# CONSTITUTION OF ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Preamble

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, subject to the statutory regulations of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and the University System of Georgia Board of Regents. .

ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization shall be named the Student Government Association of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, hereinafter referred to as the SGA.

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization is to act as an agent in the presentation of matters of student welfare, to advise in all matters affecting the affairs of the student body, to promote and further the interests of the student body, and to develop the leadership potential of the students of the College.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERS

Section One: Composition

The SGA shall consist of a President, Vice-President, an advisor, and six Senators—one from each school: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Liberal Arts, Human Sciences, Nursing and Health Sciences, Science and Mathematics, and the Stafford School of Business. The President and Vice President are referred to as Officers of the Executive Branch; the Senators comprise the Legislative Branch. The Vice President will preside over the Senate and will be a non-voting member, but will case a deciding vote in the event of a tie.

Section Two: Officers and Senators

1. **Election.**

Elections of Officers and Senators will be held each spring semester before April 15. . Candidates will be selected by majority vote, and only persons registered in classes as an ABAC student shall be entitled to vote. The ballot will be made available to students on ABAC’s website, and the office of the Dean of Students will supervise all election activity. Students may run for one office only.

1. **Term of Office.**

Officers and Senators will assume their duties of office at the beginning of fall semester, and their term will end upon spring graduation. Officers and Senators elected in the spring must attend leadership training as determined by the SGA faculty advisor and/or the office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the office of the Dean of Students before they assume the duties of their respective elected office.

C. Removal and Resignation.

Removal from office due to a violation of the rules and regulations set forth in the SGA Constitution will be in accordance with the procedure detailed in the SGA By-Laws. If the President of SGA submits a letter of resignation or is removed from office, the Vice President of SGA will replace the President. The offices of Vice President and Senators shall be offered to the second runner-up in the previous election, provided those candidates still meet eligibility requirements. If not, the third runner-up will take office, and so forth.

**D. Vacancies.**

Vacancies will be filled using the same procedure as outlined above in “Removal and Resignation.”

Section Three. Advisor.

The advisor to the SGA shall be appointed by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and shall serve a term of office at the discretion of that administrator. The advisor may attend SGA meetings and participate in discussion and debate, but may not vote, make motions or second motions. The SGA advisor will work closely with the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and 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 reserves the right to recommend official administrative removal of Officers and Senators who fail to uphold the Student Code of Conduct and/or respect for ABAC students or faculty. The SGA Advisor will ensure that officers adhere to non-discrimination and non-harassment policies as specified in the Student Handbook.

ARTICLE IV. AUTHORITY

Section One. Scope of Authority.

A. The SGA shall be the officially recognized organization for communication to and from the student body and ABAC administration, faculty, alumni, the community, and campus organizations.

B. The SGA has the authority to recommend policy changes and communicate students’ concerns to ABAC administration. It is incumbent upon SGA officers to conduct research and present solutions to senior ABAC administration officials when recommending new policy or changes to existing policy.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section One. Regular Meetings.

SGA Officers and Senators shall meet twice a month, beginning with the second week of every semester at an established time and place chosen by SGA’s President.

**Section Two. Attendance of Officers and Senators.**

All SGA Officers and Senators are expected to attend all meetings, but may miss two meetings per semester without penalty. After two absences, students must fill out the Absence Excuse form and provide documentation justifying the absence, to be approved by the SGA advisor. Four absences, however, may result in a recommendation of removal from office at the discretion of the advisor if the officer is found in dereliction of duties. Failure to attend meetings based upon the rules and provisions set forth in the By-Laws may also result in removal from office.

**Section Three. Open Meetings.**

SGA meetings shall be open to all members of ABAC’s community, and proceedings shall be made available to the student body via ABAC’s newspaper and website.

Section Four. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the SGA may be called by the SGA President or upon the written request of four (4) members of SGA. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency authorized by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs or the Dean of Students, at least five (5) days’ notice shall be given to members by telephone, in writing, or electronic means.

Section Five. Quorum.

**A.** The quorum for regular and special meetings of the SGA shall be a majority of the membership.

**B.** All motions pertaining to regular business shall be passed by a simple majority of those present and voting. All members, with the exclusion of the SGA advisor, have voting privileges. In case of a tie vote, as a non-voting member of the Senate, the Vice President shall cast the deciding vote.

**Section Six. Parliamentary Authority.**

The most recent edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the SGA in cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and any Standing Rules of Order that the SGA may adopt.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

Section One. Amendments.

**A.** The Senate shall propose amendments to this Constitution whenever 2/3 of its membership (including Officers) deems it necessary.

**B.** Amendments shall be posted on the SGA website for student body review at least two weeks before the amendment is voted upon, and the SGA President will call a special meeting to solicit student concerns and feedback.

**C.** Ratification shall require a majority of Senate votes cast. The SGA President has the authority to veto the amendment, but the Senate may override the veto by a 2/3 vote.

**D.** New Amendments shall take effect after the next election cycle.

Section Two. Replacing SGA Constitution.

**A.** The Senate may propose replacing this Constitution whenever 2/3 of its members deems it necessary and will immediately notify the SGA advisor, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Dean of Students of its decision.

**B.** The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will charge a Constitutional Convention Committee of students to work with the SGA advisor to replace the Constitution. Ratification shall require a 2/3 vote of the votes cast.

**BY-LAWS**

ARTICLE I. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS

Section One: President and Vice President

A. Must not be enrolled in any college or university other than ABAC during the term of office.

B. Must have completed at least one semester at ABAC and possess a 3.0 overall grade point average at time of election. The 3.0 grade point average must be maintained throughout the term of office or the officer will be removed.

C. Must plan to attend ABAC through spring semester of the term of office.

D. Must carry and complete a minimum of twelve credit hours per semester at ABAC during term of office.

E. Must attend leadership training as directed by SGA advisor..

F. Must comply with all rules and regulations of the Student Code of Conduct.

Section Two: Senators

A. Must not be enrolled in any college or university other than ABAC during the term of office.

B. Must have completed at least one semester at ABAC and possess a 2.5 overall grade point average at time of election. The 2.5 grade point average must be maintained throughout the term of office or the officer will be removed.

C. Must plan to attend ABAC through spring semester of the term of office.

D. Must carry and complete a minimum of twelve credit hours per semester at ABAC during term of office.

E. Must comply with all rules and regulations of the Student Code of Conduct.

ARTICLE II. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

President

A. Functions as head of the student body in all student affairs and in student relations with ABAC officials and administration.

B. Gives monthly address or interview with appropriate student media..

C. Meets with ABAC President monthly to present SGA recommendations and student body concerns and petitions.

D. Accompanies Admissions officials to help recruit students at least once a semester, and ensure that an SGA booth is present for Stallion days and staffed by SGA officers throughout the day.

E. Meets with ABAC Ambassadors monthly to discuss how SGA can continue to better serve student needs and assist with recruitment and retention of students.

F. Gives welcome at Freshmen Convocation.

G. Schedules and attends bi-monthly meetings of SGA and informs SGA advisor and Dean of Students of the location and time. SGA President must also inform students of meetings’ location and time electronically and email SGA advisor to post the information on the SGA webpage on the ABAC website. SGA President has the authority to email students directly, but only after the email has been reviewed by SGA advisor.

F. Researches and invites guest speakers to SGA meetings to address topics of relevance to the student body, such as but not limited to, community leadership, how leaders can influence policy relating to social justice and equality, and potential careers in politics.

Vice President

A. Acts in full capacity of the President in case of his/her absence and succeeds President in case of vacancy.

B. Presides over SGA meetings, plans and implements agenda. Calls and tallies votes once motions are passed and seconded.

C. Writes monthly column in the ABAC newspaper or other appropriate student media notifying student body of SGA activities and future plans.

D. In charge of community outreach. Will research community organizations and present recommendations on how ABAC students can best engage with the community, such as, but not limited to, volunteer opportunities.

Senators

A. Hold at least 2 hours of “constituency time” weekly during which the student body may meet directly with the Senator. Also communicate electronically with student constituents at least once a month addressing any questions or concerns raised by students. Senators have the authority to communicate electronically with their constituents directly, but only after the email has been reviewed by SGA advisor.

B. Meet monthly with Dean of School to present and discuss student body concerns and petitions specific to the Senator’s School.

C. Each Senator will perform a task specific to the successful promotion and functionality of SGA and be designed an officer of that task. The positions are: Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Social Media Liaison, Public Relations and Communications Liaison, Dean of Students Liaison, and Liaison for Non-traditional Students. SGA members to specifically address the required tasks, based upon the changing needs of the organization, will be determined at first meeting.

ARTICLE III. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A. Research and Solution Committees

Any Senator may propose a research and solution committee to SGA members. Once approved, 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 SGA President, who will then present the report to senior ABAC administration.

ARTICLE IV. METHODS OF ADMITTING AND REMOVING MEMBERS

A. Elections. Elections shall take place each spring on or before April 15. Prospective candidates will fill out and submit an electronic eligibility form, which will be posted on ABAC’s website at least three weeks prior to election. Eligibility will be verified by the office of the Dean of Students, and eligible candidates will be informed of their candidacy at least one week before the election. Students will vote for candidates via an electronic form, posted on ABAC’s website. The winners of the election will be notified no later than one week after end of voting, by either the SGA Advisor or Dean of Students.

B. Admittance. All elected members of SGA will be admitted for membership upon taking an Oath of Office, administered by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, or the Dean of Students in his/her absence. The Oath is as follows:

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly swear to persevere in my duties as a representative for the students of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, to work for a better student government and to maintain the dignity of the office during my term. I do solemnly swear to execute my office faithfully and honestly and to respect and preserve the Constitution and By-Laws on which our Student Government is founded.

C. All members shall serve until their replacements are elected and sworn in. Swearing in ceremony shall be at the discretion of the SGA Advisor and/or the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

D. All SGA officers must maintain the specific qualifications for their offices throughout the term of office. If GPA is not maintained after fall semester, the officer shall immediately be removed from office, and the new officer sworn in. If officer is in dereliction of duty, the SGA advisor may bring forth a recommendation for removal from office, which shall be voted on by the other officers of SGA and decided upon by majority vote. If a tie, the SGA president will cast the deciding vote. Any SGA officer has the right to request from the President a special meeting if said officer is to bring charges of dereliction of duty against another officer. In those cases, the SGA advisor will ensure that proper documentation is provided by officer bringing the charges, and that the officer in question has adequate time to prepare his/her defense. The SGA officers will then vote on whether to remove the officer, and it will be by majority vote. If a tie, the SGA president will cast the deciding vote. If charges of dereliction of duties are brought against the SGA President, the SGA Advisor, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Dean of Students will decide, based upon the evidence presented, if the SGA President is to be removed from office.

E. Any member of SGA who is arrested and convicted of a crime, or who is found guilty of violating the Student Code of Conduct, or has violated any federal or state laws regarding discrimination or sexual harassment shall be immediately removed from office.

F. Any removal of officer meetings shall be special meetings. SGA may go into closed executive session to discuss personnel matters, in accordance with Georgia’s open meetings law.

ARTICLE V. FUNDS

Financial support shall be provided by the College consistent with Institutional and University System of Georgia Board of Regents Policy.

ARTICLE VI. METHOD OF AMENDING THE BY-LAWS

A. The By-Laws of this Constitution shall be proposed by any member of SGA and passed by a 2/3 majority of members. New By-Laws shall take effect after the next election cycle.

B. Amendments of By-Laws may be proposed at any regularly scheduled meeting.