

**CONSTITUTION OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY STUDENT
ASSOCIATION**

Revised 28 March 2018

ARTICLE I: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- Section 1 – In General
- Section 2 – Apportionment
- Section 3 – Qualifications for Office
- Section 4 – Nature of the Senate
- Section 5 – Terms of Office
- Section 6 – Transitional Powers and Responsibilities
- Section 7 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Senate
- Section 8 – Meetings
- Section 9 – Senate Chairperson
- Section 10 – Legislative Process

ARTICLE II: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Section 1 – In General
- Section 2 – Terms of Office
- Section 3 – Transitional Powers and Responsibilities of the President
- Section 4 – Powers and Responsibilities of the President
- Section 5 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Cabinet
- Section 6 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Executive Vice President
- Section 7 – Transitional Powers and Responsibilities of the Executive Vice President – Elect
- Section 8 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Section 9 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Financial Affairs
- Section 10 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Legislative and Judicial Affairs
- Section 11 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Student Activities
- Section 12 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Graduate Student Policy
- Section 13 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Undergraduate Student Policy
- Section 14 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Public Affairs
- Section 15 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Community Affairs
- Section 16 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Campus Operations
- Section 17 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

ARTICLE III: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

- Section 1 – In General
- Section 2 – Definitions
- Section 3 – Case or Controversy Requirement
- Section 4 – Jurisdiction
- Section 5 – Student Court Membership

Section 6 – Parties Eligible to Bring Claims Before the Student Court

Section 7 – Prohibition on Judicial Initiation of Cases

Section 8 – Student Court Procedures

Section 9 – Funding

ARTICLE IV: UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Section 1 – Faculty Relations

Section 2 – Academic Advisory Councils

ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS; CABINET APPOINTMENTS; VACANCIES

Section 1 – Joint Elections Committee

Section 2 – Election Procedures

Section 3 – Cabinet Appointments

Section 4 – Vacancies

ARTICLE VI: CENSURE; RECALL; REMOVAL

Section 1 – Censure

Section 2 – Recall

Section 3 – Removal

ARTICLE VII: INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Section 1 – Petition for Senate Vote

Section 2 – Referenda

Section 3 – Eligibility to Vote in Referenda

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS; LIQUIDATION AND DISSOLUTION

Section 1 – Amendments

Section 2 – Liquidation and Dissolution

ARTICLE IX: RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THIS CONSTITUTION

Section 1 – In General

ARTICLE X: ENABLING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Section 1 – In General

Section 2 – Ratification

ARTICLE XI: CONSTITUTIONAL DEFINITIONS

Section 1 – General Definitions

ARTICLE I: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1 – In General

- A. The legislative power of the Student Association shall be vested in the Student Senate, hereinafter “the Senate.” The Senate shall be the legislative and deliberative body of the Student Association.

Section 2 – Apportionment

- A. Each of the schools listed in subsection B of this Section shall be entitled to Senate representation based on the following apportionment formula:
 1. One (1) Senator for one (1) to one thousand (1,000) students officially registered therein;
 2. Two (2) Senators for one thousand and one (1,001) to two thousand (2,000) students officially registered therein;
 3. Three (3) Senators for two thousand and one (2,001) to three thousand (3,000) students officially registered therein; and
 4. This formula shall repeat past the fourth Senator in the same manner as listed above.
- B. Schools, which shall be officially represented in the Student Association Senate, are:
 1. The undergraduate division of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences;
 2. The graduate division of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences;
 3. The graduate division of the School of Business and Public Management;
 4. The undergraduate division of the School of Business and Public Management;
 5. The Law School;
 6. The School of Medicine and Health Sciences;
 7. The Graduate School of Education and Human Development;
 8. The graduate division of the Elliott School of International Affairs;
 9. The undergraduate division of the Elliott School of International Affairs;
 10. The graduate division of the School of Engineering and Applied Science;
 11. The undergraduate division of the School of Engineering and Applied Science;
 12. The Milken Institute School of Public Health;
 13. The School of Nursing; and
 14. The College of Professional Studies.
- C. Any degree-granting school created or re-designated by Act of the Board of Trustees shall be guaranteed representation in the Senate according to the provisions of subsection A of this Section. If the school contains a graduate division and an undergraduate division, the divisions shall be considered separate schools for the purposes of this subsection.

- D. In addition to the Senate representation provided by subsections B or C of this Section, all graduate students within the University shall be represented by two Senators At-Large from the Graduate Schools.
- E. In addition to the Senate representation provided by subsections B or C of this Section, all undergraduate students within the University shall be represented by two Senators At-Large from the Undergraduate Schools.
- F. In addition to the voting representation by a Senator as provided for in this Section, three (3) Freshman Senators, and two (2) First Year Graduate Senators shall be chosen, in the manner set forth in the Bylaws, to serve as members of the Senate with all the rights and privileges of a Senator, except the right to vote, representing their respective constituencies. Upon the start of the second semester of the Freshman Senators' and First Year Graduate Senators' term, the Freshman Senator positions and the First Year Graduate Senator positions may be converted to Undergraduate-at-Large and Graduate-at-Large positions, respectively, in line with section 2(D) and 2(E) such that they have all the rights and privileges of a Senator, including the right to vote pending a majority vote of the full senate.
- G. The Student Association Bylaws shall set forth the manner and timing of Senate reapportionment based upon the Constitutional formula. The Joint Elections Committee shall conduct reapportionment once per year.

Section 3 – Qualifications for Office

- A. On the day of their election or appointment, a senator or senatorial candidate must be a student registered for academic credit in a degree-granting program of the University and must be matriculated and attending class, credit for which is being applied toward the degree-granting program within the school(s) or division(s) he or she seeks to represent. The Senator must represent the same school(s) and division(s) throughout his or her term of office in the Senate. No Senators or senatorial candidates shall be on academic and/or disciplinary probation or suspension. Senators must maintain registration for academic credit throughout his or her term of office.

Section 4 – Nature of the Senate

- A. The Senate shall be considered a continuous body, and all legislation shall be binding on succeeding Senators unless such legislation is specifically repealed.

Section 5 – Terms of Office

- A. The newly elected Senate shall serve a transitional period starting upon its certification by the Joint Elections Committee. They shall serve a regular term commencing on the day preceding the first day of the spring semester reading week in the Columbian School of Arts and Sciences.

Section 6 – Transitional Power and Responsibilities

- A. The period between the certification of election results by the Joint Elections Committee and the swearing-in of the Senate-Elect and Executive Cabinet pursuant to the provisions of Article I, Section 4 of this Constitution shall be known as transition period.
- B. The Senate-Elect shall have the power during the transition period to adopt a budget for the following fiscal year, amend the funding guidelines and budget procedures, organize itself into committees, and act upon the appointments of the President-Elect. Incumbent Senators shall retain all other powers and responsibilities.

Section 7 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Senate

- A. The Senate shall:
 - 1. Make recommendations on issues affecting students; examine policy, rules and regulations affecting students; and collect a Student Association Fee of three dollars per credit hour for up to 15 credit hours per semester;
 - 2. Have final approval of all general policies of the Student Association;
 - 3. Override at its discretion a Presidential Veto by a two-thirds vote;
 - 4. Give advice and consent on all presidential appointments to the Cabinet;
 - 5. Form committees at its discretion;
 - 6. Establish Senate Bylaws;
 - 7. Adopt procedures to allow non-members of the Senate to address the Senate;
 - 8. Elect a Chairperson Pro Tempore from its membership;
 - 9. Call public meetings or hearings as necessary;
 - 10. Obtain legal counsel as necessary, including, but not limited to, appointing special counsel for the purposes of executing the provisions of Article VI;
 - 11. Enact measures necessary and proper to implement the power and responsibilities stated in this Constitution; and
 - 12. Enact and amend any Student Association By laws, with the exception of those of the Student Court.

Section 8 – Meetings

- A. The Senate shall meet at least once every twenty (20) class days.

- B. Special meetings of the Senate shall be called by the Executive Vice President upon receipt of a petition from the President or five Senators requesting a special meeting and setting forth the purposes of such a meeting. The Executive Vice President shall call a meeting within seventy-two hours after the filing of the petition and give notice of the meeting in accordance with the policies and procedures set by the Senate.
- C. Meetings of the Senate shall be open. The Senate may go into executive session with a two-thirds vote.
- D. A Quorum shall be no less than a simple majority of the membership of the Senate.

Section 9 – Senate Chairperson

- A. The Executive Vice President shall act as Chairperson of the Senate and shall vote only to break a tie. The Chairperson shall appoint a Parliamentarian and Secretary. The Chairperson Pro Tempore shall serve as chairperson in the absence of the Executive Vice President.

Section 10 – Legislative Process

- A. All matters approved by the Senate, except Senate rules, Senate procedural decisions, Senate internal organizational decisions, censures, and impeachments, shall be submitted to the President within three class days after passage, for written approval.
- B. If the President vetoes a measure, it must be returned with written objections, to the Chairperson of the Senate within seven class days of its receipt. The Senate may override a veto by a two-thirds vote within 20 class days of the date of receipt of the veto.
- C. If the President has neither signed nor vetoed the measure within seven class days of its receipt, it shall automatically be enacted.

Article II: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1 – In General

- A. The Executive Branch shall be responsible for the proper administration of the Student Association, for the development of policy and the implementation of legislation. It shall be composed of the Cabinet as well as any Directors appointed by the President.
- B. There shall be a Cabinet composed of the President, Executive Vice President and the Vice Presidents.

C. Eligibility for executive branch office:

1. At the time of their election or appointment, the President, Executive Vice President and the Vice Presidents shall be students registered for academic credit and matriculated in a degree-granting program within the University. They shall not be on academic or disciplinary probation.
2. The President and Executive Vice President must maintain registration for academic credit at the same degree level throughout his or her term of office. In no case shall a candidate for election in the spring semester be certified for office where such candidate will graduate with a University-granted degree in the same year.

Section 2 – Terms of Office

- A. The President and the Executive Vice President shall serve a transitional term starting upon their certification by the Joint Elections Committee, and then serve a regular term commencing on the day preceding the first day of reading week.

Section 3 – Transitional Powers and Responsibilities of the President

- A. During the transitional period, as defined by Article I, Section 6, the President-Elect shall present a budget to the Senate-Elect for the upcoming fiscal year and may make appointments to his or her Cabinet.

Section 4 – Powers and Responsibilities of the President

A. The President shall:

1. Execute legislation of the Senate;
2. Represent the Student Association to the University Community;
3. Make vetoes as set forth in Article I, Section 10;
4. Sponsor legislation to the Senate;
5. Issue executive orders as necessary and proper;
6. Call and preside over meetings of the Cabinet;
7. Form executive committees as deemed necessary;
8. Make all appointments and nominations;
9. Fill any vacancies occurring in offices specified herein;
10. Remove, at his or her discretion, any appointed member of the Executive Branch, other than the Executive Vice President if said position was filled by appointment under the provisions of Article V, Section 1, or any other person appointed or nominated under the authority of the Student Association;
11. Call public meetings or hearings as necessary;
12. Delegate his or her duties as deemed necessary;
13. Organize the Executive Branch;
14. Be responsible for office staff; and

15. Appoint student voting representation on the Board of Trustees of The George Washington University.

Section 5 – Power and Responsibilities of the Cabinet

- A. The members of the Cabinet shall:
 1. Advise, assist and be directly responsible to the President;
 2. Review, at least semi-annually, the operations and responsibilities of the Executive Branch and its committees;
 3. Assist in the preparation of a Student Association Annual Report;
 4. At their discretion, appoint assistants;
 5. At their discretion, remove assistants they have appointed; and
 6. Perform responsibilities as delegated by the President.

Section 6 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Executive Vice President

- A. The Executive Vice President shall:
 1. Act as Chairperson of the Senate;
 2. Assume the Presidency in the vacancy thereof;
 3. Coordinate the preparation of the Student Association Annual Report;
 4. Act to fulfill any duties assigned to him or her by the President or the Senate; and
 5. Delegate his or her duties as deemed necessary.

Section 7 – Transitional Powers and Responsibilities of the Executive Vice President-Elect

- A. The Executive Vice President-Elect shall assist the President Elect in making appointments and formulating a budget and shall call and preside over organizational meetings of the Senate-Elect.

Section 8 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

- A. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall:
 1. Develop and maintain a program for student evaluation of courses and professors;
 2. Investigate, report and make recommendations on academic matters;
 3. Seek maximum student representation on all academic advisory committees and councils, the Board of Trustees Committee on Academic Affairs, the Office of the Provost, and all University academic advisory committees or councils;
 4. Maintain regular communication with all student representatives on all academic advisory committees and councils; and
 5. Monitor academic affairs projects at other universities.

Section 9 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Financial Affairs

- A. The Vice President for Financial Affairs shall:
1. Be responsible for the financial affairs of the Student Association;
 2. Monitor the proper distribution and use of all the Student Association funds distributed by the Student Association;
 3. Take proper action before the Senate and/or Student Court when he or she becomes aware of improper distribution or use of Student Association funds;
 4. See that detailed records of all Student Association receipts and disbursements are maintained;
 5. Ensure that all financial records of the Student Association are available for review;
 6. Submit a written, itemized financial statement to the Senate upon a majority vote of the Senate;
 7. Prepare an annual, itemized financial report to be included in the Student Association Annual Report;
 8. Serve as the Student Association's liaison with the Board of Trustees Committee on Financial and Audit;
 9. Review, examine, and report on the financial affairs of the University; and
 10. Serve as the primary liaison between the Student Association and the Office of Budget and Planning, and the Office of the Executive Vice President and Treasurer.

Section 10 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Judicial and Legislative Affairs

- A. The Vice President for Judicial and Legislative Affairs shall:
1. Investigate and prosecute alleged violations of the Student Association Constitution and/or Bylaws;
 2. Represent the Student Association in all matters before the University's judicial system;
 3. Act as counsel for the Student Association;
 4. Supervise all contractual agreements;
 5. Communicate with the University administration in all matters related to University Judicial Affairs; and
 6. Have responsibility for drafting all presidential veto messages and executive orders at the request of the President.

Section 11 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Student Activities

- A. The Vice President for Student Activities shall:
1. Serve as the point person and advocate within Student Association for student organizations;
 2. Advise, assist, and coordinate activities of student organizations where appropriate;
 3. Build and maintain relationships among student organizations;

4. Facilitate interactions between student organizations and the administration and assist in navigation of University processes;
5. Make recommendations to the Student Association and University administration regarding the policies, programs, and operations affecting student activities; and
6. Administer and manage services related to student activities provided by the Student Association.

Section 12 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Graduate Student Policy

- A. The Vice President for Graduate Student Policy shall:
1. Be a graduate or professional school student;
 2. Appoint the chairperson of the Graduate Student Initiative;
 3. Be informed of and make recommendations in non-academic areas of concern to graduate and professional students;
 4. Explore means for the improvement or development of non-academic services to graduate and professional students provided by the University and the city, local suburban, regional and federal government agencies; and
 5. Communicate with all offices of the University in matters where graduate and professional students are concerned.

Section 13 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Undergraduate Student Policy

- A. The Vice President for Undergraduate Student Policy shall:
1. Be an undergraduate student;
 2. Be informed of and make recommendations in non-academic areas of concern to undergraduate students;
 3. Explore means for the improvement or development of non-academic services to undergraduate students provided by the University and the city, local suburban, regional, and federal government agencies; and
 4. Communicate with all offices of the University in matters where undergraduate students are concerned.

Section 14 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Public Affairs

- A. The Vice President for Public Affairs shall:
1. Administer and manage all publicity for the Student Association;
 2. Make recommendations concerning the marketing of the Student Association;
 3. Administer and manage all advertising and press relations for the Student Association, both external and internal;
 4. Develop and maintain a program for a record of new students;
 5. Be informed of and make recommendations on the policies, programs, and operations of the operations of the Division of External Relations; and

6. Advise, assist, and coordinate marketing of student organizations where appropriate.

Section 15 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Community Affairs

- A. The Vice President for Community Affairs shall:
 1. Regularly attend the meetings of neighboring community organization including, but not limited to, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A, West End Citizens Association, and the Foggy Bottom Association;
 2. Represent the interest and viewpoints of the Student Association and University Administration on issues involving the neighboring community;
 3. Be informed of and make recommendations to the Student Association and University Administration on issues involving the neighboring community;
 4. Advise and assist other students and other student organizations with community relations and community service projects, where appropriate; and
 5. Organize events and services, which facilitate and maintain positive relations between the University and neighboring community.

Section 16 – Powers of the Vice President for Campus Operations

- A. The Vice President for Campus Operations shall:
 1. Oversee the allocation of student organization offices and storage space;
 2. Be informed of and make recommendations on issues related to campus buildings, campus operations, safety, security, and accessibility; and
 3. Serve as representative to and seek maximum student representation on all committees and councils related to campus planning and operations.

Section 17 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

- A. The Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion shall:
 1. Maintain regular communications with representatives of the multicultural community at GW, including but not limited to members of multicultural student organizations and staff at the Multicultural Student Services Center;
 2. Develop and assist with initiatives that will support the Multicultural Student Services Center, campus community, and relevant university departments to promote a spirit of diversity and inclusion on campus;
 3. Attend Finance Committee appeal sessions that pertain to the budgets of multicultural organizations; and
 4. Monitor diversity and inclusion initiatives at other universities.

Section 18 – Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Sustainability

- A. The Vice President for Sustainability shall:

1. Maintain regular communications with representatives of the sustainability community and attend sustainability-related events, including the Office of Sustainability, the Sustainability Collaborative, and sustainability-oriented student organizations;
2. Be informed of and make recommendations related to university initiatives, policies, and plans focused on economic, environmental, and social sustainability;
3. Develop and assist with initiatives that will enhance campus sustainability, decrease the university's carbon footprint, and build campus community around sustainability; and
4. Serve as a representative to and seek maximum student representation on all university committees and councils related to sustainability.

ARTICLE III: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 1 – In General

- A. The judicial power of the Student Association shall be vested in the Student Court. The Student Court shall exercise its powers in accordance with The George Washington University Guide to Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Section 2 – Definitions

- A. Constitutionality, for the purpose of this Constitution and the Bylaws adopted there under, shall be defined as adherence to the University Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities and relevant provisions of the Student Association or Student Association-recognized organization's Constitution, Bylaws, or Charter consistent with said Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Section 3 – Case or Controversy Requirement

- A. The Student Court shall not hear or decide the constitutionality of any actions or inactions, which have not yet occurred.
- B. The Student Court shall not issue advisory opinions on any matter.

Section 4 – Jurisdiction

- A. The Student Court shall have the jurisdiction to finally adjudicate disputes between parties within the Student Association regarding the constitutionality of any action or inaction by the Student Association or any of its respective parts.

- B. The Student Court shall have the jurisdiction to finally adjudicate all appeals of decisions by the Joint Elections Committee from participants in the Student Association elections administered by the Joint Elections Committee.
- C. The Student Court shall also have the jurisdiction to finally adjudicate Joint Elections Committee appeals from participants in Program Board elections, to the extent that the constitution of the Program Board permits.
- D. The Student Court shall also have the jurisdiction to finally adjudicate cases and controversies not otherwise specifically provided for by this Constitution, provided that the parties involved agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the Court, and provided that the Court shall assert such jurisdiction pursuant to the processes set out in the Student Court Bylaws.
- E. The Student Court shall also have the jurisdiction to adjudicate any and all funding disputes among or between registered student organizations receiving Student Association monies.

Section 5 – Student Court Membership

- A. The total membership of the Student Court shall be five (5), two (2) of whom must be undergraduate students at the time of appointment, and two (2) of whom must be graduate students at the time of appointment.
- B. Students serving as judges on the Student Court shall be those registered for academic credit at The George Washington University. They shall not be on academic or disciplinary probation or suspension. They shall not be elected or appointed officers of the Student Association or any student organization.
- C. Members of the Student Court shall be selected as follows:
 - 1. The President of the Student Association shall nominate all candidates for Student Court positions.
 - 2. Each nominee shall not become a member until confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) approval of voting quorum of the Student Association Senate.
 - 3. Students shall continue to serve on the Court until such time as they resign or are removed under this provision, or are no longer eligible under the terms of subsection 5(B) of this provision. Vacancies shall be filled according to the provisions of subsections 5(A)-5(C)(2) of this Section. Student Court Judges may be removed by a three-quarter (3/4) majority vote of the voting membership of the Student Association Senate, subject to the approval of the Student Association President. The Student Association President's veto of a Senate removal may be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Student Association Senate.

4. Any judge who knows that he or she will be graduating or otherwise leaving the University at the end of the Fall or Spring semester shall notify the Student Association President no later than November 1 or March 1, respectively. The Student Association President in office at the time of such notification shall nominate a new judge to fill any such vacancy, and the new judge, once confirmed, shall take office the day preceding the first day of the reading week of the respective semester.
5. The Student Court shall hear cases at any time during the calendar year when University classes in a degree-granting program are in session.
6. Within four (4) weeks of the commencement of undergraduate classes in the Fall semester each year, a Chief Judge shall be elected to a one-year, renewable term from among the members of the Student Court. If the Chief Judge vacates his or her position or is removed from the Court, the members of the Court shall elect a new Chief Judge within two (2) weeks after said vacancy has been filled in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

Section 6 – Parties Eligible to Bring Claims Before the Student Court

- A. Eligibility to Bring Constitutional Challenges - Only the following individuals shall be entitled to have their constitutional claims heard before the Student Court:
 1. Senate member(s) or Executive Officer(s) challenging constitutionality of any action or inaction on the part of any Student Association Executive Officer(s), a majority of the Senate membership, any Student Association Senate Chair, or the Joint Elections Committee.
 2. Any enrolled student(s) of the University challenging constitutionality of any action or inaction on the part of any Student Association Executive Officer(s), a majority of the Senate membership, any Student Association Senate Chair, or the Joint Elections Committee, who alleges direct injury to themselves caused by the challenged action or inaction.

- B. Eligibility to Bring Joint Elections Committee Appeals - Only the following individuals shall be entitled to have their Joint Elections Committee appeals heard before the Student Court:
 1. Individuals challenging their elimination or exclusion by the Joint Elections Committee from a Student Association election.
 2. Individuals challenging fines levied by the Joint Elections Committee for infractions committed by those same individuals in a Student Association election.

3. Individuals who are candidates for Program Board elected offices and who are permitted to appeal Joint Elections Committee decisions under the Program Board constitution shall be subject to the same standing requirements described in subsections 6(B)(1)–(2) of this Section. The Program Board may create more restrictive eligibility requirements for those individuals who are candidates for Program Board elected office who would not otherwise have standing under parts 6(B)(1)–(2) of this subsection.
- C. Eligibility to Bring Funding Decision Appeals - Only the following individuals or groups shall be entitled to have their funding appeals heard before the Student Court:
1. Individuals or groups challenging funding decisions of auxiliary or secondary funding bodies established by the Student Association.
 2. Individuals or groups challenging the constitutionality of funding decisions of the Student Association Senate.

Section 7 – Prohibition on Judicial Initiation of Cases

- A. Neither the Student Court nor any of its members shall initiate any constitutional or Joint Elections Committee challenge before the Student Court.
- B. The Student Court shall not undertake any investigation of any matter nor conduct any hearings on any matter until a valid complaint has been filed by the appropriate parties.

Section 8 – Student Court Procedures

- A. The Student Court shall have the authority under this sub-section to develop Student Court Bylaws that delineate operating procedures and/or policies as it may deem necessary by a simple majority vote of its membership. In no case shall these policies or provisions conflict with the University Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities or the Charter or Constitution, of the Student Association.

Section 9 – Funding

- A. The Student Association Senate shall allocate funds to cover the operational expenses of the Student Court. Said allocation shall include whatever funds are reasonable and appropriate for the Student Court to publish at the beginning of each Academic Year a Judicial Handbook which shall include, but is not limited to:
 1. The Student Association Constitution;
 2. The Student Court Bylaws;
 3. Guidelines for filing complaints with the Student Court; procedures under which complaints are adjudicated before the Student Court;
 4. Definitions as required or needed under the Constitution and/or Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV: UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Section 1 – Faculty Relations

- A. The Student Association shall seek to cooperate with the Faculty Assembly and the Faculty Senate. The Student Association President shall nominate student representatives to the Faculty Assembly, Faculty Senate, and their Committees with the approval of the Student Senate.
- B. The Joint Committee of Faculty and Students shall act primarily as a liaison between and as an advisory committee to, the Student Association and the Faculty Senate. The student members of the Joint Committee shall be appointed by the University upon the nomination by the Student Association President and the approval of the Student Senate.

Section 2 – Academic Advisory Councils

- A. The Student Association President shall nominate and/or appoint any student representative to school, college, or departmental advisory councils upon the request of the appropriate Department Chairman, Dean or Vice President.

ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS; CABINET APPOINTMENTS; VACANCIES

Section 1 – Joint Elections Committee

- A. Elections shall be conducted as specified by the Charter of the Joint Elections Committee. The Joint Elections Committee shall include three voting members appointed by the President of the Student Association with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- B. No members of the Joint Elections Committee may campaign or work on behalf of any candidate or any referendum issue while a member of the Committee.
- C. The Joint Elections Committee shall be appointed and approved within two (2) weeks of the commencement of undergraduate classes in the Spring semester of each year and shall serve until the end of the Spring semester.
- D. The Joint Elections Committee shall:
 - 1. Publicize all elections, referendums, and recall votes;
 - 2. Distribute all petitions;
 - 3. Certify all valid petitions;

4. Certify all candidates for office;
5. Notify candidates of their certification;
6. Conduct and certify referendums, elections and recall votes;
7. Establish campaign rules;
8. Hear and act upon election complaints and violations;
9. Report to the Senate on actions of the Joint Elections Committee.
10. Any appeals from the decisions of the Joint Elections Committee must be brought to the Student Court within ten days of the decision of the Committee.

Section 2 – Election Procedures

- A. Candidates for any office may file for that office by submitting his or her name to the Elections Committee. No student may run for more than one office simultaneously. All candidates for an office shall meet the qualifications of that office.
- B. The Elections Committee shall be empowered to establish an elections' schedule which shall determine the dates of the general and runoff elections and the period of petitioning and campaigning. The Elections Committee shall announce the election calendar by February 15 for each year.
- C. The President and the Executive Vice President shall be elected by an at-large plurality of at least forty-percent of votes cast for those respective offices. Should no candidate for President or Executive Vice President receive a plurality of at least forty-percent, there shall be a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the most votes for the contested office. The runoff election shall be held within ten class days after the general election.
- D. All voting Senate seats shall be open to election in the Spring General election. The two undergraduate candidates for at-large seats receiving the most votes and the two graduate candidates for at-large seats receiving the most vote shall be the at-large Senators Elect. The candidates receiving the most votes within a school shall become the Senators representing that school. If there is a tie for a Senate seat, the Senate-Elect shall fill the seat from among those tied for that seat.
- E. Only those students who are degree candidates in a school or college may vote for the Senator representing that school or college. No person may vote for Senators representing more than one college, other than at-large Senators.

Section 3 – Cabinet Appointments

- A. Initial Cabinet appointments are to be made during transition period. All students seeking appointment to a Cabinet position during transition period shall submit an application to the President-Elect. The President-Elect shall select and review all applications, interview all candidates, and appoint the Cabinet members with the approval of the Senate-Elect.
- B. Vacancies in Cabinet positions that occur after the President-elect has assumed the office of President shall be filled as follows. Students seeking appointment to a vacant Cabinet position shall submit an application to the President. The President shall select and review all applications, interview all candidates, and appoint the Cabinet members with the approval of the Senate.

Section 4 – Vacancies

- A. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the President, the Executive Vice President shall succeed to that office. If the Executive Vice President fails to succeed to the Presidency, the Senate shall elect a President.
- B. Vacancies in the office of the Executive Vice President shall be temporarily filled by the Chairman Pro Tempore of the Senate. The President shall make a nomination for a new Executive Vice President within two (2) weeks of the time that said vacancy occurs. Said nominee shall assume office upon approval by the Senate.
- C. Vacancies in the Senate shall be filled as follows. Candidates for the vacancy shall submit an application to the Chairperson Pro-Tempore of the Senate pursuant to Senate Rules, the Senate shall elect a Senator, from those applying, to fill the vacancy in full accordance with Senate Rules. A candidate for the vacancy in the Senate shall meet all qualifications for the post as required by the Student Association Charter, Constitution, and Bylaws.
- D. Vacancies shall be filled from the constituency represented by that seat. If no person from that constituency shall have applied for the senate within thirty class days of the opening of the vacancy, the Senate may convert it to an at-large seat by a 2/3 vote.
- E. Persons filling vacancies shall take office immediately upon receiving approval of the Senate.

ARTICLE VI: CENSURE; RECALL; REMOVAL

Section 1 – Censure

- A. Any elected Student Association official or individual nominated or appointed by the Student Association may be censured, by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Senate, for failure to fulfill their duties or responsibilities.
- B. The Senate shall forward charge(s) to the accused at least five calendar days prior to the meeting at which the censure vote will be taken.
- C. The accused shall have the right to answer any charges before a vote is taken and shall have the right to counsel. The Senate may assess penalties resulting from a censure vote, except that such penalties may not include removal from office.
- D. Invocation of this provision by the Student Association Senate shall in no way preclude further action from being taken by the Senate under any other provision of this Constitution.
- E. The specific provisions to effectuate censure pursuant to this Section shall be set forth in the Student Association Bylaws.

Section 2 – Recall

- A. The President, Executive Vice President, and Senators shall be subject to recall by a petition signed by ten percent of their respective constituencies. The Elections Committee shall conduct the recall under the procedures outlined for referendums. Only students who are eligible to vote in the election for the office of the person being recalled any vote in the recall election.

Section 3 – Removal

- A. Failure to fulfill the duties or responsibilities of office shall constitute grounds for removal. A petition bearing the signatures at one-third of the Senate membership shall initiate removal proceedings against any person nominated, elected or appointed by or to office in, the Student Association. The Senate shall forward any charges to the accused at least ten days prior to the time that the removal matter is considered.
- B. The Chief Judge of the Student Court shall preside over the Senate during removal proceedings.
- C. Any official of the Student Association may be removed from their positions by a two-thirds vote from the Senate. The individuals filing the removal petition may appoint their own prosecutor to present their case. No Senator may act as Prosecutor.

ARTICLE VII: INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Section 1 – Petition for Senate Vote

- A. A question may be brought to a vote in the Senate by a petition of 100 members of the student body.

Section 2 – Referenda

- A. A vote on a referendum may only occur while undergraduate classes are in session during the fall or spring semesters.
- B. Referenda shall be called by a two-thirds vote of the Senate or a petition signed by ten percent of the student body.
 - 1. If a referendum is called in the Spring semester, the Joint Elections Committee shall set the date for the referendum vote within twenty (20) class days after the certification of a petition or the Senate vote calling for the referendum.
 - 2. If a referendum is called in the Fall semester,
 - a. The President shall nominate three (3) persons to serve on a special elections committee within five (5) class days of the Senate vote calling for the referendum, or within five (5) class days of the Student Association receiving a petition calling for a referendum vote.
 - b. The Senate shall act upon the President's candidates within one (1) week of their respective nominations.
 - c. Once confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate, the special elections committee shall set the date for the referendum vote within twenty (20) class days after the certification of a petition or the Senate vote calling for the referendum.
 - 3. All petitions requesting a referendum must bear the name(s) of the sponsor(s). Certified petitions shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the Senate who shall immediately inform the members of the Senate of the petition. Should the Senate take action to the satisfaction of the sponsor(s), the sponsor(s) may withdraw the petition. The Elections Committee shall notify the University community of the date and questions on the referendum shall be certified by the Elections Committee within seven (7) calendar days after the referendum.

Section 3 – Eligibility to Vote in Referenda

- A. Only Student Association members shall be eligible to vote in a referendum. A simple majority of those voting shall be required for approval of referendum questions. The result of the vote on any particular question shall be binding on the Student Association.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS; LIQUIDATION AND DISSOLUTION

Section 1 – Amendments

- A. All amendments to the Student Association Constitution shall be brought to a University-wide vote in accordance with the procedures to call a Referendum as stipulated in Article VII.
- B. All amendments to Student Association Bylaws shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate and shall be subject to the power of Presidential veto and senate override provisions in Article I, Section 10 of this Constitution, with the exception of those of internal Senate procedures.

Section 2 – Liquidation and Dissolution

- A. This Constitution may be dissolved and liquidated through the referendum procedure as herein prescribed.
- B. Should the Student Association be dissolved by act of the Board of Trustees, such action shall include provisions for the payment of the Student Association's liabilities, disbursal of its assets, and the delegation of its duties.
- C. All records of the Student Association shall be deposited with and maintained by the University Library upon dissolution.

ARTICLE IX: RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THIS CONSTITUTION

Section 1 – In General

- A. In addition to the rights guaranteed by the specific provisions of this Constitution, all Student Association members shall be guaranteed, at minimum:
 - 1. Due process in the construction and implementation of the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws created pursuant to the powers contained herein; and
 - 2. The equal protection of the provisions contained in this Constitution and the Bylaws created pursuant to the powers contained herein.

ARTICLE X: ENABLING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Section 1 – In General

- A. This Constitution supersedes all previous documents and charters of any George Washington University student movement. This Constitution shall be the supreme law of the Student Association, any bylaws, bills, resolutions, and decisions to the contrary notwithstanding.

Section 2 – Ratification

- A. This Constitution of The George Washington University Student Association shall become effective upon ratification by a majority of those voting in a student referendum.

ARTICLE XI: CONSTITUTIONAL DEFINITIONS

Section 1 – General Definitions

- A. Class days shall be defined as those weekdays on which classes are held in all of the Colleges of the University, excluding summer sessions.
- B. Spring semester reading week shall be defined as commencing on the first day of the reading week of the spring semester for the Columbian School of Arts and Sciences.
- C. Membership of the Senate shall be those Senators elected and those appointed by the Senate and now serving in office.
- D. The Senate shall mean, for this purpose and document, the membership of the Senate.