

CONSTITUTION

University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee University Program

Student Government

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus, desiring to: Preserve and defend the rights and privileges of student self-governance; are hereby taking the responsibility to : Encourage the development of responsible student participation in the overall policy and decision making process of the University community; enable students to better provide for the needs of the student body; to help student activities achieve their maximum effectiveness; to provide for meaningful address of student concerns and perspectives through the principle of democratic representation; to exercise our indisputable right to be represented meaningfully in the affairs of the University; to foster observance of the shared goals and ideals of the University community; to develop a sense of responsibility for our own conduct and for the welfare of this University; and to protect the individual and collective rights of students do associate ourselves as The Student Government Association of the University Program Curriculum and do hereby establish this Constitution for its students and the governing body.

Article I. Name, Definition, and Purpose

Section 1. Name of the University Program Student Association

The University Program Student Association of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus, will operate and function as an autonomous organization under the title of Student Government Association.

Section 2. Definition of the University Program Student Government

The University Program Student Government of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus, hereafter referred to as Student Government Association, shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and a Senate Chair, as well as a unicameral assembly of properly appointed Student Senators from the University Program student body of the Sarasota Campus.

Section 3. Definition of the University Program Student Body

The University Program student body of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus, hereafter referred to as the University Program, shall be defined as all persons registered

and currently enrolled in one course in the University Program at the Sarasota-Manatee Campus.

Section 4. Purpose of the Student Government

The purpose of the Student Government shall be to represent the interests of the student body, coordinate the activities of the University Program through the allocation and expenditure of Activity and Service fee monies generated by the University Program, and to enhance student life.

Article II. Student Government Membership

Section 1. Composition of the Student Government.

The Student Government shall consist of an Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch. The officers of the Executive Board shall be elected from the University Program student body at large and constitute the Executive Branch of the democratic government unit. The members of the Student Senate shall be appointed on a representative basis from each University Program College and serve as members of the Legislative Branch of Government. The Judicial Committee shall be comprised of a Student Court System which will be implemented upon request.

Section 2. The Executive Branch

The officers of the Student Government shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and a Senate Chair. The officers shall be registered and concurrently enrolled in the University Program of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus, throughout the academic year. The minimum course load requirement for the semester shall be at least one course at the Sarasota-Manatee Campus.

Section 2.1. The President

The President shall be the principle executive officer of the Student Government and shall preside and perform such duties incidental to the office. The President will preside at all Executive Board meetings and be responsible for completing an agenda prior to all meetings. If a vote needs to be taken at the Executive Board Meetings, the President will only cast a vote in the event of a tie. The President is the chief person to be on University committees and represent Student Government administratively.

Section 2.2. The Vice President

In the absence of the President or in the event of an inability to perform the presidential duties, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President and when so acting shall have all powers of and be subject to all restrictions upon the President. The Vice President shall perform such other duties, pertaining to Student Government, as may from time to time be

assigned by the President. On a regulatory basis, the Vice President will serve as the ex-officio chairperson for the Clubs and Organization Committee.

Section 2.3. The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining accurate expenditure records, maintaining surveillance over the usage of the Activity and Service Fee money as indicated by its use in the Florida Statutes. The Treasurer shall be the ex-officio member of the Budget Committee, and shall prepare and present each new fiscal budget to the Student Government. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties, pertaining to Student Government, as may from time to time be assigned by the President.

Section 2.4. The Secretary.

The Secretary shall keep the records of Student Government in a filing system, and shall be responsible for recording minutes during Executive Board meetings. The Secretary shall attend to all correspondences to the Student Government unless otherwise instructed by the President. The Secretary shall perform such other duties, pertaining to Student Government, as may from time to time be assigned by the President.

Section 2.5. The Senate Chair

The Senate Chair shall be responsible for presiding over all Senate Meetings and completing an agenda prior to the meeting. The Senate Chair is an active participant in voting procedures among the Executive Board, but shall only cast a vote in the event of a tie at the Senate Meetings. The Senate Chair is included in the Executive Branch as a collective representation of the Student Senate. The Senate Chair shall lead the Senators in carrying out the legislative duties of the Senate and the Student Government, along with proposing all legislative changes, resolutions, and amendments to the Executive Board.

Section 3. The Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch shall be comprised of Student Senators that are appointed representatives of the student body. The Senators shall be registered and concurrently enrolled in the University Program of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus, throughout the academic year. The minimum course load requirement for the semester shall be at least one course at the Sarasota-Manatee Campus. They shall represent the interests of their respective colleges and the student body at large. They shall convene separately from the Executive Board for the purpose of representing students on the University Program matters, along with developing and promoting programs and activities.

Section 3.1. Number of Senators

The number of Student Senators shall not exceed two for every seventy students enrolled

in any University Program College on the Sarasota-Manatee Campus: in addition, each Senator must be registered as a student majoring within the college which s/he represents. Special students shall be represented by one Senator per one hundred special students enrolled in the University Program of the Sarasota Campus of the University of South Florida. Double majors and undeclared majors must choose one college to represent in order to declare his/her candidacy.

Section 3.2. Senators' Duties

As members of the Legislative Branch, the duties of the Senators are to function and serve as policy makers in regards to internal affairs of the University Program. Senators shall be responsible for legislative changes, resolutions, and amendments to Student Government. In addition, the Student Senators shall serve on or comprise four internal standing committees: The Clubs and Organization Committee, The Budget Committee, The Election Rules Committee, and The Judicial Committee.

Section 4. The Judicial Committee

The Judicial Branch will be introduced as a Students' Court whose procedures for judicial and disciplinary action shall be defined in the USF Sarasota-Manatee court statutes.

Article III. Senate Court

Section 1. The Powers

The judicial powers of the UPSA shall be vested in a Student Government Association.

The SGA Judiciary shall have jurisdiction in disagreements:

1. Between SGA Organizations.
2. Between a member of the UPSA and a SGA Organization.
3. Between a member of the UPSA and a Student Government official.
4. On the constitutionality of any Student Government legislation, decision, or action.
5. On any and all other questions of constitutionality within the UPSA.
6. On any member of the UPSA that chooses to have a hearing by the SGA
Judiciary

Section 2. Composition

The Union Judiciary shall consist of two Associate Justices and one Chief Justice. Justices shall be appointed by the entire Student Government for a term of one year.

Section 3. Chief Justice

1. The Chief Justice shall be elected by a majority vote of the Student Government.

2. The Chief Justice shall be responsible for proper conduct of all business of the SGA Judiciary, including the calling of and presiding at all sessions.
3. Should the Chief Justice not be able to carry out his or her duties for a temporary period of time, a justice chosen by a majority vote of the remaining Justices shall fulfill his/her responsibilities until such time as the Chief Justice can resume those responsibilities.

Section 4. Hearings

A written complaint, which levies specific charges, must be presented to the Chief Justice for a case to be heard.

1. The SGA Judiciary shall be compelled to hear a case if one justice grants certiorari.
2. The case shall be heard within five academic days of its presentation to the Chief Justice, contingent upon certiorari, unless both parties agree to a date after this period.

Section 5. Excused Justice

A Justice shall have the right to excuse him/herself from hearings of any case where s/he is directly involved, or where a reasonable conflict of interest exists or is perceived.

Section 6. Quorum

A quorum of three Justices is necessary for an official session of the Union Judiciary unless one or more of the Justices has excused him/herself from hearing the case. In such a situation, a quorum shall be three minus the number of excused Justices.

Section 7. Rules of Order

The SGA Judiciary shall, by majority vote, establish its own standing rules of order which will govern the procedures for hearings. These rules must be provided in writing to all parties to a case brought before the Union Judiciary prior to the hearing of that case.

Section 8. Hearing Result Notification

The SGA Judiciary must release a written explanation of all decisions to the SGA membership no later than five academic days after the hearing. In cases regarding sanctions sought by students the written explanation must be also given to the Student Affairs Coordinator to be placed in the Student's File.

Section 9. Deciding a Case

The Judiciary shall decide all cases by a majority vote of the Justices present and voting. If a majority cannot be reached on a particular charge or motion, the Justices may decide to reargue the case or dismiss it.

Section 9.1 Execution of Sanctions

All decisions of the Judiciary shall be final and binding. The Judiciary shall have the power to specify any and all measures appropriate to the execution of its decisions. The President shall have the responsibility to execute Judiciary decisions. For those seeking judicial hearings as an option, the Student Affairs Coordinator has the ability to execute the sanction.

Section 10. Elections Arbitration

The Judiciary shall be the final arbiter of all Government elections.

Section 10.1. Halting Elections

The Judiciary may issue an injunction prohibiting the continuance of election proceedings for no more than ten academic days. Specific written charges must be filed with the Chief Justice along with the injunction request for such a request to be considered.

Section 10.2. Election Re - Run

The Judiciary may order an election to be re-run if it finds that the Constitution or other elections rules have been violated so as to unfairly negatively impact the campaign of one or more candidates, or if an election rule itself is found to have unconstitutionally negatively impacted the campaign of one or more candidates. An order to re-run an election must be issued within five academic days of the original election.

Section 11. Open Hearings

All hearings of the Judiciary shall be open to the public. The Judiciary may, by a unanimous vote of members prior to or during the hearing, choose to close a particular hearing to the public if information regarding the identities of participants, or about the case in general, is deemed so sensitive as to be inappropriate for public knowledge or if the presence of the public is deemed to have a negative impact on the hearing. The Judiciary shall, by a majority vote of the members, have the right to re-open a hearing. The Judiciary shall always release a full written explanation of the case and the decision to the SGA membership; Justices may, however, omit particular names by unanimous consent in the interest of propriety.

Article IV. Elections

Section 1. Election Rules and Qualifications

The Student Government shall be responsible for assuring compliance with all election rules. An election packet containing all necessary forms and information for candidacy shall be distributed by the Election Rules Committee to all perspective Student Government candidates at least four weeks prior to any election. The election packet to all prospective candidates shall contain the following items:

1. Date of the beginning of the campaign period.
2. Restrictions on placement of campaigning materials.
3. Place and time of campaign speeches before the student body.
4. Date and time of the election and placement of polling booths.
5. Date and time by which all campaign materials must be removed from display on campus.
6. All and any such forms and information necessary for a student to declare his or her candidacy.
7. Duties and responsibilities of Senator Positions
8. Date for the SGA workshop for perspective members.

Section 1.1. Advertisement of Elections

At least six weeks prior to any campus-wide or University Program election, the Student Government shall publicize the coming election by means of such signs, fliers or posters deemed desirable by the Election Rules Committee. The advertisements shall note the offices available, as well as the dates, times, and locations of the election centers.

Section 1.2. Application Requirements for Student Senate Membership

Applications for positions within the Student Senate must obtain twenty-five signatures from students registered within his/her College on the Sarasota-Manatee Campus. If there are fewer than twenty-five students in a candidate's College, the candidate must obtain signatures from every member enrolled in his or her College and make up the remaining balance from the rest of the enrolled student body. Signatures shall be submitted to the Presiding Senate Chair at a regularly scheduled meeting. The Senate Chair will be responsible for verification of signatures. The Student Senate Applicant will be confirmed only upon an affirmative 2/3 vote of the Senators in attendance on the same day the signatures are submitted. Applicants must sign/pledge an oath of office and confirmation of Constitutional duties.

Section 1.3. Term of Office

The Executive Board will serve a one year term beginning in the month of May following the outcome of an election by the student body. The Executive Board officers have a two year maximum for serving in the same position. For instance, a person can serve one position for only two terms consecutively, otherwise, he/she must run for a different office or step down from Executive Board. The Student Senators will be appointed on a Semester basis throughout the

academic year.

Section 1.4. Eligibility for Executive Board Positions

Candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Senate President must obtain thirty-five signatures from the members of the University Program Student Body. All candidates for the Executive Board positions must sign the Statement of Personal Responsibility, the Candidate Profile Sheet, the Confirmation of Oath of Office, the Confirmation of Constitution, and the workshop verification worksheet.

Section 1.5. Number of Votes Required for Victory by a Candidate

Elections for all Executive Board positions shall be decided by the highest number of votes received for each office.

Section 1.6. Eligibility for Election to Student Government Executive Board

1. Must be enrolled in a minimum of one (1) class on the Sarasota-Manatee Campus.
2. Must be coded a University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Home Campus student. (As per Amendment 10-001S)
3. Must complete the “What it Means To Be in Student Government” affidavit.
4. Must have a minimum GPA of 2.2, overall (include a copy of your most current transcript with your election package).
5. Must complete and submit the Election Packet on or before the due date.

Section 2. Poll Workers

The Elections Rules Committee will be responsible for assigning poll workers to man the election box. No candidate for any Student Government position shall be a poll worker for the election in which he or she is a candidate.

Section 3. Campaigning Restrictions

No campaigning shall be allowed in the balloting rooms, nor within twenty-five feet of any polling station. Posters and fliers may be hung throughout the campus for the duration of the campaign, but need to be removed twenty-four hours prior to the beginning of the election.

Section 4. Further Election Rules

Any specific election rules or procedures not explicitly stated by the Election Rules Committee or the Constitution, shall be determined by the Student Government and posted on campus and in the University Program newsletter at least six weeks prior to any Student Government election.

Section 5. Violation of Election Rules

Any violation of the Election Rules may be cause for disqualification of a candidate of an entire election. All charges of Election Rules violations shall be addressed to the Election Rules Committee, which shall consider the seriousness of the violation(s) and determine the proper action to be taken. Complaints not resolved by the Election Rules Committee shall be tried before the Senate Court. As with any other body of the Student Government, no candidate for office shall sit on the Senate Court or the Election Rules Committee.

Section 6. Voter Eligibility

Every student enrolled in the University Program of the Sarasota Campus of the University of South Florida is eligible to vote once in each Student Government sponsored election.

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. Parliamentary Procedures

The parliamentary procedure to be followed at all meetings shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order - Revised.

Section 2. Scheduling

Meetings shall be held at least once every ten academic days during the period of the school year with regular classes are in session. All members shall be given reasonable notice of all meetings.

Section 3. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 3/5 for the Executive Board meetings and 2/3 of currently registered voting Senate members for Senate meetings. No Executive Board or Senate meeting shall be convened without the attendance of a quorum. In the event of a lack of quorum, the President and Senate Chair shall set another meeting time for the Executive Board and Senate meetings, respectively.

Section 4. Meeting Attendance

The attendance of meetings by all members are mandatory.

Section 4.1 Absences

Absences will be dealt with on an excused or unexcused basis. Excused absences will be documented absences that are submitted by the member to the Secretary. The Secretary will file and record the absence among Student Government files. Once the member has reached the designated allotment of excused absences for semester, the following absences will be classified as unexcused. Unexcused absences will result in a member being in poor standing due to

unfulfillment of Constitutional requirements. This member in poor standing may be petitioned to be removed before the Senate Court.

Section 5. Meeting Procedures

No Executive Board meeting shall be convened unless either the President or a duly appointed presiding officer is present. Respectively, no Senate meeting shall be convened unless either the Senate President or duly appointed presiding officer is present. Each meeting will be called to order by the presiding officer, if quorum requirements are met, and roll will be taken by the Secretary.

Section 5.1. Agenda

Upon the meeting being called to order, the Secretary shall pass out an agenda to every person in attendance, including non-voters, observers, and guests. Items on the agenda need not be considered in the order in which they appear on the agenda. The Executive Board officers or Senators may move and vote to change the order of the agenda. The President or Senate President may also ask that a motion be entertained to reorder the agenda. All items on either the Executive Board or Student Senate agenda not disposed of at a regular meeting of those bodies shall be taken up first at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 5.2. Voting

All voting shall take place after debate has been closed and a motion has been entered to call for a vote. A roll call vote shall be taken upon request of one member. A straw poll vote shall be taken upon request of two members. In an Executive Board meeting, if a vote needs to be taken, all members, excluding the President shall cast one vote. Executive Board voting members include the Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Senate President. The President serves as a voter in the event of a tie. In the event of a vote at a Senate meeting, the only voters are the Student Senators. Each Senator shall cast one vote, and the Senate President shall only vote in the event of a tie. The Vice President and Secretary are non-voting observers to the Senate meetings. The Vice President serves a sole purpose of making sure parliamentary procedures and the Constitution are abided by in Senate proceedings. The Secretary serves a sole purpose of taking minutes and passing out legislative handouts or paperwork in Senate proceedings.

Section 5.3. Time Limits

No discussion shall persist for a period of more than ten minutes unless there is a motion or resolution on the table. Discussion incorporates debate proceedings that shall not exceed more than three minutes without prior approval of a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Executive Board or Senate.

Section 6. Guests

A guest is defined as a non-voting member of either body of the Student Government. An Executive Board member in attendance at a Student Senate meetings shall be considered a guest. A Senator at an Executive Board meeting shall be considered a guest.

Section 7. Legislation

Legislation shall be in two types: Motions and Resolutions

Section 7.1. Motions

Motions may be voted on at the meeting in which they are introduced.

Section 7.2. Student Senate Motions - Internal Affairs

Motions authored in the Student Senate to govern internal affairs require an affirmative 2/3 majority vote. Internal affairs consist of the three internal committees of the Student Government. Motions will be confirmed by the affirmative vote.

Section 7.3. Executive Board Motions - External Affairs

Motions authored in the Executive Board to govern external affairs require an affirmative 3/5 majority vote. External affairs consist of committees in relation to the Library Space, Student Life/Affairs, and CIT. Motions will be confirmed by the affirmative vote.

Section 7.4. Resolutions

Resolutions shall be read at the meeting at which they are introduced. Discussion may be entertained but final legislative action shall be taken only at a subsequent meeting.

Section 7.5. Student Senate Resolutions - Internal Affairs

Resolutions authored in the Student Senate to govern internal affairs shall require a 2/3 affirmative vote for passage. Resolutions shall become effective upon return to the Student Senate from the Executive Board President within ten academic days, if and only if, they are returned approved or without comment by the President. The Student Senate may override a presidential veto by a 2/3 affirmative vote of those Senators present and voting. Any resolution in conflict with the Student Government Constitution shall be null and void.

Section 7.6. Executive Board Resolutions - External Affairs

Resolutions authored in the Executive Board to govern external affairs shall require a 3/5 affirmative vote, of Executive Board officers present and voting, for passage. If an immediate

decision does occur among external affairs, the President has the power to make a decision on behalf of the Student Government s/he represents. The President must present an accurate description of events that transpired and decision making procedures that were followed at the next regularly scheduled Executive Board and Senate meetings.

Article VI. Senate Procedure

Section 1. Procedure for Legislation

1. All new legislation will be taken directly to the Senate Chairperson before it is placed on the agenda as new business. The introducer will be responsible contacting the Chairperson by the Monday preceding the next business regularly scheduled business meeting.

2. All major legislation shall be submitted to the Senate in writing at the time it is introduced and shall list the following:

- a) Number
- b) Type of Legislation
- c) Name of Introducer
- d) Name of Sponsor
- e) Subject
- f) Purpose
- g) History
- h) Desired Outcome
- i) Exact Wording
- j) Date of Execution (if any)

Section 2. Preparing Legislative Referendums

The Chairperson of the Senate shall assist any other member of the Student Body in the preparation of legislation in the proper form. All legislation and resolutions shall add to the following composite parts:

Section 2.1 Senate Bill

The capital letters "S" and "B" to denote "Senate Bill," followed by the two digit year ending followed by a dash followed by three digit numeral beginning with 001. Followed by the semester implemented. F for fall S spring. Ex. SB 99-001F

Section 2.2 Resolution

The capital letters "RES" to denote "Resolution," followed by the two digit year ending followed by a dash followed by three digit numeral beginning with 001. Followed by the semester implemented. F for fall S spring. Ex. RES 99-001F

Section 3. Presentation and Readings

Once referred to and reviewed by the Executive Board, the Senate Chairperson will present the legislation to be placed on the agenda as old business for consideration by the Senate as rapidly as practicable. All bill should receive no less than two readings.

Article VII. Office Requirements

Section 1. Requirements

Office Requirements are a separate criteria from Officer Duties. These requirements must be met and maintained in order to remain a member in good standing. Failure to meet any of the following requirements may result in a petition to remove the member from office.

Section 1.2 The President

The President shall be responsible for working at least fifteen office hours per week, separate from meeting times. These office hours will allow sufficient time for officer obligations and duties to be met. In addition, the President will be allowed two excused absences per semester, or four per year. If the President cannot attend a meeting, they are responsible for appointing a presiding officer. If one is not appointed, then the President has failed to complete his/her obligations to the Executive Board. This absence is automatically considered to be unexcused.

Section 1.3. The Vice President

The Vice President shall be responsible for working at least fifteen office hours per week, separate from meeting times. These office hours will allow sufficient time for officer obligations and duties to be met. In addition, the Vice President will be allowed three excused absences per semester, or six per year. In addition to Executive Board meetings, if the Vice President cannot attend a Senate meeting, s/he needs to appoint a representative to act on their behalf. If one is not appointed, then the Vice President has failed to complete his/her Constitutional duties and obligations. This absence is automatically considered to be unexcused.

Section 1.4. The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for working at least office ten hours per week, separate from meeting times. These office hours will allow sufficient time for officer obligations and duties to be met. In addition, the Treasurer will be allowed three excused absences per semester, or six per year.

Section 1.5. The Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for working at least ten office hours per week, separate

from meeting times. These office hours will allow sufficient time for officer obligations and duties to be met. In addition, the Secretary will be allowed three excused absences per semester, or six per year. In addition to Executive Board meetings, if the Secretary cannot attend a Senate meeting, s/he needs to appoint a representative to act on their behalf. If one is not appointed, then the Secretary has failed to complete his/her Constitutional duties and obligations. This absence is automatically considered to be unexcused.

Section 1.6. The Senate Chair

The Senate Chair shall be responsible for working at least ten office hours per week, separate from meeting times. These office hours will allow sufficient time for officer obligations and duties to be met. In addition, the Senate Chair will be allowed three excused absences per semester, or six per year.

Section 1.7. The Student Senators

The Senators shall be responsible for working at least three office hour per week, separate from meeting times. These office hours will allow sufficient time for member obligations and duties to be met. In addition, the Senators will be allowed two excused absences per semester, or four per year.

Article VIII. Impeachment

Section 1. Petition

A petition may be submitted to the office of Academic Affairs to remove any member of the Student Government who is found to be in poor standing. The grounds are based on gross negligence, malfeasance, fraud, or violation of Constitutional duties and/or requirements.

Section 2. Executive Board

The Executive Board will have the power to recommend the replacement of any members of the Student Government. The removal of a member will be conducted as a silent vote of both the Executive Board and Student Senate. The votes will be combined for the two bodies and confirmed with a total 2/3 affirmative vote for replacement.

Section 3. Student Body

The Student Body may petition to remove any representative from the Student Government with a minimum of twenty percent of that official's constituency signing the petition. The removal of a member will be conducted as a silent vote of both the Executive Board and Student Senate. The votes will be combined for the two bodies and confirmed with a total 2/3 affirmative vote for replacement.

Section 4. Senate Court

In all matters of impeachment, the Student Government member in question will have the opportunity to present his/her defense to the student body. The petition to remove will be presented to the Senate Court, Judicial Branch, by a representative from the petitioning party. No members being petitioned against may serve on the Senate Court proceedings.

Article IX. Filling a Vacancy

Section 1. Filling a Vacancy

Vacancies in the various Student Government positions shall be filled as defined within the sub-sections of this section.

Section 1.1. Office of the President

In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President shall assume the office of President as a temporary position for up to thirty days. The position will become permanent upon confirmation by an affirmative 2/3 majority vote of both the Executive Board and the Student Senate. If the motion of the Vice President to become President is not passed, then the Executive Board shall nominate someone to fill the position, followed by an affirmative 2/3 majority vote of both the Executive Board and the Student Senate. Once so confirmed, all the powers and responsibilities of the office of President shall follow that confirmation.

Section 1.2. Office of the Vice President

In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the Senate Chair shall assume the office of Vice President as a temporary position for up to thirty days. The position will become permanent upon confirmation by an affirmative 2/3 majority vote of both the Executive Board and the Student Senate. If the motion of the Senate Chair to become Vice President is not passed, then the President shall nominate someone to fill the position followed by an affirmative 2/3 majority vote of both the Executive Board and the Student Senate. Once so confirmed, all the powers and responsibilities of the office of Vice President shall follow that confirmation.

Section 1.3. Office of the Treasurer

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Treasurer, the Student Government President shall appoint, from within the Student Senate, an acting Treasurer for up to thirty days. The acting Treasurer shall be confirmed by an affirmative 2/3 majority vote of both the Executive Board and Student Senate. Once so confirmed, all the powers and responsibilities of the office of Treasurer shall follow that confirmation.

Section 1.4. Office of Secretary

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Secretary, the Student Government President shall appoint, from within the Student Senate, an acting Secretary for up to thirty days. The acting Secretary shall be confirmed by an affirmative 2/3 majority vote of both the Executive Board and Student Senate. Once so confirmed, all the powers and responsibilities of the office of Secretary shall follow that confirmation.

Section 1.5. Office of Senate Chair

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Senate Chair, the Student Senators shall appoint, from within the Student Senate, an acting Senate Chair for up to thirty days. The acting Senate Chair shall be confirmed by an affirmative 2/3 majority vote of both the Executive Board and the Student Senate. Once so confirmed, all the powers and responsibilities of the office of Senate Chair shall follow that confirmation.

Section 2. Determination of Quorum

In the event of a vacancy in office, that position shall not be counted when determining the quorum of either the Executive Board or the Student Senate.

Section 3. Resignations

Any Executive Board Officer or Student Senator who voluntarily resigns his/her position due to academic or employment commitment or other personal problems may be considered for that same position without prejudice after the conflict or problem has been resolved, for so long as the position remains available.

Section 4. Advertisement of Vacancies

The Student Government shall be required to advertise, in the University Program newsletter, all vacancies of the Executive Board and Student Senate until such time as the vacancies are filled.

Article X. Remuneration

Section 1. Remuneration

The Student Government Executive Board and Student Senators may receive remuneration for the performance of their Constitutional duties, obligations, and requirements. The amount of this stipend shall be determined by the Budget Committee. The remuneration shall be consistent with all applicable laws of the State of Florida, and with all other guidelines established by lawful regulatory bodies.

Section 1.2. Back-Pay

Members of the Student Government will not be allowed to receive back payments for services previously rendered.

Section 1.3. Failure to Receive Payment

If a member of the Student Government is found to be in poor standing due to neglect of Constitutional duties, obligations, and requirements, the remuneration can be put on hold until proper tasks are completed. At this time, Executive Board officers and Senators may petition for the member not to receive payment. Upon an affirmative 2/3 vote, Student Government can hold or discontinue payment to the Student Government member.

Article XI. Committees, Internal and External

Section 1. Internal Standing Committees

Internal standing committees include The Clubs and Organization Committee, The Budget Committee and The Election Rules Committee. These internal committees serve to aid in the governance of the University Program of the Sarasota Campus of the University of South Florida.

Section 1.1. Internal Standing Committee Appointments

Internal standing committee appointments shall be made by the first week in May of every term of office. These appointments shall be made by an affirmative 3/5 majority vote of the Executive Board. Members of the Student Senate who wish to serve in a specific internal standing committee may nominate themselves by submitting their names and credentials in writing to the ex-officio chairperson of the committee.

Section 2. External Standing Committee Appointments

External standing committee appointments shall be made, as necessary by the Student Government President. Such appointments shall be drawn from the membership of the Student Senate and Executive Board.

Article XII. Amendments

Section 1. Amendment Proposals

All the amendments to this Constitution must be proposed by one of the following methods: Executive, Legislative or by the Student Body.

Section 1.1. Executive

Written proposal presented to the Senate Chair prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 1.2. Legislative

A written proposal presented to the Senate Chair in a scheduled meeting.

Section 1.3. Student Body

By a petition presented in writing to the Senate Chair carrying the signature of fifteen percent of the membership of the Student Body.

Section 2. Review

All proposed amendments to this Constitution must be reviewed before voting by the Student Judiciary to ensure consistency in both form and content.

Section 3. Legislative Voting

Any amendment to this Constitution, proposed within the Student Senate, must be passed by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Senate. Such amendments shall be presented to the members of the Student Body at the next scheduled election.

Section 4. Student Body Voting

Amendments shall be voted upon during the regular election of the academic year.

Section 4.1. Public Inspection

Any proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be made available for public inspection a minimum of two weeks prior to the election. A proposed amendment, together with the parts of the Constitution affected, shall be published at least one week prior to the election.

Section 4.2. Adoption of Amendment

Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be adopted by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the students voting on the amendment.

Section 4.3. Signing of the Amendment

Within twenty-four hours after the polls are closed, the President must sign the amendment into the Constitution if it is ratified.

Section 5. Effectiveness of Amendments

After complying with Sections 1-4, all amendments shall become effective immediately unless otherwise specified.

Article XIII. Equal Access

Section 1 Non Discriminatory Policy

The Student Government Association of the University Program Student Body shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religious preferences, cultural differences, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability.

Section 2 Loss of Support

No UPSA organization or persons that receive sponsorship or funding shall practice in any discriminatory acts, and must adhere to the same discriminatory policy as the Student Government. Any violation will result in loss of organization, and support.

Article XIV. Supremacy

Section 1.

The University Program Student Government Association, hereinafter referred to as the "SGA" shall be governed by this Constitution.

Section 2.

This Constitution shall supersede all other Constitutions, documents, and other related governing instruments of the Student Government and its Organizations.

Section 3.

This Constitution shall be enacted in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws, and University policies.

Section 4.

This Constitution shall be utilized in conjunction with the **Declaration of Independence**.

Resolutions

RES 99-001F AS of Sept 1, 1999, It has here by been resolved that the Student Government Association in agreement with the Dean and Warden of the University of South Florida Sarasota / New College shall no longer provide for full commencement services. But shall still however provide a reception following commencement.