

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
CONSTITUTION

(16 August 2021)

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association (hereinafter referred to as 'SGA').

ARTICLE II: Membership

Section 1: Every regularly enrolled student at the University of Oklahoma, Norman campus, shall be a member of the SGA.

- (1) Students classified as undergraduates may participate in all levels of government, except where explicitly stated otherwise in this Constitution.
- (2) Students classified as graduate students may participate in all levels of government, except where explicitly stated otherwise in this Constitution.
- (3) Students classified as law students may participate in all levels of government, except where explicitly stated otherwise in this Constitution.

ARTICLE III: Legislative Branch

Section 1: All legislative powers of the SGA shall be vested in a Legislative Branch which shall consist of an Undergraduate Student Congress (hereinafter referred to as 'Congress') and a Graduate Student Senate (hereinafter referred to as 'Senate').

Section 2:

- (1) Representatives of Congress shall be elected on the basis of their academic district. Students will be classified by their most recent declared major except in the case that said student is in the University College as determined by official University records. Vacancies in elected districts shall occur when a representative changes districts; however, representatives of the University College District shall serve for their full term, even upon moving to their declared major's college.
- (2) Representatives shall be elected for a one year term, with elections to be held at least once a year as determined by an act of Congress. Congress shall be divided into a range of fourteen (14) to eighteen (18) districts. These districts will be apportioned on the basis of academic interests. Congressional districts and their

composition will be located in the SGA Student Congress Bylaws. Changes must be approved by a three fourths (3/4) majority of the total membership of the SGA Undergraduate Student Congress as outlined in Article III, section 2(5).

- (3) Congressional vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the procedures established in the Congress By-Laws and in acts concerning election procedures.
- (4) Congress shall elect its officers.
- (5) Congress shall consist of forty-eight (48) representatives effective the fiftieth Congress. Each district's proportion of representatives will be decided every two years before the first general election of the year. This apportionment will be calculated by using the most recently available enrollment figures and must be calculated by an act of Congress in a timely fashion. The total number of undergraduates will be divided by forty-eight (48) seats to determine the proportion of students represented by each congressional seat. Then each district's seats are to be allocated in the most equally proportioned manner based on enrollment.

Section 3:

- (1) Members of the Senate shall represent their respective graduate department.
- (2) Members of the Senate shall be elected by the graduate and law students of their respective departments. Elections for the Senate shall be held in mid-spring. Members of the Senate must be classified as graduate students or law students. Representation shall be as follows:

Graduate College: Each department shall be represented by no more than two senators.

College of Law: The College shall be represented by no more than two Senators

- (3) Senate vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the Senate By-Laws.
- (4) The Senate shall elect its officers.

Section 4: Although not a House of the Legislative Branch, the Student Bar Association shall be the representative body of the College of Law to the SGA. The Student Bar Association shall be representative to the SGA by electing two Senators to serve on the SGA Graduate Student Senate. The Student Bar Association shall be governed by the Student Bar Association Constitution.

Section 5:

- (1) The Legislative Branch shall make campus-wide student rules and regulations, and appropriate revenues of the SGA.
- (2) Both Houses of the Legislative Branch will, by a majority vote in each, confirm or deny such nominations as the Student President shall from time to time be called upon to make.

Section 6: No Congress member or Senator shall serve simultaneously in any high executive or judicial office of the SGA.

Section 7:

- (1) Acts of Procedure are those actions passed by either House which pertain solely to that House and neither requires the consent nor may be reviewed by the other. Acts of Procedure are not sent to the Student President for approval, nor may they be vetoed by the Student President.
- (2) Acts of Legislation are those actions passed by either House which affect both Houses or the SGA as a whole. Any Act of Legislation passed in one House shall be sent to the other House for consideration and approval by majority vote. If the reviewing House fails to pass the Act, then the Act of Legislation shall be referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses.
- (3) Joint committees shall be composed of the Chairs of each House, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Committee with jurisdiction over the Act of Legislation, and the Vice Chair or representative of the House in which it originated. The Chair of the House in which the Act was first moved shall preside over the Joint Committee and vote only in case of a tie. The resultant Act approved by the Joint Committee shall be referred to each House for consideration. If the Act passes each House by majority vote, then it must be presented to the Student President in accordance with subsection seven (7) below. If the Act reported out of the Joint Committee is not upheld by each House, the Act fails.
- (4) Congressional Resolutions are those resolutions passed by the Congress which pertain solely to that House and neither require the consent nor may be reviewed by the Senate. Congressional Resolutions are not sent to the Student President for approval, nor may they be vetoed by the Student President. Congressional Resolutions do not represent the position of the SGA as a whole but only that of the Congress and its constituents.
- (5) Senate Resolutions are those resolutions passed by the Senate which pertain solely to that House and neither require the consent nor may be reviewed by the Congress. Senate Resolutions are not sent to the Student President for approval, nor may they be vetoed by the Student President. Senate Resolutions do not represent the position of the SGA as a whole but only that of the Senate and its constituents.

- (6) Joint Resolutions are those resolutions passed by each House and represent the position of the SGA as a whole. A Joint Resolution shall be written by a joint committee of members of each House upon request by a majority vote of the officers of each House. The members of the joint committee shall be the Chairs of each House and the Chairs of the committees of each House with jurisdiction over the issue. The joint committee shall elect a presiding officer. The Joint Resolution authored by the joint committee shall be presented to each House for consideration. Any Joint Resolution not approved by each House shall fail.
- (7) Acts of Legislation and Joint Resolutions passed by each House must be sent to the Student President for approval and may be vetoed by the Student President. If the Student President vetoes and Act of Legislation or a Joint Resolution, then it will be returned to both Houses for reconsideration and will be enacted if two-thirds (2/3) of the present and voting membership of each House votes to pass it. If any Act of Legislation or Joint Resolution is neither signed nor vetoed by the Student President within ten (10) days (Sundays excepted) of being presented to him or her, the same shall be enacted in like manner as if he or she had signed it.
- (8) Having been enacted by the SGA, all Acts of Legislation shall be presented to the University President for approval and may be vetoed. Upon approval by the University President, the Act shall be presented to the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma. If the University President vetoes the Act, he or she shall return it, with his or her objections, to the Legislative Branch for reconsideration. If after such reconsideration two-thirds (2/3) of the present and voting membership of each House votes to pass it, the Act shall be presented to the Board of Regents. If an Act is neither signed nor vetoed by the University President within ten (10) days (Sundays excepted) after presented to him or her, then it shall be forwarded to the Board of Regents as if the University President had signed it.

Section 8: Each House of the Legislative Branch shall be the judge of the qualifications of its members and a majority shall constitute a quorum to do business. Each House may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as the Houses may provide.

Section 9:

- (1) The Legislative Branch shall have the right of impeachment and removal within the Executive, Judicial, and Programming branches.
- (2) Congress shall have the sole power to bring impeachment charges against the members of the Executive, Judicial, and Programming branches. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When the Student President is tried, the Chief Justice of the SGA Superior Court shall preside over the Senate. No

person charged with impeachment shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate.

- (3) Each House of the Legislative Branch may determine the rules of its proceedings in all matters not covered in this Constitution, including impeachment of its members.

Section 10: The SGA may establish reasonable academic qualifications for candidates for elective or appointive offices of the SGA. An Act of Legislation as defined elsewhere in this Constitution may establish Grade Point Average (GPA) eligibility requirements in order to be a candidate or otherwise hold office within the SGA. Such legislation may establish GPA requirements for candidacy and office of SGA President, SGA Vice President, Chair of Undergraduate Student Congress, Chair of Graduate Student Senate, Chair of Campus Activities Council, and all other positions in the SGA as outlined in the Constitution and all governing documents of the SGA.

#### ARTICLE IV: Executive Branch

Section 1: The executive power of the SGA shall be vested in a Student President. There shall also be a Student Vice President. Their terms shall begin in the fall semester one week after the validation of election. The Student President and Vice President shall be popularly elected together by majority vote of the ballots cast in an election for that purpose. In such a case that no ticket shall receive a majority, the two tickets having receiving the greatest number of votes shall stand in a run-off election no later than one week after the primary election, the ticket receiving a majority being elected.

#### Section 2:

- (1) In the case of removal or impeachment of the Student President from office, resignation from office, or shall otherwise no longer be in compliance with the qualifications for president, the Office of the President shall devolve to the Vice President, including but not limited to the duties, responsibilities, powers, title, and compensation of the SGA President, and consequently creating a vacancy in the Office of the Vice President.
- (2) In the case of the removal or impeachment of the Student Vice President from office, resignation from office, or his or her inability to discharge the powers and duties of the office, or no longer fulfill the qualifications to be Vice President, the office shall be filled by Student Presidential appointment with the advice and consent of the Legislative Branch.
- (3) Upon the vacancy of the office of Student Vice President, applications for the office shall be made available by the Student President. The application period

shall extend for no less than five school days and shall be advertised in the student newspaper for the duration of the application period.

- (4) Should the vacancy of the office of Student Vice President occur before the spring general election, the Vice President appointee shall be placed on the spring ballot for approval by the student electorate.
- (5) In the case of the removal or impeachment of both the Student Vice President and the Student President from office, resignation from offices, or his or her inability to discharge the powers and duties of the offices, the Office of the President shall devolve to the Chair of the Undergraduate Student Congress, including but not limited to the duties, responsibilities, powers, and compensation of the SGA President, and consequently leaving a vacancy in the Office of the Vice President to be filled in accordance with Section 2 part 3.
- (6) In the event that the Office of the President becomes vacant as outlined in Section 1 of this Constitution and the Vice President is not qualified to assume the Office of President, then the Office of the President shall devolve to the Chair of the Undergraduate Student Congress, including but not limited to the duties, responsibilities, powers, and compensation of the SGA President.
- (7) An Act of Legislation may establish further procedures for the line of succession beyond that found in this Constitution.

Section 3: The Student President and Vice President shall receive for their services a salary. Said salary shall neither be increased nor decreased during the period for which they shall have been elected. They shall also not receive, within that period, any other stipend from The University of Oklahoma, except for loans or other financial aids.

Section 4:

- (1) The Student President shall have power, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Branch, to nominate and appoint all officers of the SGA not otherwise provided for.
- (2) The Student President shall have the power to establish Executive Staff Positions, to assist him or her in fulfilling his or her presidential duties, with the consent of the Legislative Branch. The Student President shall have the sole power to appoint personnel to fill these positions.
- (3) The Student President shall have power to fill all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Legislative Branch. The interim appointment shall expire at the end of the Legislative Branch recess.

- (4) The Student President shall take care that all acts of the Legislative Branch are faithfully executed.
- Section 5: The Student President shall represent the SGA on all official occasions and coordinate all student activities and services. He or she may address the Legislative Branch, recommend to their consideration such measures as he or she shall judge necessary and expedient; he or she may convene the Legislative Branch in extraordinary, joint session.
- Section 6: The Legislative Branch shall create such organs as it deems necessary to the implementation of the Student President's powers and duties.
- Section 7: Any SGA officer that is elected in a SGA sponsored election and/or receives a SGA stipend and is not otherwise designated as a member of the Legislative, Judicial or Programming Branch, shall be considered a member of the Executive Branch.
- Section 8: All candidates for, or office holders for the position of SGA President, shall maintain at or above a cumulative 2.5 Grade Point Average while a candidate and for the duration of the term of the Office if elected. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the President as prescribed in Article IV, Section 1 of this Constitution, anyone who would then fill the vacancy is required to possess and maintain the minimal cumulative 2.5 GPA. No Act of Legislation may establish a GPA requirement below a cumulative 2.5 for the SGA President.

#### ARTICLE V: Judicial Branch

- Section 1: The judicial power of the SGA shall be vested in one Student Court and such inferior courts as the Legislative Branch may from time to time establish. The judges of all courts shall be regularly enrolled students and must have completed two (2) semesters as a full time student at the University of Oklahoma at the time of this appointment and confirmation. Members of the inferior courts shall serve for one-year terms. Members of the Student Superior Court shall serve until they resign or cease to be regularly enrolled students at the University of Oklahoma or are impeached and convicted for cause.
- Section 2: No court may render an opinion, hear evidence, nor pass judgment in the absence of a quorum, which will be a majority of all members eligible.
- Section 3: The justices of the Student Superior Courts shall select a chairperson as Chief Justice from among their ranks.
- Section 4: The Legislative Branch shall establish the number of justices sitting on the Student Superior Court. The membership of the Student Superior Court may not be reduced in such a manner as to force the involuntary retirement of justices.

The membership may be increased but such additions shall not become effective within the same presidential term as the increase shall have been initiated.

Section 5: Any additional powers which the SGA courts shall be granted are derived from various titles of the OU Student Code.

#### ARTICLE VI: Programming Branch

Section 1: The programming branch of the SGA will consist of the Campus Activities Council. The Campus Activities Council will be responsible for programming campus-wide activities for the SGA. Any member of the SGA may be a member of any level of the programming branch.

Section 2: The Campus Activities Council shall be headed by an elected Chair popularly elected by majority vote of the ballots cast in an election for that purpose. The Legislative Branch has the power and authority to impeach and remove from office the chair of the Campus Activities Council. The Campus Activities Council shall also be subject to duly passed legislative acts of the SGA.

Section 3: The Campus Activities Council shall establish rules of procedure for the internal operations of the organization. These rules shall be published and available to students upon request.

#### ARTICLE VII: Initiative, Petition, Referendum and Recall

Section 1: Upon petition by ten percent (10%) of the SGA, the Student President shall call and preside over a general meeting of the SGA.

Section 2: Any member of the SGA may initiate legislation provided that the proposed legislation bears the valid signature of members of the SGA equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the number of students voting in the last general election. Such legislation shall be brought before the Legislative Branch for a vote. If rejected by the Legislative Branch, it shall as soon as practicable, be put before a vote of the SGA and a majority shall be required for its passage.

Section 3: The members of the SGA may recall any elected SGA official if the petition providing for a recall election shall be signed by the number of members of the SGA equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total voters in that district in the last general election. The question to be placed on the ballot shall be "Shall (name) be retained as (name of office)?"

Section 4: Any bill being considered for passage by the Legislative Branch may, by a majority vote of the Legislative Branch, be referred to the members of the SGA for their approval. In such case the Legislative Branch shall provide for the publication of such bill and its general dissemination among the members of the SGA at least one week prior to such election. For such bill to be enacted it must receive a majority of the votes cast unless more stringent requirements are set by the Legislative Branch and fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of eligible



voters shall have participated in such election. Balloting on such bill shall take place at such time and in such manner as provided by Congress, and the results of such an election shall be binding upon the Legislative Branch.

#### ARTICLE VIII: Publications Board

There shall be a Publications Board responsible for the recognition of student publications. It shall also be responsible for appropriating funds to those publications. The structure of the Publications Board shall be determined by Congress.

#### ARTICLE IX: Student Activity Fee Allocation

Student fees which are used to support any student activity or facility or have traditionally been labeled as student activity fees shall be deposited with and appropriated by the Legislative Branch in its discretion in conjunction with the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents' policy and the OU Student Code.

#### ARTICLE X: Amendment Procedures

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of those students voting on the proposed amendment provided that the amendment shall have been presented to them by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of each House of the Legislative Branch at least three weeks prior to the election at which the amendment is to be voted upon.

Section 2: This Constitution may be amended by a convention called for that purpose provided that the call for such a convention receives the two-thirds (2/3) majority approval of each House of the Legislative Branch voting at the regularly scheduled meeting at least three weeks prior to a vote of the SGA on the same question and provided that in that election the call for a convention receive a majority of votes cast in the affirmative.

Section 3: This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of those students voting on the proposed amendments provided that the amendment has been proposed to the voters by a petition bearing the signatures of SGA members equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total number voting in the last election for Student President.

#### ARTICLE XI: Student Bill of Rights

Students of the University of Oklahoma are guaranteed certain rights by the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, and this Constitution; these rights are:

Section 1 The right to be secure in possessions and free from unreasonable search and seizures.

Section 2: Right of privacy.

- Section 3: The right to academic freedom.
- Section 4: The right to bring suit within the regular judiciary structure for any violation of right guaranteed by the Constitution.
- Section 5: The right of judicial due process, including speedy trial, confrontation of witnesses by parties accused, representation of counsel, presumption of innocence, freedom to choose the tribunal which shall hear the case, right to appeal and protection against cruel and/or unusual punishment.
- Section 6: The right not to be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense.
- Section 7: The right to petition the appropriate governing bodies or officials of the University for redress of grievance.
- Section 8: The right not to be denied any right, privilege, position or status by reason of discrimination on the basis of race, age, color, handicap, religion or creed, status as a veteran, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or political belief.
- Section 9: The right to form, join and participate in any group or organization for any purpose which benefits the student body at the University.
- Section 10: The right to establish and/or disseminate publications free from any censorship.
- Section 11: The right to invite and hear any person of their choice on any subject of their choice, subject to University regulations.
- Section 12: The right of assembly to demonstrate, inform or protest so long as the normal workings of the University are not disputed.
- Section 13: The right to use campus facilities, subject to the regulations governing the facility.

#### ARTICLE XII: Transfers of Function

- Section 1: Implementation of this constitution in all its aspects shall commence immediately upon passage by a majority of the members of the SGA voting in a special election called for the purpose of considering this constitution.
- Section 2: Upon approval of this constitution by the membership of the SGA as provided above, the current Student Congress shall serve as the Undergraduate Student Congress, with all offices retained.

Section 3: Upon approval of this constitution by the membership of the SGA as provided above, the current Graduate Student Association shall serve as the Graduate Student Senate, with all offices and officers retained.

Section 4: The legislation of the Student Senate and the standing rules of the Constitutional Convention approved April 17, 1969, shall remain in force unless amended or repealed by the Legislative Branch. The student constitution, by-laws, and regulations or provisions of this constitution are hereby declared null and void.

#### ARTICLE XIII: University of Oklahoma Board of Regents' Interpretations

Section 1: The Constitution was approved by the Board of Regents of The University of Oklahoma on April 17, 1969, with the following interpretations:

- (1) That Article VII relating to the Publications Board and its structure as well as its funding is the concern of the entire community and because of its nature is not one under which the student government has exclusive authority. Any action under this article shall be considered a recommendation to the President and to the Regents.
- (2) That under Article VII the action of the Legislative Branch shall be considered a recommendation to the President and the Regents in the same manner as other budget requests from the various colleges are recommendations.
- (3) That the Student Bill of Rights under Article XIII shall apply only to action by the Student Government against the students and there shall be included in the University Constitution an overall Bill of Rights for the University Community.

Section 2: Amendments to the Constitution were approved by the Board of Regents on July 22, 1982; September 9, 1982; April 9, 1987; May 9, 1991; March 4, 1993; April 18, 1995; and June 27, 2007.

Section 3: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of the Constitution of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association, is for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court or body of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Constitution.

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