

# **KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY**

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

### **ASSOCIATION Constitution**

#### **I. Preamble**

##### **a. Name**

a. The name of the organization is The Student Government Association (hereinafter referred to as SGA) of Kennesaw State University (hereinafter referred to as KSU).

##### **b. Purpose**

a. The purpose of the Student Government Association is to: represent the students of Kennesaw State University; serve as a liaison between students and members of the University community within the shared governance structure; actively strive to enhance student success; foster an environment of campus engagement; and advocate on behalf of the students' welfare in accordance with KSU statutes, student codes of conduct, and the policies of the Board of Regents.

#### **II. Membership**

a. All currently enrolled students at KSU shall automatically be members of the SGA, and subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, Bylaws, and the Student Code of Conduct and Policies as they appear in on-campus publications.

#### **III. Student Government Officer Composition**

##### **a. Senate**

- i. The Senate will be comprised of 35 total Senators representing both campuses (Marietta and Kennesaw). The distribution of Senators will be determined prior to elections as follows:
  1. College Senators are determined by the formula outlined in Article III, a, ii.
  2. Commission Chair Senators will constitute the number of standing commissions.
  3. At-Large Senate positions will constitute all remaining seats that are not College Senators or Commission Chair Senators

ii. College Senators

College Senators shall be comprised of one senator for each three-thousand (3,000) students within each of the following colleges with a minimum of one senator per college or school as follows:

1. Bagwell College of Education (Kennesaw)
2. College of the Arts (Kennesaw)
3. College of Architecture and Construction Management (Marietta)
4. Coles College of Business (Kennesaw)
5. College of Computing and Software Engineering (Marietta)
6. College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Kennesaw)
7. College of Science and Mathematics (Kennesaw)
8. Graduate College (Kennesaw)
9. Honors College (Both Campuses)
10. Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology (Marietta)
11. University College (Kennesaw)
12. Wellstar College of Health and Human Services (Kennesaw)

iii. Commission Chair Senators

1. Commission Chair Senator seats will be assigned to the standing commissions
2. In order to hold a Commission Chair Senator position, the student must be representative of the constituency to which that seat is assigned.

iv. At-Large Senators

1. At Large Senators can come from any major and any constituency so long as they meet the minimum GPA and credit hour requirements to hold office in SGA
2. At-Large Senators serve to fill existing vacancies within the Senate, guarantee diverse Senate membership, and to adjust to the creation of ad hoc commissions.

v. The officers of the Executive Board shall also serve on the senate.

1. All officers have voting rights with the exception of the President or chairman of the meeting.

- vi. The elected senate positions are College Senators and Commission Chair Senators, with the exception of the First Year Commission Chair
- vii. The First Year Commission Chair Senator and At-Large Senators are appointed by the President as outlined in the Bylaws Article XIII

b. Executive Board

- i. The officers on the Executive Board include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Senate Leader (Kennesaw), and Senate Leader (Marietta).
- ii. The elected officers of the Executive Board are the President and Vice President. These officers are jointly elected at the General Elections held during the spring semester. Candidates for both the President and Vice President positions must run together on a single ticket and must have served as voting members in Kennesaw State University's SGA for at least one full semester prior to elections.
- iii. The appointed officers of the Executive Board are the Secretary and Treasurer. These officers are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate with a 2/3 vote.
- iv. Senate Leaders are appointed by the Senators from their respective campus by a majority vote of the Senators from their campus. Candidates for Senate Leader positions must be a current Senator from that campus.

c. Directors

- i. Director positions include Director of Internal Affairs, Director of External Affairs, Director of Communications, and Director of Academic Affairs.
- ii. These directors are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate with a 2/3 vote.
- iii. Directors report to the Vice President.

d. Interns

- i. Interns shall be nonvoting officers of SGA.
- ii. Interns shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Senate with a majority vote.
- iii. Interns shall serve on the SGA internal committees for Internal Affairs, External Affairs, Communications, and Academic Affairs.
- iv. Interns shall not count towards quorum.
- v. Interns are not eligible for stipends.

- e. Faculty/Staff Advisor
  - i. The Assistant Dean of Students for Student Life or his/her designee shall serve as the SGA Advisor.
- IV. Stipends
  - 1. Refer to Article V of the Bylaws.
- V. Elections
  - a. Refer to Article XII of the Bylaws and the Elections Policy.
- VI. Vacancies
  - a. Refer to Article XIII of the Bylaws.
- VII. Removal from Office
  - a. Resignation
    - 1. Any SGA officer or executive board member may resign from his/her position with a written or verbal statement issued to the SGA President, if for any reason he/she cannot fulfill the duties stated within this Constitution and the Bylaws. This written or verbal resignation must be reflected in the official SGA minutes.
    - 2. An officer who resigns shall not be eligible for a stipend, unless he/she has completed more than half of the term of office that semester, in which case that officer shall be eligible for a prorated stipend amount. In such a case, the former officer's stipend shall still be evaluated by the procedure listed in the Bylaws.
  - b. Impeachment
    - a. Refer to Article XV of the Bylaws
- VIII. Information about Meetings
  - a. Meeting times
    - 1. Meeting times shall be established through process defined in Article II of the Bylaws.
  - b. Number of meetings
    - 1. The Senate shall meet no fewer than five times per semester, and no more than fifteen times per semester. The only exception shall be Summer term when the SGA Senate shall meet as needed.
  - c. Special meeting

1. Special meetings may be called by the President or Vice President by email stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.
2. The Chair of the special meeting shall be the member who called the meeting.

d. Quorum

1. Quorum is defined as 50% + 1 of the SGA voting members who have been duly sworn into office. Quorum is necessary to conduct a meeting of the Senate. Non-voting members shall not count towards the quorum.

IX. Committees

a. Standing committees

1. The list of standing committees is located in Article XI of the Bylaws.

a. Creation and/or Removal of Standing Committees

1. Deletion and/or addition of standing committees shall be approved by a majority vote of the SGA Senate with prior notice, or 2/3 vote without prior notice.

c. Ad-Hoc Committees

1. The President may create or dissolve Ad-Hoc committees during his/her term in office.
2. The appointed chair of an Ad-Hoc committee shall come from the senate and appointed by the President.

X. Commissions

a. Standing Commissions

1. The list of standing commissions is located in Article XII of the Bylaws.

b. Commission Structure

1. Each Commission will be chaired by an Commission Chair Senator
2. Each Commission will have at least one Assistant Chair. Assistant Chairs must be an SGA Senator not serving as the Chair.
3. Each Commission must have at least 2 ex-officio, non-voting members. These members must be representative of the specific constituency of the Commission.

- a. Ex-officio members are appointed by the Commission Chair and confirmed by a Senate Leader.
- b. Ex-officio members of the Commission serve at the pleasure of the Chair.
- c. Creation and/or Removal of Standing Commissions
  - 1. Deletion and/or addition of standing commissions shall be approved by a majority vote of the SGA Senate with prior notice, or 2/3 vote without prior notice.
- d. Ad-Hoc Commissions
  - 1. The President may create or dissolve Ad-Hoc Commissions during his/her term in office.
  - 2. The appointed chair of an Ad-Hoc commission shall come from the senate and be appointed by the President.

## XI. Rules of Order

- a. Parliamentary authority
  - i. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Senate in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution, Bylaws, and any other rules of order that the Senate may wish to adopt. Non-voting members shall not be permitted to make motions.
- b. Speaker's Rights
  - i. Members of the Senate and visitors requesting the floor shall speak no longer than three minutes per turn, per subject unless the chair of the meeting extends the debate, or unless a proper motion to end debate, otherwise limit discussion, or to suspend the rules on debate has passed the Senate.
- c. Presidential Rights
  - i. Before a bill or resolution, or other official vote (legislation) is considered official, the President shall sign said legislation. In the event of a presidential veto of the legislation, it becomes the first order of old business at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate. A 2/3, vote of the Senate Membership is required to

override said veto. Failure to sign legislation within two (2) weeks of its passage by the Senate shall result in a veto of said legislation and it shall be brought back to the Senate to consider an override of said veto.

d. Email Voting

- i. If an order of business is deemed an emergency by the President, Vice President, and at least 2/3 of the Executive Board and a special meeting is not possible, an Email vote may take place in the absence of a meeting. The following policy shall be followed: a copy of said legislation shall be sent to each officer, who shall return said legislation to the Secretary with a vote of yea or nay. After 72 hours, voting shall be closed and votes shall be tallied. A quorum is required for votes to be official.

XII. Amendments and Revisions

- a. This Constitution shall be amended or revised at a Senate meeting at which quorum is met and with 2/3 approval. The President shall sign the amendments and the Secretary shall transmit said amendment(s) or revision(s) to the Department of Student Activities for ratification. Said amendment(s) and or revision(s) shall take effect upon their ratification by Department of Student Activities.
- b. Amendments and revisions to this Constitution must be submitted to the Department of the Student Activities for approval, and will go into effect immediately upon Department of Student Activities approval.

XIII. Bylaws

- a. The SGA shall establish a set of bylaws that shall further clarify the policies and procedures of the SGA as well as specify the duties and privileges of each officer. Amendments or revisions of said Bylaws shall require majority approval of the SGA senate with prior notice or 2/3 approval without prior notice.

XIV. Affiliations

- a. Section 1- Kennesaw State University
  - i. This organization is a Registered Student Organization (RSO) at Kennesaw State University, but is not part of the University itself.
  - ii. In all correspondence and publications, it may refer to itself as an organization at Kennesaw State University, but not as part of Kennesaw State University itself.

- iii. SGA accepts full financial and production responsibility for all activities it sponsors.
- iv. SGA agrees to abide by all pertinent Kennesaw State University policies and regulations, including the most current RSO Manual and Student Codes of Conduct. Where Kennesaw State University policies and regulations and those of RSO differ, the policies and regulations of Kennesaw State University will take precedence.
- v. SGA recognizes and understands that the University assumes no legal liability for the actions of the organization.

#### XV. Non-Discrimination Policy

- a. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students as stated in the Kennesaw State University Non-Discrimination Statement. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects people from discrimination based on race, color or national origin in programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states that: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

#### XVI. Non-Hazing Policy

- a. SGA will not practice any physical or psychological forms of hazing, and our members are free to discontinue their membership without undue pressure or interference.

Last Updated by Organization on: 12/1/18

Last Approved by Student Activities on: 12/4/18