

CONSTITUTION

Of the Presbyterian College Student Government Association

Preamble

We, the students of Presbyterian College, hereby establish this Constitution and its bylaws in order to ensure a Student Government Association directed toward representation of the Student Body and implementation of student directives, expedition of successful communication between the Student Body and the Faculty, Staff, Administration, and Board of Trustees of the College, enforcement of the Presbyterian College Honor Code and Code of Conduct as well as settlement of affairs concerning the Student Body, engagement of the Student Body in activities and concerns of Presbyterian College and provision of opportunity for students to enact change, as well as organization and promotion of student activities to ensure a higher level of campus involvement.

Definitions

Section 1. The following terms will be used in this document to refer to the definitions as listed below:

1. Student Government Association (SGA or Student Government) shall refer to the entire entity, including the Executive and Legislative branches, and all external committees or representatives.
2. Executive Cabinet shall refer to the Student Body President (SGA President) and their cabinet comprised of the Student Body Vice President (SGA VP), Secretary of Operations (SOO), and Secretary of Student Life (SOL).
3. Executive Committee shall refer to the aforementioned Executive Cabinet in addition to the four Class Presidents.
4. Student Senate or Senate shall refer to the Legislative Branch of the Student Government Association.
5. Senator shall refer to any voting member of the Student Senate.
6. Class Committee or Class Officers shall refer to the committee chaired by respective Class Presidents, and comprised of Class Vice Presidents, Class Operations Officers, and Class Student Life Officers for each academic class.

ARTICLE I. *The Establishment of Student Government*

Section 1. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of the Presbyterian College.

Section 2. COMPOSITION

The Student Government Association shall be composed of two equal branches: the Legislative and the Executive.

Section 3. JURISDICTION

All students registered at Presbyterian College shall be members of the Student Body and shall be subject to this Constitution and its by-laws and the Student Government Legislation.

Section 4. FRANCHISE

Only students registered at Presbyterian College shall be entitled to vote in the special and general elections of the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE II. The Legislative Branch

Section 1. NAME

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the Student Senate

Section 2. COMPOSITION

1. The Student Senate shall consist of 32 voting senators with two elected from each class, eight elected at large from the Student Body, and four class officers elected from each class.
2. The Vice President of the Student Government Association shall be President of the Senate and preside over the Senate meetings. The Vice President shall have no vote unless the Senate is equally divided.
3. A Senator shall be elected President Pro Tempore by the Student Senate. Only Senators that do not serve as class officers are eligible to be run for this office. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall preside over the Senate meetings in the absence of the President of the Senate.
4. The Student Body Clerk shall serve as an impartial, non-voting member of the Senate, and shall record the minutes from each meeting.

Section 3. DUTIES AND POWERS

1. The Student Senate shall represent the interests of the student body;
 - a. To bring forth proposals to enhance the student life of Presbyterian College;
 - b. to make recommendations to the faculty and administration on behalf of the Student Body;
 - c. To initiate, regulate, and coordinate all SGA activities that are carried on in the best interests of the student body;
2. The Student Senate shall have the power to pass any resolution or bill which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution this Constitution in order to represent the Student Body and to conduct an efficient Student Government. The Senate resolutions shall be interpreted as recommendations on behalf of the Student Body.
3. The Senate shall have the power to pass any budget appropriations bill following the consideration of any recommendations of the SOO. A budget appropriations bill must originate in writing from the Senate.

4. The Senate shall have the power to summon any member of Student Government before a Senate Meeting for whatever purposes the Senate deems fit.
5. The Senate shall have the power to confirm, by a two-thirds vote of the entire Student Senate, those nominations which require approval; and to appoint additional non-voting members.
6. A three-fourths vote of the Senate's filled seats shall override a presidential veto. The Senate shall abide by the established by-laws of the SGA for conducting business.
7. The senate shall provide for the regulation and conduct of elections required by this Constitution and of elections called by the President of the SGA.
8. The Senate shall have the sole power to bring impeachment proceedings against an official of the Student Government Association.
9. The body will conduct their business utilizing Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 4. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE SENATORS

1. Shall represent the interest of constituents at student senate meetings
 - a. Class Officers and Class Senators - Respective Class Body
 - b. At-large Senators - Student Body
2. Shall be a voting member in the student senate.
3. Shall perform any other duties germane to this position as assigned.

Section 5. PUBLIC ACCESS

1. The Student Senate shall convene at a regularly stated day and time no less than twice per month.
2. A simple majority of the Student Senate's filled seats shall constitute a quorum.
3. At no time shall the senate conduct business when there are less than 20 filled seats.
4. All students registered at Presbyterian College shall be allowed admittance to a meeting of the Student Senate, and with approval and recognition of the presiding chair may address the Senate.

Section 6. TERM OF OFFICE

Senators shall be elected for a term of one year.

All Senators shall take office at the beginning of the first Senate Meeting of the Spring Semester, on the first Sunday of the Spring Semester.

ARTICLE III. The Executive Branch

Section 1. NAME

All executive powers herein granted shall be vested in the Executive Branch.

Section 2. COMPOSITION

The executive branch shall be composed of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary of Operations, a Secretary of Student Life, and the Class Officers.

Section 3. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

The President:

1. Shall act as the official representative of the Student Body; may initiate legislation in the Student Senate and shall have the right to enter in the debate on said legislation. On all matters the President must receive the approval of the Presiding Chair to enter the debate;
2. Shall have no vote in the Senate;
3. Shall deliver a State of the Campus (SoC) address during the first February Senate Meeting;
4. Shall act on all bills in either the affirmative or the negative within five school days from the time they are presented to the President; otherwise they automatically become law;
5. Shall head the Student Government Association Executive Cabinet which shall be composed of the Vice President, the Secretary of Operations, and the Secretary of Student Life;
6. Shall assume all powers and responsibilities pertaining to this office and faithfully execute this Constitution, its by-laws and the Student Government Legislation.

Section 4. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President:

1. Shall be the presiding officer of the Student Senate;
2. Shall call Senate Meetings, and set the agenda;
3. Shall Chair the Academic Affairs Standing Committee
4. Shall succeed to the office of President should that office be permanently vacated;
5. Shall assume the powers and duties of the President in the temporary absence of the President;
6. Shall assume all powers and responsibilities pertaining to this office and faithfully execute this Constitution, its by-laws and the Student Government Statutes.

Section 5. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE SECRETARY OF OPERATIONS

The Secretary of Operations:

1. Shall maintain an archive consisting of the Constitution, by-laws, bills and resolutions;
2. Shall maintain an up to date list of all RSOs and status of each
3. Shall maintain a record of all RSO requests and Finance requests
4. Shall record all receipts, expenditures and appropriations of the monies of the Student Body;
5. Shall have no vote in the Senate;
6. Shall Chair the Operations Committee;
7. Shall perform any other duties germane to this office as assigned by the President.

Section 6. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE SECRETARY OF STUDENT LIFE

The Secretary of Student Life:

1. Shall send, receive, and distribute all official correspondence to the Student Body;

2. Shall maintain a record of student concerns and recommendations regarding but not limited to student life, food services, Blue Pride, and campus improvements.
3. Shall have no vote in the Senate;
4. Shall Chair the Student Life Committee;
5. Shall perform any other duties germane to this office as assigned by the President.

Section 7. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE CLERK

The Clerk

1. Shall have a complete comprehension of Robert's Rules of Order;
2. Shall uphold Robert's Rules of Order in all meetings;
3. Shall assist in ensuring that meetings are run effectively;
4. Shall serve as a resource for any concerns regarding Robert's' Rules of Order;
5. Shall keep minutes of all meetings and be responsible for posting all minutes;
6. Shall be authorized to delegate clerical duties;
7. Shall have no voting powers;
8. Shall serve as official ballot counter for all Executive Committee votes;
9. Shall perform any other duties germane to this office as assigned by the President.

Section 8. DUTIES AND POWERS OF CLASS OFFICERS

1. Class Presidents
 - a. Shall represent the interest of their respective class in the Executive Committee
 - b. Shall Chair of respective Class Committee
 - c. Shall inform respective class on pertinent information and events
 - d. Shall have a vote in the Senate;
 - e. Shall perform any other duties germane to this office as assigned by the Class President.
2. Class Vice Presidents
 - a. Shall serve as voting member on Academic Affairs Committee
 - b. Shall receive concerns regarding academics for their respective class
 - c. Shall serve as member of respective Class Committee
 - d. Shall have a vote in the Senate;
 - e. Shall perform any other duties germane to this office as assigned by the Class President.
3. Class Operations Officer
 - a. Shall serve as voting member on Operations Committee
 - b. Shall receive concerns regarding operations for their respective class
 - c. Shall serve as member of respective Class Committee
 - d. Shall have a vote in the Senate;
 - e. Shall perform any other duties germane to this office as assigned by the Class President.
4. Class Student Life Officer
 - a. Shall serve as voting member on Student Life Committee
 - b. Shall receive concerns regarding student life for respective class

- c. Shall serve as member of respective Class Committee
- d. Shall have a vote in the Senate;
- e. Shall perform any other duties germane to this office as assigned by the Class President

Section 9. TERM OF OFFICE

1. Executive Officers shall be elected for a term of one year.
2. All Executive Officers shall take office at the beginning of the first Senate Meeting of the Spring Semester.
3. Senior Class Officers and Class senators shall serve Spring of Junior Year through Graduation (end of Spring of Senior Year).

Section 10. ADVISING BODY TO THE EXECUTIVE CABINET

1. The following offices will serve as an advising body for the Executive Cabinet:
 - a. Honor Council Chair
 - b. Student Activities Board President
 - c. Multicultural Student Union Chair
 - d. Religious Life Council Chair
 - e. Code of Conduct Chair
 - f. SAAC Representative
 - g. Panhellenic President
 - h. Interfraternity Council President
2. The advising body will work in consultation with the Executive Cabinet, and will receive a copy of the bi-weekly Executive Cabinet meeting minutes.
3. Each individual chair or president within the advising body shall also serve as active members of the Student Life Committee.
4. If any chair or president neglects this duty, the Secretary of Student Life shall inform their respective body that the organization's voice has not been heard.

ARTICLE IV. Elections

Section 1. PROCEDURES

Procedures for election to Student Government offices, pursuant to this Constitution shall be provided for by the Student Government Bylaws and as further enumerated in this Constitution.

Section 2. QUALIFICATIONS

1. All SGA offices require that the student must be a full time student at the College, and in good academic and disciplinary standing with the College shall be eligible to hold any of its offices.
2. No student with a cumulative grade-point average of less than 2.00 shall be eligible to hold any office. Students with no grade-point average are eligible subject to other requirements of eligibility and approval of the Senate.

3. No student may run for or hold more than one office within the Student Government simultaneously.
4. To be eligible for any office of the Executive Offices of the Executive Cabinet, a student must have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.50.
5. To be eligible to hold the office of SGA President, a student must have attained at least junior standing by the date they take office.
6. To be eligible to hold the office of the SGA Vice-President, the SGA Secretary of Operations, or the SGA Secretary of Student Life, a student must have attained at least sophomore standing by the date they take office.
7. All students holding office in the SGA shall exhibit the character and ethical standards set forth in the Presbyterian College Honor Code found in the Blue Book and the Presbyterian College Code of Conduct found in the Garnet Book.
8. Any student holding any office who becomes ineligible for that office shall resign. Failure to do so results in being removed from office by the Executive Committee and President Pro Tempore.

Section 3. DUAL OFFICE HOLDING

1. No one shall hold more than one SGA office in the same term.

Section 4. ELECTION RETURNS

1. Counting of election returns in all Student Government elections shall be open to witness by the Student Body.
2. Procedures for counting of election returns shall be provided for by the SGA Bylaws.

Section 5. FILLING VACANT SENATE SEATS

1. All vacancies will be filled by appointment of the SGA President with consultation from the Executive Cabinet and approval by the Senate.
2. In the event an appointment is not made in a timely manner, the Senate may call for a special election. Procedures for a special election shall be provided for by the SGA Bylaws.

Section 6. OATH OF OFFICE

1. All SGA officials shall take the following oath upon assuming office: "I (state your name) do solemnly affirm that I have read, understand and will uphold the Student Government Constitution of Presbyterian College, and I will faithfully uphold the office of (name of office) of the Student Government Association." Executives shall be sworn in by their predecessor; Senators shall be sworn in by the new Vice President.

ARTICLE V. Impeachment and Removal of Members

Section 1. IMPEACHABLE OFFICIALS

1. Any Student government official may be impeached.

Section 2. IMPEACHABLE OFFENSES

1. Impeachable offenses shall be negligence or dereliction of constitutional duties or conviction by a civil authority of a felony.

Section 3. DEFENSE

1. All impeached members will be given the opportunity to speak in their defense.

Section 4. PROCEDURES

1. Impeachment of the President shall be handled in the following manner:
 - a. A petition calling for the removal of the SGA President signed by one-third (1/3) of the Senate (filled seats) shall be turned over to the SGA Vice President.
 - b. The SGA Vice President will chair the proceedings.
 - c. Removal will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate (based on filled seats).
2. Impeachment of the Vice President shall be handled in the following manner:
 - a. A petition calling for the removal of the SGA Vice President signed by one-third (1/3) of the Senate (filled seats) must be turned over to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
 - b. The President Pro Tempore will chair the proceedings.
 - c. Removal will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate's filled seats.
3. Impeachment of the President Pro Tempore shall be handled in the following manner:
 - a. A petition calling for the removal of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate signed by one-third (1/3) of the Senate (filled seats) shall be turned over to the SGA Vice President.
 - b. The SGA Vice President will chair the proceedings.
 - c. Removal will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate's filled seats.
4. Impeachment of Secretary of Operations, or Secretary of Student Life, or Clerk shall be handled in the following manner:
 - a. A petition calling for the removal of the SGA Secretary of Operations, or SGA Secretary of Student Life, or SGA Clerk signed by one-third (1/3) of the Senate (filled seats) shall be turned over to the SGA Vice President.
 - b. The SGA Vice President will chair the proceedings.
 - c. Removal will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate's filled seats.
5. Impeachment of any Class Officer or Class Senator or At-large Senator shall be handled in the following manner:
 - a. A petition calling for the removal of the Class Officer or Class Senator or At-large Senator signed by one-third (1/3) of the Senate (filled seats) must be turned over to the Pro Tempore of the Senate.
 - b. The Pro Tempore will chair the proceedings.
 - c. Removal will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate's filled seats.

Section 5. LINE OF SUCCESSION AND REPLACEMENT

1. In the event of the resignation, removal, or other vacancy of the SGA President, the SGA Vice President shall become the SGA President and the President Pro Tempore of the

senate shall become the Vice President of SGA. A new Pro Tempore will then be appointed in the regular manner.

2. In the event of the resignation, removal, or other vacancy of the SGA Vice President, the the President Pro Tempore of the senate shall become the Vice President of SGA. A new Pro Tempore will then be appointed in the regular manner.
3. In the event of the resignation, removal, or other vacancy of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, a new Pro Tempore will then be appointed in the regular manner.
4. In the event of resignation, removal, or other vacancy of Secretary of Operations, or Secretary of Student Life, or Clerk, the office shall be filled in one of the following manners, at the discretion of the SGA President with consultation from the Executive Cabinet:
 - a. Appointment of an interim office holder and permanent office holder chosen by special election, or
 - b. Appointment of the SGA President with consultation from the Executive Cabinet and approval by the Senate.
 - c. A new Clerk will be appointed in the regular manner.
5. In the event of resignation, removal, or other vacancy of any Class Officer or Class Senator or At-large Senator, the office shall be filled in one of the following manners, at the discretion of the SGA President with consultation from the Executive Cabinet:
 - a. Appointment of the SGA President with consultation from the Executive Cabinet and approval by the Senate or
 - b. Special Election. Procedures for a special election shall be provided for by the SGA Bylaws
 - c. In the event an appointment is not made in a timely manner, the Senate may call for a special election. Procedures for a special election shall be provided for by the SGA Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI. Recall

Section 1. PURPOSE

This article is based upon the principle that officials are mere agents of the popular will and, as such, should be constantly subject to their control.

Section 2. PROCEDURES

1. Recall can be initiated by not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the official's electorate signing a recall petition against stated official. Petitions of recall shall be presented to the Senate and may not be tabled.
2. The official's electorate for a position is defined:
 - a. For any Executive Cabinet member is the entire Student Body
 - b. For any Class Officer or Class Senator (this could include President Pro Tempore of the Senate) is their respective Class Body

- c. For any At-large Senator (this could include President Protempore of the Senate) is the entire Student Body

Section 3. LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The Senate shall provide for the timely special election of seats vacated due to recall.

Article VII. Committees

Section 1. STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The Standing Committees of the SGA will be the following:
 - a. Operations Committee,
 - b. Student Life Committee, and
 - c. Academic Affairs Committee.
2. The responsibilities and charges for each committee are described in the By-Laws.
3. The President may appoint Ad-Hoc Committees to explore specific concerns as described in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII. Initiative

Section 1. PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for the Student Body to frame or direct the Senate to enact a certain law.

Section 2. PROCEDURES

Initiative procedures shall require the signatures of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the Student Body. Initiative petitions shall be presented to the Senate and may not be tabled.

Section 3. LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The Senate shall enact legislation providing procedures for a prompt, orderly referendum to be held on the legislation introduced in the initiative petition.

ARTICLE IX. Student Organizations

Section 1. RECOGNITION PROCESS

The Senate shall provide for the equal, fair and consistent recognition of student organizations in its Legislation. This process shall reflect the protection of First Amendment rights and current case law.

Section 2. RIGHTS OF RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Recognized student organizations shall be afforded certain rights and privileges. These privileges shall be enumerated in the SGA Bylaws.

Article X. Freedom of Information Request

Section 1. RIGHT AND REQUEST

1. To ensure a clear understanding of individual students' rights, the SGA has the right and responsibility to request from the Chief Academic and/or Chief Student Affairs officer a thorough explanation of and justification for any rule affecting the students.
2. This request may be made by the President or by a majority of the Student Legislature.

ARTICLE XI. Constitutional Amendment

Section 1. AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

1. May be proposed by members of the Senate, the Executive Cabinet, or other students through petition to the Senate;
2. May be a petition signed by no less than twenty percent (20%) of the Student Body shall be necessary before an amending bill may be brought before the Senate.
3. An amending bill may not be tabled.
4. Must be announced publicly to the student body at least ten school days before the ratifying election is held, or, if a break intervenes between the approval by the Student Legislature and the election, at least fourteen calendar days, five of which must be school days;
5. Shall be effective ten business days after their ratification unless otherwise specified in the text of the amendment; and
6. Shall be integrated as modifications to its text.

Section 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

1. May be proposed by members of the Senate, the Executive Cabinet, or other students to the Senate; or
2. May proposed by petition of the Student Body. must be signed by no less than twenty percent (20%) of the Student Body shall be necessary before an amending bill may be brought before the Senate.
3. An amending bill may not be tabled.

Section 3. SENATE APPROVAL

1. Legislative approval of an amending bill shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote (of filled seats).

Section 4. STUDENT BODY RATIFICATION

1. After an amendment has received Senate approval, it must then be presented to the Student body.
2. Must be announced publicly to the student body at least ten school days before the ratifying election is held, or, if a break intervenes between the approval by the Student Senate and the election, at least fourteen calendar days, five of which must be school days;

3. Approval by the Student Body shall consist of a simple majority vote of those voting.
4. Shall be effective ten school days after their approval unless otherwise specified in the text of the amendment, but not in any case sooner than seven calendar days; and
5. Upon Student Body ratification, the amendment shall become an integral part of this Constitution or Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII. Constitutional Ratification

Section 1. ELECTORS

Only students of the Presbyterian College shall be electors.

Section 2. VOTING

Each elector shall have one vote and a simple majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for ratification.

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Constitution shall become effective immediately upon ratification by the electorate.

ARTICLE XIII. Constitutional Review

Section 1. PROCEDURES

The Senate shall provide for a review process to occur every three years in their statutes. Recommended changes shall be addressed through the amending process (Article XI).

Article XIV. Advisors

Section 1. ROLE

1. The role of Advisors of the SGA shall be to serve as partners and advocates for members of the SGA, and to guide the SGA officers with their experience and wisdom.
2. Advisors of the SGA shall have the ability to question and recommend action concerning any of the decisions of the SGA Legislature, its members, and/or its officers.

ARTICLE XV. Constitutional Implementation

Section 1. CONTINUATION

1. The current Government shall:
 - a. Provide clarity and transparency through the transition;
 - b. Continue to serve as defined in the transition;

- c. Provide for an orderly special election of unfilled seats in new government under the new election procedures as defined in this Constitution and Bylaws;
 - d. Meet any existing financial arrangements or obligations of the SGA, as all financial arrangements or obligations shall survive the adoption of this Constitution.
2. The current terms of SGA Officers currently holding office shall survive the adoption of this Constitution, and titles shall transition as follows:
 - a. The SGA President will remain SGA President
 - b. The SGA Vice President will remain SGA Vice President
 - c. The SGA Treasurer will become the SGA Secretary of Operations
 - d. The SGA Secretary will become the SGA Secretary of Student Life
 - e. The SGA Parliamentarian will become the SGA Clerk
3. The current terms Class Officers currently holding office shall survive the adoption of this Constitution, and titles shall transition as follows:
 - a. The Class Presidents will remain the Class President of their respective class
 - b. The Class Vice Presidents will remain the Class Vice President of their respective class
 - c. The Class Treasurers will become the Class Operations Officer of their respective class
 - d. The Class Secretaries will become the Class Student Life Officer of their respective class
 - e. The Class Public Relations Officers will become a Class Senator of their respective class

Section 2. UNFILLED POSITIONS IN NEW GOVERNMENT

1. The transitioned officers shall be in charge of calling for a special election in a timely manner to fill the unfilled seats of the Senate. The special election shall follow the special election procedures in this Constitution and Bylaws
2. Upon completion of a successful special election to fill the Senate seats, the Senate shall elect the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Section 3. CURRENT STATUTES AND BY-LAWS

Ratification of this constitution shall make all current constitution and bylaws null and void.

Declaration of Authority

We, the Student Legislature of the Students' Association, hereby approve this Constitution as submitted on this.