

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Constitution

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 and faculty, 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.

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

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 and its organizations, and to promote and further the interests of the student body.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1. The Student Government Association shall be composed of a Legislative, an Executive, and a Judicial Branch.

Section 2. The Student Senate shall constitute the Legislative Branch of this government and shall have legislative authority within the limits established by this Constitution and its By-Laws.

Membership of this Senate shall consist of one representative per each chartered student club or organization at ABAC; other students who do not represent a student club or organization elected at large; the President, Vice President, Secretary, Communications Coordinator, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Chief Justices of the Student Government; Class Officers; Faculty Advisors; one Campus Activities Board (CAB) representative; one Residential Housing Association (RHA) representative.

Faculty advisors and the SGA Elections Committee will ensure that members of the Senate reflect the diversity of the student body in terms of race, sex, religion, national origin, disabilities, age, and academic majors. The Senate will fill vacancies within the constituency where the vacancy occurs and with attention to maintaining diversity among the membership of the Senate.

The following will be non-voting members of the Senate: President; Vice President; Secretary; Communications Coordinator; Treasurer; Parliamentarian; Chief Justices; Class officers; Faculty Advisors; representatives of CAB and RHA.

The Vice President of SGA, or an officer acting in his or her absence, may cast a vote only in order to make or break a tie.

Section 3. The Executive Branch of this Student Government shall execute authority within the limits of this Constitution. The Executive Branch shall consist of the SGA Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Communications Coordinator, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian) and Class Officers.

The members of the Executive Branch shall be charged with the execution of all procedures established by this Constitution and By-Laws and by all mandates of the Student Senate.

Section 4. The Judicial Branch of the Student Government shall have judicial authority as specified under the Rules of Procedure. The Judicial Branch shall consist of a Student Judiciary Committee, a Traffic Court, and other lower courts as appointed by the President of the SGA with 2/3 vote approval of the Student Senate present.

The Student Judiciary Committee shall consist of at least six (6) faculty members and one staff member appointed for two-year terms and eight (8) students. Student members will be selected by an application process through the office of the Dean of Students. The President of SGA shall appoint one sophomore, junior, or senior student member to be Chief Justice. The President's nominee shall be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Senators present. The Chief Justice shall report to the SGA each week the number, type, and disposition of cases heard.

The Traffic Court shall consist of seven (7) students, who are appointed by the SGA President. One of the sophomore, junior, or senior justices will be appointed by the SGA President to serve as Chief Justice of the Traffic Court. His/her nomination shall be approved by 2/3 vote of the Senate present. The Traffic Court Chief Justice shall report to the SGA each week the number, type, and disposition of cases heard. The Dean of Students or his/her designee serves as advisor to the Traffic Court.

Section 5. The SGA agrees to adhere to all policies and procedures of ABAC and all local, state, and federal laws. SGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, veteran status, handicap status, or sexual orientation. Nor does the SGA tolerate hazing of any student in connection with or as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office, or other status in the SGA.

ARTICLE IV: Elections

Section 1. All persons who have paid the student activities fee at ABAC shall be entitled to vote for the officers and representatives, referendums, and recalls.

Section 2. The Election Committee shall supervise all election activity. The procedure and timeline for an election shall be posted on the SGA web site or submitted for publication in the student newspaper prior to the election.

ARTICLE V: Provisions for Meeting

Section 1. The Senate shall meet every week, beginning with the second week of every semester at an established time and place, and at such times deemed necessary by the President of SGA.

Section 2. All members of the Senate shall be required to attend all its meetings.

Section 3. The meeting of the Student Senate shall be open to all members of the college community and proceedings shall be made available on the SGA website, with the exception of the special closed session as defined in Section 5.

Section 4. The President of the SGA may call a meeting of officers of the SGA, Chairpersons of Standing Committees, and Class Officers for the purpose of (1) preparing the agenda for the general meeting; (2) advising the President; or (3) directing proposals, inquiries, resolutions, regulations, etc. to the appropriate standing committee for consideration.

Section 5. Once annually, the Vice President will call a special closed meeting for the purpose of voting on the Impact Award. This meeting and vote will be open only to voting members of the Senate, the SGA Executive Board, and representatives of the RHA and CAB. This session is not recorded in the minutes.

ARTICLE VI: Method of Replacing or Amending the Constitution

Section 1. The Senate shall propose amendments to this Constitution whenever $\frac{2}{3}$ of its membership deems it necessary. Amendments shall be submitted to the Student Body in session for explanation. One week after the explanatory session, the Elections Committee shall submit the proposed amendment to the Student Body for ratification or rejection. Ratification shall require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the votes cast.

Section 2. The Senate shall propose replacing this Constitution whenever $\frac{2}{3}$ of its membership deems it necessary. The proposed constitution will be published for review by the Student Body. One week after publication, the Senate will hold a public forum for discussion of the proposed constitution. One week after the public forum, the Elections Committee shall submit the proposed constitution to the Student Body for ratification or rejection. Ratification shall require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the votes cast.