

Student Government Association Constitution 2003-2004

Preamble

We, the Student Government Association of Florida Southern College, strive to represent the interests of the Student Body, leading students towards the successful completion of the Florida Southern College experience.

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Florida Southern College.

Article II - Executive Council

Section A: Membership

The Student Government Executive Council shall consist of the following offices:

1. Student Body President
2. Executive Vice-President
3. Academic Vice-President
4. Vice-President of Student Activities
5. Vice-President of Finance
6. Student Advocate
7. Secretary

Section B: Duties of Executive Council Members

1. **Duties of the President.** The President shall chair all meetings of the Executive Council and the Senate. He/she shall supervise the Executive Council Members function within their proper areas of responsibility. He/she may be a nonvoting member on all SGA boards, councils and committees. He/she shall serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Council and the Senate except when a tie must be broken. He/she shall oversee the implementation and follow through on all SGA legislation.
2. **Duties of Executive Vice-President.** The Executive Vice-President shall assume all responsibilities assigned by the SGA President. He/she shall chair all meetings of the House. He/she will assume the duties of the President whenever the President is incapable of fulfilling them. He/she shall serve as a member of the Executive Council and non-voting member of the House except when a tie must be broken.
3. **Duties of the Academic Vice President.** The Academic Vice-President shall chair the Senate in the absence of the SGA President. He/she shall research and recommend improvements in the academic environment and supervise the senators as they do the same. He/she shall serve as a member of the Executive Council and Senate.

4. **Duties of the Vice-President of Student Activities.** The Vice-President of Student Activities shall be responsible for the planning, initiation, and administration of student-oriented activities on the campus of Florida Southern College. It shall be the goal of the Vice-President of Student Activities to improve upon old programs and search out original programs that will provide entertainment, education, and social interaction for all segments of Florida Southern College. He/she shall report to the Senate on his/her activities. In addition he/she shall preside over the Association of Campus Entertainment, serve as a member of the Executive Council, and the Senate.
5. **Duties of the Vice-President of Finance.** The Vice-President of Finance shall supervise the allocation of any money from the student activity fee. He/she shall be a member of the Executive Council and the Senate.
6. **Duties of the Student Advocate.** The Student Advocate shall act as the official Ombudsman for SGA. He/she shall be the liaison between students, student government, and college administration. He/she shall serve as the liaison between student concerns over student services, student government and college administration. He/she shall also work with the Development office to set up and chair a Senior Class Committee. He/she shall serve as a member of the Executive Council, the Senate, and the House.
7. **Duties of the Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep detailed minutes of Executive Council and Senate meetings. He/she shall keep a record of all past minutes and have them available on request. He/she shall be responsible for supervising the SGA Web page. He/she shall be responsible for the notices and communication of SGA. He/she shall be a member of the Executive Council and the Senate.

Article III - Senate

Section A: The Senate shall be composed of the elected officers representing each of the following student body groups.

1. Three (3) senators representing the division of Social Sciences.
2. Three (3) senators representing the division of Natural Sciences.
3. Three (3) senators representing the division of Humanities.
4. Three (3) senators representing freshman students and undeclared majors.

Section B.

Any Senator changing majors in the middle of his/her term of office shall hold his/her position until a new election has been held.

Section C. The senators will have the following duties:

1. Each senator will meet with the division advisor, appointed by the division chair, once a semester to go over issues essential to both the division and Florida Southern College.
2. Senators will serve on the committees as assigned to them by the Executive Council and complete other duties as assigned.
3. Office hours will be held weekly by all senators.

4. Each Senator will be responsible for sponsoring one piece of legislation or a project a year that benefits their constituency.

Section D: Responsibilities and Powers of the Senate

1. To originate and pass legislation necessary for the well being of the Student Body.
2. The Senate shall concentrate on improving the college in its academic reputation.
3. To carry out Student Government elections
4. To act on any legislation that has been originated and passed by the House.
5. To develop and approve a budget on how the student activity fee shall be spent.
6. To impeach Student Government Association Officers and Senators.

Section E: Meetings

1. The Student Body President shall chair the meetings of the Senate and in his/her absence the Academic Vice-President shall chair the meetings.
2. Meetings will be run according to Robert's Rules of Order except where the Constitution or the by-laws state otherwise.
3. Two-thirds of the entire sitting Senate membership will constitute a quorum.
4. Meetings will be held no less than twice monthly during the normal academic year excluding December.
5. The Academic Vice-President or the President of the Student Body may call special meetings of the Senate. All members must receive no less than two business day's notice.
6. All meetings will be open to any member of the Student body, faculty and advisors except those, which are declared to be an Executive Session by a majority vote of the Senate.

Article IV - House

Section A: The House will be composed of appointed representatives from each chartered organization on the campus of Florida Southern College.

Section B: Responsibilities and Powers of the House

1. The House shall have control over the disbursement of assisting funds to FSC recognized organizations.
2. The House shall charter the various student organizations on campus with the approval of the President. Chartered organizations on campus shall keep their charters as long as they remain in good standing with the college and their representative attends House meetings. Organizations must also keep a current list of officers and their GPA with the Student Life Office. Any Organizations failing to comply with the above standards will lose their charter.
3. To originate legislation of concern to students and student organizations on campus relating to Student Life. Any legislation originated within the House must be ratified by the Senate prior to being submitted for approval by college administration.

Section C: Meetings

1. The Executive Vice-President shall chair the meetings of the House.
2. Meetings will be run according to Robert's Rules of Order except where the Constitution or the by-laws state otherwise.
3. Two thirds of the entire House membership will constitute a quorum.
4. Meetings will be held no less than twice monthly during the normal academic year.
5. The Executive Vice-President or the President of the Student Body may call special meetings of the House. All members must receive no less than one day's notice.
6. All meetings will be open to any member of the Student body or faculty except those, which are declared to be an Executive Session by a majority vote of the House.

Section D: Organization

1. The Student Advocate shall chair the meetings in the absence of the Executive Vice-President and shall aid the Executive Vice-President in supervising the House. He/she will represent the views of the House and communicate any formal messages or legislation to the Senate. **He/she shall be a member of the Senate.**
2. A Secretary shall be elected from the membership of the House. The Secretary will be responsible for taking minutes of the meetings and having them available on request.

Article V - Jurisdiction

Section A: All actions of the Student Government Association are subject to the approval of the President of the College, or other such official or officials as may be designated by the President and at all times to the actions of the Board of Trustees of Florida Southern College.

Section B: Two advisors shall be appointed by the President of the College with the approval of the Executive Council to advise SGA. They may speak during meetings on a point of order or to clarify any ambiguities.

Article VI. - Amendments

Section A: Amendment Proposal

1. An amendment must be proposed on the Senate floor.
2. One week must elapse before the Senate may vote on the proposed amendment.
3. Prior to submitting an amendment to the Student body, the amendment must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership of the Senate.
4. The proposed amendment must be approved by the President of the College.
5. The proposed amendment must be presented to the Student Body in written form in the campus newspaper, *The Southern*, or other campus wide publications at least two weeks prior to the election.

Section B: Amendment Ratification

1. A vote of the Student Body must be held to ratify an amendment.
2. Two-thirds (2/3) of those voting must cast an affirmative vote for ratification of an amendment.

Section C: Amendment Adoption

If approved, amendments shall become part of the Constitution at the next Senate meeting following the vote of the Student Body.

Article VII - By-Laws

Section A: The Senate shall be empowered to adopt and amend such by-laws as deemed necessary and convenient for carrying out its functions providing said by-laws and regulations do not conflict with the articles of this Constitution and have the approval of the President of the College.

Section B: Any amendments added to the by-laws will require a simple majority of the Senate in order to pass.

Article X - Ratification

This Constitution must be ratified by two-thirds (2/3) of the total voting membership of the Senate, the approval of the President of the College, followed by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the voting Student Body. Upon final ratification, this Constitution shall nullify all Student Government Association Constitutions preceding it and take effect with the election of new officers.