

Constitution of the Student Government Association Of the University of Wisconsin-Superior Proposed Revision (03/24/2014)

Article I. - Name

Section 1

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association (SGA) of the University of Wisconsin-Superior (UWS).

Article II. – Purpose and Authority

Section 1.

The purpose of the SGA is to represent the interests of the students of UWS in the governance of the University. The SGA works in alliance with the administration, faculty, staff, students, and student organizations of the University, the University of Wisconsin System, and with the Superior community in order to provide the best possible university environment and educational experience at UWS.

Section 2.

- a. The SGA of UWS derives its powers from the consent of the student body and from Wisconsin state law. The SGA is the organization of student representation recognized by the Chancellor under Wisconsin State Statute 36.09(5) that reads:

The students of each institution or campus, subject to the responsibilities of the board, the president, the chancellor, and the faculty shall be active participants in the immediate governance of and policy development for such institutions. As such, students shall have the primary responsibility for the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services, and interests. Students in consultation with the chancellor and subject to the final confirmation of the board shall have the responsibility for the disposition of those student- fees, which constitute substantial support for campus student activities. The students of each institution or campus shall have the right to organize themselves in a manner they determine and to select their representatives to participate in institutional governance.
- b. As such, and according to UW Board of Regents Policies, UWS policy and WI law, the SGA reserves the authority and obligation to:
 - i. Initiate policies concerning student life, services, and interests, and to review existing and proposed policies in these areas before they are amended or adopted by the other constituencies of the University, and to be the body to provide ultimate student input on all matters concerning student life, services, and interests.
 - ii. Acting through the Segregated Allocations Committee (SUFAC) or other designated institution-wide bodies; formulate the allocable SUF budget, subject to the responsibilities of the chancellor in accordance with state law and UW Policy.
 - iii. Organize students in a manner they determine and select their representatives to participate in institutional governance according to the processes outlined in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.

Article III. – Membership

Section 1.

All persons who are enrolled in classes or other activities providing academic credit from UWS shall be members of the SGA.

Section 2.

All rights, responsibilities, offices, and benefits of the SGA are equally available to all people without regard to age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, gender, gender identity, marital status, national origin, parentage, pregnancy, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

Section 3.

Any person in good academic standing enrolled in at least six academic credits at the undergraduate level or three credits at the graduate level at the UWS during the academic year is eligible to hold a position in the SGA.

Article IV. – Offices and Structure

Section 1.

The SGA shall consist of three branches; the Legislative, Legislative Executive, and Student Judicial Branches.

Section 2.

The duties of all offices shall be detailed in the Bylaws of this document.

Section 3. The Legislative Branch

- a.** Membership shall consist of the following members:
 - i.** The students within the combination of the Departments of Business and Economics; and Elementary Education shall elect two Senators.
 - ii.** The students within the combination of the Departments of Natural Science; Math and Computer Science; and Human Performance and Health Promotion shall elect two Senators.
 - iii.** The students within the combination of the Departments of Communicating Arts; Music; Visual Arts; English; and World Languages, Literatures, and Culture shall elect two Senators.
 - iv.** The students within the combination of the Departments of Justice; Social Inquiry; and Human Behavior and Diversity shall elect two Senators.
 - v.** The student body shall elect four at-large Senators.
 - vi.** The graduate students shall elect one Senator.
 - vii.** The incoming class shall elect two Senators each Fall.
 - viii.** Secondary Education students will claim their major area of study for the department they will vote under.
 - ix.** Students with multiple majors that fall in multiple categories above will claim their major area of study for the department they will vote under.
- b.** Senators must meet the eligibility requirements as follows:
 - i.** Be enrolled as a student within their program, and meet credit load requirements.
 - ii.** Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 and be in good academic standing with the University. Members with no institutional GPA are assumed to meet these requirements.
 - iii.** To be eligible to represent a combination of departments, a person must have declared an undergraduate major within the combination of departments.
 - iv.** To be eligible to serve as a Senator of Graduate Studies, a person must be enrolled in the graduate studies department.
- c.** Senate seat vacancies:
 - i.** A Senator who represents a combination of departments and changes majors to one that falls under a different combination of departments shall be ineligible to continue as a Senator, and the seat will automatically be declared vacant.
 - ii.** Any Senator who withdraws from the University shall have his/her seat automatically declared vacant.
 - iii.** Any senator who wishes to resign from their seat shall inform the President of the SGA or the Speaker of the Senate, in writing, and their seat will be declared vacant.

- iv. Any vacancies created within the Senate after Fall elections, with the exclusion of the Speaker, shall be filled by appointment of the President and confirmation of the Senate. If at any time, 2/5 or more of the seats on the Senate are vacant, a special election must be held to attempt to fill all vacant seats.
- d. Any removal of a Senator must go through the following process:
 - i. Any Senator can be recommended for recall for the following reasons:
 - 1. Failure to maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA or stay in good academic standing.
 - 2. Failure to fulfill seat requirements as outlined by the bylaws.
 - 3. Nonfeasance.
 - 4. Mifeasance.
 - ii. Any recommendation for removal will be reviewed first by the Student Judicial Committee (SJC) where the recommendation must be upheld by a 4/5 majority. If SJC upholds the recommendation for removal, the recommendation must also be upheld by a 2/3 vote in the Senate.

Section 4. The Legislative Executive Branch

- a. Membership shall consist of the following members:
 - i. President
 - ii. President Pro Tempore
 - iii. Speaker of the Senate/SJC Chair
 - iv. SJC Clerk
 - v. SUFAC Chair
 - vi. SUFAC Clerk
 - vii. Legislative Affairs Liaison
 - viii. Shared Governance Liaison
 - ix. Secretary of the Student Senate
 - x. Communications and Public Relations Liaison
- b. Executive branch members must meet the eligibility requirements as follows:
 - i. Be enrolled as at least a part time student within their program.
 - ii. Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 and be in good academic standing with the University.
 - iii. Members with no institutional GPA are assumed to meet these requirements.
- c. Vacancies:
 - i. The President will be elected by popular vote of the student body.
 - ii. Speaker of the Senate/SJC Chair and SUFAC Chair will be elected in that order by process of senate secret ballot at the first SGA meeting of the new legislative session in May. In order to run for these positions a nomination and a second will be required but senators may self-nominate. The secret ballot process will occur with one nominated senator with the lowest vote total eliminated with each vote until a final run-off between two senators with each position. In the event that there is only one nominee for a position, the senate will take a vote by roll call to confirm the nominee. In the event that there is a tie at the conclusion of the secret ballot process, the SGA member that has seniority in terms of cumulative semesters of service to SGA will receive the appointment.
 - 1. In the event of a tie for the Speaker/SJC Chair or SUFAC Chair the President will break the tie vote.
 - ii. A vacancy in the position of President by termination of student status, resignation, or any other reason shall automatically be filled by the ascension of the President Pro Tempore. If the President Pro Tempore is unwilling or unable, the position passes next to the Speaker of the Senate, then the SUFAC Director. If none of these personnel are willing or able, there will be an emergency election as defined in **Article 4 Section 3 c. i.** to fill the seat.

- iii. The President will choose to appoint an elected Senator to the position of the President Pro Tempore. The nomination must pass in the Senate by a 2/3 majority vote.
- iv. All other Legislative Executive Branch positions, excluding the Speaker of the Senate/SJC Chair and SUFAC Chair are to be appointed by the President, and approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate.
- d. Any Executive Branch member, excluding President Pro Tempore, SUFAC Chair or Speaker of the Senate/SJC Chair, is removable by the President or the Senate by 2/3 vote for failure to maintain the proper GPA, nonfeasance or malfeasance.
- e. The President or President Pro Tempore can be removed, going through the following process:
 - i. The President, President Pro Tempore, SUFAC Chair, or Speaker of the Senate/SJC Chair can be recommended for recall for the following reasons:
 - 1. Failure to stay in good academic standing.
 - 2. Failure to fulfill seat requirements as outlined by the bylaws.
 - 3. Nonfeasance.
 - 4. Misfeasance.
 - ii. Any recommendation for removal will be reviewed first by the Student Judicial Committee (SJC) where the recommendation must be upheld by a 4/5 majority. If SJC upholds the recommendation for removal, the recommendation must also be upheld by a 2/3 vote in the Senate. In the event that the Speaker of the Senate/SJC Chair is up for removal, the committee meeting will be chaired by the President Pro Tempore.
Any committee chair except President can be removed from their duties by a 3/4ths vote of no confidence in the senate, in which case their senate seat is retained but a new chair for that position must be elected.

Section 5. Advisor

- a. The advisor shall be chosen by the President, and approved by a 2/3rds vote of the senate after consulting with the Legislative Executive Branch. The former advisor will remain advisor until a new advisor is approved.
- b. The responsibilities of the advisor shall be assigned by the SGA.

Article V. - Committees

Section 1.

The SGA shall maintain the following committees:

- a. Student Affairs
- b. Student Judicial
- c. Segregated University Fees Allocation (SUFAC)
- d. Ad hoc committees can be formed by the President, Speaker of the Senate/SJC Chair, or Senate.

Section 2.

- a. All specific duties of each committee will be detailed in the Bylaws of this document.
- b. The membership of each committee will be detailed in the Bylaws of this document.

Section 3.

Any committee shall have the authority to form subcommittees and advisory committees. The parent committee shall set the responsibilities, guidelines, and chair of each subcommittee.

Article VI. – Amendments, Replacement, Ratification

Section 1.

Amendments to this Constitution must be proposed in written form to the Student Judicial Committee, and approved by a 4/5 vote. The Student Judicial Committee shall then propose the amendments to the Senate and shall be ratified by a 4/5 majority vote of the Senate.

Section 2.

Amendments to the Bylaws shall be made by a 2/3 vote of the Senate. Amendments to the Bylaws must be introduced at a regular meeting and will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

Section 3.

In order to replace this Constitution, a decision to replace must come from a 4/5 vote of the Senate, and upon passing the replacement must be signed off by the President. This will trigger a referendum, to be held during any regular election, that will pass with a 3/4 majority vote of the student body.

Section 4.

Ratification of this Constitution shall occur by a referendum vote of the student body.