

The Constitution of the Student Government

Association of Saint Francis University

Preamble

We the Students of the Saint Francis University community, in order to advance academic responsibility, promote social conscientiousness, encourage communication and cooperation among students, faculty, and administration, and inspire democratic processes, do hereby establish the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Saint Francis University (herein called SGA).

Prayer

Most High, All Good, Glorious God, we ask you to enlighten our hearts and minds as we humbly seek to do your will. We ask you to bless us and guide us by your Holy Spirit. Please bless the deliberations of the Student Government Association that we may work for the good of our fellow students and of Saint Francis University. May all that we do be done in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Student Government Association is to serve as the voice of the student body by providing Saint Francis University students with representation, services, and advocacy within the University structure. It is our purpose to cultivate strong student leadership, to build connections between students, faculty and administration, and to better our campus community.

Values

The values SGA works to uphold are leadership, service, and community.

Ratified: December 7, 2017

Article I: Purpose

The purpose of SGA shall be:

To act as the official representative voice of the students of Saint Francis University; To present the student perspective and vote on subjects of concern regarding the University community; To enhance the full spectrum of the student's experiences at Saint Francis University; To promote and encourage the activities and services of all SGA sponsored student organizations; To provide guidance and recommendations for student related functions, activities, and organizations; To receive, review, and act upon concerns related to student, faculty, and/or administration; To maintain an interface with faculty, administration, community, and student entities; To develop specific rules, regulations, by-laws, and amendments as deemed necessary and proper to the well-being of the SGA, and To protect, enhance, and serve individual and collective rights and freedoms among Saint Francis University students.

Article II: Name and General Organization

Section I: Name

The official name of the governing organization shall be "The Student Government Association of Saint Francis University" in Loretto, Pennsylvania. Informally, the organization shall be called SGA.

Section II: Membership

The members of the SGA shall consist of all matriculating students of Saint Francis University, who are in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University. Good standing is a GPA of 2.5. Freshmen shall be the exception to this policy until the end of the 1st semester.

Section III: Operation Entities

The SGA shall consist of three operating entities:

- (1) The Executive Board;
- (2) The Senate;
- (3) The SGA subcommittees;

Section IV: Executive Powers

The executive powers of the SGA shall be vested in the following duly-elected officers, and additional roles and information shall be included in the Executive Officer Handbook.

- The President;
- The Executive Vice President;
- The Vice President for Communications;
- The Parliamentarian; and
- The Business Manager

Article III: The Executive Board

The Executive Board will operate under the duly-elected president of SGA.

Section I: Membership

The Executive Board of the SGA shall consist of the following duly-elected members:

The President;

The Executive Vice President;

The Vice President for Communications;

The Business Manager;

The Marketing Director Intern **or** Assistant Business Manager;

The Parliamentarian;

Two (2) Chief Senators.

For full eligibility requirements to serve on the SGA Executive Board and the nomination process, reference Article III, Section II of the SGA Bylaws.

For full job descriptions of the SGA Executive Board, reference Article III, Section IV – Section XI.

Section II: Voting Powers of the Executive Board

Each member of the Executive Board shall have one vote in the Senate. Only in the case of a tie will the President be vested with the power to cast an additional vote to break the tie.

Section III: The Spending Powers of the Executive Board

The Executive Board shall have the power to spend up to three hundred dollars (\$300) for an SGA sanctioned event or cause without prior approval from the Senate. However, the Executive Board will still have to inform the Senate about their spending decisions.

Ratified: December 7, 2017

Section IV: The Requirements of serving, nominating and the various duties of the Executive Board is outlined in Article III, Section II – Section XVII of the SGA Bylaws.

Article IV: The Senate

The Senate shall be the legislative body of the SGA. The Senate shall consist of thirty-two (32) members with twenty-four (24) Senators duly-elected by their respective constituency and eight (8) Executive Board members.

1. Two (2) Senators from the Senior Class;
2. Two (2) Senators from the Junior Class;
3. Two (2) Senators from the Sophomore Class;
4. Two (2) Senators from the Freshman Class;
 - a. In the Fall Semester there will be three (3) Senators from the Freshman Class, having been previously appointed by the selection committee as Freshman Class Fellowship Recipients
5. Two (2) Senators from the Intra-Fraternity/Sorority Council;
6. Two (2) Senators from the Student Athlete Advisory Committee;
7. One (1) Senator from the Student Activities Organization;
8. One (1) Senator from the International Student Organization;
9. One (1) Senator for Faith and Worship;
10. One (1) Senator from the School of Health Sciences;
11. One (1) Senator from the School of Natural Sciences;
12. One (1) Senator from the School of Arts and Letters;
13. One (1) Senator from the Shield's School of Business;

Ratified: December 7, 2017

14. Four (4) Senators elected “At Large”;
 - a. One (1) Senator “At Large” for Service
 - b. One (1) Senator “At Large” for Hobbies and Interests
 - c. One (1) Senator “At Large” for Club Sports
 - d. One (1) Senator “At Large” for Campus Culture;
15. One (1) Appointed Emerging Leaders Chair

Two (2) Chief Senators shall be elected from within the Senate and these Senators shall vacate their originally held Senate Seat, serving on Executive Board and acting as a liaison between the Executive Board and Senate

Section I: Election of Senators

- (1) Students interested in having their names placed on the ballot for Class Senators, School Senators, or “At Large” Senators must submit a petition containing twenty-five (25) signatures from students within their respective constituencies.
- (2) A separate Senatorial application form must be completed and submitted on OrgSync in order to appear on the ballot.
- (3) Once on the ballot, students will be voted on by members of their respective constituency.
- (4) For internal elections, only Senators who are able to complete the entire one-year term will be selected from within their respective group, club, council, organization, etc.
- (5) Freshman recipients of the SGA Fellowship will serve as Freshman Class Senators effective on the first day of the new school term, and will be subject to standard voting rules in November.
- (6) A student cannot hold more than one senate position at a time.

Section II: Duties of Senators

The Senate duties shall include:

- (1) Acting on all matters presented by the Executive Board;
- (2) Establishing laws, by-laws, and all other legislative acts for the SGA;
- (3) Proposing and recommending constitutional amendments to the student body;
- (4) Being responsible for initiating all funding of student activities; and
- (5) Reviewing all contingency reports.

Section III: Proxy Senator

To see the full requirements to serve as a Proxy Senator, reference Article IV, Section III.

Section IV: Chief Senators

- (1) The Chief Senators, upon their selection shall vacate their originally elected Senate seats and fulfill the responsibilities detailed in Section X, Article III of these Bylaws.
- (2) An election or search will be conducted to fill the vacated seats.

Section V: Membership on Faculty Senate/Student Development Subcommittees

Each Senate member and Class Officer shall serve on at least one (1), but not more than two (2) Faculty Senate/Student Development subcommittees in the course of an elected year. Appointments shall be made by the President at the beginning of the fall semester.

For a full listing of the current Faculty Senate/Student Development subcommittees and its various requirements, reference, Article IV, Section V of the SGA Bylaws.

Section VI: Intra-Senate Committees

Any Senate member or Class Officer can serve on the inter-senate subcommittees. Appointments and nominations will be made at the beginning of the fall semester.

For the current listing of the Senate Sub-Committees and full rules, reference Article IV, Section VI of the SGA Bylaws.

Other subcommittees can be established temporarily as deemed necessary by the Senate.

Section VII: Senate Terms

- (1) The term of office for Senators will be for one calendar year.
- (2) Senators will be elected during the fall semester. Elections shall be completed on the first (1st) Tuesday of November.

For full Senate Term guidelines, reference Article IV, Section VII of the SGA Bylaws.

Section VIII: Senate Meetings

- (1) The first meeting of the new Senate will be conducted before the fourteenth (14th) day of the spring semester.

For full Senate Meeting guidelines, reference Article IV, Section VIII of the SGA Bylaws.

Section IX: Attendance

- (1) All Executive and Senate members are expected to attend all scheduled Senate meetings, committee meetings, or special meetings whenever the respective body is in session.

For full guidelines on Attendance, reference Article IV, Section XI of the SGA Bylaws.

Article V: Impeachment

- (1) Any SGA member (Senators and Executive Board Members) may be subject to impeachment when in violation of term agreements.
- (2) For full impeachment policy, grounds and procedures, reference Article V, Section I – III of the SGA Bylaws.

Article VI: The Election Board

The Election board will be comprised of three (3) members that will ensure a fair and honest election.

The Election Board will run all the SGA elections, class officer elections, and any special student voting issues, including, but not limited to, the Outstanding Educator Award. This includes coordinating speeches, counting ballots, and publishing the results to the student body.

For full Election Board procedures, Transition Process and Oaths of Office, reference Article VI, Section I – Section VI.

Article VIII: Judicial Appeals

In the interest of the students, pertaining to judicial appeals, SGA will seek to maintain the right and ability to appoint students to serve in the capacity as a neutral and informative party in the matter of judicial appeals. In a case where a decision has been rendered by the Vice President for Student Development or his/her designate, and the accused student is dissatisfied with the decision rendered, he/she may appeal the decision to the President of the University. In this instance, SGA would seek to nominate students to represent the overall interests of the student body.

For full procedures, reference Article VIII of the SGA Bylaws.

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Article IX: Role of the Advisor

The Advisor to the Student Government Association shall be a full time employee, appointed by the Vice President for Student Development.

Article X: Amendments

This Constitution is a living document that allows for amendments. This constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate. The Senate, under direction of the Parliamentarian, must review the Constitution annually.

Article XI: Ratification

Constitutional ratifications may be made on this Constitution. This constitution must be approved by a simple majority of the Senate that will vote on the ratification. All ratifications will go into effect immediately, with the exception that any positions altered will be permitted to finish out the term.