

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

Revised: Spring 2010

Effective: June 1, 2010



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**CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY
Revised SPRING 2010; Effective June 1, 2010**

Article I – NAME

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association, also known as SGA.

Article II – PURPOSE

Section 1: The purpose of the Student Government Association is to provide an orderly method of government representative of all students that acts on the will of the majority while protecting the interest of the minority and stands for all students of the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), in all matters that concern them.

Section 2: The Mission of the Student Government Association is to stimulate the intellectual, political, cultural, and social growth of all students.

Section 3: The Operating Principles of the Student Government Association are:

- A. To provide a forum to discuss issues that are vital to the welfare of UMKC students
- B. To act as a liaison between UMKC administration and students
- C. To link students with positive role models including UMKC faculty, staff and community
- D. To provide opportunity for peer-to-peer networking, intellectual and social engagement and mentoring for all students at UMKC

Article III - MEMBERS

Section 1: Membership shall be open to all duly enrolled UMKC students. Membership and activities are open to all currently enrolled students regardless of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, or Vietnam era veteran's status.

Article IV - THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: The SGA Executive Board shall consist of the following officer positions: President, Executive Vice President, Administrative Vice President, Comptroller, and President Pro-Tempore.

Section 2: Executive Board Members must be chosen in an election format open to all members of the student body. Every effort will be made to notify all current voting members of said election and, further, to reasonably accommodate the needs of all members desiring to participate.

Section 3: Officers must meet minimum eligibility requirements, including a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and six credit hours of current enrollment, and must not be on student conduct disciplinary action or honor code probation. The requirement to be enrolled in six credit hours will be waived for Doctoral students who have completed their formal degree course work, have passed their comprehensive or matriculation examination, and are continuously enrolled in at least one hour of research in the Fall and Winter semesters. Potential candidates must have accumulated 12 hours of credit at UMKC before filing for office.

Section 4: The term of office will be one full year (May 1 to April 31).

Section 5: The following positions will be filled through the Student Body election process: President, Executive Vice President, Administrative Vice President, and Comptroller.

Section 6: The position of President Pro-Tempore shall be elected from the Student Senate by nomination or declaration of interested parties. This position shall be filled during the first summer meeting or no later than the first fall meeting of the academic school term.

Article V – SENATORS

Section 1: The Student Senate shall consist of the following officer positions: Executive Vice President, Administrative Vice President, Comptroller and President Pro-Tempore, along with the following Senator positions: two representatives from each Divisional Council (Arts & Science, the Bloch School, School of Education, School of Nursing, School of Medicine, School of Law, School of Computing & Engineering, School of Biological Sciences, Conservatory, School of Dentistry, School of Graduate Studies, and the School of Pharmacy) and one representative from each Secondary Council (Inter-fraternity Council, International Student Council, Minority Student Organization Council, Residential Life, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the Pan-Hellenic Council).

Section 2: The SGA Senate positions will be filled through the Divisional and Secondary Council election process. The election format is open to all members of the student body within their respective Divisional and Secondary Councils. The Divisional and Secondary Councils will ensure that every effort is made to notify all current voting members of said election and, further, to reasonably accommodate the needs of all members desiring to participate.

Section 3: Senators must meet minimum eligibility requirements, including a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and six credit hours of current enrollment, and must not be on student conduct disciplinary action or honor code probation. The requirement to be enrolled in six credit hours will be waived for Doctoral students who have completed their formal degree course work, have passed their comprehensive or matriculation examination, and are continuously

enrolled in at least one hour of research in the Fall and Winter semesters. Potential candidates must have accumulated 12 hours of credit at UMKC before filing for office.

Section 4: The term of office will be one full year (May 1 to April 31).

Article VI – SUPERIOR COURT JUSTICES

Section 1: The Superior Court shall consist of the following officer positions: a Chief Justice (who must be a second year law student at the time of his/her appointment) and six Associate Justices (who must either be enrolled in the School of Law or possess a Juris Doctorate degree).

Section 2: Superior Court Justices will be chosen in the following format: The SGA President shall appoint the Chief Justice and two Associate Justices with the consent of a majority vote from the Student Senate. The Student Senate shall appoint the remaining four Associate Justices.

Section 3: Superior Court Justices must meet minimum eligibility requirements, including a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and six credit hours of current enrollment, and must not be on student conduct disciplinary action or honor code probation. The requirement to be enrolled in six credit hours will be waived for Doctoral students who have completed their formal degree course work, have passed their comprehensive or matriculation examination, and are continuously enrolled in at least one hour of research in the Fall and Winter semesters. Potential candidates must have accumulated 12 hours of credit at UMKC before filing for office.

Section 4: The term of office will be one full year (May 1 to April 31).

Article VII – ADVISORS

Section 1: All Advisor(s) will be nominated and voted on by the current SGA Executive Board. At least one Advisor shall be chosen and in place by June 1 of each year. The organization may have a total of three advisors.

Section 2: An advisor must be a current UMKC faculty or staff member. First preference shall be granted to the Director of Student Life and second preference to the Assistance Vice Chancellor for Student Development.

Section 3: Once an advisor is chosen, their name, address and contact number should be turned into the Student Life Office with the organization's officer listing form.

Article VIII - MEETINGS

Section 1: Executive Board

- A. The Executive Board shall meet bi-weekly. The times, dates, and location are determined by the President in conjunction with majority approval by the Executive Board.
- B. The Executive Board shall be notified by the Administrative Vice President, no less than 24 hours in advance of any changes in the times, dates, or location of an executive meeting.
- C. A quorum to conduct business of an Executive Board meeting shall be a majority of the voting members of the Executive Board.
- D. All Executive Board votes are to be hand held except when a majority of the officers present vote for a secret ballot.
- E. All standing committee chairs shall be in attendance at the executive board meetings upon request from the executive board.
- F. Members of the SGA Executive Board must maintain adequate attendance throughout their term in office. Failure to maintain adequate attendance is defined as absences at four (4) or more SGA Executive Board and/or Senate meetings per semester. Said absences will be grounds for impeachment and removal by the Student Senate. The Administrative Vice President shall inform the Executive Board when any Officer fails to maintain adequate attendance. The Student Senate must have a three-fourths (3/4) vote to remove an Executive Officer due to lack of attendance.

Section 2: Senate Meetings

- A. It is the responsibility of each active SGA member to attend designated Senate meetings.
- B. The Executive Board shall determine the format of the Senate meetings.
- C. All standing committee chairs shall be in attendance at the Senate meetings.
- D. The regular meetings of the organization shall be held bi-weekly at the time and place designated by the Executive Vice President for the transaction of business and promotion of SGA.
- E. In the event that neither the Executive Vice President nor the President Pro-Tempore can be present at the Senate meetings, the meetings shall be cancelled.
- F. Special meetings may be called at anytime by the President, the Executive Vice President or any five members of the Senate provided said five members are representatives from at least two of the several schools. No matter of business may be acted upon unless specified in the call for the special meeting. Every member of the Senate shall be notified in writing at least 24 hours prior to the time of the special meeting.

- G. Meetings of the Senate shall follow the format of parliamentary procedure outlined within Robert's Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Order shall also be used to address any ambiguity involving parliamentary procedure.
- H. All meetings of the Senate shall be public and open to all interested persons. The first Senate meeting of the year shall serve as an orientation meeting for previous members and prospective members of SGA.

Article IX – QUORUM

Section 1: The presiding officer or the Administrative Vice President determines whether a quorum exists before the meeting starts. This does not need to be announced. If the minutes do not mention that a quorum was present, it is so assumed.

Section 2: If a quorum cannot be reached, any transaction of business is void and the meeting will be immediately adjourned. The only business that can be carried out is to declare a time to adjourn or recess, or to take measures to reach a quorum. In spite of a lack of quorum, the requirement of having held a meeting has been met.

Section 3: Even if those present unanimously agree to continue, the prohibition of transacting business cannot be waived. Under very special circumstances, if an important opportunity would be missed, members might consider taking a risk and act in an emergency, with the hope that their decision will be ratified later during a meeting when a quorum is present.

Section 4: Once the meeting is duly called to order, it can continue. Members' leaving the meeting after that does not mean that the quorum requirements are no longer met. This provision prevents one or a few members from manipulating the course of the meeting when the opinion seems to go against their will.

Section 5: Vacancies on the board (which reduce the board to less than a quorum) need to be filled first before any action can be taken.

Section 6: Executive Board Meetings

- A. An item of business may not be transacted at an Executive Board meeting unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to consider it. The quorum for Executive Board meetings shall be four-fifths (4/5) of the Executive Board.

Section 7: Senate Meetings

- A. An item of business may not be transacted at a Senate meeting unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to consider it. The quorum for Senate meetings shall be (3/4) of the Senate members.

Article X – BYLAWS

Section 1: The Bylaws shall at all times reflect the current working order of SGA. The Bylaws are intended to be flexible and change with the organization, not to keep the organization to one method when another might work best. The Bylaws are intended to instead illuminate the inner workings of the Organization and keep the administration clear and transparent, not to limit what the Organization may do.

Section 2: The Bylaws at all times shall contain the following definitions and specifications. No proposed change that removes any of the following things and does not replace them with another bylaw sufficient to the standards of the Constitution shall be enacted. Constitutionally mandated bylaws shall have changes go into effect a month after such changes are voted through, during which time the Organization may vote to rescind that change at another regular meeting with another majority vote.

Section 3: A definition of announced and published shall at all times exist in the Bylaws of the Organization. "Announced" shall consist of some method of directly contacting all members, by a messaging system or some other means. "Published" shall be placing the information in a publicly accessible place, either electronically or otherwise, such that all members and others have access to the information published. The Bylaws have the responsibility of defining these terms specifically to meet these general criteria.

Section 4: A definition of a regular meeting shall at all times exist in the Bylaws of the Organization. Such meetings should occur at regular intervals during the semester.

Article XI – AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting student body, provided a minimum of two full school weeks notice is given the electorate.

- A. To be placed on the ballot, a proposed amendment must either:
 - 1. Be approved by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of quorum of the Student Senate, or
 - 2. A petition signed by the five percent of qualified electors of the Student Body must be filed and verified as per the By-laws of this Constitution.
 - 3. Amendments by petition must be voted on by the Student Body within one month of filing.
- B. Amendments to the Constitution shall always be the first order of business at any meeting when they are to be considered. They must be voted upon in the meeting when they are first considered—no amendment shall be kept as unresolved business between meetings.

- C. It is further understood that if this organization desires at any time in the future to change in any way the provisions of this constitution, that before such action is taken, the organization will submit for approval to the Student Government Association, the UMKC Student Body, and the Student Life Office every detail of the desired changes to be made.

Section 2: Implementation of this Constitution is subject to ratification of a vote of three-fourths (3/4) quorum of the Student Senate voting at the time of presentation and the subsequent approval of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Upon taking effect, this document shall be considered binding and controlling of all student government activities.

Article XII – IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 1: Executive Board Officers and Senators

- A. Executive Board Officers and Senators may be impeached for sufficient cause by the Student Senate. Sufficient cause consists of any one or more of the following: malfeasance of office, violation of duly enacted regulations, or violation of other legislation of SGA.
- B. The Executive Vice President shall preside over the impeachment proceedings of the Student Senate. In the event that the Executive Vice President is recommended for impeachment, the President Pro-Tempore shall preside over the impeachment proceedings of the Student Senate. A vote to impeach an Officer from the Executive Board or the Student Senate must first be met with a Motion to Impeach made by any Officer or Senator present at the meeting and a Second to the Motion to Impeach by any other Officer or Senator present at the meeting.
- C. If an Officer or Senator is recommended for impeachment the Executive Vice President must make a valid attempt to contact the said person before a vote is taken. Said person must be allowed a chance to defend their office if present at the meeting where the vote shall occur.
- D. Any Officer or Senator recommended for Impeachment must immediately vacate the meeting and remain absent until such time as the Vote to Impeach has ended. A three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Student Senate membership is required in order to impeach an Executive Board Officer or a Senator.
- E. The Chief Justice of the Superior Court shall preside over removal proceedings of the Student Senate. Executive Board Officers and Senators may be removed from service by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Student Senate membership. The vote for removal must take place no less than two weeks following the vote for impeachment.
- F. A vote in favor of removal disqualifies the Executive Board Officer or Senator from holding any office with SGA or serving on a committee for SGA during the remainder of the academic school term. The decision of impeachment and/or removal may only be overturned by the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

Section 2: Superior Court Justices

- A. Superior Court Justices may be impeached for sufficient cause by the Student Senate. Sufficient cause consists of any one or more of the following: malfeasance of office, violation of duly enacted regulations, or violation of other legislation of SGA.
- B. A vote to impeach a Superior Court Justice must first be met with a Motion to Impeach made by any Officer or Senator present at the meeting and a Second to the Motion to Impeach by any other Officer or Senator present at the meeting.
- C. If a Justice is recommended for impeachment the Executive Vice President must make a valid attempt to contact the said person before a vote is taken. Said person must be allowed a chance to defend their office if present at the meeting where the vote shall occur.
- D. Any Justice recommended for Impeachment must immediately vacate the meeting and remain absent until such time as the Vote to Impeach has ended. A three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Student Senate membership is required in order to impeach a Superior Court Justice.
- E. Superior Court Justices may be removed from service by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Student Senate membership. The vote for removal must take place no less than two weeks following the vote for impeachment.
- F. The Executive Vice President of the Student Senate shall preside over the impeachment and removal proceedings of the Superior Court.
- G. A vote in favor of removal disqualifies the Superior Court Justice from holding any office with SGA or serving on a committee for SGA during the remainder of the academic school term. The decision of impeachment and/or removal may only be overturned by the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

Article XIII – SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Section 1: This organization shall comply with all of the rules and regulations of the Student Life Office.

Section 2: No part of the Constitution shall be interpreted to mean adherence to it will relinquish one from any civil or criminal liability or disciplinary action by the University of Missouri. The provisions of this Constitution are intended only to provide an orderly method of government representation of all students at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Failure to proscribe any act or course of conduct is not to be interpreted as a license to act in a manner contrary to the laws of the United States of America, laws of the State of Missouri, or the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri.

Section 3: The books of account shall be kept up-to-date and open to the inspection of the University auditor.

Section 4: The offices and the committees established in this constitution shall remain until such time when the constitution shall be amended and the former charter shall be void. All offices and committees of SGA shall be governed by the Constitution and By-laws of the Student Government Association.

Section 5: Hazing is strictly prohibited in the State of Missouri and by the University. Hazing is defined as any willful act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, directed against a student or a prospective member of an organization operating under the sanction of an educational institution, that recklessly endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or prospective member for the purpose of initiation or admission into or continued membership in any such organization. Hazing is a class C Felony.

A. Acts of hazing include, but are not limited to:

1. Any activity that recklessly endangers the physical health or safety of the student or prospective member, including but not limited to physical brutality, whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance
2. Any activity that endangers the mental health of the student or prospective member, including but not limited to sleep deprivation, physical confinement, or other extreme stress inducing activity.
3. Any activity that requires the student or prospective member to perform a duty or task which involves a violation of the criminal laws of this state or any political subdivision in this state.