

# **UVA WISE**

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## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

### **Constitution**

#### *Preamble*

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Under the charter of The University of Virginia's College at Wise, all powers and responsibilities are vested in the Chancellor and through that Office certain privileges and powers have been delegated to the Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students.

We, the Students of The University of Virginia's College at Wise, realizing the necessity for an effective student government for the purpose of articulation and implementing the views of the Student Body and of furthering the general welfare of the Student Body and of the College, do hereby establish this Constitution of the Student Government Association.

## **TITLE I: NAME AND MEMBERSHIP**

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### **ARTICLE I: Name**

**Section 1** The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of The University of Virginia's College at Wise; referred to hereinafter as the Student Government Association or abbreviated as SGA.

### **ARTICLE II: Membership**

**Section 1** All persons enrolled for six or more semester hours at The University of Virginia's College at Wise are considered members of the Student Government Association during the time of their enrollment and shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges thereof.

## **TITLE II: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

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### **ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose**

**Section 1** The legislative body of the Student Body shall be the Senate of the Student Government Association.

**Section 2** The Senate shall have the following expressed purpose:

- A. to express the concerns and interests of the Student Body.
- B. to facilitate communication between the Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students;
- C. to promote and supervise student organizations and activities, in conjuncture with the Office of Student Activities.
- D. to promote the improvement of the College community;  
(College is always in Caps when referring to UVA Wise)
- E. to encourage student involvement in campus life;
- F. to recognize student organizations.

### **ARTICLE II: Membership**

**Section 1** The members of Senate shall be elected from the Student Body of the College. All Senators must be full-time degree seeking (except for Year at Wise Senator positions) students with a GPA of 2.0 and no Honor Court or judicial violations with the College at the time of the election and during their term in office.

**Section 2** The eighteen seats on the Senate shall be appointed in the following manner:

- A. three Senators elected from and to represent the Senior class, to be known as Senior Senators;
- B. three Senators elected from and to represent the Junior class, to be known as Junior Senators;

- C. three Senators elected from and to represent the Sophomore class, to be known as Sophomore Senators;
- D. three Senators elected from and to represent the Freshman class, to be known as Freshman Senators;
- E. two Senators elected from and to represent the Student Body at Large, to be known as Senators-at-Large;
- F. two International Senators shall be appointed by the SGA President and confirmed by the Senate, to be known as the International Senator;
- G. two Senators elected from and to represent the Year in Wise class; two in the fall term, to be known as Year-in-Wise Senators.

### **ARTICLE III: Enumerated Powers of the Senate**

**Section 1** The Senate shall have the following powers:

- A. to interpret this Constitution;
- B. to approve, and recommend to the Office of the Dean of Students, all student organizations and clubs on the College campus and keep a list of approved organizations;
- C. to debate and approve all financial expenditures of the Student Government Association and maintain a balanced budget;
- D. to review and make recommendations regarding all Student Organization fund requests;
- E. to investigate any matter affecting the welfare of the Student Body and the College and to make recommendations that will foster the best interests of the College and the Student Body;
- F. to maintain an open relationship with the College community at all times through the Student Government Association's Office
- G. to ratify by two-thirds vote of members all appointments made by the President of the Student Government Association or those that require Senate approval. Less than two-thirds majority constitutes a rejection
- H. to hear impeachment charges brought about by the Student Body;
- I. to have certain designated meetings of the Senate closed to the College public, NO vote may be taken in such meeting;
- J. to approve, instate, and amend the SGA Policy Book.

### **ARTICLE IV: Duties and Powers of Senators**

**Section 1** Senators shall act as voting delegates of their constituencies. (period at end of all for continuity)

**Section 2** Senators shall perform such other duties as the President or Senate may direct.

**Section 3** Senators shall not allocate or disperse funds from the Student Government budget without the consent of the President and the Treasurer.

**Section 4** Senators shall be present and assist with working all SGA sponsored events.

**Section 5** Senators shall complete two office hours per week in the SGA Office.

**Section 6** Senators shall perform all duties and powers set forth in the SGA Policy Book.

**Section 7** Senators shall attend all SGA meetings.

**Section 8** Senators shall serve on at least one SGA committee per semester.

### **ARTICLE V: Removal from Office**

**Section 1** The Senate shall have the power to regulate the behavior of its members while they are conducting the official business of the Student Government Association and may impeach any member for misconduct, misuse of authority, neglect of duties, and violations of this Constitution.

**Section 2** The Senate shall have the power to impeach any member of the Executive Board for misconduct, misuse of authority, neglect of duties, and violations of this Constitution.

**Section 3** The removal from office process will be based off the Demerit System specified in the Policy Book. The Secretary must receive written notice, at least twenty-four hours in advance, for absences to be excused. The President does have discretion of excusing absences in cases or emergencies. Failure to complete the weekly SGA Office hours will result in one demerit per violation. Three tardies, meaning arriving after roll call, will result in one demerit. If arrested a member will receive two demerits. Three demerits in an academic year shall make such a member subject to the removal from office. The President, Vice President, Treasure, and the SGA Advisor have the power to call a special meeting to pardon one demerit for each senator.

## **ARTICLE VI: Special Committees**

**Section 1** The Senate shall have the power to establish for itself special committees.

**Section 2** Senate special committees shall have the power to investigate matters placed before them, call persons to appear before them to testify, to formulate resolutions and motions for recommendations to the Senate, and to carry out such business as they may be authorized to do by the Senate as a whole.

**Section 3** The creation of a special committee by the Senate shall require a simple majority vote to confirm.

## **TITLE III: EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

### **ARTICLE 1: Purpose**

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**Section 1** The Executive Board of the Student Government Association shall serve the following purposes:

- A. to serve as the chair of the Senate for the exercise of official business;
- B. to serve as representatives of the Student Body before the Administration, Faculty, and the community at large;
- C. to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Student Government Association;
- D. to see that all provisions of this Constitution and SGA Policy Book are faithfully executed.

### **ARTICLE II: Membership**

**Section 1** The officers of the Executive Board shall be elected by the Student Body of the College. All officers shall be full-time students with a GPA of 2.0 and no Honor Court or judicial violations with the College at the time of their election and during the term of office and shall have been enrolled as full-time students for two full semesters at the College.

**Section 2** The President shall be classified by the College as a junior or senior during his/her term of office and shall have the intention of serving throughout the following fall and spring semesters.

**Section 3** The Executive Board shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the Student Government Association.

**Section 4** No member of the Executive Board shall be a voting member on the Honor Court.

### **ARTICLE III: President**

**Section 1** The head of the Executive Board shall be the President of the Student Government Association.

**Section 2** The President shall be an ex officio member of the Senate and all of its committees and shall reserve the right to vote except in the case of a tie.

**Section 3** The President shall be the chairperson of the Senate.

**Section 4** The President shall have the power to appoint a cabinet consisting of positions deemed necessary, but must consist of Public Relations Officer, Compliance Officer and Communications Director.

**Section 5** The President shall complete at least two office hours per week.

**Section 6** The President shall have the power to appoint a replacement for the Executive Board members should there occur a vacancy or absence in the office or to fill all vacancies of the Senate not otherwise provided for in this Constitution, subject to a two-thirds confirmation vote by the Senate. The Senate shall have one week after the announced nomination by the President to familiarize themselves with the nominee, and be provided time to formulate questions, before a confirmation vote is held.

**Section 7** The President shall report to the Faculty Senate at their monthly meeting or send a representative in their place.

**Section 8** The President shall have the power to call and preside over convocations of the Student Body.

**Section 9** The President shall have the power, by executive order, to send a question, which is before the Senate, to the Student Body as a referendum. In this event, voting on the question by the Senate shall be tabled until the results are known. This referendum shall be conducted by the Election Committee.

**Section 10** The President shall not allocate or disperse funds from the Student Government budget without the consent of the Treasurer.

**Section 11** The President, in cooperation with the Executive Board, shall see that all provisions of this Constitution and the SGA Policy Book are faithfully executed.

**Section 12** The President shall have the power to appoint Standing Committee Chairs with approval of the majority of the Senate.

#### **ARTICLE IV: Vice-President**

**Section 1** The Vice-President of the Student Government Association shall be an ex-officio member of the Senate.

**Section 2** The Vice-President shall serve as the chairperson of the Senate in absence of the President and shall be the successor to the office of the President should the President be removed from office for any reason.

**Section 3** The Vice-President shall act as a liaison between standing and special committees and the Senate, and as such shall serve as an ex-officio member of all SGA committees.

**Section 4** The Vice-President shall withhold the right to vote at all times, except in sub-committees.

**Section 5** The Vice-President shall complete at least two office hours per week.

**Section 6** The Vice-President shall have the power to create special committees to serve in a temporary capacity and to appoint members to said committee.

**Section 7** The Vice-President shall appoint special committee chairs upon Senate approval.

**Section 8** The Vice-President shall perform such other duties as the President or Senate may direct.

**Section 9** The Vice President shall have the power to appoint members of Senate to standing committees

#### **ARTICLE V: Secretary**

**Section 1** The Secretary of the Student Government Association shall be an ex-officio member of the Senate.

**Section 2** The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining comprehensive minutes of all official business transpiring in regular or special meetings of the Senate and of the Executive Cabinet.

**Section 3** The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining records of meeting and event attendances, absences, and weekly office hours.

**Section 4** The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Senate, send out notices, keep a list of members, and be responsible for the upkeep of the SGA website.

**Section 5** The Secretary shall be responsible for confirming the eligibility of all members of the Senate to serve each semester based on attendance and, through the Office of the Dean of Students, academic and judicial eligibility.

**Section 6** The Secretary shall complete at least two office hours per week.

**Section 7** The Secretary shall perform such other duties as the President or Senate may direct.

**Section 8** The Secretary shall withhold the right to vote at all times.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Treasurer**

**Section 1** The Treasurer of the Student Government Association shall be an ex-officio member of the Senate.

**Section 2** The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Senate and must keep accurate records of expenditures. All funds must be expended through the proper channels, as directed by the Dean of Students.

**Section 3** The Treasurer shall present a full financial report at each meeting of the Senate.

**Section 4** The Treasurer shall not allocate or disperse funds from the Student Government budget without the consent of the President.

**Section 5** The Treasurer shall complete at least two office hours per week.

**Section 6** The Treasurer shall perform any other duties as the President or the Senate may direct.

**Section 7** The Treasurer shall withhold the right to vote at all times.

## TITLE IV: CABINET

### Article I Purpose:

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**Section 1:** The Cabinet of the Student Government Association shall serve the following purposes:

- A. to provide assistance to the Senate and Executive Board
- B. to fulfill the mission of the Student Government Association

**Section 2** The Cabinet shall consist of a Compliance Officer, Public Relations Officer, Communications Director and any other positions deemed necessary.

**Section 3** The President shall have the power to appoint any positions they deem necessary on the Cabinet.

**Section 4** The President shall appoint any member of good standing from the student body to serve on the Cabinet. The Senate shall confirm the appointments.

### Article II: Compliance Officer

**Section 1** The Compliance Officer shall have served on the SGA for two full semesters as a senator, member of the Executive Board, or cabinet member unless there are no returning members.

**Section 2** The Compliance Officer shall serve as a member of the Elections & Policy Review Committee, with majority approval of the Senate.

**Section 3** The Compliance Officer shall have the power to interpret the SGA Policy Book.

**Section 4** The Compliance Officer shall confirm the results of each election sponsored by the Student Government Association.

**Section 5** The Compliance Officer shall host a campaign instruction meeting prior to all campaigns.

**Section 6** The Compliance Officer shall ensure the enforcement of campaign rules.

**Section 7** The Compliance Officer shall schedule at least one debate for presidential candidates.

**Section 8** The Compliance Officer shall ensure that all Senate meetings follow parliamentary procedure.

**Section 9** The Compliance Officer shall confirm the duties and expectations of the Senate on a weekly basis

### Article III: Public Relations Officer

**Section 1** The Public Relations Officer shall take official photographs for the Student Government Association.

**Section 2** The Public Relations Officer shall assist in the preparation of a semester report.

**Section 3** The Public Relations Officer shall oversee all social media networks.

**Section 4** The Public Relations Officer shall provide a news release for the Highland Cavalier for every issue.

## Article IV: Communications Director

**Section 1** The Communications Director will be responsible for compiling weekly synopsis reports that will be sent out to the student body.

**Section 2** The Communications Director shall work in conjunction with the Public Relations Officer to help oversee all of the SGA social media accounts.

**Section 3** The Communications Director shall assist in providing a news release for the Highland Cavalier newspaper weekly.

**Section 4** The Communications Director will also co-chair the Communication Committee along with the Public Relations Officer.

**Section 5** The Communications Director shall assist in distributing and crafting public service announcements and news releases on behalf of the SGA President, Executive Board, and Senate.

## TITLE V: SENATE PROCEDURE

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### ARTICLE I: General Provisions

**Section 1** All meetings of the Senate shall be open, unless a closed session is designated by a two-thirds vote by the Senate. No formal vote may be taken at a closed meeting. Any student shall be permitted to participate in discussion although only Senate members may make motions and vote. Any person requesting to be placed on the agenda must make such request at least three days in advance of the meeting.

**Section 2** At the discretion of the President, all resolutions, motions, or proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary before a vote may be held.

**Section 3** The Senate shall meet weekly at a time and place which it shall designate with the exception of the last week of classes each semester.

**Section 4** Special meetings may be called by the President by posting time, place, and nature of the meeting at least forty-eight hours prior to the special meeting.

**Section 5** A quorum must be present to hold an official vote in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Two-thirds of the sitting members of the Senate shall constitute a quorum. The Senate may meet in informal session with less than quorum, but no official vote can be taken. Those abstaining from voting shall not be included in the final vote tally as either for or against. A simple majority of those voting is needed for any motion or resolution of the Senate to pass, so long as quorum is present for an official vote to be taken.

**Section 6** The Senate meetings shall be conducted professionally. Student conduct during the said meetings shall be cordial and professional; this includes verbal and non-verbal conduct. The Senate may address professionalism issues by establishing a Code of Conduct in the SGA Policy Book.

**Section 7** The roll shall be called at the beginning of each meeting. Failure to answer any roll call shall count as an absence unless tardy.

**Section 8** In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the Treasurer shall preside over the meeting. In the absence of the aforementioned officers, the Senate may meet but only in informal session and no official vote may be taken.

**Section 9** In the absence of the Secretary, the presiding officer shall appoint a temporary Secretary.

### ARTICLE II: Installation

**Section 1** The installation of Senators and executive officers shall take place in special session immediately after the last regular Senate meeting of the spring semester.

**Section 2** The installation of Senators elected in the Fall shall take place on the first meeting following elections.

**Section 3** The installation oath administered to the newly elected Senators shall be as follows and administered

by the President: "I (state your full name) do solemnly swear that I will fulfill the duties of the office entrusted to me to the utmost of my ability and to support and uphold the Constitution of the Student Government Association and the honor of The University of Virginia's College at Wise."

**Section 4** The installation oath administered to the newly elected executive officers shall be as follows and administered by the Chancellor of the College or his designee: "I (state you full name) do solemnly swear that I will fulfill the duties of (state office) entrusted to me to the utmost of my ability and to support and uphold the Constitution of the Student Government Association and the honor of The University of Virginia's College at Wise."

### **ARTICLE III: Committees**

**Section 1** Standing committees shall be those committees which shall continue from semester to semester and year to year until altered by the constitutional amendment.

**Section 2** The Standing committees of the Senate shall be as follows:

- A. Communications Committee
- B. Election & Policy Review Committee

**Section 3** All special committees formed by the Senate or by the President shall continue from semester to semester and from year to year until the committees complete their assigned functions or until they are formally abolished by vote of the Senate.

**Section 4** The Special committees of the Senate shall be as follows:

- A. Academic & Student Affairs
- B. Building & Grounds
- C. Events
- D. Leadership & Local Outreach
- E. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
- F. Food & Dining

**Section 5** Committee Chairs shall have the ability to create Sub-Committees to investigate issues within the committee and increase interaction with members of the Student Body.

- A. The Vice President must be a member of all Sub-Committees.
  - a. The Vice President has voting power in Sub-Committees but not in the committee at large.
- B. There is one mandatory Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee, Election & Policy Review, known as the Internal Affairs Sub-Committee.
  - a. The Internal Affairs Sub-Committee must be staffed by the Compliance Officer, Public Relations Officer, and the Co-Chair of the Election & Policy Review Committee.
- C. Sub-Committees exist solely to give recommendations and reports to the committees and the Senate and must be made up of at least three members of SGA.
- D. Each Sub-Committee may set their own rules for approval of their reports and recommendations following the expectations set by the SGA Policy Book and Constitution.

**Section 6** Any issues between committee members may be brought before the Senate for resolution.

**Section 7** Any member of a standing or special committee may be removed for neglect of duties by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

**Section 8** No committee shall consist of less than five people.

**Section 9** The President shall have the power to appoint the chairpersons of the standing committees unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution.

**Section 10** The Vice-President shall have the power to appoint the chairpersons of the special committees unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution.

**Section 11** Committee chairpersons shall be empowered to call meetings of their committees.

### **ARTICLE IV: Communications Committee**

**Section 1** The Communications Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of informing the College public and the Student Body of activities and actions of the Senate through printed and electronic media in a timely fashion.

**Section 2** The Public Relations Officer shall be the chairperson of the Communications Committee.

**Section 3** The leaders of the Senate recognized student media or their designees shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.

**Section 4** The Communications Committee shall be charged with the task of taking the appropriate measure to document, via written and photographic means, all the activities and events of the Student Government Association. This record shall be included in the College newspaper and the Student Government Association Website.

**Section 5** The Communications Committee mission statement shall be as follows: The Communications Committee exists to promote and strengthen the relationship between the Student Government Association and the UVA Wise student body. In conjunction with the Public Relations Officer, we will actively work to publicize and convey the goals and vision of the SGA through a multitude of platforms, while also encouraging student input in the form of ideas, questions, comments, concerns, etc. for the advancement of our College.

#### **ARTICLE V: Elections and Policy Review Committee**

**Section 1** The Election Committee shall be charged with the officiating of all campus elections and referenda. All committee members must be approved by the Senate.

**Section 2** The Election Committee shall be composed of no less than ten members.

**Section 3** A member of the Election Committee may not be a candidate for office.

**Section 4** All members of the Election Committee shall be qualified voters and students with a GPA of 2.0 and no Honor Court or Judicial violations with the College.

**Section 5** The Chairperson of the Election Committee shall also be known as the Election Commissioner.

**Section 6** The Election Commissioner and the Election Committee members shall be empowered to assist in the enforcement of campaign rules.

**Section 7** All meetings of the Election Committee shall be held open to the College community with notice given in a public forum on the day of or before the scheduled meeting.

**Section 8** Any resigning member of the Election Committee shall give immediate notice of their vacancy to the Election Commissioner, who will report their resignation to the Senate.

**Section 9** The Election Commissioner or a Committee member shall give Committee reports to the Senate as the President deems necessary.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Special Committee Mission Statements**

**Section 1** Academic Affairs: To work with the Academic affairs department on projects. To communicate with the academic dean. Publicize academic changes to the students. To maintain a list of expectations for academic departments.

**Section 2** Buildings and Grounds: Our mission is to enhance the image of The University of Virginia's College at Wise by keeping the campus safe and sanitary for our students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors by performing campus walks to ensure safety and buying enhancement items for a more aesthetically pleasing campus.

**Section 3** Elections and Policy Review: To amend and uphold the Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government Association as set forth by the student body of The University of Virginia's College at Wise.

**Section 4** Fall and Spring Events: On the fall and spring events committee we strive to effectively plan and execute all fall events including, but not limited to Homecoming and Silver Saber. At the conclusion of each event we will assess what we would like to do differently in the future to help ensure the success of these events in the years to come.

**Section 5** Leadership and Local Outreach: To promote and create a connection between the SGA with future leaders as well as current leaders both among the campus community and future members of the campus community. The committee will support local groups and organizations within the town to establish and nurse a relationship between the university and the town of Wise. The committee will seek to fulfill these duties by attending local government meetings, participating in a variety of community service opportunities, and being an active link between the town and the students.

**Section 6** Student Affairs: It is our goal as The Student Affairs Committee to create closer bonds between our students and the college through Commuter Appreciation Week, International Affairs, and other issues that are brought to our attention.



**Section 7** Diversity Equity and Inclusion: To work in collaboration with the UVA Wise Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Multi-Cultural Center to promote a sense of belonging and welcoming for all students. The committee shall plan events relevant to topics concerning diversity, equity, inclusion, and protected statuses.

**Section 8** Food and Dining: The goals of the Food and Dining Committee is to identify any specific needs of students or faculty in regards to the dining services on campus, assist in programming events, and promote any events or changes in services.

## **ARTICLE VII: Impeachment and Removal Proceedings**

**Section 1** Any member of the Student Body who is a qualified voter may file a motion to begin impeachment proceedings. Such a motion to begin an investigation must be sponsored by a Senator and a one-third vote to

approve said motion. Any student who shall deliberately present false charges for impeachment shall be forwarded to the Honor Court for investigation.

**Section 2** An investigating committee shall be appointed by the President or the Senate charged with responsibility of deciding whether or not there is evidence to impeach and to formulate the charge(s) and specifications if the committee finds it desirable to proceed with a hearing.

**Section 3** Following investigative report, the Senate may agree by majority vote to continue the proceedings, the presiding officer shall set a time and a place for the hearing.

**Section 4** The impeached officer or Senator shall receive a formal notice of the intent to remove at least one week before the hearing. The impeached member shall have at least one week to prepare a defense.

**Section 5** The Senate shall meet in special session for the hearing and this meeting shall be in addition to the regular meeting of the week.

**Section 6** The President shall preside over the hearing if a Senator is being impeached, while the Chair of the Honor Court shall preside if an Executive Board Officer is being impeached.

**Section 7** The formal charge of the impeachment shall be read at the beginning of the hearing.

**Section 8** The Senators or officers who initiated the motion for the hearing shall present reasons for the motion to impeach and remove. The aforementioned person or persons may call witnesses in support of the removal action.

**Section 9** The impeached Senator or officer shall have the opportunity to cross examine all witnesses brought against them and shall have the opportunity to present witnesses on their behalf.

**Section 10** Following the presentation of arguments from both sides, the Senate shall be allowed to question any witness and to examine any evidence presented.

**Section 11** The Senate shall then be allowed to deliberate in private session and to vote by secret ballot. The accused and the accuser shall be excluded from the deliberation and voting process.

**Section 12** The presiding officer, Secretary and Advisor shall tally the votes. A two-thirds vote shall be necessary for removal from office.

**Section 13** During the impeachment and removal proceedings, all voting members of the Senate must be present.

## **ARTICLE VIII: Vacancies in Office**

**Section 1** If the President of the Student Government Association is removed from office for any reason, the Vice-President shall automatically become President.

**Section 2** If both the President and the Vice-President are removed from office for any reason, the Treasurer shall serve as interim President until a special election can be held to elect a new President and Vice-President. Said elections shall be held no more than three weeks from the vacancy.

**Section 3** Officers or Senators who are impeached and removed from office may not be candidates to fill their

vacant seats.

## TITLE VI: ORGANIZATIONS

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### ARTICLE I: Classification

**Section 1** Any Student Organization at the College that desires to be recognized by the College as an Official Student Organization, must be initially chartered by the SGA and the Office of the Dean of Students. The process for which shall be defined by the Office of the Dean of Students and included in the SGA Policy Book.

### ARTICLE II: Requirements

**Section 1** Membership in Student Organizations is subject to the specific membership requirements stated in their constitutions and to the provisions of the College's nondiscrimination policy.

**Section 2** All Student Organizations must have a University of Virginia's College at Wise faculty or staff member as an advisor.

**Section 3** If a Student Organization has an affiliation with an academic department, the organization must secure the approval of the department chairperson.

**Section 4** All Student Organization officers must be in good standing with the College.

**Section 5** All Student Organizations must be re-chartered annually through the Office of the Dean of Students and all Student Organizations are subject to periodic review by the SGA.

### ARTICLE III: Registration, Organization, and Evaluation

**Section 1** Student Organizations may exist without Senate approval, but are not eligible for any College benefits or privileges as may be determined by the Senate and the Office of the Dean of Students.

**Section 2** Any group desiring to organize a Student Organization should seek permission to form through the Office of the Dean of Students. The Office of the Dean of Students will work with the SGA to serve as the repository and record keeper for all student clubs and organizations.

**Section 3** The Office of the Dean of Students shall assist the group in forming and at such a time as they have met the necessary requirements will forward their complete application to the Senate for approval. At a minimum the group should have 5 active members, a viable constitution, a list of officers and a UVA Wise faculty or staff member serving as an advisor.

**Section 4** Any group seeking to form a Greek Letter Organization must first seek the approval and recommendation of the appropriate Greek council for recognition and acceptance. Each Greek council reserves the right to accept or reject any newly formed Greek Letter organization and to make a recommendation to the Student Government Association. Greek Letter organizations will not be approved as a Greek Letter Organization by the Senate without approval and acceptance by the appropriate Greek council.

**Section 5** After the Senate has voted to approve an organization, it shall recommend to the Dean of Students that said organization should be approved by the College Administration as an official College recognized Student Organization with all the rights and privileges thereof.

**Section 6** Any group seeking to reactivate a Senate approved student organization which has lost their recognition for whatever reason must follow the same steps as those of a newly formed Student Organization.

**Section 7** All Senate approved organizations are subject to annual review by the Senate and may be removed from the approved list at any time by a three-fourths vote of the Senate. Appeals to cases of removal from the approved list may be made to the Dean of Students.

**Section 8** Student Organizations are expected to immediately notify the Office of the Dean of Students of any constitutional amendments and officer changes. Each student organization is expected to be represented at the club and organization information session sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and the SGA. At any time without cause, the SGA may request a copy of the current student organization constitution.

### ARTICLE IV: Relationship of Student Organizations with the Student Government Association

**Section 1** Being that the SGA is not the only College sponsored Student Organization, the SGA understands that additional College sponsored Organizations shall be self-governing and in a co-sovereign relationship with the SGA.

**Section 2** These Organizations will comply with the same guidelines for registration and recognition but shall operate outside of the Student Government Association's jurisdiction and shall be free of SGA oversight in day to day operations.

**Section 3** In matters of conflicting jurisdiction, the Student Government Association shall be supreme.

## TITLE VII: ELECTIONS

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### ARTICLE I: Conduction of Elections

**Section 1** The Senate shall have the power to set and hold elections for membership, referendum, amendments, and such other business as it may deem necessary to bring before the Student Body as a whole.

**Section 2** The Senate shall hold two general elections each spring semester. The first election shall be to elect officers of the executive board and the second election shall be to elect Senators. The exact date for holding the election shall be set by the Elections Committee. Freshman senators and any other positions not filled in the spring election shall be elected in the fall semester.

**Section 3** All officers of the Executive Board: the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be elected by the plurality vote of the Student Body. Senators shall be elected by plurality vote of their respected class. Senators at Large shall be elected by plurality vote of the Student Body.

### ARTICLE II: Voter Eligibility

**Section 1** All persons taking six semester hours or more at the College at the time of the elections shall be entitled to vote in all elections set by the Senate and conducted by the Election Committee.

**Section 2** Students may vote for their own class Senators as they are listed in the most recent notification from the Registrar's Office. All students who are qualified voters may vote for officers of the Executive Board and the Senators at Large.

**Section 3** Any student who knowingly violates the above clause with the intent to defraud the elections shall be guilty of lying under the Honor System and shall be referred to the Honor Court for investigation.

### ARTICLE III: Voting Stations

**Section 1** Voting will be administered by means of paper ballot and/or online ballot at designated voting booths, or through the Student Portal. Means of voting will be determined by the Elections and Policy Review Committee. Polls will be open for three (3) days.

**Section 2** The station(s) for holding elections shall be published in the College newspaper or other authorized College media at least ten days prior to the elections.

**Section 3** Email/Internet voting: All students will receive an e-mail that will lead them to another website into which they will cast their vote and their name will be put on a list of people who have already voted.

**Section 4** Absentee ballots may be obtained from the Election Commissioner upon the Commissioner's discretion. The absentee ballot must be returned to the Commissioner before the closing of the polls.

### ARTICLE IV: Ballot Laws

**Section 1** If a candidate for President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer obtains the signatures of fifty qualified voters, he/she shall be qualified to run provided he/she meets all the other qualifications according to the Constitution. If a candidate for Senator obtains the signature of thirty qualified voters, he/she shall be qualified to run provided he/she meets the other qualifications according to the Constitution. Petitions shall be made available seventeen days before the election. Petitions shall be in the Office of the Student Government Association no later than 4:30 p.m. ten days prior to the election date. Failure to turn in the petition by that time will result in disqualification. It shall be the responsibility of each candidate to see that his/her petition is filed properly. A petition filed for one election/seat does not qualify that person in the election of another office/seat.

**Section 2** No candidate can run for two offices simultaneously.

**Section 3** Voting shall be by secret ballot.

**Section 4** The SGA, with assistance from the IT Department, will establish a voting link/portal that will be open for 72 hours. Students may vote through the portal either via the link which will be provided in an email to the student list-serve or on the SGA webpage.

**Section 5** The votes shall not be counted until the polls are closed.

**Section 6** The votes are tallied electronically by computer. The Elections Commissioner must confirm the accuracy of the results.

**Section 7** The SGA Advisor, Elections Commissioner, President and candidates shall be allowed in the room as observers.

**Section 8** Counting shall be conducted behind closed doors and once counting has commenced, it shall not stop until the official count is recorded.

**Section 9** The voting results must be published in the following ways:

- A. Highland Cavalier newspaper (earliest edition possible)
- B. A student-wide email needs to be sent to every student
- C. Posted in the Slemp Student Center

#### **ARTICLE V: Recall and Contested Elections**

**Section 1** By a petition signed by fifteen percent of a Senator's constituency, the Senator's electorate may recall any elected Senator for a vote of confidence. Thirty percent of the Senator's constituency must vote no confidence in order to remove a Senator from office.

**Section 2** By a petition signed by thirty percent of the Student Body, the electorate may recall any elected President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer for a vote of confidence. Thirty percent of the Student Body must vote in the recall and two-thirds of those voting must vote no confidence in order to remove any of those officials from office.

**Section 3** Any Senator or Executive Board officer brought up for recall vote shall have no less than one week between the time they are given the completed petition and the time of the recall vote.

**Section 4** Any candidate has forty-eight hours to contest, in writing, any election to the Elections Commissioner. The Election Commissioner must immediately bring this contest to the attention of the President. The candidate must show just cause to call for a new election. The Senate has forty-eight hours to rule on the matter by majority vote. If just cause is shown, a new election for that office must be held within one week of the Senate's decision.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Referendum**

**Section 1** The Senate must hold a referendum on any issue upon presentation of a written petition signed by five percent of the Student Body or by executive order of the President. This referendum must take place at or before the next Senate elections. The referendum shall be declared adopted upon an affirmative plurality vote and the results shall be binding on the Senate.

## **TITLE VIII: AMENDMENTS AND RATIFICATION**

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#### **ARTICLE I: Amendments**

**Section 1** Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed to the Senate by any member of the Student Body submitting a petition containing the signatures of fifteen percent of the Student Body or by a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Senate.

**Section 2** The proposed amendment shall be posted ten days around campus and published in the College

Media prior to the election.

**Section 3** Voting on proposed amendments will take place during the spring elections conducted by the Election Committee, unless another time is specified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. The amendment shall be considered ratified upon two-thirds affirmative vote by the Student Body and shall go into effect immediately. It shall be declared adopted provided it is not contrary to the administrative policy of the College.

## **ARTICLE II: Ratification**

**Section 1** This Constitution of the Student Government Association shall be considered ratified upon a two-thirds affirmative vote.

**Section 2** The officers and representatives elected to the Student Council in the 1994 Spring elections shall be considered the Charter members of the Senate and shall assume their equal positions in the Senate upon the date this Constitution shall take effect.

**Section 3** This Constitution shall succeed the Constitution of the Student Government Association written in the 1976-1977 academic year and shall take effect July 1, 1998.

**Section 4** This Constitution shall be amended and reenacted into effect by the ten amendments adopted by the Student Body and 2002-2003 Student Government Association Senate and shall take effect September 17, 2002.

**Section 5** This Constitution shall succeed the Constitution of the Student Government Association which took effect on September 12, 2002 and shall itself take effect on September 21, 2006.

**Section 6** This Constitution shall succeed the Constitution of the Student Government Association which took effect on September 21, 2006 and shall itself take effect on July 1, 2009.

**Section 7** This Constitution shall succeed the Constitution of the Student Government Association which took effect on July 1, 2009 and shall itself take effect on July 1, 2012.

**Section 8** This Constitution shall succeed the Constitution of the Student Government Association which took effect on July 1, 2012 and shall itself take effect on July 1, 2013.

**Section 9** This Constitution shall succeed the Constitution of the Student Government Association which took effect on July 1, 2013 and shall itself take effect on July 1, 2014.

**Section 10** This Constitution shall succeed the Constitution of the Student Government Association which took effect on July 1, 2014 and shall itself take effect on July 1, 2019.

**Section 11** This Constitution shall succeed the Constitution of the Student Government Association which took effect on July 1, 2019 and shall itself take effect on July 1, 2021.

**Section 12** This Constitution shall succeed the Constitution of the Student Government Association which took effect on July 1, 2021 and shall itself take effect on July 1, 2022.

**Section 13** This Constitution shall succeed the Constitution of the Student Government Association which took effect on July 1, 2022 and shall itself take effect on July 1, 2023.