Student Government Association of East Carolina University
Constitution

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1 – Name
The name of this organization shall be The Student Government Association of East Carolina University, which herein after may be referred to as “Student Government Association”.

Section 2 – Purpose
The Student Government Association exists to serve the students of East Carolina University, and will be a source of governance for the students so that they may be heard collectively. This organization will encourage cooperation that inspires positive change within the university and its constituents, while upholding the values and mission of East Carolina University. The focus of the Student Government Association is to advocate for the East Carolina University Student Body by creating Student-University engagement. Opportunities will be in an environment in which students have the right to self-expression.
Article II. Student Assembly

Section 1 – Composition
A. The Student Assembly shall be composed of sixty (60) representatives
B. The Student Body President and Student Body Vice President shall both serve as non-voting ex-officio members.

Section 2 – Requirements
A. Be enrolled as a full time student at East Carolina University;
B. Be enrolled in a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of on campus classes during the fall and spring semesters;
C. Not be found responsible for any academic or disciplinary sanctions while filing for election or during the term in office;
D. File all required grade release documentation with the East Carolina University prior to taking office;
E. Have and maintain a minimum 2.500 cumulative grade point average and a minimum 2.500 semester grade point average as reported through the official student information system;
F. Take the oath of office upon election or appointment, as prescribed by the Bylaws;
G. Serve on at least one Standing Committee;
H. Uphold all provisions outlined in the Constitution, Bylaws, and all other governing documents.
Section 3 – Officers

A. Speaker of the Student Assembly:
   i. Qualifications:
      a. Must be a member of the Student Assembly;
      b. Must be elected by a majority vote of the Student Assembly;
      c. Must have served as a member of the Student Assembly for a minimum of six months;
      d. Must have completed twenty-four (24) credit hours while enrolled at East Carolina University.
   ii. Responsibilities:
      a. Shall preside over meetings of the Student Assembly;
      b. Shall appoint members of the Student Assembly to the Standing Committees of the Student Assembly, with the following exceptions:
         1. Directors
         2. Attorney General
      c. Shall present the Secretary for confirmation by the Student Assembly;
      d. Shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of all Standing Committees of the Student Assembly;
      e. Shall serve as the deciding vote only in the event of a tie in the Student Assembly.
B. Attorney General:
   i. Qualifications:
      a. Must be a member of the Student Assembly;
      b. Must be elected by a majority vote of the Student Assembly;
   ii. Responsibilities:
      a. Shall appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Elections Commission;
      b. Shall serve as the Chair of the Rules and Judiciary Committee;
      c. Shall serve as the Parliamentarian of the Student Assembly;
      d. Shall preside over meetings of the Student Assembly in the absence of
         the Speaker of the Student Assembly;
      e. Shall preside over meetings of the Rules and Judiciary Committee.

C. Secretary:
   i. Qualifications:
      a. Must be a member of the Student Assembly;
      b. Must be appointed by the Speaker of the Student Assembly and
         confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly;
   ii. Responsibilities:
      a. Shall maintain all Student Government Association permanent
         records;
      b. Shall maintain agendas and minutes of Assembly meetings;
      c. Shall record minutes from meetings of the Student Assembly.

Section 4 – Standing Committees of the Student Assembly
A. Rules and Judiciary Committee
   i. Responsible for the review of all personnel and structural changes to the
      Student Government Association that require a vote by the Student Assembly;
   ii. Shall be chaired by the Attorney General.
B. Financial Affairs and Appropriations Committee
   i. Responsible for the allocation and disbursement of all funds controlled by the
      Student Government Association;
   ii. Shall be chaired by the Treasurer.

C. Marketing and Communications Committee
   i. Responsible for all branding of the Student Government Association;
   ii. Assists the Director of Marketing and Communications with the management
       of publications and media on behalf of the Student Government Association;
   iii. Shall be chaired by the Director of Marketing and Communication.

D. Academic Affairs Committee
   i. Responsible for advocating for the student body on all issues of academic
      policy and issues affecting the academic success of students;
   ii. Shall be chaired by the Director of Academic Affairs.

E. University Affairs Committee
   i. Responsible for examining and promoting the policies, procedures, and
      initiatives of East Carolina University as they pertain to the student
      experience;
   ii. Shall be chaired by the Director of University Affairs.

F. Local and State Affairs Committee
   i. Responsible for advocating for the student body on all issues affecting the
      City of Greenville, Pitt County, and State of North Carolina. This is done by
      interfacing with officials of local and state government, as well as
      organizations concerned with the welfare of this region;
   ii. Shall be chaired by the Director of Local and State Affairs.
G. Equity and Intercultural Engagement Committee
   i. Responsible for supporting all students’ ability to live and learn in the East Carolina University environment regardless of ethnic, cultural, or religious background;
   ii. Shall be chaired by the Director of Equity and Intercultural Engagement.

H. Community Outreach Committee
   i. Responsible for developing and maintaining relations with the City of Greenville community, Robert Wright Society, and other philanthropic SGA commitments and initiatives;
   ii. Shall be chaired by the Director of Community Outreach.

Section 5 – Powers of the Student Assembly
A. Determine by plurality its rules and procedures;
B. Fill any vacant seat in the Student Assembly through a process outlined in the Bylaws;
C. Approve the appointments and recommendations of the Student Body President, the Speaker of the Student Assembly, and the Attorney General;
D. Override any presidential veto of legislation by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote;
E. Present and consider legislation;
F. Shall be the supreme authority over all election rules and procedures;
G. Regulate, through the Financial Affairs and Appropriations Committee, the disbursement of Student Government Association funds;
H. Remove or impeach any member of the Student Government Association by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote;
I. Determine, by a majority vote, to enter into closed session as allowed under North Carolina Law;
J. Determine stipend amounts for members of the Executive Cabinet and Officers of the Student Assembly;
K. Adopt all laws necessary and proper for the general well being of the Student Body.
Article III. Executive Cabinet

Section 1 – Composition
   i. Student Body President
   ii. Student Body Vice President
   iii. Directors

Section 2 – Student Body President
   A. Qualifications:
      i. Currently be enrolled as a full time student at East Carolina University;
      ii. Be enrolled in a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of on campus classes during the fall and spring semesters;
      iii. Must have completed twenty-four (24) credit hours while enrolled at East Carolina University;
      iv. Not be found responsible for any academic or disciplinary sanctions before filing for election or while in office;
      v. File a required grade release documentation with East Carolina University, prior to taking office;
      vi. Have and maintain a minimum 2.500 cumulative grade point average and a minimum 2.500 semester grade point average as reported through the official student information system;
      vii. Uphold all provisions outlined in the Constitution, Bylaws, and all other governing documents;
      viii. Must be elected by the student body, unless following the line of succession;
      ix. Take the oath of office upon election or appointment, as prescribed by the Bylaws.
B. Responsibilities:
   i. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Student Assembly;
   ii. Serve as an ex-officio member of the East Carolina University Board of Trustees;
   iii. Attend meetings of the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments;
   iv. Appoint Directors;
   v. Appoint non-standing Directors:
      a. No more than three (3) non-standing directors may serve at one time.
   vi. Form non-standing executive committees:
      a. Members must be appointed by the Student Body President;
      b. Committees may not exceed ten (10) members.
   vii. Serve as the chief representative of the student body in all matters both internal and external;
   viii. Shall chair meetings of the Executive Cabinet;
   ix. Address the state of the Student Government Association to the Student Assembly, annually;
   x. Veto any legislation adopted by the Student Assembly
      a. Any bill not signed by the Student Body President within seven (7) University calendar days shall become law.

Section 3 – Student Body Vice President

A. Qualifications:
   i. Currently be enrolled as a full time student at East Carolina University;
   ii. Be enrolled in a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of on campus classes during the fall and spring semesters;
   iii. Must have completed twenty-four (24) credit hours while enrolled at East Carolina University;
   iv. Not be found responsible for any academic or disciplinary sanctions before filing for election or while in office, as detailed the Student Code of Conduct;
v. File all required grade release documentation with the East Carolina University, prior to taking office;

vi. Have and maintain a minimum 2.500 cumulative grade point average and a minimum 2.500 semester grade point average as reported through the official student information system report;

vii. Uphold all provisions outlined in the Constitution, Bylaws, and all other governing documents;

viii. Must be elected by the student body, unless following the line of succession;

ix. Take the oath of office upon election or appointment, as prescribed by the Bylaws.

B. Responsibilities:

i. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Student Assembly;

ii. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Rules and Judiciary Committee;

iii. Shall chair meetings of the executive cabinet in the absence of the Student Body President;

iv. Shall supervise and coordinate the internal operations of the Executive Cabinet;

v. Coordinate outreach with campus and community organizations;

vi. Coordinate events and programs for the Executive Cabinet.

Section 4 –Directors

A. Treasurer

i. Qualifications:

   a. Must be a member of the Student Assembly;

   b. Must be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly.
ii. Responsibilities:

   a. Serve as the chief financial officer of the Student Government Association;
   b. Allocate and manage disbursement of Student Government Association funds;
   c. Correspond with the Student Government Association Finance Specialist to manage all funds controlled by the Student Government Association;
   d. Shall serve as an ex-officio committee member of the Faculty Senate as appointed by the Student Body President;
   e. Shall appoint a representative of the Financial Affairs and Appropriations Committee to serve as an ex-officio committee member of the Faculty Senate;
   f. Present the Student Government Association budget report to the Student Assembly once per semester;
   g. Shall work with the Financial Affairs and Appropriations Committee, President, and Vice President to present the SGA budget for the next fiscal year during the spring semester;
   h. Shall preside over weekly meetings of the Financial Affairs and Appropriations Committee.

B. Director of Marketing and Communications

   i. Qualifications:

      a. Must be a member of the Student Assembly;
      b. Must be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly.
ii. Responsibilities:
   a. Shall brand and market the Student Government Association;
   b. Maintain publication and media on behalf of the Student Government Association;
   c. Manage all social media outlets;
   d. Shall preside over meetings of the Marketing and Communications Committee.

C. Director of Academic Affairs
   i. Qualifications:
      a. Must be a member of the Student Assembly;
      b. Must be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly.

   ii. Responsibilities
      a. Advocate on issues and concerns pertaining to the academic experience on behalf of the entire student body;
      b. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to academic support services;
      c. Shall appoint a member of the Academic Affairs Committee to serve as an ex-officio committee member of the Faculty Senate;
      d. Shall preside over weekly meetings of the Academic Affairs Committee.

D. Director of University Affairs
   i. Qualifications:
      a. Must be a member of the Student Assembly;
      b. Must be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly.
ii. Responsibilities
   a. Maintain relationships with athletics, off-campus student services, on-
      campus dining, on-campus living, student health services, student
      organizations, student recreation and wellness programs, transportation, transfer students, and veterans;
   b. Shall assist in the promotion of all Health Sciences related events and
      initiatives;
   c. Promote projects, policies, and initiatives that advocate for a
      sustainable university environment;
   d. Shall appoint a member of the University Affairs Committee to serve
      as an ex-officio committee member of the Faculty Senate;
   e. Shall preside over weekly meetings of the University Affairs
      Committee.

E. Director of Local and State Affairs
   i. Qualifications:
      a. Must be a member of the Student Assembly;
      b. Must be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a
         majority vote of the Student Assembly.

   ii. Responsibilities
      a. Shall serve as a liaison between the City of Greenville, State of North
         Carolina, and the Student Government Association;
      b. Advocate for policies and initiatives developed at the local, state, and
         federal level of government including, but not limited to: the UNC
         Board of Governors and the local government of the City of
         Greenville;
c. Shall serve as a representative of the Student Government Association on at least one (1) City of Greenville governmental commissions and boards, as appointed by the City of Greenville;
d. Shall preside over weekly meetings with of the Local and State Affairs Committee.

F. Director of Equity and Intercultural Engagement
   i. Qualifications:
      a. Must be a member of the Student Assembly;
      b. Must be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly.

   ii. Responsibilities
      a. Promote a university environment where students are equally supported and represented regardless of identity, ethnicity, culture, or religion;
      b. Communicate with religious and cultural based student organizations;
      c. Shall meet with the campus advisors that work to promote identity and multiculturalism initiatives;
      d. Shall preside over weekly meetings of the Equity and Intercultural Engagement Committee.

G. Director of Community Outreach
   i. Qualifications:
      a. Must be a member of the Student Assembly;
      b. Must be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly.
ii. Responsibilities
   a. Serve as an advocate for the Student Government Association to maintain relationships and promote projects of the Greenville community, Robert Wright Society, and other philanthropic commitments and initiatives;
   b. Shall preside over meetings of the Community Outreach Committee.

H. Director of First Year Programs
i. Qualifications
   a. Must be a member of the Student Assembly;
   b. Must be appointed by the Student Body President;
   c. Must have served as a member of the Student Assembly for a minimum of six months.

ii. Responsibilities
   a. Coordinate and supervise all Student Government Association introductory programs, projects, and initiatives;
   b. Shall provide opportunities for student and leadership development to all members;
   c. Shall be responsible for all first year program archives;
   d. Shall conduct the elections for Freshmen Class Representative from current members of the first year program;
   e. Shall serve as an ex-officio committee member of the Faculty Senate as appointed by the Student Body President.
Article IV. Elections

Section 1 – General Election Guidelines
A. General Elections shall be held annually during the spring semester of the East Carolina University;
B. General Elections shall be held for a minimum of ten (10) University calendar days, followed by a minimum of three (3) voting days by the student body, with voting ending on a Friday at 5:00pm;
C. Elections for Student Assembly seats shall be determined by a plurality of students voting;
D. Elections for President and Vice President, who shall run jointly on a ticket, shall be determined by a majority of students voting.

Section 2 – Runoff Election Guidelines
A. If no ticket receives a majority, which is defined as fifty percent (50%) plus one of those voting, then a runoff election shall be held between the two tickets receiving the most votes;
   i. In the event of a tie between the two tickets receiving the second highest number of votes the runoff election shall be held between the ticket receiving the highest number of votes and the two tickets receiving the second highest number of votes. This will occur regardless of the number of tickets contesting the General Election. If the runoff election between three tickets does not result in a ticket receiving a majority of votes cast, then a second runoff election shall occur.

B. Runoff elections shall begin the Monday following the conclusion of the General Election, or the first runoff, with voting beginning on Wednesday and ending on Friday at 5:00pm of the same week.
Section 3 – Requirements to File for Election
   A. In order to file for election candidates must meet the requirements and qualifications of the office for which they are filing;
   B. Tickets qualifying for the runoff election(s) are not required to file again for election.

Section 4 – Elections Commission
   A. Shall be composed of a minimum of eight (8) members and not more than twenty (20) members. Of the members of the Elections Commission, there shall be a Chair and Vice-Chair who shall be appointed by the Attorney General and approved by the Student Assembly.
   B. Shall be responsible for the oversight of all elections, enforcing election rules, and taking disciplinary action against candidates or tickets that violate election rules.

Section 5- Term Limits
   A. A term is defined as one academic year; starting from the installation of officers in the spring semester to the installation of officers the following year. Half of a term is defined as six (6) months from the date of the officer installation.

Article V. Line of Succession

Section 1- Elected Positions
   A. Student Body President
      In the event of a vacancy of the office of the Student Body President, the order of succession shall be:
      i. Student Body Vice President
      ii. Speaker of the Student Assembly
      iii. In the event that the line of succession is exhausted, the Student Assembly shall convene to select a Student Body President from within the Student Assembly. The selection will require two-thirds (2/3) votes of the Student Assembly.
B. Student Body Vice President
   In the event of a vacancy of the Student Body Vice President, the Student Body
   President shall appoint a successor, whose appointment is subject to approval by a
two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Assembly, not less than quorum.

C. Student Assembly Representatives
   In the event that a Student Assembly representative position becomes vacant, the
   replacement shall be selected through a process outlined in the Bylaws.

Article VI. Advisor(s)

The Student Government Association Advisor(s) shall be appointed by the East Carolina
University and serve as a mentor to provide support and guidance to the members of SGA.

Article VII. Resignation, Removal, Impeachment

Section 1- Resignation
   A. Any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association may resign
      from their position, with a written letter of resignation presented to the Attorney General;
   B. Any vacancy created by the resignation shall be filled according to the line of succession.

Section 2- Removal from Office
   A. Any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association may be
      removed from office.
   B. Removal from office may be, suggested for, but is not limited to: a finding of
      responsibility for violating the Student Code of Conduct, the inability to perform official
duties as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws, any violations of the Constitution or
Bylaws, acts of discrimination, abuse of power, fraudulent misrepresentation on official
documents, or any other disciplinary or academic sanctions.
C. In the case that any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association satisfies any of the qualifications for removal specified in Article VII, Section 2, Subsection B, and those qualifications for removal are also in conflict with the disciplinary rules of East Carolina University, no action shall be taken by the Student Government Association until the disciplinary processes outlined by East Carolina University have been exhausted.

D. Any East Carolina University student may file a completed grievance of service with the Attorney General, as prescribed in the Bylaws.

E. If an elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association meets any qualification for removal from office, has had a grievance filed against them, and East Carolina University has exhausted its disciplinary processes, that member will be officially presented with an opportunity to resign from office by the Attorney General or the Student Government Association Advisor(s) prior to the initiation of the Impeachment Hearing Process.

F. Only if all of the conditions for the removal of an elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association specified in Article VII, Section 2 have been met, the Impeachment Hearing Process shall proceed as outlined in Article VII, Section 3.

Section 3- Impeachment Hearing Process

A. At any point in the Impeachment Hearing Process the accused member retains the right to resign their position within the Student Government Association;

B. The Attorney General will ensure that the all the conditions for the removal of an elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association specified in Article VII, Section 2 have been met;

C. The Attorney General will schedule a meeting with the elected or appointed member to inform them of the complaint filed, their student rights, and an explanation of the hearing process;
D. After receiving the complaint, the Attorney General shall form a Student Review Committee from the current Student Assembly within ten (10) University calendar days of the complaint being filed;
   a. The Student Review Committee shall be composed of:
      i. The Attorney General, whom shall as the chair of the Student Review committee and will serve as a non-voting member within the committee, unless in the case of a tie.
      ii. The Speaker of the Student Assembly
      iii. Three (3) committee member of the Student Assembly according to the order of succession:
         1. Rules and Judiciary Committee
         2. Academic Affairs Committee
         3. University Affairs Committee
         4. Financial Affairs and Appropriations Committee
         5. Local and State Affairs Committee
         6. Marketing and Communications Committee
         7. Community Outreach Committee
         8. Equity and Intercultural Engagement Committee
      iv. The director of student affairs
      v. The SGA Advisor shall be present at meetings and serve an advisory role.

E. The Student Review Committee shall present their findings on the accusations against the elected or appointed member of the Student Assembly, in the following manner:
   a. Favorable. A favorable committee report indicates that the committee found evidence substantiating impeachment proceedings.
   b. Unfavorable. An unfavorable committee report indicates that there is insufficient evidence supporting the impeachment proceedings. An unfavorable report shall result in the dismissal of the motion to impeach the accused officer. The Student Assembly may overturn the dismissal of the impeachment by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote.
c. Non-Prejudicial. A non-prejudicial committee report indicates that there is not enough evidence to support or dismiss the motion to impeach the accused officer.

d. In the case of a conflict of interest, the following representatives shall be selected to serve on the Review Committee, in order of succession:
   i. The Student Body Vice President
   ii. The Treasurer
   iii. The Secretary

F. Prior to the weekly meeting of the Student Assembly, the Attorney General shall present the accused officer with the opportunity to view the information that will be shared to the Student Assembly, according to FERPA guidelines;

G. The Attorney General must schedule a hearing date in a timely manner following the establishment of the Student Review Committee;

H. The accused officer may submit a written defense to the Attorney General no later than two (2) University calendar days prior to the hearing, to be considered by the Student Assembly;

I. The written defense shall be presented to the Student Assembly by the accused officer, or by the Speaker of the Student Assembly in the absence of the accused officer;

J. The elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association shall be impeached from office upon a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote by the Student Assembly;

K. The Attorney General shall provide the accused officer with the removal resolution;

L. Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office, suspension of stipend, and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust, or profit within the Student Government Association of East Carolina University.
Article VIII. Amendments

Any provision to this constitution may be amended after following proper proposal measures as follows:

A. A three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the Student Assembly must be obtained following the filing of a constitutional amendment.

B. Ratification of any amendment to this constitution shall be achieved by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the student body.

Article IX. Bylaws

Any voting member of the Student Assembly may propose amendments to the Bylaws. Amendments must receive a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote in the Student Assembly or receive a majority affirmative vote and be signed by the Student Body President to be adopted.

Article X. Ratification

Ratification of this Constitution or any other Constitution replacing this document shall be achieved through a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote by the Legislative Body of the Student Government Association followed by two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the student body in a university-wide election in which at least 5% of the student body participates in voting.
Article XI. Transition and Partial Dissolution

Upon ratification of this document, the Student Government Association will maintain the structures and procedures outlined in the current Constitution with the following exceptions:

A. Current members of the Executive Cabinet, Judicial Justices, Attorney General, Student Body Treasurer, Student Body Secretary, and Student Body Chief of Staff shall all be granted ex-officio membership of the Undergraduate Student Senate. The attendance of these ex-officio members shall not count towards quorum of the Undergraduate Student Senate, nor shall they be required to uphold the attendance policy of the Undergraduate Student Senate.

B. The Student Body President and Student Body Vice President shall both be non-voting ex-officio members of the Undergraduate Student Senate.

C. The current Bylaws shall be amended and approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current Undergraduate Student Senate, no later than the beginning of the 2016-2017 election period.

D. When electing the first Speaker of the Student Assembly, or any succeeding Speaker during the first six months of the 2016-2017 term of the Student Assembly, the experience requirement listed in Article II, Section 3, Subsection A, Paragraph I, Subparagraph C shall be fulfilled by experience in the Undergraduate Senate.

Article XII. Dissolution

This Constitution will be dissolved upon the ratification of a new Student Government Association Constitution that is ratified by the process outlined in this document.