



Senate Constitution

Article I: Name

This organization shall be known as the Student Government Association *Senate*.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide a forum to hear and debate student/campus issues and concerns. Any student can present an issue to the *Senate*. This organization shall provide a student representative to campus committees that affect students.

Article III: Composition and Responsibility

A. COMPOSITION

1. Non-Voting Members

- a. Executive Board
 - i. Entire Executive Board will sit on the Senate.
 - ii. The President will serve as Chairperson of the Senate
 - iii. The Vice President will oversee all Senate committees
- b. Non-Voting Student Organizations
 - i. One senator allowed from each unaffiliated organization. Representation is optional.
 - ii. SAB is included in this group because they do not have a vote in Senate due to their Executive Board vote through the Director of Activities.
 - iii. Included in this group are Teddi Committee, NRHH, Leadership Council, and the Cardinal Courier among others.
- c. Faculty Assembly Liaison
 - i. One faculty member who sits on faculty assembly.
 - ii. The Faculty Assembly Liaison will be an ex-officio member of the Senate.

2. Voting Members

- a. At Large Senators
 - i. School Senators:
 1. Five At Large School Senators, one from each of the following schools: Arts, Sciences, Business, Education, Nursing
 - ii. Class Senators:
 1. Four senators, one from each class.
- b. Class Officers
 - i. One representative from each Class Officer executive board. Must be President or Vice President.
- c. Club Senators
 - i. One elected senator from each category of SGA affiliated clubs/organizations. Only Academic Clubs will be allowed to elect more than one senator due to the amount of clubs grouped under the category. Academic Clubs can elect up to four senators to represent them on the Senate.
 - ii. Club Categories:
 1. Academic Club Senators (At least 1, up to 4)
 2. Arts/Performance Club Senator (1)
 3. Diversity Club Senator (1)
 4. Media Club Senator (1)
 5. Special Interest Club Senator (1)
 6. Club Sports Senator (1)
- d. Resident Student Association (RSA)
 - i. One officer from the RSA Executive Board
- e. Commuter Council
 - i. One officer from the Commuter Council Executive Board

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. President
 - a. The President will serve as the Chairperson of the Senate.



Senate Constitution

1. *Senate meetings will be held weekly on Thursday's during Free Period.*
 2. *Senate meetings are open to all students, faculty, and staff.*
 3. *The Senate will allow any member of the SGA, faculty, or staff to address the Senate with the recognition of the President.*
 - a. *Guests may only address the Senate for a maximum of five minutes. Exceptions can be made with the advanced approval of the Senate Chair.*
 4. *The Senate can close a meeting or portion of a meeting with a majority vote.*
- B. Parliamentary Authority
1. *The rules of order as established in Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised will govern the Senate in all cases in which they are applicable and not in conflict with any portion of this Constitution or any rules, bylaws, and procedures that the SGA may adopt.*
 2. *Parliamentary procedure will be enforced by the Parliamentarian at all Senate meetings.*
- C. Attendance
1. *The Executive Board and all Senators are expected to attend all meetings of the Senate.*
 2. *No duplicate representation is allowed in the Senate*
 3. *In the event of unavoidable absence, Senators may empower a substitute in their place.*
 - a. *Substitutes must be designated at the beginning of each semester.*
 - b. *A Senator may empower a substitute for a maximum of two meetings per school year.*
- D. Absences
1. *An absence is defined as a missed meeting without a substitute*
 2. *Two latenesses will result in an absence*
 - i. *Lateness is defined as signing in after new business has begun.*
 3. *After any Senator fails to attend one meeting, they will receive a warning notice.*
 4. *After any Senator fails to attend two meetings, their voting rights will be suspended.*
- i. *A Senator may regain their voting rights by attending three consecutive meetings after their second absence. After attending three meetings, the Senate will vote to restore voting rights.*
- ii. *After return to good standing, every successive miss will result in the club or organization being back into bad standing and voting rights suspended.*
5. *If a Senator accumulates more than two absences, the Senate can take action that it deems necessary.*
 - i. *Possible actions could consist of probation and/or dismissal from the Senate.*

Article V: Voting

- A. General Voting
1. *Quorum for business will be 4/5 of voting Senators.*
 2. *All Voting Members have equal voting powers*
 - a. *Voting Members include At-Large Senators, Club Officers, Club Senators, RSA, and Commuter Council*
 3. *The Executive Board will have no voting powers with the exception of the President who can vote in a tie.*
 4. *All voting will be open ballot.*
 5. *The Senate will vote on any issues and proposals brought forth, pertinent to the campus community.*
 6. *The Senate will not vote on any financial matters.*
 7. *Any item coming up for a vote in the Senate can be postponed by a majority vote of the members present at that meeting.*
 - a. *A postponed item must be then voted on at the next Senate meeting.*
 8. *In the case of controversy, the President will decide which type of vote is necessary*
- B. Campus Wide Voting



Senate Constitution

1. A vote that will affect the entire campus must pass by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.
- C. In-House Senate Organizational Voting
 1. A vote that will affect only the Senate must pass by a simple majority of the members present.
- D. Executive Board Voting
 1. The Executive Board must approve all measures passed in the Senate that will affect the entire campus by a four-fifths majority vote within a week of the date of its passage in the Senate.
 - a. Amendments are the only exception.

Article VI : Committees

- A. Senator Responsibilities
 1. *All Senate members will be required to serve on a Senate committee, with the exception of the Executive Board, RSA, SAAC and the Faculty Assembly Liaison.*
 2. All committee representatives will report back to the Senate the information gathered from these committee meetings.
 3. Committees will be responsible for electing a committee chair at their first meeting.
 - a. The Executive Board must approve each committee chair within one week of election.
- B. Standing Committees
 1. *Include:*
 - a. *Academic Affairs*
 - b. *Safety and Security*
 - c. *Student Services*
 - d. *Facilities*
 - e. *Diversity*
 - f. *Spirit*
 2. *All Standing Committees will have at least one member sitting on the related faculty/staff committee*
- C. Ad Hoc Committees
 1. Committees will be established based on relevance to student or campus needs or desires.
 2. Relevance will be determined by a simple majority vote of the Senate at the beginning of each semester.

Article VIV: Amendments

1. All amendments to this constitution must be passed by a two-thirds majority vote of the senate.