we seek to establish an involved organization that maintains adequate engagement internally and externally. To these terms, we reaffirm and establish this Constitution of the Student Government Association of Appalachian State University.

Article I: Name

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the "Appalachian State University Student Government Association" and will be referred to as the "App State SGA."

Article II: Purpose

Section 1: The purpose of the App State SGA shall be to prioritize equitable representation of all students by acknowledging that each student has different and crucial needs.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: The App State SGA will be open to all undergraduate students within App State.

Section 2: A baseline GPA requirement will be required for all officers within the App State SGA. The specifics of this requirement will be determined at a future date.

Section 3: The App State SGA complies with the University's non-discrimination policy.

Section 4: At-Large seats will be defined for organizations within App State to represent.

Article IV: Membership Fees

Section 1: The App State SGA shall have no membership fees.

Article V: Officers

Section 1: The Officers of the Leadership Team shall consist of: Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Chief of Staff, Treasurer, Assembly Speaker, Deputy Assembly Speaker, Assembly Clerk, Director of Communications, Association of Student Governments Liaison, and Committee Directors.

- The App State SGA will have Directors for the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, Sustainable Development Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, and Campus Resources Committee.

Article VI: Officer Duties

Section 1: The Leadership Team will be required to hold and attend weekly meetings.

Section 2: The Student Body President will serve as the head of the App State SGA and lead meetings of the Leadership Team. The Student Body President shall have the ability to sign and veto bills from the Assembly.

Section 3: The Student Body Vice President will be responsible for maintaining the App State SGA's relationships with the Town of Boone and Campus Clubs and Organizations.

Section 4: The Chief of Staff will assist the Student Body President and Vice President in their duties.

Section 5: The Treasurer will be responsible for presenting a budget to the Assembly, keeping an updated account of the App State SGA's finances, and approving budget requests.

Section 6: The Assembly Speaker will oversee weekly Assembly meetings as Chair.

Section 7: The Deputy Assembly Speaker will assist the Assembly Speaker and serve as the Chair of the Assembly if the Assembly Speaker is not in attendance.

Section 8: The Assembly Clerk will keep the meeting minutes and record attendance.

Section 9: The Directors of the standing committees will oversee weekly meetings for their committees. As well as serve as policy advisors to the Student Body President and Vice President.

Section 10: The Communications Director will be responsible for maintaining the App State SGA's social media and media relations.

Section 11: Members of the App State SGA Leadership team cannot simultaneously serve two positions at once, with the exception of the ASG Liaison.

Section 12: Assembly leadership will be required to have at least 12 weeks of experience within the SGA before gaining their title.

Article VII: Officer Election and Removal

Section 1: The Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and Student Representatives are elected by the student body.

Section 2: The Chief of Staff, Treasurer, Committee Directors, Communications Director, and ASG Liaison are appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Assembly.

Section 3: The Speaker of the Assembly, Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, and Clerk of the Assembly will all be elected separately by the members of the Assembly.

Subsection 3a: Only Student Representatives are eligible to hold these positions.

Section 4: Officers can be removed by a three-fourths vote by the assembly.

Subsection 4a: All officers facing removal shall be given due process.

Subsection 4b: The individual who initiated the removal process must meet with the advisors prior to moving forward with removal.

Subsection 4c: Officers facing removal will be required to meet with advisors and the complainant to address their concerns prior to final vote by the assembly.

Subsection 4d: Officers will be invited to seek mediation following the meeting with the advisors

Subsection 4e: A three-fourths removal vote will only occur should all other options prove to be unsuccessful.

Subsection 4f: The removal of an officer will take place in a closed session.

Article VIII: Elections and Apportionment

Section 1: Elections for the Appalachian State University Student Government Association will be held annually in the Spring Semester for all offices and seats for the next academic year, with the exception of First Year seats.

Subsection 1a: The Spring Elections must be held no earlier than the week after Spring Break.

Section 2: Separate elections will be held for incoming First Years and all empty Assembly seats in the Fall Semester.

Subsection 2a: Fall Elections must begin no later than three weeks after the start of the Fall Semester.

Section 3: The Assembly shall consist of eight seats for each academic class, two seats for each college, eight at-large seats, and eight seats for University clubs and organizations .

Subsection 3a: The eight seats for University clubs and organizations are open to appointments from all recognized clubs and organizations on a first come-first served basis.

Section 4: Petitions for empty seats are able to be accepted as early as three weeks after the conclusion of Fall Semester elections.

Subsection 4a: Petitions for academic class seats require one-hundred student signatures from the class a student seeks to represent.

Subsection 4b: Petitions for college seats require seventy-five student signatures from the college a student seeks to represent.

Subsection 4c: Petitions for at-large seats require one-hundred fifty student signatures.

Section 5: Election rules will be determined by the Student Assembly.

Section 6: Elections will be overseen by the Election Oversight Board.

Subsection 6a: The Deputy Speaker of the Assembly will nominate the Chair and members of the Election Oversight Board

Subsection 6b: All Election Oversight Board nominees are subject to confirmation by the Assembly in a majority vote.

Article IX: Committees

Section 1: There will be standing committees consisting of: The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, The Academic Affairs Committee, The Sustainable Development Committee, and The Campus Resources Committee.

Section 2: The Directors of each Committee will act as the Chair and each Committee can elect Ranking Members, Committee Clerks, and Spokespeople from within themselves.

Section 3: There will be future discussion on the existence of Special Committees and their subsequent Directors.

Article X: Role of Advisors

Section 1: As a departmentally-affiliated organization, advisors will be appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or a designee.

Section 2: In support of App State SGA members in the use of their voice as student advocates, advisors will:

- A. Provide advice, guidance, and constructive feedback;
- B. Seek to facilitate connections with other key staff and faculty who may be helpful resources depending on the topic at hand;
- C. Challenge students to be as informed as possible regarding relevant topics;

- D. Respect the independence of the student's voice regardless of the informed stance students choose to take. Even if that voice may not be in alignment with the views of the university administration.

Section 3: In support of App State SGA members in the management of organizational relationships both internally and externally, university processes including budgets and campus connections with university leadership, advisors will:

- A. Provide training, support, and guidance in these areas;
- B. Provide direction as it pertains to the management of the university budget and other university processes;
- C. Provide advice, support, and possible intervention with internal student concerns/conflict in order to best manage privacy and the well-being of all involved;

Section 4: As a departmentally-affiliated organization, SGA advisors ultimately have authority over how the organization operates in these four categories:

- A. Resolution of conflict and behavioral concerns between student members;
- B. Adherence to all university processes and procedures, including but not limited to budgetary, code of conduct, and overall management of university resources.
- C. Any changes to how the organization operates; i.e. changes to the constitution, bylaws, or election rules, must be made in consultation with and support of advisors.
- D. Official organizational outreach and collaborations with administration.
 - However, it will always be the aspiration of advisors to operate from an advisory perspective and not as an authority.

Article XI: Meeting Procedure

Section 1: Meetings shall take place weekly at a time and place determined by the App State SGA, and shall occur for the discussion of Student and Organizational Business. It is here that the Assembly will vote on legislation, debate, and hear reports and presentations that correspond with Student concerns.

Section 2: The Chair has the responsibility to ensure meetings run in an efficient and productive

fashion. This includes keeping an agenda mediating conversation within the Assembly.

Section 3: Meetings will be held in accordance with the rules that will be established by the App State SGA.

Section 4: All Officers and elected Representatives with the exception of the Student Body President and Vice President shall have one vote in the Assembly and have the ability to introduce legislation.

Section 5: All Student Representatives and members of the Leadership Team have the right to debate in the Assembly.

Section 6: Presidential Vetoes can be overridden by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Assembly.

Article XII: Finances

Section 1: The Treasurer will be tasked with overseeing various App State SGA funds, purchases, and the budget.

Section 2: The App State SGA will maintain a budget that will be approved annually by the Assembly and signed by the Student Body President.

Article XIII: Supremacy Clause

Section 1: The Appalachian State University Student Government Association agrees to follow all Appalachian State University, State, and Federal laws and policies.

Article XIV: Non-Discrimination Clause

Section 1: The Appalachian State University Student Government Association agrees that no student will be excluded from membership or participation on the basis of their race, color, religious status or historic religious affiliation, sex, national origin, age, political affiliation, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or unless exempt under Title IX.

Article XV: Amendments and Ratification

Section 1: The App State SGA requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to ratify amendments to this Constitution.

Subsection 1a: Amendments to the Constitution go into effect immediately upon ratification by the Assembly.

Section 2: The Student Body President does not have the power to veto amendments.