

The Constitution of the Student Government Association of Virginia Wesleyan University



Founded 1967



Student Government Association

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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Article I: Preamble

Section 1. Mission Statement: We, the Students of Virginia Wesleyan University, ratify this Constitution in order to establish and organize a Student Government for the purpose of defending the interests of the Student Body, creating a desirable campus experience, and promoting social outreach in the Virginia Beach region to be achieved through the democratic legitimacy granted to them by We, the Students.

Section 2. Purpose: The purpose of this Student Government Association is outlined in the following articles.

Section 3. Non-Discrimination: In accordance with Virginia Wesleyan University policy, the Student Government Association shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, gender, national and ethnic origin, age, marital status, covered veteran status, handicap, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

Section 4. Non-Hazing: In accordance with Virginia Wesleyan University policy, neither the Student Government Association nor its members shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that injures, degrades, or disgraces or tends to injure, degrade or disgrace any fellow student or person attending the institution.



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Article II: Definitions

Section 1. Definition of Student Body: The Student Body is defined as all current registered students of Virginia Wesleyan University. The Student Body is granted voting rights in all matters brought to a popular vote.

Section 2. Definition of Student Government Association: The official name of the organization shall be the Student Government Association (henceforth referred to as the Student Government). The Student Government is defined as the combination of the Student Senate and the Executive Board.

Section 3. Definition of Executive Board: The Executive Board shall consist of the following offices: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Events Coordinator.

Section 4. Definition of Student Senate: The Student Senate shall consist of five cohorts of four student senators: First-Year Cohort, Sophomore Cohort, Junior Cohort, Senior Cohort, and Graduate Cohort.

Section 5. Definition of Cohort: Each undergraduate cohort will be defined by entrance year. Fifth year undergraduate students will be part of the senior undergraduate cohort. Transferring students to Virginia Wesleyan University will adopt the entrance year of their credits as per University Policy. Graduate Students will be considered as one cohort regardless of their credit accumulation within their graduate program.

Section 6. Committees: Committees are small groups that take various actions outside of the Student Senate. A committee consists of a member of each cohort and a committee chair at a minimum.



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Article III: Membership

Section 1. Academic Eligibility Requirements: Members of Student Government must be in good academic standing. Good academic standing is defined as a cumulative grade point average of 2.5. The Student Government Advisors are responsible for informing the President and Vice President of breaches in academic eligibility. Members of Student Government who are not in good academic standing will be subject to automatic removal by the Chair of the Judicial Review Board.

Section 2. Disciplinary Eligibility Requirements: Members of Student Government must be in good disciplinary standing. Good disciplinary standing is defined as free from current disciplinary sanctions from the University. The Student Government Advisors are responsible for informing the President and Vice President of breaches in disciplinary eligibility. Members of Student Government who are not in good disciplinary standing will be subject to automatic removal by the Chair of the Judicial Review Board.

Section 3. Full Time Student Requirements: Members of Student Government must be a full time student, as defined by the University. The Student Government Advisors are responsible for informing the President and Vice President of breaches in full time student eligibility. Members of Student Government who are not full time students will be subject to automatic removal by the Chair of the Judicial Review Board.



Article IV: Offices & Duties

Section 1. Student Senators:

Section 1.1. Description: Student Senators are voting representatives of the various cohorts of the student body.

Section 1.2. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Student Senators are as follows: attend all meetings, functions, and training/s of the Student Government, serve on committees, and represent their cohort and the Student Government with dignity and respect.

Section 1.3. Rights: The rights of the Student Senators are as follows: proposing legislation, making motions, and voting on legislation and motions.

Section 2. President:

Section 2.1. Description: The President shall serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Student Government.

Section 2.2. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the President are as follows: preside over meetings of the Student Government, set the agenda for Student Government meetings, oversee the implementation of Student Government initiatives and policies, serve as the official liaison between the Student Government and Virginia Wesleyan University, and represent the Student Body and Student Government with dignity and respect.

Section 2.3. Rights: The rights of the President are as follows: make executive decisions that are not in conflict with Student Government's constitution or policies, nominate replacements to the Student Senate or Executive Board in the circumstance of vacancy, break a tie in Student Senate elections, and veto decisions made by the Student Senate below 2/3rds majority.

Section 3. Vice President:

Section 3.1. Description: The Vice President shall serve as Chief Operating Officer of the Student Government.

Section 3.2. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Vice President are as follows: Fulfilling all duties of the President in the circumstance of the President's absence, assist in overseeing the implementation of Student Government initiatives and policies, record and report absences, serve as the Sergeant at Arms of the Student Senate and Executive Board, and represent the Student Body and the Student Government with dignity and respect.

Section 3.3. Rights: The rights of the Vice President are as follows: In the case of a tied vote in the Student Senate, the Vice President will "break the tie" and to delegate the responsibility of "Sergeant at Arms" to another member of the Student Government.



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Section 4. Secretary:

Section 4.1. Description: The Secretary is a student senator elected to the Executive Board by the Student Senate for the role of documenting Student Government affairs.

Section 4.2. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Secretary are in addition to their responsibilities as a Student Senator. They are as follows: attend all Executive Board meetings, record minutes at all meetings of the Student Government, record minutes at all Executive Board meetings, and coordinate all guests invited to meetings.

Section 4.3. Rights: The rights of the Secretary are in addition to their rights as a Student Senator. They are as follows: have access to Student Government Social Media.

Section 5. Treasurer:

Section 5.1. Description: The Treasurer is a student senator elected to the Executive Board by the Student Senate for the role of allocating, advising, and administering Student Government sponsored finances.

Section 5.2. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Treasurer are in addition to their responsibilities as a Student Senator. They are as follows: attend all Executive Board meetings, provide regular financial updates to the Student Government, account for Student Government sponsored funds, and uphold any other responsibilities outlined in Article VII of the Constitution.

Section 5.3. Rights: The rights of the Treasurer are in addition to their rights as a Student Senator. They are as follows: have access to Student Government Social Media.

Section 6. Events Coordinator:

Section 6.1. Description: The Events Coordinator is a student senator elected to the Executive Board by the Student Senate for the role of coordinating Student Government sponsored events and elections.

Section 6.2. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Events Coordinator are in addition to their responsibilities as a Student Senator. They are as follows: attend all Executive Board meetings, give regular event updates to Student Government, submit all Student Government sponsored event request forms, coordinate with Student Engagement on Student Government sponsored event planning, and advertise Student Government sponsored events.

Section 6.3. Rights: The rights of the Events Coordinator are in addition to their rights as Student Senators. They are as follows: have access to Student Government Social Media.



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Section 7. Advisor:

Section 7.1. Description: The Associate Vice President of Campus Life & Operational Management and/or their designee/s shall serve as advisor of the Student Government.

Section 7.2. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Advisor are as follows: to attend all meetings and functions as directed by the Associate Vice President, to meet with the Executive Board regularly, evaluate and advise the Student Government in policies, procedures and protocol, review and endorse all publicity plans, and authorize all Student Government expenditures as outlined in Article VII.

Section 7.3. Rights: The rights of the Advisor are as follows: Evaluate and advise the Student Government's policies, procedures, and protocol.

Section 8. Student Senate:

Section 8.1. Description: The Student Senate is the legislative organ of the Student Government.

Section 8.2. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Student Senate are as follows: meet on a weekly basis, advance issues via the legislative process as outlined in Article VI, and represent the Student Government and Virginia Wesleyan University with dignity and respect.

Section 8.3. Rights: The rights of the Student Senate are as follows: advance issues via the legislative process as outlined in Article VI, confirm presidential nominations to vacant positions with a 2/3rds supermajority vote, overturn presidential vetoes with a 2/3rds supermajority vote.

Section 9. Executive Board:

Section 9.1. Description: The Executive Board shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Events Coordinator.

Section 9.2. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Executive Board are as follows: meet on a regular basis with the Student Government Advisor/s, meet weekly to provide updates on individual responsibilities, and represent the Student Government and Virginia Wesleyan University with dignity and respect

Section 9.3. Rights: The rights of the Executive Board are as follows: executive decision making and strategic planning, excusing otherwise unexcused absences, appointing a chair to the Elections Board, and approving the creation of temporary committees.



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Section 10. Attendance Policy:

Section 10.1. Unexcused Absences: After 2 unexcused absences within one semester, a member is subject to judicial review. A member under judicial review must meet with the judicial review board following their second unexcused absence. After 3 unexcused absences, a member is subject to automatic removal of their position in the Student Government.

Section 10.2. Excused Absences: Excused absences include family emergencies, mental or physical illnesses, athletic conflicts, class timing conflicts, or performing arts rehearsals during production weeks (such as tech week and instrumental dress rehearsals). Any excused absence not listed above must be approved by the majority vote of the Executive Board on a case by case basis.



Article V: Elections

Section 1. Elections: Members of the Student Government will be elected to their positions in a fair, transparent, and democratic election.

Section 2. Authority: The running and rules of all Elections shall be the responsibility of the Election Committee, as defined in Article VIII, unless otherwise noted in the Constitution.

Section 3. Major Election: The Major Election will take place at the end of Spring Semester for the following offices: President, Vice President, Senior Student Senators, Junior Student Senators, and Sophomore Student Senators.

Section 4. Minor Election: A Minor Election will take place at the beginning of the Fall Semester for the following offices: First-Year Student Senators, and Graduate-Student Senators. The voting population will consist of current first-years and graduate students.

Section 5. Internal Elections: An Internal Election will take place at the beginning of the Fall Semester for the following offices: Secretary, Treasurer, and Events Coordinator. The President and Vice-President will preside over the Internal Election under the supervision of the Student Government Advisor, but will have no vote.

Section 6. Special Elections: The Student Government may hold a special election at any time the need arises.

Section 7. Ties: In the instances of a tie in the Presidential/Vice Presidential Election, a runoff election must take place within 3 business days between the top two candidates. In the instance of a tie in the Student Senate Election, the current President will break the tie.

Section 8. Results: The results of all elections must be transparent and certified via majority vote of the Student Senate. Results must be made available to the Student Body upon request.

Section 9. Terms: The term of the Student Government lasts from the certification of the Major Election in the spring, to the conclusion of the academic year.

Section 10. Vacancies: In the event of a vacancy in any position by any means, the President may nominate a replacement to complete the remainder of the term. Nominations must be confirmed by a 2/3rds supermajority vote of the Student Senate.

Section 11. Removal: In the event of a breach of responsibility and following a Judicial Review, the Student Senate may remove a member from office with a 3/4ths blind-vote supermajority.



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Article VI: Meetings

Section 1. Meetings: The Student Government will meet weekly to discuss issues, vote on legislation, and fulfill its constitutional duties.

Section 2. Quorum: The Student Government must have a quorum of 2/3rds of the Student Senate present in order to vote.

Section 3. Legislation: The Student Government will advance issues via the legislative process. Legislation must be sponsored and presented to the Student Government by a Student Senator. After presentation of the legislation, all present Student Senators must be given an opportunity to speak to the legislation. Amendments to the legislation may be made during debate by the sponsor before voting. Legislation will be considered passed with majority vote.

Section 3.1. Bills: Legislation creating change within the structure of the student government, or allocating student activity fees entrusted to the Student Government shall be presented in the form of a bill.

Section 3.2. Resolutions: Legislation voicing the opinions of the Student Government on any topic shall be presented in the form of a resolution.

Section 5. Alternatives: If the need arises, the President may call for a remote meeting of the Student Government.

Section 6. Decorum: Meetings of the Student Government shall proceed with dignity and respect.



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Article VII: Finances

Section 1. Source: Student Government funds are allocated for Student Government usage by the University. Other sources of funding may be approved by majority vote of the Student Senate.

Section 2. Authority: The Student Government funds shall be controlled by the Student Government Advisor/s, and managed by the Treasurer.

Section 2.1. Control: Control is defined as the authority and oversight to ensure that funds are allocated in accordance with university policies and the decisions of the Student Senate.

Section 2.2. Manage: Managed is defined as the day-to-day administration, disbursement, record keeping, and other responsibilities as defined in Article IV.

Section 3. Authorization: The Student Government shall authorize the usage of Student Government Funds by majority vote of the Student Senate.



Article VIII: Committees

Section 1. Temporary Committee: Temporary Committees can be formed at any time and for any purpose with the majority approval of the Executive Board. A Temporary Committee will consist of a Committee Chair and at least 2 additional members.

Section 2. Standing Committees: Standing Committees are created by Constitutional mandate and are expanded in the following sections. Standing Committees will consist of a Committee Chair and one member of each undergraduate cohort. In Standing Committees, the Chair will serve as Executive Officer and have no vote except in the instance of a tie. Members of a Standing Committee will have one vote each. Items will be advanced within committees via majority vote.

Section 3. Judicial Review Board

Section 3.1. Description: The Judicial Review Board is a Standing Committee organized at the first meeting of each year and is chaired by the Sergeant at Arms.

Section 3.2. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Judicial Review Board are as follows: Review the Student Government Constitution on a semesterly basis to ensure constitutional compliance. Evaluate the constitutionality of proposed legislation, passed legislation, and presidential vetoes on an incidental basis. Report unconstitutional action to the Student Government President, Student Government Vice President, and Student Government Advisors when they have occurred. Officiate all internal disciplinary actions via Judicial Review in the instance of breaches of responsibility.

Section 3.3. Rights: The Judicial Review Board has the following powers and privileges: Reviewing the Constitutionality of Student Government actions and policies, overriding vetoes and votes in the instances of unconstitutional behavior. Applying disciplinary sanctions via majority vote of a Judicial Review.

Section 4. Election Board

Section 4.1. Description: The Elections Board is a Standing Committee that is organized at the first meeting of each year and is chaired by a Student Senator not seeking reelection and confirmed by majority vote of the Executive Board.

Section 4.2. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Election Committee are as follows: coordinate the election process/es throughout the year as outlined in Article V and to organize, announce, supervise, and set rules for an election in conjunction with the Student Government Advisor.

Section 4.3. Rights. The Election Board has the following powers and privileges: determine the timeline of the election, the rules of campaigning, enforcing the rules of the election, and any and all necessary tasks relating to the election.



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Article IX: Affiliation

Section 1. ASGA: The Student Government shall affiliate with the American Student Government Association, and set aside ASGA dues annually.

Section 2. ASGA Advisor Meetings: The Executive Board and the Advisors shall meet with an ASGA advisor semesterly.

Section 3. ASGA Conference: The Student Government shall vote on legislation regarding sending at least one representative to an ASGA conference or training annually.

Section 3.1. Executive Board: The Executive Board shall have responsibility and authority to propose legislation regarding the member/s of the Student Government who may represent the Student Government at an ASGA conference or training. However, funds must be approved by the Student Senate.

Section 4. Standards of Operation: The Student Government shall adopt the standards of operation of the ASGA, when not in conflict with the Student Government Constitution.



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Article X: Amendments

Section 1. Amendment Proposal: Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Student Government.

Section 2. Amendment Addition: Any amendments to the Constitution of the Student Government of Virginia Wesleyan University must be approved by a 2/3rds majority vote of the Student Senate.

Section 3. Voting on Amendments: The vote for the proposed amendment(s) shall occur one week after the amendment(s) is proposed.



Article XI: Ratification

The Constitution of the Student Government of Virginia Wesleyan University has been ratified on February 26th, 2024 by the undersigned:

President & Vice-President

Senior Student Senators

Junior Student Senators

Sophomore Student Senators

First-Year Student Senators



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