

The Constitution
of the
Student Government
of the
Catholic University of America

We, the Undergraduate Students of The Catholic University of America, establish this Constitution for the Student Government Association. The student government is established to effectively advocate on behalf of the students of our University community, unite the student body, and propose positive and purposeful changes in policy that govern our university. Furthermore, it is our responsibility to foster a sense of academic excellence, moral integrity, and to better serve and represent the students of The Catholic University of America.

ARTICLE I
THE EXECUTIVE

Section 1 **Composition**

Clause 1 The Student Government Association shall be led by an Executive Board comprised of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Clause 2 No member of the Executive Board may hold office in another branch of the Student Government Association unless explicitly stated in the Student Government Association Constitution.

Clause 3 The Executive Board shall operate under a set of written procedures amendable in the process outlined in Article V Section 1 Clause 5.

Section 2 **Term**

Clause 1 The Executive Board's term shall begin on May 1st upon taking the oath of office prescribed in the Executive Board Bylaws.

Clause 2 The Executive Board's term shall conclude on April 30th of the following year.

Section 3 **Election**

Clause 1 The Executive Board shall be elected in April.

Clause 2 The President and Vice President shall be elected on a joint ticket.

Clause 3 The Treasurer shall be elected independently.

Clause 4 The Secretary shall be elected independently.

Clause 5 In order to be eligible for office, a candidate must have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Clause 6 Rules governing ballot access and campaign procedures shall be delineated in the Procedures for Election, which may be amended by an Act agreed to by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate and signed by the President.

Section 4 The President

Clause 1 The President shall be the head of the Student Government Association.

Clause 2 The President shall represent the student body to the University Administration and Board of Trustees.

Clause 3 Upon approval by the President, a bill or resolution passed by the Senate shall be enacted.

Clause 4 If the President disapproves of a bill or resolution passed by the Senate, the President shall have the power to veto said legislation. A veto may be overridden by a 3/4 majority vote of the Senate, which shall make the legislation binding.

Clause 5 The President shall create a Cabinet to assist presidential duties and to spearhead Student Government Association initiatives. Membership in the President's Cabinet is not subject to Senate approval, except for vacancies for the Treasurer and Secretary; however, a member of the Cabinet may not serve in another branch of the Student Government Association unless explicitly stated in the Student Government Association Constitution.

Clause 6 The President shall have the authority to make Student Government Association appointments to University Boards and Committees where student representation is sought.

Clause 7 The President shall, with the advice and consent of the Senate, fill vacancies in the Senate and of the Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 5 The Vice President

Clause 1 In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President shall assume the Presidency.

Clause 2 The Vice President shall serve as the President of the Senate.

Section 6 The Treasurer

- Clause 1 The Treasurer shall lead the Treasury Board.
- Clause 2 The Treasurer shall be authorized to audit any student organization receiving funds from the Student Activity Fee.

Section 7 The Secretary

- Clause 1 The Secretary, in collaboration with the Vice President, shall ensure that proper minutes are kept of all meetings of the Senate and that these minutes are made publicly available.
- Clause 2 The Secretary, in collaboration with the Treasurer, shall ensure that proper record is kept of all decisions rendered by the Treasury Board and that these records are made publicly available.
- Clause 3 The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that the student body remains knowledgeable of decisions of the Student Government Association, opportunities to join the Student Government Association, and any other information deemed relevant.
- Clause 4 The Secretary may deputize one or more undergraduate students to assist in exercising the duties of the Secretary's office.

ARTICLE II
THE SENATE

Section 1 Duties

- Clause 1 All legislative power shall be vested in a Senate.
- Clause 2 The Senate shall operate under a set of written procedures amendable in the process outlined in Article V Section 1 Clause 5.

Section 2 Composition

- Clause 1 The Senate shall be composed of two (2) Senators from the senior class, two (2) Senators from the junior class, two (2) Senators from the sophomore class, two (2) Senators from the freshman class, and two (2) Senators from each school of the University in which undergraduate students are enrolled.
- Clause 2 For the purposes of voting, candidacy, and assumption of elected positions, the following standard earned credit schedule shall be utilized: freshman 0-29 credits, sophomore 30-59 credits, junior 60-89 credits, senior 90+ credits. All Senators representing their class must have the necessary credits upon the beginning of the fall semester of their term.

Clause 3 A candidate may only hold office for a school or class in which the candidate is currently enrolled.

Clause 4 No Senator may hold office in another branch of the Student Government Association unless explicitly stated in the Student Government Association Constitution.

Section 3 Term

Clause 1 The Senate's term shall begin at the time of its first Senate session where the Senators shall be sworn into office.

Clause 2 The Senate shall elect its leadership upon the swearing in of Senators.

Clause 3 The Senate's term shall end with the conclusion of the spring academic semester.

Section 4 Leadership

Clause 1 The Vice President shall be the President of the Senate and shall serve as the Senate's presiding officer.

Clause 2 As President of the Senate, the Vice President will only be able to cast a vote in the event of a tie in the Senate.

Clause 3 The Senate shall elect a Senator to serve as President pro tempore. The President pro tempore serves at the pleasure of the Senate for the term of the Senate.

Clause 4 The President pro tempore shall serve as presiding officer of the Senate in the absence of the Vice President.

Clause 5 The President pro tempore shall assume the office of the Vice President if vacated.

Clause 6 The President pro tempore shall assume the Presidency in the event of simultaneous vacancies in the offices of President and Vice President

Section 5 Meetings

Clause 1 The Senate shall meet regularly at a uniform time and place no less than one time per month, as circumstances permit. All meetings shall be open to the University community and no undergraduate student shall be denied admittance to observe a meeting of the Senate unless by the process outlined in the Senate Bylaws.

Clause 2 The Senate shall determine the rules of its proceedings concurrent with a majority vote.

Section 6 Election

Clause 1 Senate elections shall occur in the month of September.

- Clause 2 Rules governing ballot access and campaign procedures shall be delineated in the Procedures for Election, which may be amended by an Act agreed to by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate and signed by the President.
- Clause 3 Candidates may seek election to only one office at a time that represents the respective classes and schools in which they are enrolled.
- Clause 4 In order to be eligible for office, a candidate must have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Clause 5 Students may only vote for offices that represent their respective class and schools in which they are enrolled.

Section 7 **Funds**

- Clause 1 The Senate shall approve the Executive-elect's budget for its term in the next academic year before the end of the spring semester in which they were elected.
- Clause 2 The Senate shall have the authority to override any decision made by the Treasury Board subject to a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote and approval of the President or a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote to override a presidential veto. Such procedures shall be established in the Senate Bylaws.

ARTICLE III
THE TREASURY

Section 1 **Duties**

- Clause 1 The Treasury shall consist of the Treasurer and a Board of Directors for the distribution and allocation of funds generated by the student activity fee. Funds may be allocated to undergraduate students, student organizations, and other initiatives deemed appropriate by the Treasury Board.
- Clause 2 The Treasury Board shall approve or deny expenditures made by the Executive Board in excess of one hundred and fifty (150) dollars beyond the Senate approved operating budget.
- Clause 3 The Treasury Board shall operate under a set of written procedures amendable in the process outlined in Article V Section 1 Clause 5.

Section 2 **Composition**

- Clause 1 The Treasury Board shall consist of the Treasurer and eight (8) Directors appointed by the Executive Board, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

- Clause 2 All Directors shall possess full voting rights.
- Clause 3 All undergraduate students shall be eligible to serve on the Treasury Board unless otherwise stated in the Student Government Association Constitution or the Treasury Board Bylaws.
- Clause 4 At least one (1) Director must be a member of the freshman class, at least one (1) Director must be a member of the sophomore class, at least one (1) Director must be a member of the junior class, and at least one (1) Director must be a member of the senior class.
- Clause 5 Class standing shall be defined by the following standard earned credit schedule: freshman 0-29 credits, sophomore 30-59 credits, junior 60-89 credits, senior 90+ credits. All Treasury Board members must have the necessary credits upon the beginning of the fall semester of their term.

Section 3 **Term**

- Clause 1 Directors shall be selected and appointed by the Treasurer-elect with the advice and consent of the President-elect by May 1. The Senate must vote upon the proposed slate of Directors within five (5) calendar days of its submission by the Executive Board.
- Clause 2 The Treasury Board shall serve a one-year term of office from May 1st until April 30th of the following year.

Section 4 **Leadership**

- Clause 1 The Treasurer shall serve as the presiding officer of the Treasury Board.
- Clause 2 The presiding officer may only cast a vote in the event of a tie within the Treasury Board.
- Clause 3 The Treasury Board shall elect a Director to serve as the Treasurer pro tempore. The Treasurer pro tempore shall serve at the pleasure of the Treasury Board for the term of the Treasury Board.
- Clause 4 The Treasurer pro tempore shall serve as the presiding officer in the absence of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE IV
REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 1 **Procedures**

- Clause 1 Should any member of the Student Government Association fail to attend to the duties of the office in which they are serving, as outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution and the Student Government Association Bylaws, the Senate may remove that individual from office.
- Clause 2 A member may only be removed from office after having been given an opportunity to rehabilitate his or her position in the Student Government Association, in accordance with procedures included within the Student Government Association Bylaws.
- Clause 3 Removal from office shall require a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the full Senate.

ARTICLE V
AMENDMENTS

Section 1 **Processes**

- Clause 1 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any member of the Senate.
- Clause 2 All amendment proposals shall be subject to notification one meeting prior to their consideration.
- Clause 3 A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate or petition signed by twenty (20) percent of the undergraduate student body shall place the amendments to a vote by the Student Body to occur within thirty (30) academic days.
- Clause 4 An amendment shall be considered ratified when a majority of those voting approve the amendment. No fewer than ten (10) academic days written notice shall be given to the campus community through University communication.
- Clause 5 Adoption and changes to the Student Government Association Bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the Executive Board for their bylaws, which are subject to the approval by a majority vote in the Senate. The Treasury Board's bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Treasury Board, which is subject to approval of a majority vote in the Senate. The Senate's Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote which is subject to the approval of the President. A three-fourths (3/4) vote is necessary to override a presidential veto.

ARTICLE VI
UNIVERSITY CLAUSES

Section 1 **University Policies**

Clause 1 Student Government abides by all University policies as laid out at <http://policies.cua.edu>.

Section 2 **Non-Hazing**

Clause 1 The Student Government Association will not participate in any activities which could be regarded as hazing. "Hazing" refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

Section 3 **Non-Discrimination**

Clause 1 The Student Government Association fully adheres to the University's non-discrimination policies which can be found at <http://policies.cua.edu/EEO/affirmact.cfm>.

Authorizing Legislation adopted by:
The Student Association General Assembly: October 14, 2014

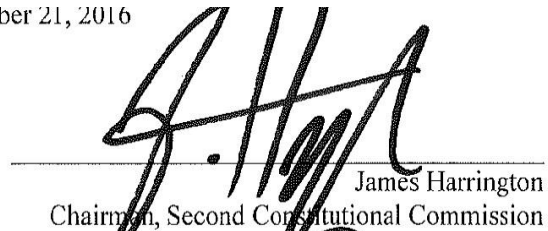
Approved by:
The Constitutional Commission: December 3, 2014

Ratified by:
The Student Body: April 13, 2016

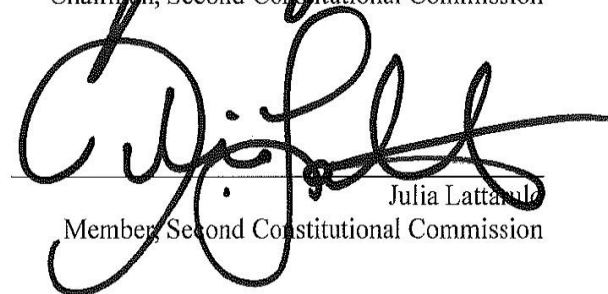


Connor J. Kurtz
Chairman, Constitutional Commission

Amended by:
The Second Constitutional Commission: October 21, 2016



James Harrington
Chairman, Second Constitutional Commission



Julia Lattarulo
Member, Second Constitutional Commission



Elise LaFleur
Member, Second Constitutional Commission

Adopted by:
The Student Government Association Senate: October 24, 2016

Ratified by:
The Student Body: November 16, 2016

Amended by:
The Third Constitutional Commission: February 1, 2018

Weston Kirby
Chairman, Third Constitutional Commission

Matthew Skros
Member, Third Constitutional Commission

Cavan Haggerty
Member, Third Constitutional Commission

Adopted by:
The Student Government Association Senate: February 5, 2018