

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The University of North Georgia

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of North Georgia, in order to form a democratic, efficient and responsible student government to represent, lead, unify, and govern the student body, to decide and act for the students upon any matter involving the students' interests, to promote common understanding between students, faculty, and administration while protecting the individual rights of students, do hereby establish and adopt this constitution of the University of North Georgia Student Government Association.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Student Government Association of the University of North Georgia.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purposes of the Student Government Association (SGA) shall be:

- A. To provide appropriate instrument for student self-governance.
- B. To represent the interest of the student body in all affairs.
- C. To serve as a liaison between students, faculty, and the administration, and between the various campuses of the University of North Georgia
- D. To provide service opportunities to the student body.
- E. To provide an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills.
- F. To promote the University of North Georgia and its students to the surrounding communities.
- G. To provide representation for the student body to campus, university, state, and national bodies, including the Board of Regents.
- H. To provide opportunities on all University of North Georgia campuses for students to work together to benefit the college community.
- I. To encourage enthusiastic, wholesome school spirit.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization includes all enrolled graduate and undergraduate students on all campuses of the University of North Georgia.

ARTICLE IV: STRUCTURE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

A. Multi-Campus Structure

1. A Campus Student Government Association shall exist on the Cumming, Dahlonega, Gainesville, and Oconee campuses of the University, and shall be formed on any future campuses.
2. Each Campus SGA will have parallel structures consisting of an Executive Council, the General Membership, and Committees as outlined in the By-Laws for each Campus.
3. Each Campus SGA may pursue separate activities and initiatives, but attention is always to be paid to opportunities for collaboration, co-sponsorship, and teamwork.
4. The Student Government Association understands and agrees to abide by the University's Policy on Hazing as well as all other policies for student organizations.

B. University-Wide Structure

1. Student Government Cabinet

- a. The SGA Cabinet shall consist of the SGA Officers from each campus. These members shall elect a Chair each year who will preside at meeting, call special meetings, and serve as a spokesperson for the university-wide SGA.
- b. The SGA Cabinet shall meet monthly, either in person or by video conference, to discuss student issues and concerns of a university-wide basis. Special meetings may be called by the Cabinet Chair or at the request of one or more SGA Presidents.
- c. The SGA Cabinet shall be responsible for appointing/recommending students to serve on university-wide committees.
- d. The SGA Presidents from each campus shall serve on the university-wide Mandatory Fee Committee.

2. University-Wide SGA Meetings

- a. The SGA members from all campuses shall meet at least annually to discuss university-wide issues; sets goals for the university-wide

SGA; and review programs, projects, and initiatives on the various campuses.

- b. An annual university-wide SGA Retreat will be conducted with SGA members from all campuses. The retreat will focus on training, team building, networking, and goal setting for university-wide SGA initiatives. The retreat will be planned and coordinated by the SGA Advisors from the campuses with input from the incoming SGA Officers.

C. Individual Campus Structure

1. Enumerated Powers

- a. The Student Government Association on each campus shall have jurisdiction and preside over all campus-wide elections.
- b. The Student Government Association on each campus shall be the body through which student activity funds shall be allocated and distributed, with the approval of the Student Life Committee and the University President.

2. Campus Executive Council

a. Members

- i. The Executive Council shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any member specified in the Campus By-Laws.
- ii. Executive Council members will be selected in accordance with the Campus By-Laws.
- iii. Executive Council members may be impeached or removed from office in accordance with the Campus By-Laws.

b. Duties & Responsibilities

- i. The duties and responsibilities of Campus Executive Council and their members shall be outlined in the Campus By-Laws.
- ii. Officers of Campus SGA's also serve on the university-wide SGA Cabinet.

3. General Membership

- a. The composition, membership requirements, duties, and responsibilities of the general members of each campus SGA shall be outlined in the Campus By-Laws.
 - b. General members will be selected in accordance with the Campus By-Laws.
 - c. General members may be impeached or removed from office in accordance with the Campus By-Laws.
4. Campus SGA Meetings
- a. Meetings of each Campus SGA Executive Committee shall be held on a regular basis and in accordance with the Campus By-Laws.
 - b. Meetings of each Campus SGA shall be held on a regular basis and in accordance with the Campus By-Laws.
 - c. Meetings of each Campus SGA shall be publicized to the general population of the campus and shall be open for all interested students, faculty, or staff to attend.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

A. Proposed Amendments

- a. Constitutional amendments may be proposed by any member of a Campus SGA.
- b. Proposals must be made in writing and must be forwarded to all Campus SGAs for consideration.

B. Adoption of Amendments

- a. After three weeks of consideration, each Campus SGA must vote on the proposed amendment.
- b. Proposed amendments must pass by a two-thirds vote of each Campus SGA.
- c. If approved by all Campus SGA's, the proposed amendment must be submitted for a university-wide vote of all students after being advertised on all campuses.
- d. If approved by a majority vote by the student body, the proposed amendment will be submitted to the University Student Life Committee for final consideration.

ARTICLE VI: BY-LAWS

- A. By-laws shall be established by each Campus SGA to govern the operation of each group. The by-laws should be based on the needs of the individual campus and the size and complexity of each SGA.
- B. All items listed in the Constitution as subject to Campus By-Laws must be addressed.
- C. By-laws are binding only on the campus on which they are passed and cannot override this Constitution.
- D. Each Campus By-laws shall outline the process to adoption and amendments.