



**SGA**

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*Constitution*

*of the*

*Student Government Association*

*of the*

*University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point*

<b>Votes Required for Action</b>	
<b>Type of Action</b>	<b>Vote Required</b>
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
Approve a student organization	2/3

## **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 of 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 in order 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 from 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 to 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, creed,

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

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 in good academic standing with a GPA of no less than 2.00 (with the exception of incoming freshmen) 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 during the current semester or in the semesters both preceding and following other periods such as Winter and Summer breaks shall be eligible to hold any office or position in the Student Government Association.

#### **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 fourth 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, one vacant seat 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.
5. 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 his or her 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. In the event that 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 his or her 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. In the event that neither accept 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. In the event that 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 full seated Senate is required to override a presidential veto.
6. The Executive Staff shall consist of the Chief of Staff, Student Life and Academic Affairs Director, Communication and Public Relations Director, Graphic Designer and Web Weaver, Environmental and Sustainability Director, Inclusivity Director, Legislative Affairs Director, University Centers Student Director, Health Services Student Director, and Budget 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.

## **Article VII – The Judicial Branch**

1. The Judicial Branch shall consist of the Associate Justices, Chief Justice, and when needed the accumulated jury of peers. The Judicial Branch shall be headed by the Chief Justice.

2. The five justices shall be appointed by the Student Government Association President and approved by a majority vote of the Senate.
3. In the event that the Chief Justice is unable to complete his or her term, the Associate Justices shall elect an interim Chief Justice until a new Chief Justice is nominated by the President and approved by the Senate.
4. The Justices shall serve terms of up to two years and terms may be reapproved at the sole discretion of the Senate.
5. Jurisdiction:
  - a. The Court shall have primary jurisdiction over all cases brought forward pertaining to student organizations' constitutions, bylaws, statutes, policies and regulations.
  - b. The Court, including the 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 being in violation of the code of conduct set forth for recognized student organizations.
    - i. The Court 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 Justices 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 Court when it acts in its student organization conduct review capacity.
  - c. The Court 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 Court shall serve as the impartial Elections Committee.
  - e. The Court shall periodically audit student organizations, recommending to the Student Senate deficient organizations for review of organizational status.

#### **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 office simultaneously with the exception of the Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore, and Caucus Chairs, who perform the duties of their respective offices concurrent with those of a Senator.
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.

#### **Article X – Student Government Association Committees and Student Representation**

1. The standing committees of the Student Government Association Senate shall consist of the Rules Committee, Student Life and Academic Affairs Committee, Communication and Public Relations Committee, Environmental and Sustainability Committee, Inclusivity Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, Constitution Review Committee, University Centers Advisory and Policy Board, Student Health Advisory Committee, Green Fund Steering Committee, and the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee.
2. The purpose, membership, policies, and procedures of the Student Government Association Senate standing committees shall be laid out in the Bylaws of this document.
3. Voting rights in standing committees are limited to Student Government Association Senators, and in the event of a tie, committee chairs unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws of this document.
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.
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 elections 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 Student Government Association in regards to referenda is to inform the student body of pending referenda and to promote overall student participation.
3. No officer of Student Government Association may endorse any position in regards to any referenda in their capacity as Student Government Association officers.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Any and all referenda initiated by the Student Government Association are binding in accordance to state law.
7. 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 Elections Committee for review.
3. The Elections 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 Elections 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 Elections 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 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 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 Student Involvement and Employment Office 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 Chief of Staff 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 Elections 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 and the Survey Clearinghouse.
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