

**Commission on Student Affairs
Resolution CSA 2004-2005D
Resolution Amending the Constitution of the
Virginia Tech Student Government Association**

First Reading by the Student Government Association:	February 21, 2005
Second Reading by the Student Government Association:	March 15, 2005
Approved by Virginia Tech Student Body:	March 30, 2005
First Reading by Commission on Student Affairs:	March 17, 2005
Second Reading by Commission on Student Affairs:	April 7, 2005
First Reading by University Council:	April 18, 2005
Second Reading by University Council:	
Approved by University Council:	

- Whereas,** it is the responsibility of the Virginia Tech Student Government Association to continually improve its processes and procedures, and
- Whereas,** the recent growth of the organization requires the need to change the structure of the organization, and
- Whereas,** the constitution of the Student Government Association has not been updated recently to reflect necessary changes, therefore let it be
- Resolved,** that the constitution of the Virginia Tech Student Government Association will be amended as follows (changes noted in bold):

**The Constitution of the Student Government Association of
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**
Amended May 6, 2002

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Student Body of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, desiring to provide an effective organization for the administration of student activities, to promote academic freedom and academic responsibility, to establish and protect student rights, to foster awareness of the student's position in the campus, local, state, and national communities, to provide a liaison between the student body, faculty, and administration of the University, and recognizing that a student organization embodying these principles is necessary in the building of a great University, do hereby establish this Student Government Association and ordain this Constitution.

ARTICLE I – NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the "Student Government Association of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University." The organization shall be henceforth referred to in this document as either the Student Government Association, or as the SGA.

ARTICLE II – FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Student Government Association shall be:

1. To express opinion on University affairs as the Legislative Branch deems appropriate and necessary.
2. To establish, within the law applicable to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, an effective means for advising and responding to the University Council, University Commissions, the Administration, the Faculty Senate, the Board of Visitors, and the public on University Affairs.
3. To participate in the formulation of academic and educational policies which concern more than one college, division, or center.
4. To consider policies, programs, and other matters as the Administration, College Faculties, Student Organizations, and individuals of the University may propose.
5. To afford avenues and procedures whereby communications within the University may flow freely, fully, and systematically.
6. To help create, maintain, and protect a University environment conducive to the richest growth of scholarship, learning, teaching, research, and respect for dignity and rights.
7. To accept and share responsibility with the Administration and Faculty in all efforts to improve the stature and value of the University.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the Student Government Association consists of all enrolled undergraduate students who have paid the Student Activities Fee at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Section 2. No otherwise qualified student may be excluded from membership on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, or handicap.

Section 3. All members of this organization shall be entitled to vote in Student Government Association elections.

Section 4. In Student Government Association Senate elections, members may vote only for candidates from the college in which they are enrolled.

ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1. The Elected Executive Officers of the Student Government Association shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. The Appointed Executive Officers of the Student Government Association and a method for their appointment shall be enumerated in Article I of the Bylaws. Appointed offices not enumerated in the Bylaws may be created for a period of one year, after which they must be enumerated in the Bylaws to remain an executive office.

Section 3. The President is the recognized spokesman of the Student Government Association. However, he or she is not the presiding officer of the Student Senate or of the Student House of Representatives. His or her main task is to act as a liaison between the Student Government Association and the Administration.

Section 4. The President of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To preside over meetings of the Executive Committee.
2. To prepare an agenda for the Executive Committee meetings.
3. To be a voting Student Representative on the Commission on Student Affairs and on the University Council.
4. **To appoint a Chief Justice, who will serve as chairperson of the Judicial Branch, with approval of the Student House of Representatives and the Student Senate, by majority vote.**
5. To provide information on new Officers and Advisors to the Student Activities Office.
6. To report to both houses of the Legislative Branch all appointments and official actions made since each house's last respective meeting.
7. To execute all powers and duties found in this Constitution and in the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

Section 5. The Vice President of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To execute the powers and duties of the president of the Student Government Association in his or her temporary absence.
2. To be a voting Student Representative on the Commission on Student Affairs and on the University Council.
3. To prepare a report of the accomplishments of the Legislative Branch **in conjunction with the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House each semester**, which shall be distributed to the Student Senate, the Student House of Representatives, the Faculty Senate, the Administration, and the Board of Visitors.
4. To perform such duties as the President of the Student Government Association shall assign him or her.

Section 6. The Secretary of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To record attendance and minutes at each meeting of the **Executive Committee, the Student Senate, and the Student House of Representatives.**
2. To distribute the agenda for each the **Executive Committee, the Student Senate, and the Student House of Representatives**, prior to each meeting.
3. To distribute committee reports, **the Student House of Representatives and the Student Senate meeting minutes to Senators, Representatives** and other appropriate

individuals or groups as directed by the **Student House of Representatives**, the Student Senate or the Executive Committee.

4. To make available any other documents or work of **the Student House of Representatives or the Student Senate** to any interested Student Government Association member; and additionally, upon consent of the Executive Committee, to any other individual upon request.
5. To communicate all necessary information concerning meeting times and places to any interested individuals upon request.

Section 7. The Treasurer of the Student Government Association shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To be responsible for the execution of all financial transactions of the Student Government Association.
2. To establish and maintain financial records in accordance with the Uniform Accounting System of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and to submit financial records to the Student Activities Office and/or the Student Activities Central Accounting Office when requested to do so.
3. To prepare and present to the Student Budget Board, at the end of his or her term, in the Spring, the proposed Budget of the Student Government Association for the following fiscal year, beginning July 1, after the approval of the Student Senate and of the Student House of Representatives by majority vote.
4. To allow access to the financial records of the Student Government Association to any interested Student Government Association member; and additionally, upon consent of the Executive Committee, to any other individual upon request.

Section 8. The President, **Vice President**, Secretary, and Treasurer shall not be voting members in the Legislative Branch.

Section 9. The nomination and election of the Executive Officers shall be conducted as prescribed in the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

Section 10. Executive Officers are elected for one year terms and may be eligible for reelection, but may not serve more than two consecutive terms in any one office.

Section 11. Vacancies in unexpired terms of Executive Officers shall be filled in a manner prescribed in Article X of the Constitution of the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be two Standing Committees which shall carry out the function and operations of the Student Government Association: the Executive Committee and the SGA Budget Board. Standing Committees shall report to both houses of the Legislative Branch.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, who shall be the Chairperson, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Appointed Executive Officers, the Speaker of the House, **Speaker of the Senate**, and the Chairperson of SGA Budget Board. The Executive Committee of the Student Government Association shall have the following, powers and duties:

1. To report regularly on the disposition of matters submitted to it and to act on behalf of the Legislative Branch between meetings of both houses of the Legislative Branch.
2. **To oversee and coordinate the activities of all Officers and Standing Committees, in order that their duties may be discharged expeditiously.**
3. To place items on the agenda for the meetings of the houses of the Legislative Branch. Items are to be placed on the agenda:
 - a. Upon request of the President of the Student Government Association.
 - b. Upon request of the President of the University, the University Council, a University Commission, a University Committee, a Standing Committee, or a Standing Legislative Committee.
 - c. Upon majority vote of the Executive Committee. Additions or amendments to the agenda may be moved by any voting member at the time of adoption by their respective house.
4. To discharge other duties in accordance with parliamentary procedure.

Section 3. The SGA Budget Board membership and qualifications for membership shall be outlined in the SGA Budget Board Constitution. Members are elected by their respective legislative houses to a two year term of office. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson shall be elected from the total members of the SGA Budget Board from by a vote of the members. The SGA Budget Board shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Administer small grant and annual funding, allocation to Undergraduate Registered Student Organizations as defined by the Student Activities Offices. The funds for these allocations shall be taken from funds allocated to the SGA Budget Board from the Student Budget Board.
2. Operate under an SGA Budget Board Constitution. This SGA Budget Board Constitution shall require a majority vote of the SGA Budget Board, the Student House of Representatives, the Student Senate, and the Student Budget Board in order be amended.
3. The Vice Chairperson of the SGA Budget Board shall sit on the Student Budget Board.

ARTICLE VI – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1. All legislative powers granted herein shall be vested in the Legislative Branch, which consists of the Student Senate and the Student House of Representatives. Any reference to a vote of the Legislative Branch shall be interpreted to mean a vote in both the Student Senate and in the Student House of Representatives.

Section 2. All actions of the Executive Officers, Standing Committees, and Standing Legislative Committees are subject to review by the Legislative Branch.

Section 3. The membership of the Student Senate consists of elected student members.

1. All members of the Student Government Association are eligible for election to the Student Senate provided that they meet the qualifications prescribed in the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.
2. The nomination and election of the members of the Student Senate shall be conducted as prescribed in the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

3. Insofar as possible, each Senator shall represent an equal number of enrolled undergraduate students. The undergraduate students of each College shall be represented by at least two Senators. Additional representation shall be as prescribed by the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.
4. Senators have the responsibility to seek out the opinion of their Electorate. Having done so, they shall make decisions and vote on matters brought before the Student Senate according to their own reasoned judgment.
5. Senators are elected for a term of one year, and are eligible for reelection. Senators serve until their successors take office. Vacancies in unexpired terms shall be filled as prescribed in Article X of the Constitution of the Student Government Association.
6. The Student Senate shall determine its own rules and procedures, compel the attendance of its absent members, and may censure a member by two thirds vote of its membership according to the attendance and responsibility requirements set forth by the Committee on Credentials and Elections.
7. The Student Senate may remove from office the **Speaker of the Senate**, the Chairperson of the Committee on Credentials and Elections or any Senate Standing Legislative Committee chair or vice chair who willfully neglects assigned duties by a two thirds majority vote of the membership of the Student Senate.
8. **The Student Senate shall, at the last meeting before inauguration, by majority vote, elect an existing Senator as Speaker of the Senate whose powers and duties are as follows:**
 - a. **To preside over all meetings of the Senate.**
 - b. **To cast a vote in the Student Senate only to break a tie.**
 - c. **To appoint a member of the Senate to serve as parliamentarian, subject to approval of the Senate, by majority vote.**
 - d. **To appoint a member of the Senate to serve as sergeant at arms, subject to the approval of Senate by majority vote.**
 - e. **To sit on the Executive Committee.**
 - f. **To call special meetings of the Senate.**
 - g. **To outline objectives for the year at the opening of the Senate in the fall.**
 - h. **To establish a quorum and membership roll by the third meeting of the fall semester in cooperation with the sergeant at arms and the Secretary according to the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.**
9. The Student Senate shall approve of the date of Special Elections as recommended by the President of the Student Government Association.

Section 4. Membership in the Student House of Representatives is open to one member from every **Registered Student Organization (RSO), University Chartered Student Organization (UCSO), and University Student Life Program (USLP)** at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

1. All members of the Student Government Association are eligible to serve in the Student House of Representatives provided that they meet the qualifications prescribed in the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.
2. A Representative's term will officially begin at the start of the first summer session and end at the close of the following spring semester. Orientation sessions for new Representatives shall be held prior to the close of the preceding House of Representatives' term.
3. Representatives have the responsibility to seek the opinion of the organization they are representing, Having done so, they shall make decisions and vote on matters brought before the Student House of Representatives according to their own reasoned judgment.
4. The Student House of Representatives shall determine its own rules and procedures, compel the attendance of its members, and may censure a member by two thirds vote of the membership according to the attendance and responsibility guidelines set forth by the Speaker of the House.
5. The Student House of Representatives may vote to remove from office the Speaker of the House or any Student House of Representatives Standing Legislative Committee Co-

- chairperson, who willfully neglects assigned duties, by a two thirds affirmative vote of the membership of the Student House of Representatives.
6. The Student House of Representatives **shall, at the last meeting before inauguration, by majority vote**, elect a representative to serve as Speaker of the House for a period of one year, whose powers and duties are prescribed below.
 - a. To preside over all meetings of the Student House of Representatives.
 - b. **To cast a vote in the Student House of Representatives only to break a tie.**
 - c. To appoint a member of the Student House of Representatives to serve as parliamentarian, subject to approval of the Student House of Representatives, by majority vote.
 - d. To appoint a member of the Student House of Representatives to serve as sergeant at arms, subject to the approval of the Student House of Representatives, by majority vote.
 - e. To sit on the Executive Committee.
 - f. To call special meetings of the Student House of Representatives.
 - g. To outline objectives for the year at the opening of the Student House of Representatives in the fall.
 - h. To rule decisively and solely in any circumstance regarding, an organization's wishes to change its representative during a Student House of Representatives term.
 - i. To establish a quorum and membership roll by the third meeting of the fall semester in cooperation with the sergeant at arms and the Secretary according to the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

Section 5. The Legislative Branch shall establish or amend, by a three fourths majority vote, the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

Section 6. Standing Legislative Committees may be established by either house of the Legislative Branch in accordance with the following rules and guidelines:

1. The Legislative Branch shall create Standing Legislative Committees to conduct the specialized operations of the Student Government Association where needed.
2. The presiding officer of each legislative house shall assign members to the Standing Legislative Committees, subject to majority approval of the respective house.
3. Standing Legislative Committee **chairs and vice chairs** are elected by their respective house by majority vote.

Section 7. The Legislative Branch shall approve the annual proposed Budget prepared by the Treasurer, by majority vote, before its presentation to the Student Budget Board. The Legislative Branch shall also approve, by majority vote, any transfers of funds between line items in the budget during the fiscal year that exceed \$300.00.

Section 8. No student may serve as a voting member or officer in both the Student Senate and the Student House of Representatives.

Section 9. Except in certain circumstances enumerated below, the house and senate shall be required to conduct two readings, each during a different meeting, before voting on legislation or bills. If the legislation or bill is presented under emergency circumstances where it would be without effect if not voted on until after the second reading, the house and senate may make that determination by a 2/3 affirmative vote on a motion to suspend this rule. This does not apply to a suspension of a second reading for changes to the constitution or bylaws, which can only be done by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE VII – JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 1. The judicial power of the Student Government Association and the administration of SGA Elections shall be vested in the Judicial Branch.

Section 2. The Judicial Branch shall have original jurisdiction:

- 1. In cases involving the interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government Association.**
- 2. In cases involving impeachment proceedings of the Student Government Association's elected and appointed officials, with the exception of impeachment cases involving a member of the Judicial Branch. Investigation of allegations against members of the SGA Judicial Branch shall be conducted by the Appeals Committee in accordance with Article VII, Section 7.**
- 3. Over alleged campaign violations in Student Government Association elections.**

Section 3. The Judicial Branch shall have the responsibility of administering the SGA Elections as follows:

- 1. To investigate and report on the eligibility of students to obtain and/or maintain Executive Officer positions within the Student Government Association.**
- 2. To investigate and report on the eligibility of students to obtain and/or maintain Senate positions within the Student Government Association. The Committee shall have no power to investigate and report on the eligibility of students to obtain and/or maintain House of Representatives positions, as that is the exclusive purview of the Registered Student Organizations.**
- 3. To schedule, organize, and carry out procedures for Student Government Association elections.**
- 4. To determine information to be placed on the ballot for Student Government Association elections.**
- 5. To determine the number of Senators to represent each College in the Student Senate according to the guidelines set forth in Article X and in the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.**
- 6. To communicate all necessary information concerning election procedures to all interested students.**
- 7. To be knowledgeable of the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.**

Section 4. Composition of the Judicial Branch shall meet the following criteria.

- 1. The Judicial Branch shall be composed of two members of the House, two members of the Senate, Chief Justice, and the SGA advisor, who shall serve as a non-voting member.**
- 2. The House and Senate shall choose their justices by the third meeting of the fall semester, to allow time for the membership list to be established in each. Justices shall be nominated in each body and approved by a majority vote. Members shall be instructed to vote for up to two of the nominees. If nominees receive less than a majority and the positions are not filled, a runoff shall be held beginning with the two nominees who received closest to, but less than, a majority.**
- 3. Each justice shall remain in office until the beginning of the following fall semester, or until such time as he or she resigns, is impeached and convicted, or ceases to be a member of the Student Government Association.**
- 4. In the event a vacancy arises before the beginning of fall semester, the body who appointed that justice shall immediately announce the vacancy and conduct proceedings at their next meeting as described above in #2.**
- 5. The Appeals Committee shall be made up of one senior member of each the House of Representatives, Student Senate, and the Executive Branch and shall be elected by majority vote by the third meeting of the fall semester.**

Section 5. Procedure

- 1. The advisor shall be immediately notified of any matters brought to the attention of or pending investigation by the Judicial Branch, and shall be kept well-informed throughout the process.**

2. The Judicial Branch shall notify parties at least one week in advance of a judicial proceeding and, if applicable, the charges against him or her.
3. The Judicial Branch shall make a good-faith attempt to schedule a mutually agreed upon time for a hearing.
4. A defendant may be tried in absentia if they fail to appear after two scheduled hearings, or if they refuse to submit to the jurisdiction of the Judicial Branch.
5. Parties involved shall have the right to bring witnesses, but must notify a member of the Judicial Branch at least twenty four hours in advance of the hearing.
6. Parties involved shall have the right to question any person giving testimony.
7. Members of the Judicial Branch shall have the right to question any person giving testimony.
8. Members of the Judicial Branch shall have the right to set rules and procedures for specific cases, insofar as they do not conflict with the constitution of the Student Government Association, by a 2/3 vote.
9. Majority approval is required to rule on cases involving the interpretation of the constitution or bylaws, or to decide guilt or innocence in cases involving alleged campaign violations or impeachments.
10. A second vote, with 2/3 approval, is required to approve a sanction for a campaign violation or impeachment once parties are found guilty through the first vote.

Section 6. Appeals

1. The Appeals Committee of the Student Government Association shall have appellate jurisdiction over cases before the Judicial Branch.
2. When a case is appealed, no person, except the advisor that sits on the Judicial Branch may sit on the Appeals Committee during the appeal process.
3. The Appeals Committee, by majority vote, may choose to hear appeals of the decision and/or sanction in judicial cases.
4. The Appeals Committee, by 2/3 vote, may choose to overturn the decision and/or sanction in judicial cases.
5. The Appeals Committee shall report any appeals to the Vice President for Student Affairs, who may in turn share that information with the Commission on Student Affairs if he or she deems it appropriate.

Section 7. Adjudicatory function of the Appeals Committee

1. The Appeals Committee shall assume the function of the Judicial Branch, using the procedures outlined in Section 5, in cases involving a member of the Judicial Branch.
2. The SGA advisor shall serve as a non-voting member of the Appeals Committee during such a time.
3. The decision of the Appeals Committee may be appealed, pursuant to Section 6.
4. The Appeals Committee shall have the jurisdiction over campaign violation appeals in Student Government Association elections.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the following rules and guidelines:

1. Regular meetings shall be held at least twice each month during the academic year.
2. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President of the Student Government Association. In addition, the President is compelled to call a special meeting within three days of the receipt of such a request from any five Executive Committee members.
3. A quorum for the conduct of business shall be a majority of the members of the Executive Committee.

4. Meetings of the Executive Committee are open to any member of the University Community, and additionally, upon majority consent of the Committee, to any other interested persons.
5. **The Executive Committee may go into Executive Session upon a two-thirds vote of its members present, subject to the restrictions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act of the Code of Virginia.**

Section 2. Each and every Committee as defined in this Constitution and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association, with the exception of the Executive Committee, shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the following rules and procedures:

1. Regular meetings shall be held as frequently as necessary in order to fulfill its responsibilities.
2. The Committee Chairperson/Co chairpersons shall be responsible for the preparation of the agenda and for its distribution to Committee Members, or any other interested party.
3. A quorum for the conduct of business shall be a majority of the members of that Committee.
4. All meetings are to open to the University Community, and additionally, upon majority consent of those Committee Members present, to any other interested persons.
5. Every Committee may go into Executive Session upon a two-thirds vote of its members present, **subject to the restrictions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act of the Code of Virginia.**

Section 3. The Student Senate shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the following rules and procedures:

1. Regular meetings shall be held at least twice each month during the regular academic year.
2. Special meetings of the Student Senate must be called by the **Speaker of the Senate** within three school days in the following cases:
 - a. At the request of the President of the University.
 - b. At the request of the President of the Student Government Association.
 - c. At the request of two thirds of the members of the Executive Committee.
 - d. At the request of two thirds of the members of the Student Senate.
 - e. Upon the receipt of a petition requesting such a meeting signed by 10% of the members of the Student Government Association.
3. The quorum for the conduct of business shall be a majority of the members of the Student Senate.
4. All meetings are to be open to the University Community, and additionally, upon majority consent of the members of the Student Senate present, to any other interested persons.
5. The Student Senate may go into Executive Session upon a two-thirds vote of its members present, subject to the restrictions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act of the Code of Virginia.

Section 4. The Student Government Association may request that the President of the University call a meeting of the General Undergraduate Student Population.

Section 5. The latest edition of **Robert's Rules** of Parliamentary Procedure, subject to special rules adopted by each body, shall govern the procedures of the Student Senate, the Student House of Representatives, and all Committees.

Section 6. The Student Government Association shall abide by all applicable policies contained in the University Policies for Student Life.

Section 7. The Student Government Association shall have a Faculty Advisor from the staff at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The Student Senate and House of Representatives may issue a

statement of no confidence in an advisor with a two-thirds vote in both bodies. A statement of no confidence expresses a finding that an advisor has been seriously deficient in the performance of his or her duties, and instructs the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate to take appropriate action to search for a new advisor and inform relevant departments of Virginia Tech.

Section 8. The Student House of Representatives shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the following rules and procedures:

1. Regular meetings shall be held at least twice a month during the regular academic year.
2. Special meetings of the Student House of Representatives must be called by the Speaker of the House within three school days in the following cases:
 - a. At the request of the President of the University.
 - b. At the request of the President of the Student Government Association.
 - c. At the request of two thirds of the members of the Executive Committee.
 - d. At the request of two thirds of the members of the Student House of Representatives.
 - e. Upon the receipt of a petition requesting such a meeting signed by 10% of the members of the Student Government Association.
3. The quorum for the conduct of business shall be a majority of the members of the Student House of Representatives, as indicated by the role established by the Secretary.
4. All meetings are open to the University Community, and additionally, upon majority consent of the members of the Student House of Representatives present, to any other interested persons.
5. The Student House of Representatives may go into Executive Session upon a two-thirds vote of its members present, subject to the restrictions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act of the Code of Virginia.

ARTICLE IX – REPRESENTATION

Section 1. Recognizing the responsibility of students to select their representatives on the University Council, University Commissions, and University Committees, the Student Government Association shall designate such representatives. Student Representatives to these organizations shall always keep in mind that the prime function of such bodies is policy making and that the implementation of policies and programs is properly the responsibility of Administrators.

Section 2. Members of the Student Government Association shall be representatives on the University Council, as prescribed in Article IV, Section I of the University Council Constitution.

Section 3. The Student Government Association shall be represented on the Commission on Student Affairs, the Commission on Faculty Affairs, and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies, as prescribed in the University Council Constitution.

Section 4. When nominations for Student Representatives to sit on University Committees are requested by the President of the University, nominees are nominated by the President of the Student Government Association and are confirmed by a majority vote of the House of Representatives and the Student Senate in a manner prescribed in the Bylaws of the Student Government Association. The term of appointment and responsibilities are prescribed in Article VII of the Constitution of the University Council.

Section 5. Student Representatives on the University Council, University Commissions, and University Committees shall have the following functions and duties:

1. To present the position of the Student Government Association in the formulation of policy and in the discharge of the functions and duties of these governance bodies.
2. To inform the Legislative Branch of pertinent matters considered and actions taken by these governance bodies.
3. To bring matters of student concern before these governance bodies.

ARTICLE X – ELECTION AND REPLACEMENT OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The number of Senators from each College shall be two, plus proportional representation of the General Undergraduate Student Population to be determined by the Committee on Credentials and Elections prior to each election as prescribed in the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

Section 2. Vacancies occurring in any term of office of a Senator shall be filled in accordance with the SGA Bylaws.

Section 3. Vacancies occurring in any term of office of the Secretary or the Treasurer shall be filled by a member of the Student Government Association nominated by the President of the Student Government Association and confirmed by majority vote of the Student Senate and the House of Representatives.

Section 4. Vacancies occurring in any term of office of the President or Vice President shall be filled in accordance with the following rules and procedures:

1. Vacancy occurring in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President, who shall assume the office of President.
2. If the offices of President and Vice President are simultaneously vacant, then the offices of President and Vice President shall be filled by a special election of the General Undergraduate Student Population. Said election shall be held within twenty one days of the occurrence of the vacancies.
3. Any member of the Student Government Association may run for either office in any special election, provided that they meet all of the requirements for that office.
4. The **Speaker of the Senate** shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the President of the Student Government Association in the interim.
5. Once elected, the new President assumes the title as well as all the duties and responsibilities of the office of President of the Student Government Association
6. Vacancy occurring in the office of the Vice President shall be filled by the **Speaker of the Senate**.
7. Once elected, the new Vice President assumes the title as well as all the duties and responsibilities of the office of Vice President.

Section 5. Vacancies occurring in any term of office of a Representative in the Student House of Representatives shall remain vacant for the remainder of the term, unless a change of Representative was approved by the Speaker of the House, per the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

Section 6. Vacancies occurring in any term of office of the Speaker of the House shall be temporarily filled by the House Parliamentarian, until a new Speaker of the House can be elected, by majority vote, from the floor of the House. This newly elected Speaker shall take office and all of the responsibilities in Article VI, Section 4.6 immediately.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Section 1. Notice of a proposal to amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association shall be given in the agenda and considered at no fewer than two meetings of each House of the Legislative Branch prior to voting. A second reading may only be suspended by unanimous vote. A copy of the proposed amendment shall be made available to each voting member of each House. A three fourths affirmative vote in both houses shall be required for approval of the proposed amendment.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Student Government Association which have been approved by the Legislative Branch shall be submitted to a referendum vote of the General Undergraduate Student Population.

Notice of the referendum shall be given and copies of the proposed amendment shall be made available to the General Undergraduate Student Population at least one week in advance of voting.

Section 3. Amendments to the Constitution of the Student Government Association become effective upon approval by two thirds majority affirmative vote of the General Undergraduate Student Population voting, and a majority in the Commission on Student Affairs and University Council.

Section 4. Notice of a proposal to amend the Bylaws of the Student Government Association shall be given in the agenda and considered at no fewer than two meetings of each house of the legislative branch prior to voting. A second reading may only be suspended by unanimous vote. A copy of the proposed amendment shall be made available to each voting member of each house. Amendments to the Bylaws of the Student Government Association become effective upon a two thirds affirmative vote in the Student House of Representatives, and a two thirds affirmative vote in the Student Senate. A referendum need not be held.

Section 5. In the case of a change in the University Council Constitution which necessitates an amendment to the Constitution of the Student Government Association, a two thirds vote of the Student House of Representatives, and a two thirds vote of the Student Senate is all that shall be required for approval of such an amendment. A referendum need not be held.

ARTICLE XII – RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Section 1. All members of the Student Government Association shall be able to bring an issue to popular vote by submitting to the Chairperson of the Committee on Credentials and Elections a petition bearing the signatures and student numbers of at least 10% of the General Undergraduate Student Population. Action on such a request shall be forthcoming within twenty one days from the date said request was received by the Chairperson of the Committee on Credentials and Elections.

Section 2. The members of the Student Government Association may request a recall election of any elected Official by submitting to the Chair person of the Committee on Credentials and Elections a petition bearing the signatures and student numbers of at least 10% of the General Undergraduate Student Population. Action on said request shall be forthcoming within twenty one days from the date said request was received by the Chairperson of the Committee on Credentials and Elections.