

CONSTITUTION OF THE APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Preamble

We, the Students of Appalachian State University, affirm the fundamental rights of all students. From this, the Student Government Association derives several core tenets. These tenets are: advocacy, community, engagement, creation of opportunities, and equitable representation for the Student Body. The Appalachian State Student Government Association commits to prioritizing equitable representation of all students by acknowledging that each student has different and crucial needs. We commit to giving each individual's values the space and attention they deserve. Furthermore, we strive to uplift and support ideas for the betterment of student life, giving a platform for student voices that would not be acknowledged otherwise. We aim to establish a community of peers where there is room for all student voices to be heard and elevated. We provide the opportunity to make positive impacts within the Appalachian State University community through leadership and collaboration. Above all, we seek to establish an involved organization that maintains adequate engagement internally and externally. To these terms, we reaffirm and establish this Constitution of the Student Government Association of Appalachian State University.

Article I: Name

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the “Appalachian State University Student Government Association” and will be referred to as the “App State SGA.”

Article II: Purpose

Section 1: The purpose of the App State SGA shall be to prioritize equitable representation of all students by acknowledging that each student has different and crucial needs.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: The App State SGA will be open to all undergraduate students within App State.

Section 2: A baseline GPA requirement of 2.5 will be required for all officers within the App State SGA leadership team.

Section 3: The App State SGA complies with the University’s non-discrimination policy.

Section 4: At-Large seats will be defined for organizations within App State to represent.

Article IV: Membership Fees

Section 1: The App State SGA shall have no membership fees.

Article V: Officers

Section 1: The Officers of the Leadership Team shall consist of: Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Chief of Staff, Treasurer, Assembly Speaker, Deputy Assembly Speaker, Assembly Clerk, Director of Communications, Association of Student Governments Liaison, and Committee Directors.

Subsection 1a: The App State SGA will have Directors for the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, Sustainable Development Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, and Campus Resources Committee.

Article VI: Officer Duties

Section 1: The Leadership Team will be required to hold and attend weekly meetings.

Section 2: The Student Body President will serve as the head of the App State SGA and lead meetings of the Leadership Team. The Student Body President shall have the ability to sign and veto bills from the Assembly.

Section 3: The Student Body Vice President will be responsible for assisting the president, maintaining the App State SGA's relationships with the Town of Boone and Campus Clubs and Organizations.

Subsection 3a: The Vice President is responsible for maintaining a road adopted by SGA and renewing the associated contract yearly.

Subsection 3b: The SGA, in accordance with the contract made with the town of Boone, will hold a cleanup event three times a calendar year.

Subsection 3c: Cleanup sessions can be held at any point during the year, including the academic year and summer.

Subsection 3d: The Vice President will be responsible for the facilitation of community service within the organization.

Subsection 3e: The Vice President will be responsible for the facilitation of networking, professional development, and alumni relations.

Section 4: The Chief of Staff will assist the Student Body President and Vice President in their duties.

Subsection 4a: The Chief of Staff will strive to attend or send a designee to every committee meeting at least once a month.

Subsection 4b: The Chief of Staff will maintain SGA's relationship with the Plemmons Student Union.

Subsection 4c: The Chief of Staff will be responsible for reserving meeting spaces.

Subsection 4d: The Chief of Staff will advise the Treasurer.

Section 5: The Treasurer will be responsible for presenting a budget to the Assembly, keeping an updated account of the App State SGA's finances, and approving budget requests.

Section 6: The Assembly Speaker will oversee weekly Assembly meetings as Chair.

Subsection 6a: The Speaker will hold an Assembly Workshop at the beginning of the Session.

Subsection 6b: The Workshop will consist of training for the student Assembly on how meetings are held, how to write bills, and how to interact within the Assembly.

Section 7: The Deputy Assembly Speaker will assist the Assembly Speaker, serve as the parliamentarian and assist the Speaker in the procedure, and serve as the Speaker of the Assembly if the Speaker is not in attendance.

Subsection 7a: The Deputy Speaker shall serve as the chair of the Elections Oversight Board, or shall nominate a designee if they are unable to fulfill the position.

Section 8: The Assembly Clerk will keep the meeting minutes and record attendance for Leadership Team Meetings and student Assembly.

Subsection 8a: If the Deputy Speaker assumes the role of Speaker, the clerk assumes the role of Parliamentarian.

Subsection 8b: The Clerk is responsible for maintaining a well-organized online storage drive and uploading all meeting minutes and other SGA Assembly documents to the drive.

Section 9: The Directors of the standing committees will oversee weekly meetings for their committees. As well as serve as policy advisors to the Student Body President and Vice President.

Section 10: The Communications Director will be responsible for maintaining the App State SGA's social media, marketing, media relations, and relationship with University Communications.

Subsection 10a: The Communication Director needs approval to post from the President, Vice President, Speaker of the Assembly, or Deputy Speaker if it relates to elections.

Section 11: Members of the App State SGA Leadership team cannot simultaneously serve two positions at once, with the exception of the ASG Liaison.

Section 12: Assembly leadership will be required to have at least 12 weeks of experience or more of assembly experience at the time of taking office.

Subsection 12a: Representatives can run before 12 weeks as long as they don't take office until after the 12th week mark.

Article VII: Officer Election and Removal

Section 1: The Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and Student Representatives are elected by the student body.

Section 2: The Chief of Staff, Treasurer, Committee Directors, Communications Director, and ASG Liaison are appointed by the Student Body President or President-Elect and confirmed by the Assembly.

Section 3: The Speaker of the Assembly, Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, and Clerk of the Assembly will all be elected separately by the members of the Assembly.

Subsection 3a: Only Student Representatives are eligible to hold these positions.

Section 4: Officers can be removed by a three-fourths vote by the assembly.

Subsection 4a: All officers facing removal shall be given due process.

Subsection 4b: The individual who initiated the removal process must meet with the advisors prior to moving forward with removal.

Subsection 4c: Officers facing removal will be required to meet with advisors and the complainant to address their concerns prior to final vote by the assembly.

Subsection 4d: Officers will be invited to seek mediation following the meeting with the advisors

Subsection 4e: A three-fourths removal vote will only occur should all other options prove to be unsuccessful.

Subsection 4f: The removal of an officer will take place in a closed session.

Article VIII: Elections and Apportionment

Section 1: Elections for the Appalachian State University Student Government

Association will be held annually in the Spring Semester for all offices and seats for the next academic year, with the exception of First Year seats.

Subsection 1a: The Spring Elections must be held no earlier than the week after Spring Break.

Section 2: Separate elections will be held for incoming First Years and all empty Assembly seats in the Fall Semester.

Subsection 2a: Fall Elections must begin no later than three weeks after the start of the Fall Semester.

Section 3: The Assembly shall consist of eight seats for each academic class, two seats for each college, eight at-large seats, and eight seats for University clubs and organizations.

Subsection 3a: The eight seats for University clubs and organizations are open to appointments from all recognized clubs and organizations on a first come-first served basis.

Section 4: Petitions for empty seats are able to be accepted as early as three weeks after the conclusion of Fall Semester elections.

Subsection 4a: Petitions for academic class seats require seventy-five student signatures from the class a student seeks to represent.

Subsection 4b: Petitions for college seats require fifty student signatures from the college a student seeks to represent.

Subsection 4c: Petitions for at-large seats require one hundred student signatures.

Section 5: Election rules will be determined by the Student Assembly.

Section 6: Elections will be overseen by the Election Oversight Board.

Subsection 6a: The Deputy Speaker of the Assembly will nominate the Chair and members of the Election Oversight Board.

Subsection 6b: All Election Oversight Board nominees are subject to confirmation by the Assembly in a majority vote.

Section 7: Violations of the election rules will be sent to the Elections Court to determine how to address the violation.

Subsection 7a: The Deputy Speaker of the Assembly will nominate the Chair and members of the Elections Court.

Subsection 7b: The Deputy Speaker will not nominate themselves as Chair or a member of the Elections Court.

Subsection 7c: All Election Court nominees are subject to confirmation by the Assembly in a majority vote.

Article IX: Committees

Section 1: There will be standing committees consisting of: The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, The Academic Affairs Committee, The Sustainable Development Committee, and The Campus Resources Committee.

Section 2: The Directors of each Committee will act as the Chair and may appoint committee officers: Vice Chair, Spokesperson, and Clerk to assist in the facilitation and operation of their respective committees.

Section 3: Each Committee will host an outreach event once a month

Subsection 3a: The committees will host an outreach event via tabling, surveying, or non-event engagement.

Subsection 3b: Outreach will occur during the Assembly's Session.

Subsection 3c: The Speaker of the Assembly can suspend in case of special circumstances.

Section 4: Special Committees can be created by the Student Body President or the Speaker of the Assembly.

Subsection 4a: The Student Body President will create special committees relating to executive functions.

Subsection 4b: The Speaker of the Assembly will create special committees relating to legislative and Assembly matters and Constitutional questions.

Subsection 4c: Special Committees will exist for one semester.

Subsection 4d: The Director of the Committee will be an ex officio member of the Leadership Team.

Section 5: The creation and nomination of the chair will be in the form of a letter and will have to make a case for the creation of said committee.

Section 6: Special Committees can be extended by the Assembly by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

Subsection 6a: There is no limit to the number of extensions.

Subsection 6b: Extensions will be for at most one semester.

Section 7: Either the creator of the committee or the chair of the committee will have to present a case for an extension.

Section 8: It is encouraged that each Committee Chair shall facilitate the writing and review of the bylaws for the operation of the committee that will be adopted by the committee each session.

Section 9: Respective Scopes of Standing Committees;

Subsection 9a: The Scope of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion shall be all matters relating to expanding diversity, equitable access, and inclusion to the student body.

Subsection 9b: The Scope of the Committee on Academic Affairs shall be all matters relating to University Academic Policy.

Subsection 9c: The Scope of the Committee on Sustainable Development shall be all matters relating to the advancement of sustainability.

Subsection 9d: The Scope of the Committee on Campus Resources shall be all matters relating to campus lifestyle and university resources.

Article X: Role of Advisors

Section 1: As a departmentally-affiliated organization, advisors will be appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or a designee.

Section 2: In support of App State SGA members in the use of their voice as student advocates, advisors will:

Subsection 2a: Provide advice, guidance, and constructive feedback;

Subsection 2b: Seek to facilitate connections with other key staff and faculty who may be helpful resources depending on the topic at hand;

Subsection 2c: Challenge students to be as informed as possible regarding relevant topics;

Subsection 2d: Respect the independence of the student's voice regardless of the informed stance students choose to take. Even if that voice may not be in alignment with the views of the university administration.

Section 3: In support of App State SGA members in the management of organizational relationships both internally and externally, university processes including budgets and

campus connections with university leadership, advisors will:

Subsection 3a: Provide training, support, and guidance in these areas;

Subsection 3b: Provide direction as it pertains to the management of the university budget and other university processes;

Subsection 3c: Provide advice, support, and possible intervention with internal student concerns/conflict in order to best manage privacy and the well-being of all involved;

Section 4: As a departmentally-affiliated organization, SGA advisors ultimately have authority over how the organization operates in these four categories:

Subsection 4a: Resolution of conflict and behavioral concerns between student members;

Subsection 4b: Adherence to all university processes and procedures, including but not limited to budgetary, code of conduct, and overall management of university resources.

Subsection 4c: Any changes to how the organization operates: i.e. changes to the constitution, bylaws, or election rules must be made with the support of the advisors.

Subsection 4d: Official organizational outreach and collaborations with administration. However it will always be the aspiration of advisors to operate from an advisory perspective and not as an authority.

Article XI: Meeting Procedure

Section 1: Meetings shall take place every week during the Academic Year, except for University holidays and breaks, unless otherwise ordered by the Speaker of the Assembly.

Subsection 1a: Emergency meetings may only be called by the Speaker of the Assembly with at least a twenty-four-hour notice to the membership.

Subsection 1b: The time and place of Assembly Meetings shall be determined by the Appalachian State Student Government Association Leadership Team, and shall occur for the discussion of Student and Organizational business.

Section 2: The Chair has the responsibility to ensure meetings run in an efficient

and productive

fashion. This includes keeping an agenda mediating conversation within the Assembly.

Section 3: Meetings will be held in accordance with the rules that will be established by the App State SGA.

Section 4: All Officers and elected Representatives with the exception of the Student Body President and Vice President shall have one vote in the Assembly and have the ability to introduce legislation.

Section 5: All Student Representatives and members of the Leadership Team have the right to debate in the Assembly.

Section 6: The Student Body President will have five days to either sign or veto a bill after a bill is passed. On the sixth day at 12:00 am the bill is automatically enacted.

Section 7: Presidential Vetoes can be overridden by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Assembly.

Article XII: Finances

Section 1: The Treasurer will be tasked with overseeing various App State SGA funds, purchases, and the budget.

Section 2: The budget will be allocated in a structured manner, with the Assembly receiving the largest portion, followed by the leadership team and committees.

Section 3: The App State SGA will maintain a budget that will be approved annually by the Assembly and signed by the Student Body President.

Article XIII: Supremacy Clause

Section 1: The Appalachian State University Student Government Association agrees to follow all Appalachian State University, State, and Federal laws and policies.

Section 2: The Constitution of the Student Government Association shall supersede all Student Government Association governing documents and bills.

Article XIV: Non-Discrimination Clause

Section 1: The Appalachian State University Student Government Association agrees that no student will be excluded from membership or participation on the basis of their race, color, religious status or historic religious affiliation, sex, national origin,

age, political affiliation, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or unless exempt under Title IX.

Article XV: Amendments and Ratification

Section 1: The App State SGA requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to ratify amendments to this Constitution.

Subsection 1a: Amendments to the Constitution go into effect immediately upon ratification by the Assembly.

Section 2: The Student Body President does not have the power to veto amendments.

Article XVI: LINE OF SUCCESSION

Section 1: The Line of Succession for the Office of President shall be:

Subsection 1a: Vice President then Speaker of the Assembly.

Subsection 1b: If the position of Vice President becomes vacant, from the line of succession or otherwise, the President will appoint a new Vice President to be confirmed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the student Assembly.

Subsection 1c: In the event that the office of the Student Body President and the office of the Student Body Vice President are vacated, the Speaker will become interim President, and the Deputy Speaker will appoint the EOB to hold a special election.

Section 2: The Line of Succession for the Office of Speaker of the Assembly shall be:

Subsection 2a: Deputy Speaker then Clerk.

Subsection 2b: The individual who ascends to the Office of Speaker shall hold this position temporarily until a new speaker can be elected, at which point they return to their original position.

Subsection 2c: The election for Speaker shall take place no later than three weeks after the office becomes vacant.

