



Southeastern Oklahoma State University Student Government Association Constitution

PREAMBLE

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

ARTICLE I STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SECTION 1-1

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

SECTION 1-2

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

SECTION 1-3

All students enrolled at Southeastern Oklahoma State University shall be members of the SGA.

ARTICLE II STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

SECTION 2-1

The officers of the SGA shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and other such officers as the Student Senate shall decide. These officers shall comprise the Executive Committee of the SGA.

SECTION 2-2

To be eligible for President and Vice-President, the student must have completed forty-five (45) semester hours by the end of the semester in which you are filing. To be eligible for Secretary, a student must have completed thirty-two (32) hours at the time of filing.

SECTION 2-3

To be eligible for the office of President, Vice-President, or Secretary, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student at Southeastern during candidacy and the time in which the office will be held.

SECTION 2-4

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

SECTION 2-5

To be eligible to run for and retain the office of President, Vice-President, or Secretary, an undergraduate student must maintain a retention/graduation grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and a graduate student must maintain a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

SECTION 2-6

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

SECTION 2-7

- A. The President of the SGA shall preside over all meetings of the Student Senate. The President, Executive Committee, or a majority of the Student Senate, shall have the power to call special sessions of the Student Senate. The President may make any appointments he/she deems necessary; or as provided for by law, with the advice and consent of the Student Senate. The President shall be the official representative of the students at all on-campus and statewide meetings for students or select a representative. The President shall also serve as the presiding officer of the Presidents' Club in the event that the Vice-President is not able to preside. The President shall also be the official representative of the SGA. In case of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President shall become the President for the remainder of the unexpired term.

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

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

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

ARTICLE III DUTIES OF APPOINTED DIRECTORS

SECTION 3-1: THE FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

SECTION 3-1:1

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

SECTION 3-1:2

The mission of the Financial Director shall be to:

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

SECTION 3-1:3

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

SECTION 3-1:4

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

SECTION 3-2: THE ELECTIONS DIRECTOR

SECTION 3-2:1

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

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 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 Student Senate.

ARTICLE IV SENATE MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 4-1

The membership of the Student Senate shall consist of no more than thirty (30) Senators and shall be elected by the SGA to fill the seats available.

SECTION 4-2

Of the thirty (30) seats, all seats shall be open unless stated otherwise in the Student Government Association By-Laws. All candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements of Section 4-3 of this article.

SECTION 4-3

To be eligible for senate membership a student must be enrolled as a full-time student at Southeastern during candidacy and the time in which the office will be held.

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

SECTION 4-4

The candidates will not be elected unless they receive a pre-determined percentage of the votes cast in the election in which they are running, as determined by the Elections Committee prior to the said election.

SECTION 4-5

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

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF A SENATOR

SECTION 5-1

The Student Senate shall be the governing body of the 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 SGA activities stated in the By-Laws.
- D. Approve all 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 SGA to implement, shall be submitted to the University President or designee for approval.

SECTION 5-4

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

ARTICLE VI PROCEEDINGS

SECTION 6-1

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

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

SECTION 6-2

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

SECTION 6-3

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

SECTION 6-4

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

SECTION 6-5

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

SECTION 6-6

Regular elections are to be held in the spring as set forth by the SGA By-Laws.

SECTION 6-7

In case of vacancies in the Student Senate, the President shall appoint a member of the SGA, per Article I, Section 1-3 and Article IV, Section 4-3, to the vacant senate seat with the consent of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE VII STUDENT SUPREME COURT

SECTION 7-1

The Student Supreme Court of the 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 SGA President. The President of the 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 SGA Supreme Court, the SGA President shall appoint another eligible member of the 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 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 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 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 SGA advisor. The meetings shall be in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

SECTION 7-4

Any conflicts regarding the 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.

ARTICLE VIII IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL

SECTION 8-1

All 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 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 SGA.

SECTION 8-2

A petition, initiated by any member of the SGA and signed by at least 100 members of the 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 SGA President (or an impartial chairperson appointed by a majority vote of the voting members of the Student Senate in the event that the 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 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.

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES

SECTION 9-1

The President, with the advice and consent of the Student Senate, shall establish any ad hoc committees and seasonal committees (for example, the Civic Engagement and Publicity Committee, the Campus Safety and Beautification Committee, the Homecoming Committee and Springfest Committee) as deemed necessary and may determine their membership.

SECTION 9-2

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

SECTION 9-3

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

ARTICLE X INITIATIVE AND PETITION

SECTION 10-1

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

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

- A. Consider such legislation itself; or

- B. Refer such legislation to the SGA for their approval or rejection.

SECTION 10-2

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

SECTION 10-3

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

SECTION 10-4

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

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 SGA regular election. All proposed amendments shall be voted on separately by the 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 2020

Ratified by the Student Senate – August 27, 2020

Voted upon and adopted by the SGA – September 9, 2020