

Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) provides each student with an equal voice in student affairs. Students automatically become a member of SGA when they enroll in courses. This membership in the academic community entitles students to all the privileges of a bona fide student. The Student Government Association of Tidewater Community College was formed to encourage an active role in college life and activities. Join fellow students and take part in SGA activities.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We the students of Tidewater Community College to provide for student government to establish channels of student-faculty-administration communication to develop campus and college activities to encourage participation in campus and college life to develop student responsibilities within the institution and community and to protect individual student and group freedoms in academic and social areas do ordain and establish this constitution for the Student Government Association of Tidewater Community College.

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Tidewater Community College hereafter referred to as SGA.



Article II - Membership

All students of Tidewater Community College shall be members of the student government association of their campus. These members shall elect student representatives as the voting membership of the student senate. Each campus is responsible for the administration of its own SGA.

Article III – Composition

The campus Student Government shall consist of an Executive Committee and a Student Senate.

Section 1: Officers of the Executive Committee

- A. The executive power of the SGA shall be vested in the Executive Committee, which shall consist of a popularly elected campus President and Vice-President and a non-elected Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.
1. Voting members of the Executive Committee shall consist of the SGA President, and the SGA Vice-President.
 2. The SGA President may vote only when the Senate is equally divided in a simple majority vote.
 3. The SGA Vice-President may vote in all matters of the senate.
- B. The campus SGA President shall have the following powers and duties:
1. To call and preside over all meetings of the Student Senate, with a minimum of two meetings called each month during the Fall and Spring semesters;
 2. To uphold and execute the constitution and its by-laws and, in pursuance thereof, to use any powers appropriate to carry out the functions of the office;
 3. To appoint a non-elected Secretary, as a non-voting member of the campus Student Senate;
 4. To appoint a non-elected Treasurer, as a non-voting member of the campus Student Senate;
 5. To appoint a non-elected Parliamentarian, as a non-voting member of the campus Student Senate;
 6. To appoint a campus judicial committee to interpret the constitution;
 7. To veto any action of the campus Student Senate which is not in accord with the best interest of the campus;
 8. To recommend the expenditures of the campus Student Senate for approval, with assistance from the Student Activities Coordinator;
 9. To serve as a member of the Student Federation Council, and to participate in a minimum of two Federation meetings per semester.
- C. The campus SGA Vice-President shall have the following powers and duties:
1. To assume the office of SGA President in the event it is vacated;
 2. To preside as chair of the Inter-Club Council;
 3. To discharge all duties as assigned by the SGA President;
 4. To serve in an ex officio capacity on all standing committees and as chair of such special committees as the SGA President may direct;
 5. To attend meetings of the Student Senate, with attendance at a minimum of two meetings each month during the Fall and Spring semesters.
 6. To serve as a member of the Student Federation Council, and to participate in a minimum of two Federation meetings per semester.
- D. The campus SGA Secretary shall have the following duties:
1. To record and publish the minutes of all meetings of the campus Student Senate;
 2. To record minutes of all meetings of the SGA campus Executive Committee;
 3. To maintain a permanent list of all members of the campus Student Senate;
 4. To file all non-financial documents originating in or received by the campus SGA.
- E. The campus SGA Treasurer shall have the following duties:
1. To assist the SGA President and the Student Activities Coordinator in making expenditure recommendations to the Student Senate;
 2. To submit a monthly budget report to the campus Student Senate, which may also be requested at any time by the SGA President;
 3. To assist the Student Activities Coordinator in filing all financial documents originating in or received by the campus SGA.
- F. The campus SGA Parliamentarian shall have the following duties:
1. To report to the presiding officer that the presence of a quorum exists prior to calling to order any SGA meeting;
 2. To ensure all members and guests follow parliamentary procedures during all SGA meetings as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order;
 3. To maintain a current copy of Robert's Rules of Order on hand during all SGA meetings.



Section 2: The campus Executive Committee

- A. The Executive Committee shall have the following powers and duties:
 - 1. To meet with the campus Provost monthly and serve in an advisory capacity on matters affecting the campus student body. SGA Officers or the campus Provost may request more meetings as necessary;
 - 2. To make recommendations to the campus Provost on matters affecting the campus student body after the approval of the Student Senate;
 - 3. Upon invitation, to attend administration or faculty meetings when campus student affairs are under consideration.

Section 3: The campus Student Senate

- A. All student government legislative power not denied by this constitution is hereby granted to the campus Student Senate.
- B. The campus Student Senate shall have the following powers and duties:
 - 1. To formulate and adopt rules, standards, and regulations pursuant to the constitution, which shall pertain to student affairs of the individual campus;
 - 2. To evaluate and approve the budget of the campus SGA;
 - 3. To draw up its own by-laws in accordance with the constitution;
 - 4. To elect from among its own members a President pro tempore of the campus Student Senate who shall preside at all meetings of the senate in the absence of the SGA President and the SGA Vice-President and who, in the event of a vacancy in the office of the SGA Vice-President, shall assume that office;
 - 5. To meet at least twice per month during the regular school year and whenever necessary during the summer semester;
 - 6. To ratify, by a majority vote, all appointments made by the campus SGA President;
 - 7. To recommend the approval or withdrawal of a charter of ancillary student organizations for cause and to recommend any modifications it deems necessary in the regulations concerning ancillary student organizations;
 - 8. To make recommendations to the campus SGA President concerning the agenda of the federation council;
 - 9. To override the veto of the campus SGA President by a two-thirds (2/3) vote;
 - 10. To be the judge of improper conduct by any student government association member (including all elected and appointed members of the SGA), and to remove any member, if appropriate, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- C. The campus Student Senate shall conduct business only when a quorum of the SGA has been achieved. A quorum is usually established when a majority of the membership is in attendance (this can be either voting or non-voting membership); however, each campus SGA must set the guidelines to establish their own quorum. Although proxy votes are acceptable, they will not be included in establishing a quorum.

Section 4: The Federation Council shall consist of the SGA President and Vice-President from each campus.

- A. One member will serve as the Council Chair. The Chair will be selected by the members of the Federation, through a popular vote of the Federation members. The Council Chair, or his/her designee, shall preside over all meetings of the Federation Council.
- B. Each campus SGA President and Vice-President shall serve on the Federation Council for a one year term with the option to serve a second term upon re-election.
- C. The Federation Council shall have the following powers and duties:
 - 1. To meet with the college President and serve in an advisory capacity on matters affecting the college student body;
 - 2. To make recommendations to the college Dean of Student Services, and the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs on matters affecting the college student body, after approval of individual campus Student Senates;
 - 3. Upon invitation, to attend administration or faculty meetings when college student affairs are under consideration;
 - 4. To appoint the Executive Secretary for the Federation Council and to assign the incumbent appropriate duties;
 - 5. To evaluate and approve the college student activities budget.
- D. The Federation Council shall meet at least twice every semester. Members may request more meetings as necessary.
- E. The Federation Council members in good standing shall sign the ratification page on all amendments to the constitution, after the ratification has been approved in accordance with Article VII.

Section 5: The Campus Inter-Club Council shall consist of one representative of each officially chartered student organization.

- A. Duties of the Inter-Club Council are:
 - 1. To discuss and make recommendations on all matters concerning student organizations;
 - 2. To provide support and assistance for activities sponsored by the campus Student Senate, as needed
- B. Duties of the campus SGA Vice-President, who shall serve as Chair of the Inter-Club Council, are:
 - 1. To call and preside over the meeting;
 - 2. To appoint a non-voting Secretary;
 - 3. To report to the SGA on club activities;
 - 4. To make recommendations to the SGA on matters concerning inter-club activities.



Article IV – Elections

Section 1: *The election of the campus SGA President, Vice-President, and Student Senators shall take place in the spring semester. The elections of Senators to the campus SGA may also take place each semester, as determined by the Student Activities Coordinator. Appointed members shall be inducted as required by the campus SGA President.*

Section 2: *The terms of all Senate members shall be one year from the date of their induction. The campus SGA President and Vice-President may run for re-election in the same office. Senators may run for re-election. Appointed members in good standing may be reappointed.*

Section 3: *To be placed on the ballot for President or Vice-President, a candidate must be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours each Fall and Spring semester, maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA), and have one semester of experience as a student government officer (i.e., member of the SGA Executive Committee or campus Student Senate). Senator candidates must be enrolled in a minimum of three credit hours each Fall and Spring semester and have at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Candidates who do not have a grade point average by which to judge eligibility shall possess an academic record free of U's (unsatisfactory remarks).*

Candidates who do not have a grade point average by which to judge eligibility shall possess an academic record free of U's (unsatisfactory marks).

- A. The petitions of all qualified candidates must be turned in to the SGA advisor or Student Activities Coordinator no later than one week before elections.
- B. All campus SGA senator petitions must bear the signatures of at least twenty-five students currently enrolled in school during the semester of the election. The petitions for the office of campus SGA President and Vice-President must bear fifty signatures. Students shall sign no more than one petition for each vacant office.
- C. Once elected, the campus SGA President and Vice-President must maintain a minimum six credit hours of course work each Fall and Spring semester with at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA. All other members (elected or appointed of the Student Senate must maintain a minimum three credit hours of course work each Fall and Spring semester with at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

Section 4: *The campus SGA President, Vice-President, non-elected members, or Senators may not serve in two SGA offices simultaneously. However, a member of the campus SGA may also be an officer of an ancillary student organization or club.*

Section 5: *Upon installation, members of the SGA Executive Committee and members of the Student Senate must remain in good standing with Tidewater Community College.*

- A. The campus SGA President and Vice-President must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA and maintain satisfactory progress while in office. The Student Activity Coordinator shall place the SGA President/Vice-President on probation for the entire semester subsequent to the one where his/her GPA falls below 2.5, or fails to make satisfactory progress in course work. If the cumulative GPA at the end of the probationary period is less than 2.5, and the SGA President/Vice-President fails to make satisfactory progress in course work, he/she will be required to resign the position.

- B. Senators and appointed Executive Committee members must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA and maintain satisfactory progress while in office. The Student Activity Coordinator shall place a Senator/appointed member on probation for the entire semester subsequent to the one where his/her GPA falls below 2.0, or fails to make satisfactory progress in course work. If the cumulative GPA at the end of the probationary period is less than 2.0, and the Senator/appointed member fails to make satisfactory progress in course work, he/she will be required to resign the position

Article V – Rules of Order

Section 1: *Robert's Rules of Order shall serve as the parliamentary authority in all procedural matters before the Federation council and campus SGAs, except in the case of inconsistencies with this constitution.*

Article VI – Amendments

Section 1: *Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any campus Student Senate or by ten percent of the college student body.*

Section 2: *Proposed amendments shall be tabled for a period of two weeks, during which time the proposed amendment shall be posted. The tabling period shall not include normal holiday periods, but may include non-holiday periods during the summer semester.*

Section 3: *Following the tabling period, the proposed amendment must be approved by a majority vote in a popular referendum on each campus or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of every campus Student Senate.*

Article VII – Ratification

Section 1: *These Articles of Federation shall be implemented as soon as ratified by a majority vote of the students at each campus in a special referendum or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate of each campus. This constitution shall supersede and take precedence over all previous student government constitutions once it has been ratified and in force.*

Section 2: *In case of conflict between other previously existing student government documents and the present constitution, the provisions of the latter shall govern.*

Section 3: *Ratification of the articles of the constitution shall occur by the signing of a ratification signature page of all of the current federation council members in good standing. One original document will be signed for every campus and will be kept on file by the Vice-President of Academic and Student Affairs. The ratification signature page may be excluded when producing facsimiles of the constitution however; the current ratification date shall be entered at the conclusion of the constitution.*

Ratified April 2010

