



Constitution

of the

Student Government Association

of the



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Last update of the SGA Constitution: April 26, 2012

Votes Required for Action	
Type of Action	Vote Required
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 alliance 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 UWSP.

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. SGA is the organization of student representation recognized by the Chancellor under Wisconsin State Statute 36.09(5).

As such, and according to UW Board of Regents Policies, UWSP 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. Acting through the Segregated University Fee Allocations Committee (SUFAC) or other designated institution-wide bodies, formulate the allocable SUF budget, subject to the responsibilities of the chancellor in accordance with State Law and UW Policy.
4. Organize students in a manner they determine and select their representatives to participate in institutional governance according to the processes outlined in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.

Article IV – Membership

1. All rights, responsibilities, offices, and benefits of the Student Government Association are equally available to all people without regard to age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, parentage, pregnancy, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
2. All persons 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. Any person 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 SGA.

Article V – The Legislative Branch

1. The Legislative Branch, or the Senate, shall consist of the Senators and Caucus Chairs, 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, according to the guidelines laid out in the Bylaws of this document.
3. Senators may be appointed by the Senate Body, according to the guidelines laid out in the Bylaws of this document.
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. 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. Elections for the Speaker of the Senate will be conducted according to the guidelines laid out in the Bylaws of this document.
6. The Chair of each Caucus shall be elected by a plurality of the Senators in each respective college.
7. The duties of all offices of the legislative branch shall be detailed in the Bylaws of this document.

Article VI – The Executive Branch

1. The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, the Vice President, and the Executive Cabinet.
2. The President and Vice President shall be elected on a combined ticket by a popular vote of the student body according to the guidelines laid out in the Bylaws of this document.
3. In the event the President is unable to complete his or her term, the following will occur:

- a. Succession will be Vice President, Speaker of the Senate with a majority vote of the Senate.
 - b. In the event that neither of the above mentioned accept the position, the Speaker of the Senate will act as temporary President.
 - c. A new President will be 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. Succession will be Speaker of the Senate, with a majority vote of the Senate.
 - b. In the event that the Speaker of the Senate does not accept the position, s/he will act as temporary Vice President.
 - c. A new Vice President will be appointed by the President and approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the Senate.
5. The Executive Cabinet shall consist of the Chief of Staff, Academic Issues Director, Communication and Public Relations Director, Environmental and Sustainability Issues Director, Inclusivity Director, Legislative Issues Director, Student Life Issues Director, University Centers Student Director, Health Services Student Director, and Budget Director.
6. The members of the Executive Cabinet shall be appointed by the incoming President in consultation with the Vice President and subject to approval by a majority vote of the Senate. After notifying the Vice-President, the President may terminate any executive for incompetence or insubordination in compliance with state statutes for terminating employees of the state of Wisconsin.
7. The duties of all offices of the executive branch shall be laid out in the Bylaws of this document.

Article VII – The Judicial Branch

1. The Judicial Branch shall consist of Associate Justices, the Vice Chief Justice, and shall be headed by the Chief Justice.
2. The five justices shall be appointed by the SGA President and approved by a majority vote by the Senate.
 - a. The Justices and the Chief Justice shall be nominated by the SGA President to be approved by a majority vote of the Senate.
 - b. The Vice Chief Justice shall be nominated from the Justices by the Chief Justice and approved by a majority vote of the Senate.
 - c. The Associate Justices, the Vice Chief Justice, and the Chief Justice shall be voting members that make up the Court.
3. In the event that the Chief Justice is unable to complete his or her term, the Vice Chief Justice shall assume the responsibilities of the Chief Justice temporarily until a new Chief Justice is nominated by the President and approved by the Senate.
4. In the event that the Vice Chief Justice is unable to complete his or her term, the Chief Justice shall nominate a different Vice Chief Justice from the remaining Justices and be approved with a majority vote of the Senate.
5. Terms of the Justice shall last two years, if applicable; where upon the Justice shall come up for re-approval if so desired.

6. Jurisdictions:
 - a. The Court shall have primary jurisdiction over all cases related to student organizations pertaining to constitutions, bylaws, laws, statutes, policies and regulations, with the exception of:
 - i. The Court shall have an appellate jurisdiction over the assessment of points to Senators, with primary jurisdiction granted to the SGA Rules Committee.
 - b. The Court shall have primary jurisdiction over all cases arising under the Constitutions, bylaws, laws, statutes, policies and regulations of recognized student organizations, with the exception of:
 - i. The Court shall have an appellate jurisdiction over all cases considered to be in violation of the code of conduct by recognized student organizations, with primary jurisdiction granted to the Policy and Advisory Committee for Student Organizations (PACSO).
7. Policies and procedures of the Judicial Branch shall be outlined and included as an attachment as outlined in the Bylaws.

Article VIII – Advisor

1. The Advisor shall be appointed by the President and approved by a 2/3 vote of the SGA Executives and Senators.
2. The responsibilities of the Advisor shall be assigned by the Student Government Association and the University Administration.

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 – SGA Committees and Student Representation

1. The standing committees of the SGA Senate shall consist of the Rules Committee, Election Committee, Academic Issues Committee, Communication and Public Relations Committee, Environmental and Sustainability Issues Committee, Inclusivity Issues Committee, Legislative Issues Committee, Student Life Issues Committee, University Centers Advisory and Policy Board, Student Health Advisory Committee, and the Segregated Use Fee Allocation Committee.
2. The purpose, membership, policies, and procedures of the SGA Senate standing committees shall be laid out in the Bylaws of this document.

3. Voting rights in standing committees are limited to SGA senators and committee chairs (in the event of a tie) unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws of this document.
4. Subcommittees may be formed by any SGA Senate standing committee. The parent committee shall set the responsibilities, guidelines, and chair of subcommittees.
5. Ad-hoc committees may be formed through the procedures laid out in the Bylaws of this document.
6. SGA shall provide student members for all University Committees and Faculty Senate Committees.
7. All committee appointments not otherwise stated in this document shall be made by the Vice President.

Article XI – Others

1. Bills passed through the legislative process laid out in the bylaws of this document may be of the following forms:
 - a. Letter - a statement or request in the form of an official letter, issued on SGA letterhead, signed by the President, "on behalf of the Student Government Association of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point." Requires a majority vote in favor by those present and voting.
 - b. Resolution – a bill requiring action. Resolutions remain in effect until the end of the Academic year in which they are passed, or until overturned. Requires a majority vote in favor by those present and voting.
 - c. Statute – a bill that sets policy. Statutes remain in effect until overturned, requires a 2/3 vote in favor by those present and voting.
 - d. Constitutional Amendments – bill that alters the Constitution. Requires 2/3 written vote of the full seated senate. The seated senate shall consist of all senators currently holding office. A proposed Constitutional Amendment shall remain on New Business of the SGA Senate agenda for two weeks before the amendment shall be voted on.
 - e. Bylaws Amendments - bill that adds to or alters the Bylaws. Requires a 2/3 in favor vote by those present and voting.
2. The President of SGA has the right to veto Bills passed through the legislative process. A 2/3 written vote of the full seated senate is required to override a presidential veto. The procedures for executing and overturning a presidential veto are outlined in the bylaws of this document.
3. In the event that SGA is dissolved, any remaining balance of funds shall be dispersed for the benefit of students at the discretion of the Chancellor.
4. Qualified Immunity Clause
 - a. All Senators, Executive Board Members and Advisor(s) shall be granted qualified immunity of expression while addressing the Senate body. Such individuals shall not face a tangible retaliation (formal written complaint as outlined in the Bylaws) for any statements on policy related issues while discharging their duties and responsibilities.
 - b. The qualified immunity shall not obstruct disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the SGA Constitution, the SGA Bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order.

- c. All Senators, Executive Board Members shall confine themselves to the issues under debate, avoiding personality and disrespectful language.
- 5. The Constitution
 - a. An updated copy of the Constitution shall be kept on file in the SGA Office and SIEO where it shall be available for review upon request.
 - b. The Constitution shall be reviewed every two years by the President, Chief of Staff, Speaker of the Senate, Chief Justice, and one Senator from each college.
 - c. Corrections of spelling, grammar, and numbering in the Constitution and Bylaws may be made by the Speaker of the Senate upon a majority vote of the Rules Committee.