

Constitution of the Student Government Association

Anderson University

The administration of Anderson University, believing that the welfare of the University will be advanced by the development of an efficient system of self-government among the student body in all matters that directly affect the students, individually or together, of the university.

The means for successful student government are individual responsibility and selfless sacrifice to the enrichment of the college experience for each student. This goal is only obtained by dedication and continuous teamwork shown by each member of the student government. Members of the Anderson University Student Government Association are charged with the task of placing the best interest of their peers before their own at all times and in all methods possible.

Article I – Name of Organization

Section 1.

- a. The name of the organization shall be the Student Government Association of Anderson University.

Article II – Purpose of Organization

The Student Government Association partners with University Leadership and the Student Body to create a strong and God-honoring Anderson University.

Mission

Encourage and develop student interests through student body representation, club and organization support, and servant leadership

Vision Statement

Connect Anderson students to their campus and each other to foster unity, scholarship, and personal growth

Values

Christ-Centered

We hold transparency, integrity, passion, and drive in our work. We hold a heart for seeing Christ lived out on our campus, and our organization reflects the values of our institution.

Representation-Oriented

Every decision we make is oriented around the people we are elected to represent.

Actively Engaged

We are actively engaged in two ways. First, we are present and invested on our campus. We lead in all areas of our involvement. Secondly, we are actively engaged in how we intentionally pursue people. We cannot represent, serve, or care for students that we do not know.

Development-Minded

We are consciously developing other leaders, our campus, and its organizations. We create relationships and partnerships to accomplish this work. We serve for the betterment of Anderson University and believe that our ceiling is the next Senate's floor.

Forward Leaning

We are focused on the present, but we are forward leaning in how we operate. We are thinking about the Anderson 10 years from now in how we are choosing to make decisions in the present.

Article III – Membership

Section 1.

- a. The organization, representing the student body, shall be comprised of an Executive and Legislative branch. The Executive Branch, consisting of the Executive Officials, the Division of Operations, and the Division of Representation shall serve as the highest officers within the organization and the student body. The Legislative Branch shall consist of *eight* representatives per class, known as Senators.

Article IV – Authority of Organization

Section 1.

- a. The authority of the student body rests within the balance of the organization's separate bodies. These bodies are known as the Legislative and Executive Branches.

Article V – Supremacy

Section 1.

- a. The Student Government Association shall strive to achieve representation of all students at Anderson University.

Section 2.

- a. The President of the University and the Board of Trust have final authority in all matters regarding Anderson University. The Vice President for Student Development is assigned as the representative of the President and Board of Trust in matters related to the Student Government Association.

Article VI – Executive Branch

Section 1. Executive Branch

- a. The Executive Officials shall consist of the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Student Body Treasurer, and the Student Body Chief of Staff.
- b. The Division of Operations shall consist of the Design Director, Media Director, Student Involvement Coordinator, and the Elections Director.
- c. The Division of Representation shall consist of the Secretary of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Secretary of Campus Ministries, Secretary of Commuters, Secretary of First Year Experience, and Secretary of Student-Athletes.

Section 2. Executive Branch Election Guidelines

- a. The Executive Officials shall be elected by the members of the student body. These elections and selections shall take place each year within the final months of the spring semester.
- b. The Division of Operations shall be selected through a committee made up of the outgoing and incoming Executive Branch and/or by the Student Government Association Staff Advisor.
- c. The Division of Representation shall be selected through a committee made up of the outgoing and incoming Executive Branch and/or by the Student Government Association Staff Advisor during the spring semester, then confirmed by a two-thirds senate vote.
- d. All candidates must have at least a 3.0 GPA and be in good standing with the University.

Section 3. Vacancies

- a. In the case that an executive seat (not including hired positions), other than the presidency, is vacated after an executive election, then the position(s) will be filled through appointment by the newly serving president and executives.
 - i. Because of the nature of the circumstances, the requirements of the appointee(s) must only reach the qualification of a senator, as found in Article VII Section 3.b.
 - ii. The appointee must have served in the senate for at least a year.
 - iii. The appointee must be approved by the Senate with a two-thirds majority vote.

Section 4. The Student Body President

- a. Must have served in the Executive Branch for a minimum of one year (two semesters).
 - i. In the event that the position cannot be filled, the following clause will be put into action: must have served in the Senate for a minimum of one year (two semesters) and must commit to an informational period with the current Student Body President.
- b. Must be at least a Junior, based on active enrollment at Anderson University.
- c. Shall lead the Student Government Association and partner with University Leadership and the Student Body to create the best, God-honoring Anderson University.

Section 5. The Student Body Vice President

- a. Must have served in Student Government Association for a minimum of one year (two semesters).
- b. Must be at least a junior, based on active enrollment at Anderson University.
- c. Serves as a liaison between the Executive Branch and the Senate.
- d. Shall serve as the Chairman of the Senate.

Section 6. The Student Body Chief of Staff

- a. Must have served in the Student Government Association for a minimum of one year (two semesters).
- b. Must be at least a Sophomore, based on active enrollment at Anderson University.
- c. Serves as an Administrator to the Executive Branch.

Section 7. The Student Body Treasurer

- a. Must have served in the Student Government Association for a minimum of one year (two semesters).
- b. Must be at least a sophomore, based on active enrollment at Anderson University.
- c. Oversees all of the Student Government Association expenditures, and serves as a financial advisor to Anderson University Clubs and Organizations.
- d. Shall submit an annual budget report to the Vice President of Student Development.

Section 8. The Design Director

- a. Must be at least a Sophomore, based on active enrollment at Anderson University.
- b. Shall oversee all of the Student Government Association promotions and brand standards.

Section 9. The Media Director

- a. Must be at least a Sophomore, based on active enrollment at Anderson University.
- b. Organizes and implements social media campaigns on behalf of the Student Government Association.

Section 10. The Student Involvement Coordinator

- a. Must be at least a Sophomore, based on active enrollment at Anderson University.
- b. Shall serve as a liaison between Clubs and Organizations and the Student Government Association.

Section 11. The Elections Director

- a. Must have served in the Student Government Association for a minimum of one year (two semesters).
- b. Must be at least a sophomore, based on active enrollment at Anderson University.
- c. Will be ineligible to run for an executive position for the semester after they are serving.
- d. Shall Oversee the senatorial and executive election process.

Section 12. Secretaries within the Division of Representation

- a. Shall be selected through a committee made up of the outgoing and incoming Executive Branch and/or by the Student Government Association Staff Advisor during the spring semester, then confirmed by a two-thirds senate vote.
- b. Represents all of the population within each Secretary's scope of representation to the Senate.

Article VII – Legislative Branch

Section 1. Powers of the Student Senate

- a. Powers of the Student Body rest within the Student Senate.

Section 2. Composition of the Student Senate

- a. The Student Senate consists of the Executive Officials, Division of Representation and the Legislative Branches.
- b. Members of the Executive Branch, within the Division of Operations are considered non-voting members of the Student Senate.
- c. Class Speakers shall serve as representatives of their respective classes.
- d. There will be no more than eight Senators elected from each class, one of which shall be later appointed as Class Speaker.
- e. One advisory member shall sit without vote, and they must be a faculty or staff member approved by the University. This seat shall be known as the Student Government Association Advisor.

Section 3. Qualifications for Election to the Legislative Branch

- a. All candidates must be in good standing with the University and must not be on disciplinary or academic probation.
- b. All candidates are subject for final approval by the Student Government Association Advisor.
- c. All candidates must have at least a 2.5 GPA.

Section 4. Election of Legislative Branch

- a. Eight members of each class shall be elected into the Senate during the fall semester and shall serve from the date of their inauguration until their successors are inaugurated the following year.
- b. If a vacancy arises during the academic year, the manner in which, or if, it will be filled shall be left to the discretion of the Student Government Association Advisor and Executive Branch with Senate approval.

Section 5. Selection of Class Speakers

- a. Candidates must be a current Class Senator and be nominated by a senator member from their class.
- b. Nominated candidates will be interviewed and appointed by the Executive Branch.
- c. The Executive Branch shall present their selections for Class Speaker to the Senate for confirmation.

Article VIII – Resignation Policy and Impeachment

Section 1. Impeachment

- a. Any Student Government Official shall be subject to impeachment. He or she may be impeached for a failure to fulfill his or her office or flagrant and willful violation of the Constitution or University Codes of Conduct.

Section 2. Impeachment Procedure

- a. Charges of impeachment will be submitted to the Chairman of the Senate prior to the standing senate meeting. In the case that the charges of impeachment are against the Vice President, charges will be submitted to the Student Body President.
- b. Once submitted an evaluation committee will be formed, by the SGA advisor, to review the article of impeachment and conduct all impeachment hearings.
- c. After a hearing by the Senate and three-fourths majority vote of the entire Senate in favor of impeachment, the recommendation will be sent to the Student Government Association Advisor and then to the Senior Vice President for Student Development.
- d. If the majority of the Senate, the Student Government Association Advisor, and the Senior Vice President for Student Development recommend impeachment, the matter will then be sent to the President of Anderson University for final approval.

Section 3. Resignation Procedure

- a. A letter of resignation must be submitted to the Student Body President and the Student Government Association Advisor. This letter needs to contain the date of resignation and the member's current position within the Student Government Association.
- b. Upon resignation, the student will not be able to fill a vacant position within the Student Government Association for the remainder of the academic year that the resignation was given.
- c. The Executive Branch, the Student Government Association Advisor, and the University Administration reserves the right to request the resignation of any member who is not in compliance with the Student Government Association Attendance and Participation Policy. A request of resignation may also be warranted if a member's behaviors or actions are seen as a breach of the Student Government Association Agreement. This includes a member's failure to meet the GPA requirement or disciplinary expectations.
- d. If a senator has a class during the Student Government Association meeting time for the spring semester, they shall resign their seat.

Section 4. Leave of Absence

- a. In the case that a senator must step down for a short period of time due to an extenuating circumstance, with an expressed intent to return to serving in the senate, this senator can apply for a leave of absence.
- b. A senator must submit a formal request for a leave of absence to the Student Government Association Advisor. The Student Government Association Advisor must approve or deny this request.

Article IX – Amendments to the Constitution

Section 1. Committees

- a. The Student Government Association shall maintain five standing committees, these consist of the First Year Experience Committee, Campus Ministries Committee, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, Commuters Committee, and the Student Athlete Committee.
- b. The Student Government Association shall maintain a Special committee for Constitution, Bylaw, and Elections Review.

Section 2. Constitution

- a. Shall review the Constitution of the Student Government Association, at least, every *five* years.
- b. Shall be led by the Student Body Vice President and consist of, at least, three senate members.

Section 3. Bylaws and Elections

- a. Each Senate shall review the Student Government Association Executive and Senate Bylaws annually.
- b. Shall be led by the Student Body Vice President and consist of, at least, three senate members.
- c. The Student Body Election Bylaws shall be reviewed annually.
- d. Review shall be led by the Student Government Association Elections Director and Elections Committee.
- e. Senate members in the Elections Committee are disqualified from running for an Executive Team member position for the current and following school year.

Section 4. Legislative Procedure

- a. An amendment to the Constitution must be written in resolution form and submitted to the Senate for discussion and approval. The proposed amendment must carry with a two-thirds majority vote in favor of the amendment.
- b. Proposals or petitions from the Student Body go to the Senate.
- c. Proposals from the Senate shall follow the route as indicated on the proposal form.
- d. All votes including funding requests, motions, and meetings require quorum.

- e. Quorum is defined as having two-thirds of the Senate members.
- f. Funding requests and general proposals require a *fifty one* percent majority vote of quorum to pass or die.
- g. Constitutional amendments must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.
- h. A proposal that has the approval of the Student Body President goes to the Student Government Association Advisor and then to the Senior Vice President for Student Development for final approval.
- i. Accepted proposals become effective at the University President's discretion and are returned to the Student Government Association Advisor for distribution and implementation.
- j. If the Student Body President rejects or vetoes a proposal, it can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. The Student Body President would be a voting member in the override attempt. If overridden, the proposal would then follow standard procedure.
- k. Once an amendment has been adopted, the revision must be logged below.

Student Government Association Constitutional Amendment Log

Amendment # **S93-21-1**

Amendment: The 93rd Senate of the Student Government Association motions to re-establish the Constitution of the Student Government Association.

Date Proposed: 2/1/2021

Date Accepted: 2/15/2021

Proposed By: Student Government Association Constitution Committee '20-21 (Jared Back, Kamryn Osterbind, Connor Gann, Ashleigh Hartsell)

Riley Dixon
Student Body President

Jared Back
Chairman of the Senate

Amendment #

Amendment:

Date Proposed:

Date Accepted:

Proposed By:

Student Body President

Chairman of the Senate:

Amendment #

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