



West Liberty University

Student Government

Association

Constitution

V19

CONSTITUTION TABLE OF CONTENTS

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**West Liberty University
Student Government Association
Constitution**

Preamble

We, the students of West Liberty University, attest to the fact that the Student Government Association (SGA) is the supreme voice of the student body. Aware of our responsibilities and rights as students, in an effort to effect mutual cooperation of university authorities and student government, we do hereby establish in good faith, this, the constitution of the student body of West Liberty University. This document, the West Liberty University Student Government Association Constitution and By-Laws v18, replaces any and all other governing documents once observed by the Student Government Association of West Liberty University.

Article I. Name and Objectives

Section 1.01 The name of the organization shall be the Student Government Association of West Liberty University. Known commonly as 'SGA'

Section 1.02 The objectives of this organization shall be to use the rights and capabilities of the students to govern themselves within the reasonable and proper limits established by the administration of the university and governing bodies of the institution.

Section 1.03 All students enrolled at West Liberty University shall be represented by the members of this organization. Only those elected by the student body or appointed per this constitution shall have a voting seat.

Article II. Purposes

Section 2.01 The purpose of the SGA shall be the following:

- (a) To represent the students in the decision-making process directly affecting the students and West Liberty University.
- (b) To serve as a channel for the expression of students' opinion.
- (c) To serve as a liaison between the students, faculty, administration, and staff.
- (d) To encourage the personal and academic development of the students through their participation in student activities.
- (e) To promote the feeling of unity among the entire academic community of the college.
- (f) To enhance the relationship between the academic community and its service area.

- (g) To maintain an active relationship with the West Liberty University Alumni Association.
- (h) To promote student responsibility and leadership.
- (i) To act as the central student organization aiding all other campus student organizations with communication, leadership, finances, and cooperative planning to better serve the entire university community.
- (j) To build traditions within the campus community to strength the rich heritage of our university

Article III. Executive Branch Qualifications

Section 3.01 The Executive Branch of Student Government shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Director of Programming.

- (a) The President and Vice President shall have until the end of the semester during which they are elected to appoint the Secretary, Treasurer, and Director of Programming. These appointments must then be approved by a majority vote of the Student Senate.
- (b) A term of office shall be one academic year. In order to be eligible for the executive board, candidates must be able to serve the full term (i.e. not graduating in December).
- (c) No member of the Executive Board shall hold the same position for longer than two terms.

Section 3.02 The President and Vice President must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- (a) Full time status at West Liberty University.

- (b) A cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a four-point scale
- (c) Must not be on disciplinary or academic probation.
- (d) Must have attended a minimum of twenty WLU S.G.A. meetings as an active member to apply to run.
- (e) Must have attended WLU for a total of three full semesters as a full time student.
- (f) A Presidential candidate and a Vice Presidential candidate must run together and be voted on by the students of West Liberty University. In the event of an unopposed election, they must receive one vote.

Section 3.03 Treasurer, Secretary, and Director of Programming must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- (a) Full time status at West Liberty University
- (b) A cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a four-point scale
- (c) Must not be on disciplinary or academic probation.
- (d) Must have attended WLU for a total of one full semester as a full time student

Section 3.04 Petition of Qualifications

- (a) In the event that a current active member of SGA seeks the office of President or Vice President, but does not meet any or all the aforementioned qualifications, he/she may petition the executive board to waive them as long as the following are true:
 - i.) He/she has served as an active member of SGA for a minimum of two semesters at the time he/she would be elected.
 - ii.) He/she must have been elected (not appointed or assigned) to a voting seat during one of the last two elections.

- (b)** The executive board will approve or deny the petition within 3 business days of receiving it.
- (c)** If a member of the executive board is seeking the position of president or vice president, the member should remove him/herself from voting on the petition.
 - i.)** In the event of a tie, or fewer than 3 executive board members left to vote on the petition, the Dean of Students will make the decision.
- (d.)** In the event that the election would be unopposed (only one qualified candidate pair running) due to the executive board denying a petition, the Dean of Students will decide on the petition.
- (e.)** Mixed candidate pairs (i.e. one qualified and one unqualified candidate) are permitted, but the unqualified candidate must petition to run.

Article IV. Student Senate Composition and Qualifications

The Student Senate of the Student Government Association consists of the following:

- (a)** Twenty-Four (24) at-large senators who represent the entire campus
 - i.)** Must be currently enrolled as a full time student
 - ii.)** Can be either graduate or undergraduate students
- (b)** One Veteran Representative (If applicable to a student who desires to serve on Senate)
 - i.)** Must be a full time student
 - ii.)** Must have veteran status or be a current member of the armed forces (including Reserve units and National Guard)

(c) One International Representative

- i.)** Must be selected by the International Club to serve as the International Representative
- ii.)** Must attend all meeting of **both** SGA and the International Club

(d) One Graduate Student/Assistant Representative

- i)** Must be currently enrolled in the College of Graduate Studies

Section 4.02 All Senators, regardless of classification, must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- (a)** Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a four-point scale. If a senator's GPA drops below this, the senator will be forced to resign.
- (b)** Must have no history of academic probation within one semester prior to application. (One full semester with a clean record)
- (c)** Must be able to attend meetings every Tuesday night at 9:00pm

Section 4.03 While disciplinary action taken by WLU will not immediately disqualify an applicant, the applicant must be willing to explain/defend any such action before the executive board for approval to run.

Article V. Cabinet and Advisor Positions

Section 5.01 President Pro-Temp Election and Duties

- (a)** Shall be appointed by the President and approved by a majority vote of the Senate.
- (b)** Shall fill the duties of the President or Vice-President in the event that they are absent or become involved in a debate, or want to present from the floor.

- (c) If the president resigns, is unable to serve, or is impeached the Vice President would become president, and the President Pro-Temp would fill the position of Vice President. The President Pro-Temp will stay in that position until an emergency election is held within two weeks. The Pro-Temp may run in that election.
- (d) If the Vice President resigns, is unable to serve, or is impeached, the President Pro-Temp would fill the position of Vice President until an emergency election is held within two weeks. The Pro-Temp may run in that election.

Section 5.02 Parliamentarian Election and Duties

- (a) Shall be appointed by the President and approved by a majority vote of the Senate
- (b) Shall have final decision in any argument that pertains to parliamentary procedure in an SGA meeting.
- (c) Shall serve as an assistant and advisor to President.
- (d) Shall evaluate members of the executive branch on a monthly basis according to the outlined duties in the association by-laws.

Section 5.03 Sergeant-at-Arms Elections and Duties

- (a) Shall be appointed by the President and approved by a majority vote of the Senate.
- (b) Shall help maintain order in the Senate and Gallery.
- (c) Shall assist the Parliamentarian

Section 5.04 Advisors to the Student Government Association

- (a) A Faculty, Staff, or Administration **Advisor** shall be appointed by the President and approved with a majority vote of the Student Senate by the 3rd week of the Fall Semester. The advisor serves a yearlong term.

- (b) The Dean of Students serves as the **administrative liaison** to SGA.
 - (i) The Dean of Students may appoint a designate staff/faculty member to take on this role.

Article VI. Line of Succession

Section 6.01 In the event that the President is unable to serve:

- (a) The Vice President becomes President
- (b) The President Pro-Temp will serve as Vice President until an emergency election can be held to fill the office of Vice President.
 - i.) The President Pro-Temp may run in the special election for Vice President, which should be held within two weeks.
 - ii.) Any qualified student may apply to run in the special election. Candidates must meet the qualifications to be President or Vice President as outlined in Section 3.02
- (c) In the event that neither the President nor Vice President is able to serve:
 - i.) The President Pro-Temp will serve as President and he/she should appoint a qualified member, as outlined in section 3.02, to serve as Vice President until a special election is held within two weeks.
 - ii.) Any qualified student may apply to run in the special election as long as qualifications in Section 3.02 are met.
- (d) In the event that neither the President, Vice-President, or President-Pro Temp are able to serve, the responsibilities of the President-Pro Temp mentioned above shall be carried out by the following order of succession. In the event that any member in the succession order does

not meet the qualifications as outlined in Section 3.02, the succession skips to the next office:

1. Parliamentarian
2. Treasurer
3. Secretary
4. Director of Programming
5. Sergeant-at-Arms
6. Highest ranking Senators that have attended the most meetings.

(e) All offices left open by the line of succession must be filled after the special election by nomination of the President and approved by a majority of the Senate.

Article VII. Code of Ethics

Section 7.01 Membership and participation in the West Liberty University Student Government Association shall not be denied to any person on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, association, gender, and/or age.

Section 7.02 Any member that does not meet all qualifications as described for the office or position he/she holds shall be removed from that office immediately.

Section 7.03 All members of SGA shall adhere the student Code of Conduct as stated in the Student Handbook. A member found responsible by the Campus judicial system for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, State, Local, or Federal Laws, shall be removed from their office immediately.

Article VIII. Impeachment of Senators and Officers

Section 8.01 Impeachment of Student Senators:

- (a)** Grounds for impeachment may be necessary if:
 - (i)** A Senator violates the Senate attendance policy or fails to fulfill any expected responsibility.
 - a)** This must be voted on by the Senate and impeached by a simple majority.
 - (ii)** Disciplinary actions are taken by WLU's judicial system for violation of any social or academic policy.
 - (iii)** SGA By-laws are violated.

Section 8.02 Conviction of Senate Members:

- (a)** A majority vote of the membership committee is needed for a member to be held responsible for violations
 - (i)** The decision of the Membership Committee must be approved by two-thirds of the Senate.
 - (ii)** The Member in question is not allowed to vote in the Membership Committee meeting or Senate decision.

Section 8.03 Impeachment of a member of WLU Student

Government Executive Branch:

- (a)** Any member of the Student Senate reserves the power to call a vote of impeachment on a member of the executive branch before the Membership Committee if any qualifications or responsibilities are not fulfilled.
- (b)** The Membership Committee must decide by a majority vote of the committee to call a special hearing of impeachment before the Student Senate.

Section 8.04 Impeachment Hearing of the Senate

- (a)** A two-thirds vote by the two-thirds quorum of the Student Senate shall be necessary for conviction of an officer.
- (b)** Upon conviction, the vote shall be taken to the President of West Liberty University. He/she shall decide on whether to uphold or dismiss the decision of the Senate.
- (i)** The advisor and membership chair must inform the University President of the impeachment charges.
- (c)** The Senate may not vote to overturn the University President's decision, but they may vote by a simple majority of the Senate to send the decision to a vote of the Student Body, in which the Students would have the final decision.

Section 8.05 Election for Replacement of Impeached Officer

- (a)** Upon conviction of an impeached Student Government Officer by the Membership Committee:
 - i.)** If the officer is President or Vice President, the line of succession should be followed and a special election should be held within two weeks.
 - ii.)** If the officer is Treasurer, Secretary, or Director of Programming, the seat shall remain empty until the special election, which should be held within two weeks.

Section 8.06 Rules for impeached SGA members

- (a)** Any Student Government Association member who is impeached, regardless of position, may not be to a Senate seat or Executive Board position.

(b) Any Executive Board member who resigns from their position may not be re-elected to the Executive Board at any time. They may run for a Senate seat.

Article IX. Amendments

Section 9.01 Amendments to the constitution must be approved by two-thirds vote of the Student Senate, and then voted on by the general student body. Amendments are ratified by a simple majority approval of the student body, no matter the percentage of the student body that votes.

Section 9.02 Amendments to the by-laws may be ratified by a two-thirds approval of the voting members of the Student Senate who are in attendance. Quorum is still required to take the vote.

Section 9.03 In the case this constitution or its by-laws are silent on a specific matter, *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall be used to adjudicate any issue that arises in the normal course of SGA business.