

SGA Constitution

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University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
Student Government Association
SGA Constitution

IN ORDER to represent the students of UAFS, to give students a voice and a vote, to maintain the integrity of our institution, to make viable progressive changes for the good of the students, faculty, staff, and administration, we, the students of UAFS, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the UAFS Student Government Association (SGA).

Section 2: Purpose

The Purpose of the SGA shall be to further the interests of the students of UAFS through representation in matters concerning student life, affairs, and Registered Student Organizations. We strive to be the liaison between the student body and the institution.

Article II: Authority and Powers

The Student Government Association exercises concurrently with the university faculty, staff, and administration the following powers delegated to it by the students of UAFS:

- Student Government Association shall have the power to conduct all elections for Student Government Association and any other election of importance to the entire student body.
- The Student Government Association shall have the power to appoint student representatives, as requested, to administrative boards, advisory committees, and any other committee or board requesting a student presence.
- The Student Government Association shall recommend an annual budget to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and to administer the funds allocated to the Student Government Association and all programs funded by the Association.
- The Student Government Association shall have the power to make any recommendations in writing to the appropriate dean or Vice Chancellor on behalf of the legitimate interest of the student body.
- The Student Government Association shall have the power to recommend the allocation of funds for the operation of the Student Government Association and its projects, as well as recommend allocation of funds to Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) for their programs and projects and regulate the use of funds upon the approval of the Director of Campus Involvement.
- The Student Government Association shall have the power to deny the request of a potential Registered Student Organization if they have not completed all of the necessary paperwork and qualifications set forth by the Registered Student Organization Handbook to become recognized. This decision can be overruled by the Director of Campus Involvement at their discretion.
- The Student Government Association shall have the power to revoke the status of a Registered Student Organization if they have not completed all requirements for renewal set forth by the Recognized Student Organization committee.
- The Student Government Association shall have the power to pass legislation deemed necessary and proper for the execution of the foregoing powers and all other powers based in this Constitution of the Student Government Association of UAFS, or any committee or officer thereof.
- The Student Government Association is bound to protect legitimate rights and interests of the student body.
- The Student Government Association shall be the sole, legitimate, organized representation of the student body at UAFS.
- The Student Government Association shall provide assistance in advertising and critiquing NUMAS award application packets.

Article III: Officers

Section 1: Term of Office

The President and Vice President of Student Government shall be the offices vested with power to govern all sections of the Student Government Association. There shall be one President and one Vice President, elected by the student body on a single ballot as

running mates. They shall take office during the “Passing the Gavel” ceremony in accordance with NUMAS Award Ceremony annually in April and shall serve for a term of one year after election or until resignation, or impeachment.

Section 2: Qualifications

1. The qualifications for the offices of President and Vice President of the Student Government Association shall be:
 - A. Completion of a minimum of 60 hours, with at least 30 hours completed at this institution.
 - B. Have and maintain good academic and disciplinary standing.
 - C. Maintain 12 hours per semester, except their last semester prior to graduation from UAFS, which they can have as little as 3 hours.
 - D. Maintain at least a minimum of a 2.5 Cumulative GPA
2. The qualifications for the offices of Chief of Staff, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Student Government Association shall be:
 - A. Completion of a minimum of 30 hours, with at least 15 hours completed at this institution.
 - B. Have and maintain good academic and disciplinary standing.
 - C. Maintain 12 hours per semester, except their last semester prior to graduation from UAFS, which they can have as little as 3 hours.
 - D. Maintain at least a minimum of a 2.5 Cumulative GPA
3. No person shall be elected to the office of President more than twice.
4. The President and Vice President shall not serve as President, Vice President, or Treasurer of another registered student organization.
5. All officers receiving a scholarship/stipend must carry no less than twelve (12) semester hours each semester receiving the scholarship/stipend, except in the case of graduating seniors. They may carry no less than 3 hours for his/her last semester.
6. The Treasurer shall not serve as the President, Vice President, or Treasurer of any SGA funded organization.

Section 3: Succession and Vacancies

1. In the event of death, removal or resignation of the President, the Vice President shall become President.
2. In the event of death, removal or resignation of the Vice President, the President may appoint a Vice President from the Legislative Assembly contingent upon their eligibility and approval by a two-thirds majority of the Legislative Assembly. If no one is eligible, a special election shall be called.
3. In the event the offices of both the President and Vice President are vacant concurrently, the Chief of Staff shall become the President, leaving the

Chief of staff vacant, until an emergency Election can be called. At such time, only the positions of President and Vice President will be on the ballot.

4. If the positions of President, Vice President, and Chief of Staff all become vacant concurrently, the Secretary shall fill the position of President and shall call an emergency election to fill the vacant positions of President, Vice President, and Chief of Staff.
5. If the positions of President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, and Secretary all become vacant concurrently, the Treasurer shall fill the position of President and shall call an emergency election to fill the vacant positions of President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, and Secretary.
6. If the positions of President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Secretary, and Treasurer all become vacant, the Legislative Assembly shall elect a President Pro-Tempore from its membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The advisor(s) shall chair this meeting. The newly elected President Pro-Tempore will then call an emergency election to fill the vacant positions of President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Secretary, and Treasurer.
7. If the office of the president becomes Vacant within two weeks of the next regular election, an emergency election will not be necessary.
8. If the position of three or more of the executive board members become vacant concurrently an emergency election will be held.
9. An emergency election shall follow the same procedures as a normal election, with a shortened timeframe.
 - A. The positions will be advertised for a week, with applications being due that Friday.
 - B. Campaigning will start the Monday after applications are due.
 - C. Voting will be the Thursday and Friday of the same week campaigning started.
 - D. The President and the Vice President shall run separately.
10. If either the Chief of Staff, the Secretary, or the Treasurer cannot fulfil their term the president can appoint a qualified member from the assembly with the approval of a 2/3 majority.

Article IV: Legislative Assembly

Section 1: Authority

1. The Legislative Assembly shall be the legislative branch of the Student Government Association of UAFS.
2. The Legislative Assembly shall:
 - A. Effectuate all Articles of this Constitution and its By-laws.
 - B. Aid and assist students and registered student organizations.

- C. Receive student complaints, investigate student problems and work toward their resolution.
- D. Coordinate on-going research and information gathering in determining student interests.
- E. Review and evaluate resolutions or proposals from members.
- F. Inform the student body of proposals initiated and actions taken by the Legislative Assembly.
- G. Establish By-laws, regulations, and policies to govern the internal functions of the Student Government Association.
- H. Approve or Dismiss resolutions, decisions, and actions of all standing and ad hoc committees.
- I. Overturn a presidential veto with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

Section 2: Membership

1. The Student Government Association shall conduct elections during the spring semester for the student body to elect representatives for a term of one academic year.
 - A. The Freshman Class and International Representative seats will be held vacant after spring elections until the following fall semester in order to hold elections for this position with the new freshman and international student class.
2. Elections for vacant seats that were not filled in the previous spring semester may also take place.
3. The membership of the Legislative Assembly shall be derived from the undergraduate students of UAFS who are in good standing, as defined by university policy.
 - A. All representatives must maintain a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative grade point average while in office.
 - B. All representatives must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours for the fall and spring semesters for which they are in office. Except for their last semester of their senior year, which they could carry a minimum of 3 hours.
 - C. Class representatives must reside as a member of the class they represent by the time they take office for their term.
 - D. College representatives must be declared in a major from the college they represent.
 - i. If a College Representative changes their major, while in office, to a major outside of the college they represent, they forfeit their current position in SGA. They may run for

another representative position for which they qualify in the next election.

Section 3: Distribution of Seats

1. There shall be three representatives elected from each degree offering college at UAFS.
 - A. To be elected as a representative of the college, you must be a member of that college as defined by UAFS.
2. There shall be one representative elected from each class of freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior.
 - a. To be elected as a representative of the class, you must be a member of that class as defined by UAFS.
3. There shall be four (4) at-large members elected from the student body as a whole.
4. There shall be (1) representative from the UAFS International student population.

Section 4: Term and Succession

1. Representatives must be able to serve a term of one academic year and carry at least twelve (12) semester hours.
2. Representatives shall take office during the “Passing the Gavel” ceremony at the NUMAS Award Ceremony each April. Incoming representatives shall have the opportunity to shadow outgoing representatives from the time they are elected until the NUMA Awards as part of the transition process.
3. The eligible candidate having the next highest number of votes in the most recent election shall automatically fill any representative seat that becomes vacant due to death, removal, or resignation for the remainder of the unexpired term. The Chief of Staff or his/her designee shall notify the eligible candidate within one (1) week of the seat becoming vacant.
4. If there are not any other eligible candidates, the Executive Board shall advertise the vacant seat for one (1) week. The Executive Board shall interview the interested students and appoint an eligible candidate to the vacant seat within two (2) weeks of the seat becoming vacated.
5. Confirmation of such appointments will take place in the next legislative meeting, and must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote.

Section 5: Duties and Privileges of Representatives

1. Representatives shall have the following duties:
 - A. Attend a weekly meeting of the Legislative Assembly to be held at a specific location and time announced.
 - B. Attend one office hour a week during the time in which they serve.

- C. Serve on at least one committee.
 - D. Attend all committee meetings in which they respectively serve on.
 - E. Serve as a liaison to RSOs.
 - F. Review all comments and submissions by students, delegating to the appropriate committee.
 - G. Abide by the attendance policies outlined in the By-laws.
 - H. Abide by the Constitution and its By-laws.
 - I. Dress business casual and display SGA nametag while on campus at any time on the day of general meetings.
 - J. Wear SGA nametag while working SGA events.
2. Failure to uphold the duties of the office described in the Constitution and the By-laws is sufficient grounds for removal from office, as outlined in the bylaws.
 3. Each representative shall have the privilege of debating and voting during meetings of the Legislative Assembly. Members may also initiate legislation to be placed before the body.

Article V: Meetings

- Regular meetings of the Legislative Assembly shall be held once a week during the fall and spring semesters on Wednesday at 4:00.
- The President or Executive Board may call special meetings of the Legislative Assembly at any time. Upon the written request to the President by ten (10) representatives or one percent of the student body, the President shall call a special meeting of the legislative Assembly. Notification to representatives of the time and place of a special meeting must occur at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
- All meetings shall be open to the public.
- A quorum shall be defined as two-thirds of the body, or the next highest whole number, of the assembly. Business shall be carried out only when a quorum of members is present.

Article VI: Procedure

- The Assembly shall be governed by the rules contained within the By-laws and, in cases not specifically provided for by the By-laws, Roberts' Rules of Order, latest revised edition.
- If there is a conflict between Robert's Rules of Order Latest Revised Edition, this constitution and bylaws shall take precedence.
- The President shall chair all meetings of the Legislative Assembly. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall assume the chair. Should the Executive Vice President be unable to assume the chair, the Chief of Staff shall assume the

chair. Should the Chief of Staff be unable to assume the chair, the Secretary shall assume the chair. Should the Secretary be unable to assume the chair, the Treasurer shall assume the chair. If no Executive Board members are present, then the Advisor(s) shall assume the chair, and immediately dismiss the meeting.

Article VII: Advisors

There shall be two advisors to the Student Government Association who shall be selected by the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Article VIII: Referendum

Section 1: Definition

A referendum is the casting of votes by the students of UAFS for effecting change of existing policy initiated by students.

Section 2: Process

1. Any petition signed by ten-percent (10%) of the student body of UAFS may be presented to the President for an initiative by referendum excluding the allocation of student fees.
2. The referendum may be held at a special election or at the next regularly scheduled election.
 - A. Votes may be cast via online voting OR by paper ballot.

Article IX: Amendments

- An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed to the student body by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Legislative Assembly or by ten-percent (10%) of the student body of UAFS upon petition to the President.
- The student body shall vote on the proposed amendment at a special election or at the next regularly scheduled election as determined by the President.
- If a simple majority of those students voting approve the amendment, it shall become a part of the Constitution.

Article X: Non-Discriminatory Clause

The Student Government Association of UAFS shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or handicap in recruitment, admission to membership, or access thereof, or treatment in its programs and activities.

Article XI: Ratification

This Constitution shall supersede any and all previous Constitutions of the Student Government Association of UAFS and any other organization claiming to be the administration of students.

This revision shall go into effect after it has been approved by the student body, before the fall semester of the 2015-2016 academic year.