



CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of Louisville, in order to foster a vibrant and inclusive academic community, promote student welfare, and uphold the principles of democracy, do hereby establish this Constitution for the University of Louisville Student Government Association, hereinafter referred to as the SGA.

The purpose of the SGA, as recognized by the Board of Trustees in the University Redbook, is to elicit and express the opinions, suggestions, and recommendations of the student body of the University of Louisville. SGA serves as the voice of students of all identities, as the coordinating body for all college student councils, and as an instrument of shared governance between the student body and University administration.

Section I. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Student Government Association, herein SGA, of the University of Louisville.

Section II. Membership

All part-time and full-time registered students of the University of Louisville are members of the SGA.

Section III. Supremacy

The Constitution shall be the supreme law of the SGA and all policies, pronouncements, rulings, and enactments of the Association shall be subordinate to it, subject to the U.S. Constitution, the Kentucky State Constitution, federal, state, local laws, and UofL Redbook. The Supreme Court at the University of Louisville shall be the final interpreter of the SGA Constitution.

Section IV. Bylaws

The Student Government Association shall enact Bylaws to implement the provisions of this Constitution. Each Branch and Arm shall have the power to enact and amend Bylaws pertaining to their Branch and Arm, subject to a majority vote of the Student Senate, present and voting.

Section V. Requirements of Office Holders

All office holders shall maintain the standards outlined in this Constitution, as well as others prescribed in the Bylaws, at the time of election or appointment and during the term of office. Office holders shall be defined as any qualified individual elected or appointed to a position within SGA.

Article I: The Executive Branch

Section I. Composition

1.1 The Executive Officers of SGA shall consist of the Student Body President, Executive Vice President, Academic Vice President, and Services Vice President.

1.2 The Executive Officers may create and appoint individuals to Executive Cabinet positions to carry out special initiatives as outlined in the Bylaws.

Section II. Qualifications

2.1 Each Executive Officer must abide by the principles outlined in the Preamble of this Constitution along with maintaining satisfactory academic standing as defined by the Registrar's Office of the University of Louisville and be a full-time student.

Section III. Powers and Duties

3.1 The Student Body President is granted full authority by this constitution to serve as the chief executive of SGA, represent all students in dealings with faculty, staff, and administration at the University and at other universities, and administer the policies, procedures, and programs of the SGA as established by the Student Senate. They shall serve as the student trustee on the Board of Trustees at the University of Louisville.

3.2 The Executive Vice President is granted full authority by this constitution to administer the internal operations and policies of the SGA, serve as the President of the Student Senate, but exercising voting privileges only in the event of a tie, and assume the duties of the SGA President in their temporary absence or vacancy.

3.3 The Academic Vice President is granted full authority by this constitution to administer the academic policies and programs of the SGA as established by the Student Senate and serve as the student representative to the Faculty Senate in accordance with the Redbook.

3.4 The Services Vice President is granted full authority by this constitution to administer the services, service policies, and programs of the SGA as established by the Student Senate and serve as the student representative to the Staff Senate in accordance with the Redbook.

Section IV. Term of Office

4.1 The term of office shall be effective the day following spring commencement to the day of spring commencement of the following academic year.

Article II: The Legislative Branch

Section I. Composition

1.1. All legislative powers granted herein shall be vested in the Student Senate, hereinafter referred to as the Senate.

1.2 Voting members of the Senate shall be elected representatives from university academic units. The voting membership shall be as follows:

1.2.1 The Executive Vice President of the SGA, voting only to break ties

1.2.2 One President from each of the Colleges and each of the Professional Schools of the University

1.2.3 One Vice President from each of the Colleges and each of the Professional Schools of the University

1.2.4 Representatives elected from each of the Colleges and each of the Professional Schools of the University

1.2.4.1 Each College and each of the Professional Schools of the University will gain one voting Senate seat for each seven hundred fifty (750) full-time equivalent (F.T.E) students enrolled in their Academic Unit.

1.3 The following shall be non-voting ex-officio members of the Student Senate

1.3.1 The President, Academic Vice President, and Services Vice President of the SGA

1.3.2 The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or their designee from the Court

1.3.3 The advisor of SGA or their designee,

1.3.4 The Executive Directors of the Student Activities Board, Engage Lead Serve Board, and Student Organization Advisory Board

1.4 The following shall be voting ex-officio members:

1.4.1 The number of voting ex-officio members of the Student Senate from the Faculty and Staff Senates shall be specified in The Redbook.

Section II. Officers

2.1 The Officers of the Student Senate shall be the Senate Speaker, Senate Parliamentarian, and Senate Historian as outlined in the Bylaws.

Section III. Powers and Duties

3.2 The Student Senate shall be responsible for continuing review of University policies and documents affecting students, making recommendations concerning these matters, determining the rules and procedures of the SGA, and approving the allocation of all SGA monies.

3.3 The Student Senate shall have the authority to reverse any action taken by an administrative officer or officers of the SGA by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of voting members.

Section IV. Standing Committees

4.1 The Student Senate may establish committees to focus on specific areas of student life and address distinct student needs.

4.1.1 Each committee shall have a designated chairperson and members and shall report their activities to the SGA in accordance with the Bylaws.

Article III: The Judicial Branch

Section I. Name

1.1 All judicial powers granted herein shall be vested in the Supreme Court.

Section II. Composition

2.1 The Supreme Court shall be composed of one (1) Chief Justice and six (6) Associate Justices. There cannot be two (2) Associate Justices from the same College or Professional School. There must be at least one (1) Supreme Court member (Chief Justice or Associate Justice) from the Health Sciences Campus and one (1) Supreme Court member (Chief Justice or Associate Justice) from the School of Law.

Section III. Appointment and Term of Office

3.1 The Student Body President shall nominate a member to the supreme court when a vacancy arises in accordance with the Bylaws.

3.1.1 All nominations to the Supreme Court must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.

3.2 The Chief Justice and Associate Justices will serve from the time of confirmation in the Senate until the time they are no longer enrolled, they graduate, or they enroll in a different College or Professional School than the one they were enrolled in at the time of

confirmation, so long as they meet the requirements for office as outlined in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws and desire to remain a Justice.

Section IV. Powers and Duties

4.1 The Supreme Court shall have full authority to interpret the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, and any amendments hereto, consistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States, the state of Kentucky, and the city of Louisville, Kentucky. They will have original jurisdiction and final determination for offenses in violation of the SGA Constitution, they will interpret the constitutionality of Senate legislation and executive actions, and they will determine a course of action in matters involving election disputes and campaign infractions as outlined in the Bylaws.

Article IV: The Arms of SGA

Section I. The Student Activities Board

1.1 The Student Activities Board (SAB) shall be the programming arm of the student body. Its purpose shall be to provide social, multicultural, recreational, wellness, and educational activities which are sensitive to and serve the needs of the entire campus and surrounding community, with an emphasis on the student body.

1.2 The SAB shall draft, pass, and amend its own Constitution and Bylaws which will be housed in, subject to, and in alignment with the Bylaws of SGA. The SAB Constitution and Bylaws are subject to final interpretation by the SGA Supreme Court if a specific portion of that document is in violation of the SGA Constitution after hearing a properly brought case attesting that fact.

Section II. The Engage Lead Serve Board

2.1 The Engage Lead Serve Board (ELSB) shall be the service, philanthropic and volunteering arm of the student body. Its purpose shall be to provide structured experiential and developmental opportunities that encourage community engagement, model intentional leadership, and allow active service for the student body. The ELSB shall promote collaboration between organizations on campus and within the community, with a focus on areas that encourage philanthropy, service, leadership development, and civic engagement.

2.2 The ELSB shall draft, pass, and amend its own Constitution and Bylaws which will be housed in, subject to, and in alignment with the Bylaws of SGA. The ELSB Constitution and Bylaws are subject to final interpretation by the SGA Supreme Court if a specific portion of that document is in violation of the SGA Constitution after hearing a properly brought case attesting that fact.

Section III. The Student Organization Advisory Board

3.1 The Student Organization Advisory Board (SOAB) shall be the student involvement arm of the student body. Its purpose shall be to work alongside the Office of Student

Involvement in overseeing and advising the University's Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). It shall maintain the Club Programming Budget, which shall provide funding for RSOs in accordance with their Constitution and Bylaws.

3.2 The SOAB shall draft, pass, and amend its own Constitution and Bylaws which will be housed in, subject to, and in alignment with the Bylaws of SGA. The SOAB Constitution and Bylaws are subject to final interpretation by the SGA Supreme Court if a specific portion of that document is in violation of the SGA Constitution after hearing a properly brought case attesting that fact.

Article V: Elections

Section I. The Election Process

1.1 The SGA shall host elections in accordance with the SGA Bylaws.

Article VI: Impeachment and Removal

Section I. Grounds for Impeachment

1.1 Any officer or representative of the SGA may be impeached for malfeasance, misfeasance, nonfeasance, or violations of the Student Code of Conduct, such as discrimination, harassment, or any form of misconduct that results in suspension or expulsion.

Section II. Impeachment Process

2.1 A written petition signed by at least one-third of the members of the Student Senate or 10% of the student body can initiate impeachment proceedings.

2.2 Upon receipt of the petition, the Student Senate shall convene a special session within 14 days to consider the impeachment charges.

2.3 A two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate shall be required for impeachment.

Section III. Removal Process

3.1 Upon impeachment, a trial shall be conducted by the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice will preside over the trial. In the event that the Chief Justice is unable to do so, a designated Associate Justice will be appointed by a majority of the Court.

3.2 A two-thirds majority vote of the Supreme Court shall be required for removal from office.

Article VII: Transparency, Accountability, and Code of Conduct

Section I. Transparency and Accountability

1.1 All meetings of the SGA and its constituent bodies shall be open to the student body unless specified otherwise for reasons of confidentiality or sensitivity.

1.2 Meeting agendas and minutes shall be published and made accessible to the student body within seven days of each meeting.

1.3 Any financial transactions made by the SGA must be documented and open to scrutiny by the student body.

Section II. Code of Conduct

2.1 All members of the SGA must act with integrity, honesty, and in the best interests of the student body.

2.2 Discrimination, harassment, or any form of misconduct will not be tolerated and are grounds for impeachment.

2.3 Members are expected to maintain confidentiality when required and must not misuse their position for personal gain.

Article VIII: Veto Process

Section I. Return with Objections

1.1 When a Bill or Resolution has passed the Senate, it shall, before it becomes a Law, be presented to the President of the Student Body. If the President approves, they shall sign it, but if not, the Executive Officers must unanimously agree to return it with their objections, to the Senate in which it shall have originated.

1.2 Upon receipt of a Bill or Resolution returned with objections, the Senate shall reconsider its decision. If, after such reconsideration, two thirds of the Senate deem it necessary to pass the Bill or Resolution, it shall become a Law. In determining such necessity, the Votes shall be determined by Yeas and Nays.

1.3 If any Bill or Resolution is not returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it has been presented to them, it shall be a Law in like manner as if they had signed it, unless the Senate, by their adjournment, prevents its return, in which case it shall not be a Law.

Article IX: Amendments to the Constitution

Section I. Proposal

1.1 Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of the SGA or through a petition signed by at least 5% of the student body.

Section II. Ratification

2.1 Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing to the Student Senate.

2.2 The amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate, followed by three-fourths of the Student Councils, or is subsequently approved by a majority vote in a student body referendum.

2.2.1 Amendments ratified by the Senate shall be forwarded to the Student Body President for presentation to and approval by the President of the University and the Vice President of Student Affairs.

2.3 The adopted amendment will be effective immediately upon approval unless otherwise specified in the proposal.