



SGA

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Constitution

of the

Student Government Association

of the

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Last update of the Student Government Association Constitution: February 9th, 2023

Votes Required for Action	
Type of Action	Vote Required
Pass a resolution	Majority
Authorize an official letter	Majority
Pass a statute	2/3
Amend the bylaws	2/3
Amend the Constitution	2/3 of full seated Senate *
Override a Presidential veto	2/3 of full seated Senate *
Confirm an appointment	Majority

*Fully Seated Senate refers to all seated senators at time of vote.

Article I – Name

1. The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, abbreviated as SGA.
2. The name of this organization shall not be lent to any political candidate, political campaign, or political organization, or used to endorse any commercial enterprise.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the Student Government Association is to represent the interests of the students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in the governance of the University. The Student Government Association works in conjunction with the administration, faculty, staff, students, and student organizations of the University, the University of Wisconsin System, and with the Stevens Point community to provide the best possible university environment and educational experience at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Article III – Authority

The Student Government Association of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point derives its powers from the consent of the student body and Wisconsin state law. The Student Government Association is the organization of student representation recognized by the students of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in accordance with Wisconsin State Statute 36.09(5) and by the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in accordance with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Shared Governance Implementation Plan.

As such, and according to UW Board of Regents Policies, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point policy, and WI case law, the Student Government Association reserves the authority and obligation to:

1. Initiate policies concerning student life, services, and interests, and review existing and proposed policies in these areas before they are amended or adopted by the other constituencies of the University.
2. Be the body to provide ultimate student input on all matters concerning student life, services, and interests.
3. Maintain the sole authority over the disposition of the allocable Segregated University Fees and the review of existing and approval of new non-allocable Segregated University Fees via its designated committees and the Student Senate.
4. Appoint students to participate in institutional governance.

Article IV – Membership

1. All rights, responsibilities, offices, and benefits of the Student Government Association are equally available to all students without regard to age, ancestry, color, caste, race,

national origin, parentage, disability, gender, sex, sexual orientation, military status, marital status, political affiliation, pregnancy, religion, or creed.

2. All students who are enrolled in classes or other activities providing academic credit from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point shall be members of the Student Government Association.
3. All Senators, Executive Staff, members of the Judicial Branch, and the President and Vice President are considered Officers of the Student Government Association.
4. Any student at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point shall be eligible to hold any office position in the Student Government Association if the following requirements are met.
 - Good academic standing with a GPA of no less than 2.00 with the exception of incoming first-year students.
 - Enrolled in at least six academic credits at the undergraduate level or three credits at the graduate level at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, not including the times of winter or summer break.

Article V – The Legislative Branch

1. The Legislative Branch, known as the Student Senate, shall consist of the Senators and be headed by the Speaker of the Senate.
2. A maximum of thirty Senators shall be elected by a popular vote of the students in their respective colleges.
3. In the event of vacant seats due to resignations, removal of senators, or unfilled seats in the general election, the Senate shall appoint eligible applicants from the student body.
4. Proportional Representation
 - a. The four colleges shall be represented by a number of Senators proportional to the enrollment of those colleges.
 - b. The Elections Committee shall calculate and set the number of seats allotted to each college in the spring election by examining fall semester enrollment. A minimum of four seats shall be allotted for each college.
 - c. Proportional representation shall remain in effect from the conclusion of the general spring elections until the adjournment of the second Senate meeting of the following fall semester. After this time, all vacant Senator seats shall become available to all eligible students, regardless of college affiliation. At all times, however, two vacant seats must be reserved for a college that has no Senatorial representation.
 - d. Each college's caucus shall elect a Caucus Chair by a plurality of the Senators within the caucus.
 - e. Caucus chairs and Senators are responsible for filling empty Senator seats in their respective colleges before the aforementioned deadline.
 - f. The Speaker of the Senate shall be elected by a majority of the Senators

present at the final meeting of the Senate each academic year, with elections to be held after the seating of new Senators.

Article VI – The Executive Branch

1. The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, the Vice President, and the Executive Staff.
2. The President and Vice President shall be elected on a combined ticket by a popular vote of the student body.
3. In the event the President is unable to complete their term, the following will occur:
 - a. The order of succession will be Vice President, Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore. If the Speaker of the Senate or the Speaker Pro Tempore succeeds to the presidency, they must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.
 - b. If none of the above mentioned accept the position, the Speaker of the Senate must act as the Interim President until a new President is elected by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the Senate.
4. In the event the Vice President is unable to complete their term, the following will occur:
 - a. The order of succession will be Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore, both requiring confirmation with a majority vote of the Senate.
 - b. If neither accepts the position, the Speaker of the Senate must serve as Interim Vice President until a new Vice President is appointed by the President and approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the Senate.
 - c. If the Speaker of the Senate has assumed the position of President or Interim President, the Speaker Pro Tempore must serve as Interim Vice President until a new Vice President is appointed by the President and approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the Senate.
5. The President of the Student Government Association has the right to veto bills passed through the legislative process. A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of the fully seated Senate is required to override a presidential veto.
6. The Executive Staff shall be led by the Executive Director and consist of, Academic Affairs Director, Administrative Assistant, Associate Budget Director, Budget Director, Communication and Public Relations Director, Environmental and Sustainability Director, Graphic Designer and Web Weaver, Health Services Student Director, Inclusivity Director, Legislative Affairs Director, Student Engagement Director, Student Life Affairs Director.
7. The members of the Executive Staff shall be appointed by the incoming President and Vice President and subject to approval by a majority vote of the Senate. The President may terminate any executive for incompetence or insubordination in compliance with state statutes for terminating employees of the state of Wisconsin.
 - a. The President and/or President-Elect may create a new executive position,

given it is within the budgetary restrictions of the following years budget, and that the next sessions Senate approves the appointed individual for the created position.

Article VII – The Special Judicial Committee

1. The Special Judicial Committee shall consist of the Head Justice, 6 voting members, the President, the Speaker of the Senate, and the Executive Director.
 - a. The Head Justice shall be the chairperson and head of the Special Judicial Committee.
 - i. The President shall appoint the Justice and must be approved by the Senate.
 - ii. The Head Justice shall have a vote on the Special Judicial Committee.
 - iii. If the Head Justice is unable to complete their term, the committee members shall elect an interim Head Justice until a new Head Justice is nominated by the President. The new Head Justice must be approved by the Senate.
 - iv. The Head Justice has the authority to dismiss a case if the information submitted is deemed to be insufficient and not justiciable.
 - a) If the Head Justice dismisses a case, written rationale for dismissal of the case must be sent to the complainant.
 - b) Any case dismissed must be sent to the Special Judicial Committee with all submitted documentation, and reason for dismissal.
 - c) The Special Judicial Committee may vote to appeal the decision of the Head Justice with a simple majority, and hear the case.
 - b. The President and Speaker of the Senate shall each appoint half of the voting members of the committee. All appointees must be approved by the Senate.
 - c. The 6 voting members must have served in SGA, in any capacity, for at least one full semester before being appointed to the committee.
 - d. An appointed Justice may recuse themselves for a case if there is a conflict of interest which would affect their impartiality.
2. Committee Duties
 - a. The Committee, including an Accumulated Jury of Peers, shall work in an advisory capacity with the Dean of Students or their designee on all cases brought forward wherein a student organization is accused of violating the code of conduct set forth for recognized student organizations.
 - i. The Committee, including the Accumulated Jury of Peers, will provide a fair assessment of the evidence presented and recommend an outcome to the Dean of Students or their designee.
 - ii. The Committee Members and Accumulated Jury of Peers will be trained regularly by the Dean of Students or their designee on conduct-

- related matters.
 - iii. The Dean of Students or their designee will serve as the advisor to the Committee when it acts in its Student Government Association Conduct review Capacity.
 - b. The Committee shall have the primary responsibility to recommend students to sit on student conduct hearings brought forth by the Dean of Students office.
 - c. The Committee shall have primary jurisdiction over all cases brought forward regarding the Student Government Association's adherence to its Constitution, Bylaws, Statutes, and Governing Documents.
 - d. The committee shall have primary jurisdiction over all cases brought forward regarding student organizations and the violation of segregated fees.
 - e. The Committee shall serve as the Impartial Elections Committee.
 - i. The committee members will not be permitted to run in the next elections unless they find a proxy to fill their seat on the Elections Committee.
 - f. This Committee shall serve as the platform for impeachment trials.
 - i. The SGA officer who has articles of impeachment brought forth against them shall be removed as a member during impeachment trial discussions.
 - ii. If the Head Justice is undergoing impeachment proceedings, the committee shall appoint an interim Head Justice to take their place until the trial has concluded.

Article VIII – Advisor

1. The Advisor shall be appointed by the President and approved by a 2/3 majority vote of all Student Government Association Officers.
2. The responsibilities of the Advisor shall be assigned by the Student Government Association.
3. The Advisor may be removed by a motion of no confidence on the Senate floor with a 2/3 majority vote of all Officers of the Student Government Association.

Article IX – Terms of Office

1. The terms of all offices shall begin during the final Senate meeting of the academic year, or upon special appointment by the Senate or President.
2. The terms of all offices shall end upon the close of the final Senate meeting of the academic year.
3. No individual may hold more than one approved office simultaneously.
 - a. With the exception(s) of the Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore, Caucus Chairs, and the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, who perform the duties of their respective offices concurrent with those of a Senator.
 - b. With the exception of directors holding interim positions, who may hold their appointed position as well as their temporary one.
4. Members transitioning between offices will assume the duties of the new office upon

adjournment of the meeting at which he or she was approved.

5. Adhere to resignation protocols as described in the Student Government Association bylaws.

Article X – Student Government Association Committees and Student Representation

1. The purpose, membership, policies, and procedures of the Student Government Association Senate standing committees shall be laid out in the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.
2. The standing committees of the Student Government Association Senate shall consist of the Academic Affairs Committee, Constitution Review Committee, Dining Advisory Board, Environmental and Sustainability Committee, Green Fund Steering Committee, Inclusivity Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, Non-Allocable University Fee Allocation Subcommittee, Rules Committee, Parking Advisory Board, Policy and Advisory Committee for Student Organizations, Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee, Student Health Advisory Committee, Student Life Affairs Committee, and the University Centers Advisory and Policy Board.
 - a) The Student Government Association Teams shall consist of the Public Relations and Marketing Team and the Student Engagement Team
3. Voting rights in standing committees are limited to Student Government Association Senators and Student Interest Representatives, and in the event of a tie, committee chairs unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws.
4. Subcommittees may be formed by any Student Government Association Senate standing committee. The parent committee shall set the responsibilities, guidelines, and chair of subcommittees.
5. Ad-hoc committees may be formed by the President, Vice President, and Speaker of the Senate without the majority of the Senate.
6. Senators may create Ad-Hoc Committees with a motion on the Senate floor and a majority vote of the Senate.
7. The Student Government Association shall provide student members for all University Committees and Faculty Senate Committees.
8. All committee appointments not otherwise stated in this document shall be made by the Vice President.

Article XI – Student Government Association General Elections

1. Elections for Senators and the President and Vice President of the Student Government Association shall be held each spring semester.
2. Candidate applications shall be made available on the first-class day of the spring semester.
3. Candidate applications shall be due to the Special Judicial Committee at Noon on the Friday of the fifth week before spring break.
4. Approved candidates may start campaigning at Noon on the Monday of the fourth week

before spring break.

5. A public debate between all approved candidates for President and Vice President shall be held no more than two weeks and no less than three days before the election voting period begins.
6. The election voting period shall be open for one week beginning on the Friday of the week two weeks before spring break begins and continuing until Noon on the last Thursday before spring break.
7. Election results will be announced at the Student Government Senate meeting occurring on the final day of voting.
8. No Student Government Association officer may use their position or title to endorse any candidate.
9. No Student Government Association resources or spaces shall be used to benefit any candidate, excepting those resources or spaces explicitly provided for candidate use.
10. No individual may personally or through an agent directly compel by force, intimidation, or authority, especially without regard for individual desire or volition, an elector to vote for or against any candidate.
11. No individual may personally or through an agent knowingly disseminate false information to, or provide any compensation to, an elector with the purpose of compelling them to vote for or against any candidate.

Article XII – Referenda

1. The Student Government Association may initiate referenda concerning the interests of student life at the University as enshrined in Wisconsin State Statute 36.09(5).
2. The main responsibility and duty of the Student Government Association in regard to referenda are to inform the student body of pending referenda and to promote overall student participation.
3. No individual may personally or through an agent directly compel by force, intimidation, or authority, especially without regard for individual desire or volition, an elector to vote for or against any referenda.
4. No individual may personally or through an agent knowingly disseminate false information to, or provide any compensation to, an elector with the purpose of compelling them to vote for or against any referenda.
5. Any referenda initiated by the Student Government Association are binding in accordance with state law.
6. A referendum shall be a measure of the student body's public opinion and is interpreted by the Student Government Association as the will of the Student Body.

Article XIII – Recall

1. Elected Officers of the Student Government Association may be recalled by the student body.
2. A petition of fifteen percent of the elected officer's direct constituents shall be sufficient

- to advance a recall election to the Special Judicial Committee for review.
3. The Special Judicial Committee shall complete a review of the petition for validity and merit within seven days of completed submission.
 4. Upon approval of the petition by the Special Judicial Committee, a call for candidates for the position subject to recall shall be announced.
 5. Candidates shall have seven days to submit the completed candidacy forms to the Special Judicial Committee.
 6. A three-day recall election shall be held within no more than seven days after the submission due date.
 7. A candidate who gains a plurality of the vote will take office immediately upon a complete review of the election.
 8. Any Officer who is successfully recalled may not seek any Student Government Association office in the current or subsequent academic year.

Article XIV – Amendments

1. Any student may submit a Constitutional amendment to the Constitution Review Committee for consideration.
2. Constitutional Amendments require a 2/3 majority vote of the full seated senate. The seated senate shall consist of all senators currently holding office.
3. Upon approval of the Student Senate, proposed amendments must be ratified by a majority vote of the student body.
4. An updated copy of the Constitution shall be kept on file in the Student Government Association Office, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Office, and Campus Activities and Student Engagement where it shall be available for review upon request.
5. The Constitution shall be reviewed every two years by the Constitution Review Committee as laid out in the Student Government Association Bylaws.
6. Any changes to any Student Government Association governing documents including the Constitution, Bylaws, committee bylaws, and others, must be reviewed by the Constitution Review Committee before advancing to the Senate floor.
7. Corrections of spelling, grammar, and numbering in the Constitution and Bylaws may be made by the Speaker of the Senate or the Executive Director upon a majority vote of the Rules Committee.

Article – XV - Dissolution

1. Only the student body may dissolve the Student Government Association.
2. The student body may initiate a vote of no confidence in the Student Government Association with a petition of thirty-three percent of the student body.
3. Upon verification of the petition by the Special Judicial Committee and the Office of the Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, a vote shall be held within no more than twenty-one days with a ballot prepared by the Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs.

4. A majority vote in favor of dissolution will trigger a constitutional convention.
5. The Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs shall convene the Constitutional Convention on campus in a space accommodating no less than three hundred students within seven days of the successful vote.
6. All students must be invited to the Constitutional Convention, with advertising paid for with remaining Student Government Association funds or general reserve segregated fees.
7. In the event that the Student Government Association is dissolved, any remaining balance of funds shall be dispersed by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs for the sole purpose of convening the Constitutional Convention and the following elections. Upon completion of the election of a new student government, all funds will be returned to the newly ratified student government.

Amended April 26, 2012

Amended November 14, 2013

Amended February 24th, 2022

Amended February 9th, 2023