

**Student Government Association (SGA)
Constitution**

Preamble

We, the Student Government Association, are committed to providing the student population with a forum where their opinions can be expressed and their voices can be heard. We actively pursue issues that affect students and we attempt to rectify these problems by working with administrators, faculty, and other student organizations. As an umbrella organization, we strive to foster a successful University community.

Article I

-Purpose, Authority, and Responsibilities-

Section 1: Purpose

The SGA shall act as the official liaison between the students and the faculty, administration, Board of Trustees, City Council, office of the Mayor, and the State of Delaware; shall serve as the recognized voice of student opinion on matters concerning the University; shall act as an advocate to promote student rights and responsibilities by providing a forum for student grievances and shall act as a resource center for students.

Section 2: Authority

The authority of the SGA and its member organizations is derived from the faculty of the University, which is responsible under the Charter of the University for the care, control, governance, and instruction of the students. This document shall be consistent with the policies established by the University faculty and the Board of Trustees of the University of Delaware.

Section 3: Responsibilities

The SGA shall have the authority and responsibility to:

- A. Nominate and/or appoint student representatives to all University committees seeking student input;
- B. Act as the governing body of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate;
- C. Serve as a forum for student complaints and actively pursue their resolution;
- D. Perform campus-wide duties including committee formation and elections;
- E. Maintain and make available to students all relevant information regarding University and city policies;
- F. Promote positive and proactive community relations both on and off the University campus;

G. Act on all matters which shall be necessary and proper for executing the foregoing responsibilities.

Article II

-Membership-

Section 1: General Membership

All members of the University community have the right to attend, without a vote, all general meetings of the SGA, including the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate, and to present matters before the SGA for consideration. The right to vote in campus-wide elections and to stand for office, as provided for by the Constitution and Bylaws of the organization, shall be limited to full-time, matriculated undergraduate degree candidates.

Section 2: Voting Membership

A. Elected Officers

The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Director of Operations, Director of Special Projects, and Director of Public Relations of the SGA shall each have one vote in the Executive Board of the SGA and all votes of the SGA. All students serving as elected officers shall be members of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate, but only the President shall have a vote.

B. Appointed Officers

All students serving as appointed officers shall each have one vote in the Executive Board of the SGA and all votes of the SGA. All students serving as appointed officers shall be members of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate but shall not have a vote.

C. Senators

All students serving as Senators, as provided by the Bylaws of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate, shall be members of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate, and each shall have one vote in that body but shall not have a vote in the Executive Board Meetings of the SGA or other votes of the SGA.

Article III

-Structure-

Section 1: Elected Executive Officers

A. President

The President shall oversee all other SGA officers, preside over all meetings of the SGA, communicate with the SGA body as a whole and serve as the official representative of the SGA and therefore the official representative of the undergraduate student body at the University of Delaware. The President shall act as the student liaison to the President of the University, the Mayor of Newark, the Town and Gown committee, and all other members of the administration and faculty. This person shall organize SGA delegates to all Board of Trustee meetings.

B. Vice President

The Vice President shall serve as the Speaker of the Delaware Undergraduate Senate and preside over all SGA meetings in the absence of the President. This person shall facilitate and oversee research initiatives and actions taken by the University Affairs Chairpersons in response to proposals passed in Student Senate. This person shall organize SGA delegates to all Faculty Senate Committee meetings.

C. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for all group expenditures and revenues. The Treasurer shall write all checks and have all checks signed by the Activities and Programs staff for the purpose of the organization. The treasurer will also maintain all group ledgers. The treasurer should also be responsible for requesting funds from the allocation board.

D. Director of Operations

The Director of Operations shall take attendance at all meetings, maintain the SGA list serves, communicate with the SGA body through e-mail, take minutes for every SGA meeting, create and maintain the office key list, oversee all reservations through the Event Services Office, and create and maintain the SGA copy center list. This person shall manage Executive Board office hours. This person shall receive absence notices, and along with the President and Vice President, approve excused absences.

E. Director of Public Relations and Faculty Senator

The Director of Public Relations and Faculty Senator shall be responsible for overseeing the advertising of specific events as well as the general marketing of SGA to the student body. This person shall maintain contact with the various student and community media outlets including the student newspaper and radio station. This person shall either personally respond to or refer reporters from the

University Office of Communication and Marketing and community media to the appropriate officers. Additionally, this person shall represent the SGA at every meeting of the Faculty Senate and use that forum to address student concerns with the faculty.

F. Director of Special Projects and Faculty Senator

The Director of Special Projects and Faculty Senator shall be responsible for overseeing the planning of all public SGA events. Additionally, this person shall represent the SGA at every meeting of the Faculty Senate and use that forum to address student concerns with the faculty.

F. All Elected Executive Officers

The elected executive officers of the SGA shall establish and regulate all appointed officer positions for its effective operation, as specified in the Bylaws of the SGA as well as work together to further all purposes of the SGA. The elected executive officers shall be in attendance at each Executive Meeting of the SGA.

Section 2: Appointed Executive Officers

A. The appointed officers of the SGA shall serve at the pleasure of the elected executive officers of the SGA. They shall function as the Cabinet of the SGA in meetings of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. These appointed officers shall also serve as Appointed Executive Board Members, and shall be in attendance at each Executive Meeting of the SGA.

Section 3: Meetings

A. Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate

The Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate shall meet on the first Monday of every month during the regular academic year at a time and place determined by the President and Vice President in consultation with the Executive Board of the SGA. The date of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate meeting may be changed to another day by a majority approval of all Senators and Executive Board members present at a regular meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. All elected and appointed officers of the SGA must attend every meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate.

B. Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the elected and appointed officers of the Student Government Association and shall meet on a weekly basis. The meeting of the Executive Board is closed to the public with the exception of the SGA's advisor and invited guests approved by a majority vote of Executive Board

members. All elected and appointed officers of the SGA must attend every Executive Board meeting.

C. General Meetings

The Student Government Association shall be responsible for holding General Meetings on a monthly basis. These meetings shall be open to any member of the undergraduate student body and will provide updates on SGA's activities as well as an opportunity for students to voice comments, questions, and concerns.

Section 4: Elections

A. General Elections

The SGA shall hold general elections as defined in the Bylaws of the SGA.

B. Initiative and Referendum Elections

The SGA shall hold initiative and referendum elections as defined in the Bylaws of the SGA.

Article IV

-Suspension and Power of Removal-

Section 1: Suspension

A. Elected Executive Officers

The SGA, with just cause, as defined in the Bylaws of the SGA, and with a 2/3 majority vote of the total voting membership of the Student Government Association and a 2/3 majority vote of the Elected Executive Board, shall have the power to remove from office any member of the Elected Executive Board of the SGA at the subsequent Executive Meeting of the SGA. Written notification for a motion to vote on removal must be presented to the SGA advisor and the officer in question at least seven days prior to the next regular meeting.

B. Appointed Executive Officers

The executive officers appointed as per this Constitution shall serve at the pleasure of the elected executive officers of SGA. The SGA, with just cause, as defined in the Bylaws of the SGA, following at least seven days written notification to the officer in question and the SGA advisor, and with a 2/3 majority vote of the elected executive officers, shall have the power to remove any member of the Appointed Executive Board of the SGA at the subsequent Executive Board Meeting.

C. DUSS Senators

The Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate, with just cause, as defined in the Bylaws of the SGA, following at least seven days written notification to the Senator in question and the SGA advisor, and with a 2/3 majority vote of the total voting membership of the DUSS, shall have the power to remove from office any Senator of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate.

Section 2: Appeals

A. Right to Appeal

Any Executive Officer of the SGA or Senator to the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate may appeal any suspension, removal of power, or suspension of voting privileges as provided by Article 4, Section 1 of this Constitution. During this process, the appealing party shall be suspended of his/her duties.

B. Appellate Process

The appeal of any Executive Officer of the SGA or Senator to the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate must be presented in written format to the Director of Student Centers and the Associate Director of Student Centers. These administrators must convene the SOLAR Council to serve as the Committee on Appeals. If the appealing party is a member of the Committee on Appeals, said party will be relieved of his/her duties as a member of the Committee until the completion of their appeal. The Director and Associate Director of Student Centers shall oversee this Committee, which shall hear the appeal in a closed session and convene privately to render a decision. In the event of a split decision, the Director shall have the deciding vote. The Director shall notify the appealing party in writing of the decision of the Committee within ten (10) business days.

C. Results of Appellate Process

If the decision of the Committee on Appeals is for reinstatement, the appealing party shall be immediately restored to power. If the decision of the Committee on Appeals supports the decision to remove, the appealing member shall be removed from office and shall not serve as a voting member of the SGA in any capacity during the current academic year. Individual votes of the members of the Committee on Appeals shall remain private, as well as any deliberations that may have transpired. The decision of this committee is final, and subsequent appeals will be denied.

-Bylaws-

The SGA shall establish and maintain Bylaws for the SGA and the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate to set forth operational procedures consistent with this Constitution. Proposed changes to the Bylaws of the DUSS must be submitted to the President of the SGA, in written format, at least fourteen days prior to the next regular meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. Proposed changes to the Bylaws of the SGA must be submitted to the President of the SGA, in written format, at least seven days prior to the next regular meeting of the Executive Board of SGA. Any voting member of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate and the Executive Board of the SGA is permitted to submit a proposal to change the bylaws of their respective organization. Formal proposals must receive a 2/3 affirmative vote of the voting members of the SGA.

Article VI

-Constitutional Amendments-

Amendments to this Constitution can be submitted in written format to the Executive Board of the SGA for consideration by any full-time matriculated student, however formal proposals must receive a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Elected Executive Board members to be introduced for consideration before the Executive Board of the SGA. Formal proposals must then receive a 3/4 affirmative vote of the entire Executive Board of SGA.