Preamble and Mission Statement

Acting as the voice of all students enrolled at Georgia Regents University, the Student Government Association shall actively work to improve the quality of life for the student body, along with the university and community as a whole. Believing in the right of self-governance, all students enrolled at Georgia Regents University shall be a member of the Student Government Association and be entitled the rights, privileges, and protections thereof.

Article I. Name, Purpose, and Structure

Section I. Name
A. The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association (SGA) of Georgia Regents University (GRU).

Section II. Purpose
A. The SGA shall facilitate the exchange of information and ideas between the students of all colleges of GRU.
B. The SGA shall serve as a liaison between students, faculty, staff and the administration in order to represent student opinions, needs and interests to the administration; and to disseminate and promote the exchange of information from the administration and faculty to students.
C. The SGA shall take action to increase the quality of student services, academic programs, and the GRU environment in order to further enhance the education of GRU students.
D. The SGA shall support a variety of social, cultural, intellectual and recreational events to promote fellowship, personal growth, and involvement of GRU students.

Section III. Structure
A. The structure of the SGA shall be divided an executive (Executive Cabinet) and a legislative branch (Undergraduate Senate and Graduate House of Representatives).

Article II. Senate

Section I. Purpose
A. The Senate shall provide adequate representation and communication of the interests of the Undergraduate Student Body to the faculty and the administration.
B. The Senate shall act as the Legislative Body responsible for appropriating funds, and developing policy recommendations on behalf of the Undergraduate Student Body.

Section II. Composition and Terms
A. The composition of the Senate shall be influenced by the ratio of Undergraduate Students at each college within GRU.
Section III. Qualifications
A. In order to be eligible to serve in the Senate, students must be Undergraduate Students or Post-Baccalaureate Students in good academic standing with no student conduct code violations.
B. Good academic standing shall be defined as being enrolled in at least 6 hours with an Institutional GPA of 2.5 or better at GRU.

Section IV. Duties and Procedures
A. The Senate shall represent the entire Undergraduate Student Body in all matters affecting student interest. When appropriate, the Senate shall cooperate with the Graduate House of Representatives in exercising general supervision over all student activities.
B. The Senate may enact legislation in the form of bills or resolutions. The Undergraduate SGA President may veto any piece of legislation passed by the Senate. The Undergraduate President may veto a particular piece of legislation only once, and a two-thirds vote of the Senate shall be necessary to override the veto.
C. The Senate is responsible for impeachment proceedings within the Undergraduate SGA.
D. Procedure of all Senate meetings shall be governed by rules set forth in the Bylaws.
E. Senators shall adequately give representation to their constituency at Senate meetings.
F. Senators shall attend all Senate meetings. The Undergraduate SGA Vice President shall remove any Senator that exceeds the allotted number of absences.

Article III. House of Representatives
Section I. Purpose
A. The House of Representatives shall provide adequate representation and communication of the interests of the Graduate Student Body to the faculty and the administration.
B. The House of Representatives shall act as the Legislative Body responsible for appropriating funds, and developing policy recommendations on behalf of the Graduate Student Body.

Section II. Composition and Terms
A. Each college shall be entitled to elect one Representative per 100 Graduate students, with that Representative being responsible for the interest of his/her constituency.

B. The newly elected members of the SGA shall assume their duties after their inauguration at the end of the spring semester and shall serve until the next inauguration the following spring.

Section III. Qualifications

A. In order to run for the House of Representatives, students must be in good academic standing with no student conduct code violations.

Section IV. Duties and Procedure

A. The Graduate House of Representatives is responsible for impeachment proceedings within the Graduate SGA.

B. The Graduate Student Body President may veto any bill passed during any meeting of the House of Representatives. He or she may veto a particular Bill only once, and a two thirds vote of the House shall be necessary to override the veto.

C. The House of Representatives shall represent the entire Graduate Student Body in all matters affecting student interest. When appropriate, the House of Representatives shall cooperate with the Undergraduate Senate in exercising general supervision over all student activities.

D. Procedure of all meetings of the House of Representatives shall be governed by rules set forth in the Bylaws.

Article IV. Executive Cabinet

Section I. Purpose

A. The Executive Cabinet is the leadership body for the SGA.

B. The Executive Cabinet shall have the power of granting and approving revisions to charters for all campus student organizations.

Section II. Composition

B. The Executive Cabinet officers shall be Undergraduate President, Graduate President, Undergraduate Vice President, Graduate Vice President, Undergraduate Secretary, Graduate Secretary, Undergraduate Comptroller, Graduate Comptroller, and Humanitarian.

C. Members-At-Large positions are available by appointment to ensure that all colleges have a student representative to the Executive Cabinet.

B. The Undergraduate and Graduate SGA Presidents shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Executive Cabinet.

Section II. Meetings

A. The Executive Cabinet shall meet as needed, as determined by the Co-Chairs.

Section III. Term of office
A. The newly elected members of the SGA shall assume their duties after their inauguration at the end of the spring semester and shall serve until the next inauguration the following spring.

Section IV. Eligibility and Qualifications

A. Candidates and elected officers must be in good academic standing with no student conduct code violations.

B. Only GRU Undergraduate or Post-Baccalaureate Students are eligible to run for or hold office as an Undergraduate member of the Executive Cabinet and only GRU Graduate Students are eligible to run for or hold office as a Graduate member of the Executive Cabinet.

C. Good academic standing shall be defined as being enrolled at least half time with an Institutional GPA of 2.5 or better at GRU.

D. For Undergraduate SGA President and Undergraduate SGA Vice President, candidates must be at least a rising Junior (who is a sophomore at the time of election, but will have 60 hours by the beginning of the summer term).

E. For Undergraduate SGA Secretary, Undergraduate SGA Comptroller, or Humanitarian (if held by an undergraduate), candidates must be at least a rising sophomore (who is a freshman at the time of election, but will have 30 hours by the beginning of the summer term).

F. Officers are not required to be enrolled during the summer semester.

Section V. Officer Compensation

A. Officers shall receive financial compensation for their services that shall not increase or decrease during their term of office.

B. Compensation shall be paid each semester served including fall, spring, and summer.

Section VI. Duties of the SGA Presidents

A. The Presidents shall be present at all Senate or House meetings.

B. The Presidents shall appoint the chairperson of all standing and ad hoc committees.

C. The Presidents shall serve as ex officio member of all standing committees and as a resource person for these committees.

D. The Presidents shall aid in the orientation of new SGA members.

E. The Presidents shall serve as Georgia Board of Regents’ Student Advisory Council (SAC) representatives to represent the GRU SGA.

F. The Presidents shall act as the official representative from the SGA to the administration and faculty.

G. The Presidents shall serve as a standing member of the Mandatory Student Fee Committee of GRU.

H. The Presidents shall appoint additional students to the Mandatory Student Fee Committee as needed to complete the roster of student members.
I. The Presidents shall represent the GRU Undergraduate Student Body in all student government affairs and in student relations with the GRU administration.

J. The Presidents shall make all standing appointments of students to serve on university committees.

K. The Presidents shall have the power to conduct routine business which is in the best interest of the GRU Undergraduate Student Body.

L. The Presidents shall appoint Members-At-Large to represent those colleges not represented on the Executive Cabinet.

M. The Presidents may not serve more than two terms as President consecutively.

Section VII. Duties of the SGA Vice Presidents

A. The Vice Presidents shall preside at and call all Senate or House meetings.

B. The Vice Presidents shall assume the duties and responsibilities of their respective President in his/her absence or upon his/her request.

C. The Vice Presidents shall assist the President in the fulfillment of all executive duties.

D. The Vice Presidents shall serve as ex officio member of all ad hoc committees and as a resource person for these committees.

E. The Vice Presidents shall serve as a standing member of the Mandatory Student Fee Committee of GRU.

F. The Vice Presidents shall remove SGA members that have exceeded their maximum allowance of absences.

G. The Vice Presidents may not serve more than two terms as Vice President consecutively.

Section VIII. Duties of the SGA Secretaries

A. The Secretaries shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of Senate or House meetings.

B. The Secretaries shall take roll call and keep track of the attendance record.

C. The Secretaries shall prepare and file an annual report consisting of year-end committee reports.

D. The Secretaries shall maintain a list containing pertinent information about each voting member such as: name and contact information.

E. The Secretaries shall prepare the minutes of meetings and distribute soft copies before the next meeting and have the hard copies available at the meetings.

F. The Secretaries shall prepare the agenda for all Senate meetings that shall be delivered and available in the same manner as the minutes.

G. The Secretaries shall be responsible for maintaining a file of all valuable documents and records of the SGA.

H. The Secretaries shall ensure that all SGA members receive notification of the date, time, place, and agenda of the next meeting.
Section IX. Duties of the SGA Comptrollers
A. The Comptrollers shall be the official financial agents of the SGA.
B. The Comptrollers shall follow GRU policies on student activity fees.
C. The Comptrollers shall maintain accurate records of all financial transactions made year-to-date as well as those transactions that are still outstanding to be presented at each Senate or House meeting.
D. The Comptrollers shall oversee all funding requests submitted by student clubs or organizations and appoint a Senator to assist the club or organization in their request.
E. The Comptrollers shall aid Senators in the drafting and proposal of bills to allocate funds.

Section X. Duties of the SGA Humanitarian
A. The Humanitarian shall serve as a liaison to Alpha Upsilon Phi.
B. The Humanitarian shall develop, promote, or coordinate a variety of university-wide community service and/or philanthropy projects.
C. The Humanitarian shall provide updates of SGA-sponsored service and philanthropic projects at regular business meetings and a year-end summary at the final business meeting.

Section XI. Purpose and duties of Members-At-Large
A. The Members-At-Large shall be students appointed from each college without an elected Executive Cabinet officer from students already elected as Senators or Representatives.
B. The Members-At-Large shall attend all Executive Cabinet meetings and represent their respective colleges.
C. The Members-At-Large shall serve as an *ex officio* role to ensure that all students are represented on the Executive Cabinet.

Article V. Advisor
Section I. Appointment and Term
A. A faculty or staff member shall serve as an advisor of the SGA following his/her appointment by the GRU Provost.
B. The Graduate and Undergraduate SGA may have different advisors.

Constitution 2500 Walton Way Augusta, GA 30904 6/11
A. The Advisor shall meet with executive officers.
B. The Advisor shall attend all Senate and House of Representatives meetings.
C. The Advisor shall review the yearly budget.
D. The Advisor shall sign all required paperwork as authorized by GRU and Board of Regents policies.
E. The Advisor shall advise on issues of risk management, organization leadership, and GRU policy.
F. The Advisor shall advise presiding officers on matters of parliamentary procedure.

Article VI. Legislation

Section I. Guidelines
A. Only voting members of the Senate or House of Representatives may introduce legislation.
B. The SGA shall not establish any rule, or law or resolution, which is in conflict with the policies or procedures of Georgia Regents University, the Georgia Board of Regents, or any local, municipal, state, or federal law.

Section II. Resolutions
A. Resolutions shall be drafted to express an official position of the SGA on behalf of the Student Body.
B. Resolutions shall require one reading at a regular meeting. The SGA Vice President shall accept debate, amendment and motions before voting on the proposed resolution.
C. Resolutions shall require a majority vote of the SGA for approval.

Section III. Bills
A. Bills shall be drafted to allocate money to organizations.
B. Bills shall require one reading at a regular meeting. The SGA Vice President shall accept debate, amendment and motions before voting on the proposed bill.
C. Bills shall require a majority vote of the SGA for approval.

Article VII. Committees

Section I. Appointment
A. Standing and ad hoc SGA Committees shall be appointed by the President of the appropriate Undergraduate or Graduate SGA.

Section II. Standing and Ad Hoc Committees
A. Standing committees shall be defined in the Bylaws.
B. Ad hoc committees shall be formed by the President as the need arises.

Article VIII. Meetings and Attendance

Section I. Senate Meetings
A. Senate meetings shall be held weekly during the fall and spring semesters. Additional meetings may be called as determined by the Undergraduate SGA Vice President with one week’s prior notice.

**Section II.** House of Representatives Meetings

A. Graduate SGA House Business meetings shall be held once monthly.

**Section III.** Robert’s Rules of Order

A. Senate meetings shall abide by Robert’s Rules of Order, except in cases where the constitution overrides the Rules.

**Section IV.** Attendance

A. Senators are permitted two unexcused absences per semester (may be excused if appropriate documentation (i.e. doctor’s note) is provided to the Undergraduate SGA Secretary).

A. Representatives are permitted two unexcused absences per year from attending business meetings.

**Article IX. General Elections**

**Section I.** Purpose

A. A campus wide election, referred to as the General Elections, shall occur during the spring semester for the election of the upcoming year’s Senate, House of Representatives, and executive cabinet officers.

B. The General Elections shall be a free and fair election conducted by the Elections Committee and open to the entire Student Body.

**Section II.** Procedure

B. Graduate candidates shall be placed on a single ballot for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Comptroller, Humanitarian (both graduate and undergraduate candidates are voted on), and House of Representatives members.

C. Undergraduate candidates shall be placed on a single ballot for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Comptroller, Humanitarian (both graduate and undergraduate candidates are voted on), and Senators.

D. To get on the ballot a student must meet the qualification for the position they are seeking. The General Elections rules and time frame shall be determined by the Election Committee chaired by an SGA Advisor.

E. Ballots shall be made available to eligible voters. Voting can occur by a variety of approved methods including on-line ballots or paper ballots.

F. Candidates shall be elected by a simple majority of votes cast.

G. In the case of a tie, there shall be a revote. The voting period shall be one week and specific procedures shall be specified at the time a revote is called by the Elections Committee.
H. The newly elected members of the SGA shall assume their duties after their
inauguration at the end of the spring semester and shall serve until the next
inauguration the following spring.

Article X. Removals and Vacancy

A. An SGA member may remove him/herself at any point in time with a letter of
resignation submitted to the appropriate executive cabinet.

B. If there is evidence to suggest that an SGA member is not fulfilling his/her
constitutional duties, then a petition requesting his or her removal must be signed
by at least half of the voting membership and presented at a regular business
meeting. Upon verification of the validity of the petition by the SGA Advisor,
grievance shall be presented with both sides having the opportunity to present their
reasons for dismissal or justification for retention no earlier than 2 weeks after the
Advisor’s approved verification. The officer shall remain in good standing until a
final decision is made.

C. The SGA Advisor shall preside over the removal hearing. After all arguments have
been heard, a secret-ballot vote shall be held. If at least three-fourths of the voting
members of the SGA vote for removal, the member shall be removed immediately.

D. SGA members may be automatically removed without a removal hearing after
violating the attendance policy.

E. If the SGA Presidential seat becomes vacant, the SGA Vice President shall assume
the duties of the SGA President and carry out the rest of the term.

F. If the SGA Vice Presidential seat becomes vacant, the SGA President shall assume
the duties of the Vice President in conjunction with his or her current duties as
President until the next regular business meeting where regular election procedures
shall be followed to fill the vacant Vice Presidential seat.

G. If the Comptroller or Secretary is removed or resigns, the appropriate SGA
President shall appoint an SGA member to fill the vacant position.

H. If the Humanitarian is removed or resigns, the SGA President of the more populous
student body (graduate or undergraduate) shall appoint an SGA member to fill the
vacant position.

I. If all executive cabinet seats become vacant at the same instance, an Advisor shall
appoint an SGA member to each position in the interim.

J. In the event that a seat(s) within the Senate or House of Representatives remain
empty after the General Election, the SGA President shall request that an interim
SGA member be provided by each college to serve from that constituency. The
appointee shall serve the standard term of the elected SGA member with all rights
and privileges.

K. Regular election procedures shall be outlined in the Bylaws.

Article XI. Constitution
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
OF GEORGIA REGENTS UNIVERSITY

Section I. Ratification
A. This Constitution shall become effective upon receiving two-thirds of the vote cast by
the Senate and House of Representatives and approval of the GRU Provost.
B. Upon ratification, this Constitution, Bylaws and its associated codes shall supersede
all previous governing documents, which shall be deemed null and void.

Section II. Amendments to the Constitution
A. Amendments shall be drafted to make deletions and insertions to the Constitution.
B. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate
and House of Representatives, or by a petition of 5% of the Student Body directed to
the SGA Presidents.
C. Amendments shall become part of this Constitution upon being reviewed by a
Constitutional Review Committee comprised of the SGA Advisor(s) and SGA
Presidents and the Vice President of Student Affairs. Upon approval by the
committee, the proposed amendment shall be advertised for two weeks using
existing campus media outlets. After the two week advertising period, the proposed
amendment shall be voted on by the Student Body. The referendum may coincide
with the General Elections.
D. Approval by a simple majority of the student body shall be necessary to approve the
proposed amendment.

Section III. Bylaws
A. The Senate shall establish a set of rules, which shall be known as the Bylaws of the
SGA.
B. The Bylaws shall be a lesser authority than this Constitution and shall establish
further guidelines for the SGA.
C. The Bylaws shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the
SGA.
D. A two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the Senate and House of
Representatives shall be required to amend the Bylaws, provided notice has been
given of the proposed amendment(s) at least one week prior to the vote to the GRU
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