

Constitution of the College of Charleston's Student Government Association

Preamble

The student body of the College of Charleston does so establish this Constitution for the preservation and improvement of a democratic Student Government at the College of Charleston. It shall be the purpose of this Constitution and all resolutions legally adopted there under to serve as the governing documents for the Student Government Association at the College of Charleston. This Constitution shall define the structure of the Student Government Association, which shall consist of an Executive branch, a Legislative branch and a Judicial branch.

Article I – The Legislative Branch

Section 1 – Legislative Powers

All legislative powers of the student body herein granted shall be vested in a student Senate.

The student Senate shall be composed of senators and alternate senators. These shall consist of no less than eight and no more than twelve senators respectively elected from the Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes. There shall be an equal number of senators representing each class.

The Senate, sitting in General Assembly, shall have the power to:

- Represent the student body as a whole.
- Vote on proposed legislation.
- Create or dissolve committees as it sees fit with a two-thirds vote.
- Form a Committee of the Whole
- Hold Constitutional Conventions
- Create, amend and maintain the Official Bylaws of the College of Charleston Student Government Association.

Section 2 - Membership, Powers and Duties of Senators

In recognition of the ethical and prescribed Rights of Governance, the Right to Representation and Participation in all branches of this Government shall in no way be denied or restricted on the basis of color, field of study, political affiliation, gender, handicap, national origin, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Membership in good standing shall require the maintenance of a 2.5 GPA or higher, attendance at all regular and special meetings of the Senate, with exception of permission of absence granted by the Executive Board, and the fulfillment of all other requirements as defined in the Bylaws.

The duties and powers of a Senator may include but shall not be limited to:

- Authoring legislation
- Representing bill authors when said author is a member of the student body at large and is present when the authored legislation is put to question
- Chairing Committees
- Serving in any appointed capacity as deemed necessary by the Executive Board
- Acting as an official representative of student body, the Student Government Association and the College of Charleston
- Proposing all legislation brought before the General Assembly
- Sitting on no less than one committee
- Upholding their Oath of Office
- Upholding, maintaining and fulfilling all Senatorial duties as outlined in the Bylaws

Section 3 - Senate Officers

There shall be a President of the Senate who is the Vice President of the Student Government Association.

There shall be a President Pro Tempore.

There shall be a Parliamentarian

Section 4 - Executive Board

The separate legislative committees shall be codified in the Official Bylaws.

The Executive Council will appoint the Chairs of the Legislative Committees in the manner provided for in the Official Bylaws.

The Executive Board shall consist of voting members as defined in the Official Bylaws.

The Executive Council will appropriate individual Senators to serve in the several committees.

Each Chairperson shall submit an oral report to the Senate concerning the current activities of his/her committee.

Committee chairs shall fulfill all other duties and obligations as outlined in the Bylaws.

Article II - The Executive

Section 1 - Executive Offices and Qualifications

There shall be an Executive Council for the Student Government Association. It shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The executive powers shall be vested in the cooperative effort of this council.

The President, the Vice President, the Treasurer and the Secretary shall be elected in a manner provided for in the By-Laws. Their terms of office shall begin upon installation, which shall occur no less than one week prior to spring semester examinations.

Candidates for Executive Council positions shall meet all qualifications codified in the By-Laws.

Section 2 – Duties and Powers of the President

The President shall uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Student Government Association and enforce and execute all legislation duly approved by the Student Government Association.

The President shall sign or veto all legislation within two Senate meetings of passage by the Student Senate including the power to exercise the line-item veto. If no action is taken within two Senate meetings, the motion fails. A veto must be presented to the Senate within two Senate meetings following the session in which the legislation was passed. Veto's may be overridden by a two-thirds vote in the Senate. A Senate vote to override a Presidential veto must be conducted in the next session immediately following the session in which the veto was presented.

The President shall appoint a Chief of Staff who shall chair the Executive Board. This appointment shall require two-thirds majority approval from the Senate.

The President shall maintain weekly contact with each Executive Board member outside of the weekly Executive Board meeting.

The President shall be vested with the power of appointment. In the absence or removal of the Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer the President shall appoint a temporary replacement to serve in their stead with two-thirds approval of the Senate.

The President shall hold authority to delegate responsibilities with approval of the Executive Council.

The President shall assist in the appointment of the chair and vice chair of the Honor Board.

The President shall fulfill all other duties and obligations as outlined in the By-Laws.

Section 3 – Duties and Powers of the Vice President

The Vice President shall serve in lieu of the President of the Student Government Association in his/her absence or disability and succeed to the office of the President should it be permanently vacated. In case of the simultaneous absence or disability of the President and Vice President, special elections will be held in accordance to the By-Laws to fill these offices as soon as possible. There is no chain of executive succession or authority extending beyond the Vice President.

The Vice President shall serve as President of the Senate and chair all sessions of the General Assembly.

The Vice President shall have the power to call additional meetings of the Student Senate whenever necessary and shall notify each Senator of the semester's pre-scheduled meeting dates.

The Vice President shall attend weekly Executive Board and Council meetings and all Senate meetings and shall serve as a voting member on the Executive Board and Council.

The Vice President shall appoint from the Senate, which appointments shall be approved by the Senate with a two-thirds vote, a Parliamentarian and a President Pro Tempore.

The Vice President shall fulfill all other duties and obligations as outlined in the By-Laws.

Section 4 – Duties and Powers of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall serve as Chairperson of the Allocations Committee.

The Treasurer shall attend the mandatory Student Organizational Summit and conduct a spring budget workshop.

The Treasurer shall have the ability to freeze and cut budgets of delinquent organizations as defined in the *Compass*.

The Treasurer shall make yearly revisions of the *Compass* with the assistance of the Secretary.

The Treasurer shall attend weekly Executive Board and Council Meetings and all Senate meetings and shall serve as a voting member on the Executive Board and Council.

The Treasurer shall fulfill all other duties and obligations as outlined in the By-Laws.

Section 5 – Duties and Powers of the Secretary

The Secretary shall serve as Chairperson of the Student Organizational Review Committee.

The Secretary shall have the power to de-sanction and remove delinquent organizations as defined in the *Compass* with approval of the Student Organizational Review committee.

The Secretary shall assist the Treasurer in a yearly revision of the *Compass*.

The Secretary shall attend weekly Executive Board and Council Meetings and all Senate meetings and shall serve as a voting member on the Executive Board and Council.

The Secretary shall fulfill all other duties and obligations as outlined in the By-Laws.

Article III – Judicial

Section 1 – Honor Council

There shall be an Honor Council of the College of Charleston.

Membership of the Honor Council shall consist of all student members of the Honor Board.

1. The Chairperson of the Honor Board shall act as Chairperson of the Honor Council.
2. Any student on both the Honor Council and the Student Senate or Executive Council must remove himself/herself from any matters concerning the Student Senate or Executive Council when they come before the Honor Council.
3. A majority vote shall be required for passage of all matters presented to the Honor Council.

The members of the Honor Council shall have jurisdiction over all constitutional matters, the impeachment of officers of recognized student organizations and disqualifications and contentions of SGA elections.

Article IV – Elections and Impeachment

Spring elections shall be held before the end of the second week in April and shall be held on a Wednesday and a Thursday. The dates of the elections shall be determined by the Executive Council of the Student Government Association

Fall elections shall be held within the first three weeks of the fall semester and shall be held on a Wednesday and a Thursday. The dates of the election shall be determined by the Executive Council of the Student Government Association.

Impeachments, when necessary, shall be carried out in accordance with the By-Laws. If on the occasion any member of the Student Government Association is impeached and removed from office on the verdict of the Honor Council that member shall no longer be considered in good standing and will not be eligible for further candidacy in any other capacity serving in the Student Government Association.

Article V – Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate. All amendments carried must then be submitted before the student body for ratification through a two-thirds vote.

Amendments shall be added under ARTICLE VI as subsequent sections, the text of the original Constitution remaining in tact for the reference of future generations.