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# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE

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(Revised Spring 2025)

We, the students of Gulf Coast State College, in order to establish an efficient representation of the students within the college community, and to proclaim the transition from a Student Activities Board to a Student Government Association, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the Gulf Coast State College Student Government Association for the student body.

## ARTICLE I: NAME

### Section 1:

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Gulf Coast State College. This organization will use the name Student Government Association or the acronym SGA in all publicity materials and correspondence.

### Section 2:

The officers of the Student Government Association shall make up the Executive Board of the SGA, and hereafter be referred to the Executive Board.

## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

### Section 1:

The purpose of the Student Government Association shall be to take action on behalf of the student body and to specifically work to:

- a. Stimulate student involvement in all aspects of campus life.
- b. Foster activities for (and with) clubs/organizations of the student body.
- c. Manage all allocated student activity fees in a fiscally accountable manner.
- d. Empower students in all aspects of student and campus governance.
- e. Provide an official voice through which the opinions of the student body may be expressed.
- f. Serve as the facilitator between the student body and college administrators to ensure all procedures and practices within the organization are inclusive and non-discriminatory.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

### Section I:

The membership of the SGA herein established shall consist of:

- a. Executive Board
- b. Senators
- d. Associate Members

Section 2:

All members of the SGA will meet the guidelines for Student Participation in Activities as described in the Manual of Policy and the guidelines described in the SGA Bylaws.

#### ARTICLE IV: ELECTIONS

Section 1:

General elections are open to all students of Gulf Coast State College. General elections are for the purpose of electing the Executive Board.

- a. Election of the Executive Board will be held no later than one month prior to Honors Convocation.
  1. In the event that Honors Convocation does not occur, elections will be held no later than one month prior to the last Friday in April.
- b. Voting will be done by secret ballot or electronically.

#### ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1:

The Executive Board will consist of no less than four officers. The following officer positions are required, but not limited to: President, Vice President, and Secretary.

Section 2:

Should the office of the President become vacant, the President will be succeeded by any member of the Executive Board with approval of the remaining officers and the SGA Advisor.

Section 3:

Any officer who is in violation of the Student Code of Conduct, or the qualifications outlined in the Manual of Policy and Bylaws will be subject to removal from the Executive Board. Officers who fail to attend or give assistance to SGA activities will also be subject to removal from the Executive Board as outlined in the SGA Bylaws.

#### ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1:

The SGA will meet no less than once a week during the fall and spring semesters (with exception of holidays and days in which classes are not in session).

Section 2:

The SGA shall consist of voting members including the Executive Board officers (excluding the President of SGA), Senators, and Associate Members (all member groups are defined in the Bylaws).

- a. Only Executive Board officers (excluding the President of SGA) and Senators shall hold full voting rights on official SGA matters. Associate Members may participate in discussions and committee activities
- b. A member on probation for any violation of Article III Section 2 or the Bylaws Article II will not have voting privileges.

Section 3:

In the event of a tie the President will cast a vote to break the tie.

## ARTICLE VII: SGA ADVISORS

Section 1:

The SGA Advisor shall be responsible for approving all fiscal activity conducted by SGA.

Section 2:

The advisor for SGA will be determined by the college administration who shall serve as the primary advisor.

Section 3:

The advisor has the power to veto any legislation or acts of the SGA.

Section 4:

The advisor veto may be overridden by a 2/3 vote of the SGA. When such an override occurs, the matter under consideration is referred to the Student Affairs Council. The decision of the Student Affairs Council is final.

Section 5:

The advisor shall be an ex officio member of all SGA functions.

## ARTICLE VIII: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Section 1:

Act as a liaison group between administration and the student body.

Section 2:

Provide, promote and maintain an interaction between members of SGA and the members of the state organization, The Florida College System Student Government Association (FCSSGA).

Section 3:

Seek to provide services for Gulf Coast State College students that shall facilitate student participation and progression through academic and personal development.

Section 4:

Consider, investigate, or refer to the appropriate channels, all appeals and requests which are written, signed and submitted to any Executive Board member by any member of the student body.

Section 5:

Adhere to the principles of the Constitution and its amendments.

Section 6:

Make available, upon request, information concerning this Constitution and other important decisions made by the SGA.

Section 7:

Invite and encourage the students, faculty, and administration of the college to attend Executive Board meetings and activities.

Section 8:

Be responsible for other duties and additional services as deemed necessary by the SGA and outlined in the Bylaws.

## ARTICLE IX: AMENDING AND RATIFYING THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1:

The process for amending the Constitution of the SGA:

- a. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the SGA at a regular voting meeting.
- b. A minimum 21-day informative period must pass before formal voting.
- c. During the 21-day period, SGA will make a best faith effort to communicate any potential constitutional changes to the student body.
- d. The amendment may be voted on at the subsequent voting meeting.
- e. Any amendment must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the voting body present.

Section 2:

Upon passage by the SGA, the Student Affairs Council must then approve any constitutional amendment.

Section 3:

Following approval of the Student Affairs Council, the amendment(s) shall be adopted upon final approval by all necessary college administration in compliance with college policy.

## ARTICLE X: DATE OF EFFECT

Section 1:

This Constitution shall come into effect upon ratification by the college administration and adoption of the Bylaws.

Section 2:

The Constitution and Bylaws will be reviewed at least once every two academic years.

## OATH OF OFFICE

I do, by this oath, acknowledge my election/appointment to office as a representative of, and for, the student body of this campus, and so swear to uphold this Constitution in its entirety, and to fulfill the duties stated therein to the best of my ability.