

1 **SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**
2 **DURANT, OK**

3
4 **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**
5 **CONSTITUTION***

6
7
8 **PREAMBLE**

9
10 We, the students of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, in order to
11 engender a close relationship among the SOSU SGA, faculty, staff, and administration;
12 to secure just and rightful government; to preserve revered traditions; to encourage
13 wholesome school spirit comprised of loyalty, cooperation, and unity among students;
14 do hereby ordain and establish, under God, this Constitution.
15

16 **ARTICLE I**
17 **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

18 **SECTION 1-1**

19 The name of this organization shall be the "Student Government Association of
20 Southeastern Oklahoma State University," hereafter referred to as the SOSU SGA.
21

22 **SECTION 1-2**

23 The SOSU SGA shall consist of the Executive Officers, Student Senate, Supreme
24 Court, and all students as identified in Section 1-3 of this constitution of
25 Southeastern Oklahoma State University.
26

27 **SECTION 1-3**

28 All enrolled students who pay Southeastern Student Activity Fees shall be
29 members of the SOSU SGA.

30 **ARTICLE II**
31 **STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS**
32

33 **SECTION 2-1**

34 The officers of the SOSU SGA shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary,
35 and other such officers as the Student Senate shall decide. These officers shall
36 comprise the Executive Committee of the SOSU SGA as defined in Article IX,
37 Section 9-1 of this constitution.
38

39 **SECTION 2-2**

40 To be eligible for President and Vice-President, the student must have completed
41 forty-five (45) semester hours at the time of filing. To be eligible for Secretary, a
42 student must have completed thirty-two (32) hours at the time of filing.
43

44 **SECTION 2-3**

45 To be eligible for the office of President, Vice-President, or Secretary, a student
46 must be enrolled as a full-time student at Southeastern and pay the SOSU SGA
47 fees as defined in Section 1-3 during candidacy and the time in which the office
48 will be held.
49

50 **SECTION 2-4**

51 To be eligible to run for and retain the office of President, Vice-President, or
52 Secretary, a student must be an officer or senator in good standing (attendance,
53 GPA, service during time as a senator, and other qualifications to be determined
54 by the Executive Committee of the SOSU SGA) with the SOSU SGA for at least
55 two sessions. A candidate running for a contested officer position who is not
56 elected into that position shall automatically retain their existing senate
57 membership.
58

59 **SECTION 2-5**

60 To be eligible to run for and retain the office of President, Vice-President, or
61 Secretary, an undergraduate student must maintain a retention/graduation
62 grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and a graduate student must maintain
63 a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at SOSU.
64

65 **SECTION 2-6**

66 The SOSU SGA President reserves the right to appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms and
67 Parliamentarian from the Student Senate membership, subject to the approval of
68 the Student Senate.
69

70 **SECTION 2-7**

71 A. The President of the SOSU SGA shall preside over all meetings of the Student
72 Senate. The President, Executive Committee, or a majority of the Student
73 Senate, shall have the power to call special sessions of the Student Senate.
74 The President may make any appointments he/she deems necessary; or as
75 provided for by law, with the advice and consent of the Student Senate. The

76 President shall be the official representative of the students at all on-campus
77 and statewide meetings for students or select a representative. The President
78 shall also serve as the presiding officer of the Presidents' Club in the event
79 that the Vice-President is not able to preside. The President shall also be the
80 official representative of the SOSU SGA. In case of a vacancy in the office of
81 President, the Vice-President shall become the President for the remainder of
82 the unexpired term.

83 B. The Vice-President shall serve as the President of the SOSU SGA in the
84 absence of the President for any reason. The Vice-President shall be an ex-
85 officio member of all Student Senate committees, and shall be in charge of
86 compiling all campus concerns and compliments for distribution as necessary
87 and shall serve as the presiding officer of the Presidents' Club. In case of a
88 vacancy in the office of Vice-President, the Student Senate shall elect from its
89 membership another Vice-President for the remainder of the unexpired term.

90 C. The Secretary shall keep the minutes, correspondence, documents, and an
91 attendance record of all Student Senate members and officers for all
92 functions of the Student Senate. **It is the Secretary's responsibility to keep and**
93 **maintain archives of all SOSU SGA documents.** In case of a vacancy in the
94 office of the Secretary, the Student Senate shall elect from its membership
95 another Secretary for the remainder of the unexpired term.

96 D. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Financial Director will meet
97 once a week or as necessary to set a weekly agenda.

98 **ARTICLE III**
99 **DUTIES OF APPOINTED DIRECTORS**

100 **SECTION 3-1: THE FINANCIAL DIRECTOR**

101 **SECTION 3-1:1**

102 The President of the SOSU SGA shall appoint a non-executive member to
103 aid the SOSU SGA in financial record keeping and reporting. This will
104 enable the SOSU Student Senate to make real-time decisions regarding
105 the financial situation of the SOSU Student Senate. The position shall be
106 named Financial Director. The Financial Director appointment must be
107 confirmed by the SOSU Student Senate by a majority of voting members
108 present at the first regular meeting of the fall semester.
109

110 **SECTION 3-1:2**

111 The mission of the Financial Director shall be to:

- 112 A. Provide financial information to the SOSU SGA that will enable informed
113 financial decisions to be reached.
- 114 B. Assist with the budgeting process.
- 115 C. Analyze expenditure patterns to meet future expectations.

116 **SECTION 3-1:3**

117 The Financial Director shall, if necessary, select a special committee to
118 assist with the functions of finances.
119

120 **SECTION 3-1:4**

- 121 A. The Financial Director shall arrange the budget so that all categories are
122 named "funds".
- 123 B. Expenditure activity may only take place from one fund.
- 124 C. Every fund shall be its own entity.
- 125 D. An up-to-date record shall be kept for all transactions.
- 126 E. A report shall be submitted by the Financial Director to the Executive
127 Committee on a weekly basis.

128 **SECTION 3-2: THE ELECTIONS DIRECTOR**

129 **SECTION 3-2:1**

130 The President of the SOSU SGA shall appoint a non-executive member to
131 aid the SOSU SGA in elections proceedings, record keeping, and
132 reporting. This will enable the SOSU Student Senate to effectively run
133 elections of the SOSU Student Senate. The Elections Director appointment
134 must be confirmed by the SOSU Student Senate by a majority of voting
135 members present at the first regular meeting of the fall semester. In the
136 event that no Elections Director is appointed, the duties of an Elections
137 Director shall fall to the Executive Committee of the SOSU Student Senate.
138

144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155

SECTION 3-2:2

The Elections Director shall, if necessary, select a special committee to assist with the functions of elections.

SECTION 3-2:3

The duties of the Elections Director shall be to:

- A. Run elections of the SOSU Student Senate.
- B. Provide balanced and impartial elections for all candidates and constituents.
- C. Author all legislation concerning elections and their results.
- D. Compile the official election results for ratification by the SOSU Student Senate.

156 **ARTICLE IV**
157 **SENATE MEMBERSHIP**

158 **SECTION 4-1**

159 The membership of the Student Senate shall consist of no more than
160 twenty-five (25) Senators and shall be elected by the SOSU SGA to fill the
161 seats available.
162

163 **SECTION 4-2**

164 Of the twenty-five (25) seats, all seats shall be open unless stated
165 otherwise in the Student Government Association By-Laws. All candidates
166 must meet the general eligibility requirements of Section 4-3 of this article.
167

168 **SECTION 4-3**

169 Each duly enrolled full-time undergraduate and graduate student who
170 pays SOSU SGA fees during candidacy and the time in which the office
171 will be held, will be eligible for candidacy.
172

173 Students must have a retention/graduation grade point average of 2.5 on
174 a 4.0 scale or high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (for
175 entering freshmen only) to be eligible to become and remain a member
176 of the Student Senate.
177

178 **SECTION 4-4**

179 The candidates will not be elected unless they receive forty percent (40%)
180 of the votes cast in the election in which they are running.

181 **SECTION 4-5**

182 Membership will be available to students without regard to ethnicity,
183 color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or sexual orientation.

184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF A SENATOR

SECTION 5-1

The Student Senate shall be the governing body of the SOSU SGA and shall have the power to:

- A. Adopt resolutions, bills, by-laws, and other rules and regulations concerning all matters within its authority, (henceforth referred to as "acts".)
- B. Expend Student Senate funds (appropriated every year from student generated fees).
- C. Organize and oversee all SOSU SGA activities stated in the By-Laws.
- D. Approve all SOSU student organizations.

SECTION 5-2

Any Student Senator may bring before the Student Senate any appropriate matter within the authority of the Student Senate.

SECTION 5-3

All resolutions passed by the Student Senate, and outside the purview of the SOSU SGA to implement, shall be submitted to the University President for approval.

SECTION 5-4

The Student Senate shall make provisions for revising, digesting and promulgating the actions of the SOSU SGA.

209 **ARTICLE VI**
210 **PROCEEDINGS**

211 **SECTION 6-1**

212 All acts passed by the Student Senate will be effective immediately unless
213 otherwise stated in such act.

214
215 All acts passed by the Student Senate will be effective until such a
216 decision is repealed, outdated, or struck down as unconstitutional.
217

218 **SECTION 6-2**

219 A majority of the voting members of the SOSU Student Senate will
220 constitute a quorum. A majority shall be defined as half (1/2) of the
221 members plus one (1).
222

223 **SECTION 6-3**

224 All Student Senate meetings shall abide by the Oklahoma Open Meetings
225 Act.
226

227 **SECTION 6-4**

228 An academic semester shall constitute a session of the Student Senate.
229 An academic year (two [2] sessions of the Student Senate), beginning
230 with the fall semester and continuing through the end of the spring
231 semester, shall constitute a Legislature.
232

233 **SECTION 6-5**

234 The Student Senate shall hold regular meetings as determined in the SOSU
235 SGA By-Laws.
236

237 **SECTION 6-6**

238 Regular elections are to be held in fall and spring as set forth by the SOSU
239 SGA By-Laws.
240

241 **SECTION 6-7**

242 In case of vacancies in the Student Senate, a special election may be
243 called to fill the positions for the remainder of the unexpired terms.

244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285

ARTICLE VII STUDENT SUPREME COURT

SECTION 7-1

The Student Supreme Court of the SOSU SGA shall consist of three (3) justices who shall not be members of the Student Senate or the Executive Committee. Students shall be appointed to the Student Supreme Court by the SOSU SGA President. The President of the SOSU SGA shall also appoint a Chief Justice from the membership of the Student Supreme Court. All appointments shall be made with the advice and consent of the voting members of the Student Senate. In the case of a vacancy in the SOSU SGA Supreme Court, the SOSU SGA President shall appoint another eligible member of the SOSU SGA to fill the position with the advice and consent of the Student Senate.

SECTION 7-2

To be eligible for the position of Supreme Court Justice, the student must be a full time student at SOSU and maintain a retention/graduation grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale during their appointed term of office.

SECTION 7-3

The Student Supreme Court shall have the power and duties to:

- A. Interpret the SOSU SGA Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, regulations and other Acts of the Student Senate, and create binding decisions, rulings and orders in line with their interpretations and findings.
- B. Interpret the governing documents of all student organizations on file with the SOSU SGA, and create binding decisions, rulings, and orders in line with their interpretations and findings.
- C. Hold meetings as often as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee, Chief Justice, the Student Senate, or the SOSU SGA advisor. The meetings shall be in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

SECTION 7-4

Any conflicts regarding the SOSU SGA Constitution, acts, Rules or By-Laws shall be heard and reviewed by the Student Supreme Court as promptly as practical.

SECTION 7-5

The term of office for the Supreme Court shall be for one academic year. Appointments shall be made by the fourth academic week of the fall semester. The term will end at the end of the spring semester.

286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320

ARTICLE VIII IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL

SECTION 8-1

All SOSU SGA Senators, Officers, and Justices elected and/or appointed under the auspices of this Constitution shall be liable and subject to impeachment and removal of office for excessive absences, misuse of funds, misusing his/her SOSU SGA title for personal or political reasons, failure to uphold the Constitution, neglect of duties, or any other actions unbecoming a Senator, Officer, or Justice as deemed by the SOSU SGA.

SECTION 8-2

A petition, initiated by any member of the SOSU SGA and signed by at least 100 members of the SOSU SGA, shall initiate impeachment proceedings. A majority vote of the voting Student Senate members at any regular meeting or by a majority vote of the Executive Committee shall also initiate impeachment proceedings.

SECTION 8-3

- A. After a hearing, which is open to the public and presided over by the SOSU SGA President (or an impartial chairperson appointed by a majority vote of the voting members of the Student Senate in the event that the SOSU SGA President is to be impeached), a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the voting members of the Student Senate in favor of removal shall be required for removal to take place.
- B. Impeachment and removal votes shall be cast by a form of secret ballot only.

SECTION 8-4

Should a member of the SOSU SGA be elected to the Student Senate and fail to be sworn in their office within 2 weeks of posting election results, it is at the discretion of the Executive Committee to determine whether they are eligible to serve their term.
If the elected member is considered ineligible to serve their term, then the position will be considered open.

321 **ARTICLE IX**
322 **COMMITTEES**

323 **SECTION 9-1**

324 In addition to the Executive Committee, the following shall be standing
325 committees: the Civic Engagement and Publicity Committee and the
326 Campus Safety and Beautification Committee.
327

328 **SECTION 9-2**

329 The President, with the advice and consent of the Student Senate, shall
330 establish any ad hoc committees and seasonal committees (for example,
331 the Homecoming Committee and Springfest Committee) as deemed
332 necessary and may determine their membership.
333

334 **SECTION 9-3**

335 The President, with the advice and consent of the Student Senate, may
336 appoint the chair or co-chairs for each standing and ad hoc committee.
337

338 **SECTION 9-4**

339 Each voting member of the Student Senate shall be required to serve on
340 at least one standing committee.

341 **ARTICLE X**
342 **INITIATIVE AND PETITION**

343 **SECTION 10-1**

344 The SOSU SGA shall have the right, upon submission of a petition
345 containing the signatures of at least 100 members of the SOSU SGA, to
346 initiate any legislation that is deemed necessary. Such petition will be
347 turned in to the Secretary of the SOSU SGA.

348
349 Upon certification of the signatures on such a petition, the Student Senate
350 will:

- 351 A. Consider such legislation itself; or
 - 352 B. Refer such legislation to the SOSU SGA for their approval or
353 rejection.
- 354

355 **SECTION 10-2**

356 The SOSU SGA shall have the right, upon submission of a petition
357 containing the signatures of at least 200 members of the SOSU SGA, to
358 have referred to the Student Senate for reconsideration of any legislation
359 that failed the vote by the Student Senate. Such a petition will be turned
360 in to the Secretary of the SOSU SGA. Upon certification of the signatures of
361 such a petition, the Student Senate shall refer such legislation to the SOSU
362 SGA for their approval or rejection. This right to petition will not apply to
363 emergency legislation.

364

365 **SECTION 10-3**

366 Any measure referred to the SOSU SGA by a petition shall take effect and
367 be enforced immediately or at the discretion of the Executive Committee
368 after passing by a majority of the votes cast in said election.

369

370 **SECTION 10-4**

371 The Student Senate shall establish such By-Laws and Rules as are
372 necessary for carrying into effect the provisions of this article.

373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

SECTION 11-1

An amendment to this Constitution may be initiated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members of the Student Senate or by a petition signed by a number of students equal to twenty-five (25) percent of the number of votes cast in the previous SOSU SGA regular election. All proposed amendments shall be voted on separately by the SOSU SGA at a regular election. Amendments shall be adopted when two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast on the amendment are in favor of the adoption.

*This Constitution is subject to agreement with the Oklahoma and United States Constitutions.

Last Updated: Fall 2017 by Luana Antuono
Ratified by the Student Senate - October 4, 2017