

# CONSTITUTION OF THE JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## Preamble

We, the students of Jacksonville State University, in order to take a responsible part in the decision making processes of the university at large and in fulfillment of the right to participate in the governance of the University, and in recognition of the responsibilities inherent in such a right, do hereby set forth this Constitution of the Jacksonville State University Student Government Association. Furthermore, let it be known that the right to representation and participation in this government and its activities shall in no way be denied or restricted on the basis of field of study, group affiliation, religion, race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. By the authority granted to us by the Board of Trustees and University President, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the students of Jacksonville State University.

## **Article I Name of Organization**

**Section 1. Establishment of SGA.** This government shall be known as the Jacksonville State University Student Government Association, hereafter referred to as the SGA.

## **Article II Declaration of Purpose**

The purpose of the SGA shall be:

1. To protect and defend the rights and responsibilities of the University to the students and the students to the University.
2. To represent and provide a sound democratic student government, to promote student interests in the decision-making processes of Jacksonville State University, and to foster a spirit of unity among students.
3. To present views and strive towards a better understanding between administration, faculty, and students.
4. To fulfill, to the best of our ability, the wants and needs of the entire student body.
5. To develop, coordinate, and execute activities and services for the benefit of the students.
6. To facilitate due process in an attempt to advance the academic and social standards of the University and awareness of the responsibilities inherent with membership in the University community and provide input for judicial procedures.
7. To provide the students with the means to vote for their representative officials through general elections.
8. To cultivate and maintain leadership among the students.

## **Article III Membership and Benefits**

**Section 1. Establishment of Member.** All registered students at Jacksonville State University are, upon enrollment, members of this organization. All members of this organization shall be subject to rules and regulations established herein and hereafter by this organization.

**Section 2. Establishment of Voting Rights.** Members shall have the right to vote in all elections held by the SGA.

**Section 3. Participation Clause.** Members shall have the right to participate in all activities sponsored by the SGA.

## **Article IV General Organization**

**Section 1. Establishment of Branches.** The SGA shall be composed of three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

## **Article V**

### **The Executive Branch**

**Section 1.** All Executive power shall be vested in the Student Executive Board, which shall consist of the President, the Vice-President of Student Senate, the Vice-President of Student Activities, the Vice-President of Organizational Affairs, and the Vice President of Public Relations.

**Section 2.** The student Executive Board shall also consist of non-voting members, such as the Executive Assistants appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate, and other positions created by the President, with the consent of the Senate and the Dean of Students.

**Section 3.** The Student Executive Board shall carry out the intent of this Constitution, the Code of Laws, and resolutions adopted pursuant thereto.

**Section 4. The SGA President** shall be elected by a majority vote of the student body at a general election under the qualifications as described by statute. The SGA President shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the SGA.
2. To serve as the presiding and managing officer of the Executive Branch.
3. To serve as an ex-officio member of or send a representative to all committees and divisions of the Executive Branch.
4. To recommend students to serve on University, Faculty, and Senate committees.
5. To appoint a Presidential Cabinet for advisement at his/her discretion.
6. To appoint executive assistants to aid in the performance of executive duties as needed.
7. To remove from office, with approval of the Senate, any executive officer which he/she has appointed.
8. To call and chair meetings of the Student Executive Board, Student Body, Student Senate, Student Activities Council, Organizations Council, or Joint Legislative Sessions of any of the aforementioned.
9. To form temporary executive committees when necessary to investigate problems in the executive level.
10. To meet regularly with the University President, Student Affairs staff, and faculty.
11. To maintain an active seat on the Presidents Council of Student Government Presidents across Alabama.
12. To serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Executive Order Number 23 from the Governor of the State of Alabama issued from October 29, 1971.
13. . To review all Student Senate legislation and exercise veto power with the option of signing or vetoing the legislation within 10 business days.
14. To address the Student Senate not less than twice each semester as prescribed by statute.
15. To request interpretation of the Constitution or the Code of Laws by the Student Judiciary Advocate.

**Section 5. The SGA Vice President of Student Senate** shall serve as the president for the Student Senate and shall be elected by a majority of the student body voting at a general election under the qualifications as prescribed by statute. The SGA Vice President of Student Senate shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To recommend for approval, as described by law, officers such as the President Pro-Tempore, Clerk, and Parliamentarian for the Student Senate whose duties are prescribed by statute.
2. To appoint Senators to fill vacancies that may arise during the course of his/her term in office, provided that such appointments are confirmed by a majority approval of the Student Senate.
3. To call and preside over meetings of the Student Senate and to cast a vote only in order to break a tie.
4. To assume responsibility for execution of Senate procedure as outlined by statute.
5. To appoint with approval of the Student Senate, committee heads to each Senate standing committee.
6. To follow up on the intent of the Senate legislation and policy concern by meeting with university officials as deemed necessary.
7. To attend Student Executive Board meetings as called by the President.
8. To perform such duties as the President might request of him/her.
9. To execute the powers and duties of the SGA President in the event that office becomes vacant.
10. To organize a training session yearly for Student Senators and committee heads.

**Section 6. The SGA Vice President of Student Activities** shall serve as President of the Student Activities Council and shall be elected by a majority vote of the student body at a general election under the qualifications prescribed by statute. The SGA Vice President of Student Activities shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To appoint Vice President of Student Activities Council with the majority approval of the Student Senate.
2. To call and preside over the meetings of the Student Activities Council.
3. To organize a training session for the Student Activities chairpersons.
4. To assume responsibility for all student activities sponsored by the SGA.
5. To attend Student Executive Board meetings as called by the President.
6. To assume responsibility for all Student Activities Council procedures.
7. To meet regularly with Student Affairs staff designed to work with the SGA and any other University officials when necessary to coordinate activities.
8. To perform such duties as the SGA President might request of him/her.

**Section 7. The SGA Vice President of Organizational Affairs** shall be elected by a majority vote of the student body at a general election under the qualifications as described by statute. The SGA Vice President of Organizational Affairs shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To maintain accurate records of budget expenditures and to ensure compliance with the approved annual budget.
2. To present a weekly report to the Student Executive Board on the status of Student Government accounts.
3. To present a monthly report to the Senate on the status of Student Government accounts, as prescribed by status.
4. To ensure that all allocations requests are processed in a timely manner.
5. To attend all Student Executive Board meetings as called by the President.
6. To ensure that all allocation regulations are in compliance.
7. To appoint an Organizational Affairs Head with the majority consent of the Student Senate.
8. To maintain an official record of recognized student organizations.
9. To work in accordance with the Dean of Students Office, which is responsible for all relations with University recognized organizations.
10. To assume all responsibility for all procedures of the Organizational Council.
11. To call and preside over the meetings of the Organizational Council.
12. To coordinate and review all bills and resolutions which come from the Organizational Council for Student Senate review.
13. To report all news announcements, events, and advertisements to the Vice President of Public Relations for inclusion on the SGA Calendar.
14. To advise the SGA Vice President of the Student Senate on all matters University recognized organizations.
15. To perform such duties as the SGA President might request of him/her.

**Section 8. The Vice President of Public Relations** shall be elected by a majority vote of the student body at a general election under the qualifications as described by statute. The Vice President of Public Relations shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To coordinate publicity for the SGA.
2. To design all printed materials, place all advertisements, and oversee all publicity for the SGA.
3. To work along with other members of the Executive Board and Student Activities Council Committee Chairpersons to develop publicity campaigns for programs and events.
4. To attend all Student Executive Board meetings as called by the President.
5. To perform such duties as the President might request of him/her.

**Section 9.** No person can serve in the Student Government Association Executive Board more than two consecutive years (2 full academic years) without approval from the Dean and Assistant Dean of Students

## **Article VI Legislative Branch**

**Section 1. Legislative Power.** All legislative power shall be vested in the Student Senate.

**Section 2. Composition of the Student Senate.** The Student Senate shall consist of elected members known as Senators.

**Section 3. Leadership of the Senate.** The Vice President of Student Senate shall be a member of the Senate and shall serve as the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall recommend to the Senate, for approval by majority vote, a Senator to serve as President Pro-Tempore.

**Section 4. Selection of Officers.** The selection of other officers and their duties shall be by statute.

**Section 5. Legislative Procedure.** The Student Senate shall act in accordance with the process established by statute.

**Section 6.** A Presidential veto may be overridden by a two-thirds majority of the Student Senate. The President will have 10 business days to sign or veto the legislation and if no action is taken, the bill will become law.

## **Article VII Judicial Branch**

Section 1. **Composition.** The judicial branch shall be made up of the Student Judiciary Advocate (SJA) and the Student Judiciary Panel (SJP).

Section 2. **Restrictions.** The Student Judiciary Advocate shall not serve in any other SGA elected or appointed office.

Section 3. **Appointment.** The Student Judiciary Advocate shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Student Senate.

Section 4. **Jurisdiction.** The Student Judiciary Panel shall interpret the Jacksonville State University Student Government Association Constitution and Code of Laws when called upon. The SJP shall also serve as the jury for cases, which shall include election interference, malpractice, and other cases that shall be brought before them.

## **Article VIII General Provisions**

**Section 1. Establishment of the Organizational Council.** There shall be a council of student organizations, to be known as the Organizations Council. This council shall include the presidents, or such person as shall be appointed, of every student organization recognized by the Senate. The Council shall have the power to present bills to the Senate and other such powers as granted by statute.

**Section 2. Establishment of Student Activities Council.** There shall be a council of students who volunteer to work and coordinate JSU events, to be known as the Student Activities Council (SAC). The Vice-President of Student Activities (VPSA) shall preside over this council.

**Section 3. Qualifications** Every person, elected or appointed, and every organization under the jurisdiction of this Constitution shall meet and maintain all qualifications as prescribed by statute.

**Section 4. Establishment of Quorum.** Quorum, as defined by statute, must be determined before any action may be taken by any branch or agency of the SGA.

**Section 5. Election Standards.** Elections shall be held in a fair and timely manner as prescribed by statute.

**Section 6. Establishment of orderly meetings.** All meetings shall be conducted with decorum and in accordance with such rules of order as shall be established by statute, insofar as these rules do not conflict with this Constitution.

**Section 7. Establishment of Conduct and Standards.** Any holder of any office created by this Constitution or the Code of Laws may be eligible for impeachment for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance while in office by such method as provided by the Code of Laws.

**Section 8. SGA President Succession.** The SGA President shall be succeeded by the Vice President of Student Senate. If the Vice President of the Student Senate (VPSS) is not able and (or) willing to be SGA President then the Vice President of Student Activities (VPSA) shall proceed as SGA President. In the case that both VPSS and VPSA are not able and (or) willing to be SGA President the Vice President of Organizational Affairs (VPOA) shall proceed as SGA President. In the case that VPSS, VPSA, and the VPOA are not able and (or) willing to be SGA President the Vice President of Public Relations (VPPR) shall proceed as SGA President. In the case that all executive officers are not able and (or) willing to proceed as SGA President then a special election can be called by the Student Senate, with a two thirds constitutional majority vote. The election must take place two weeks from the date the special election was voted on. The special election process must not extend over two weeks.

#### **Section 9. Vice President Succession**

1. The Vice President of the Student Senate shall be succeeded by the Senate Pro-Tempore. If the Senate Pro-Tempore is not able and (or) willing to be VPSS, the SGA President shall appoint a temporary VPSS until a special election is held. Appointments must be confirmed by the Student Senate.

2. The Vice President of the Student Activities shall be succeeded by the Vice President of the Student Activities Council. If the Vice President of the Student Activities Council is not able and (or) willing to be VPSA, the SGA President shall appoint a temporary VPSA until a special election is held. Appointments must be confirmed by the Student Senate.

3. The Vice-President of Organizational Affairs (VPOA) shall be succeeded by the Organizational Council Pro-Tempore. If the Organizational Council Pro-Tempore is not able and (or) willing to serve as the VPOA, the SGA President shall appoint a temporary VPOA until a special election is held. Appointments must be confirmed by the student senate.

4. The Vice President of Public Relations (VPPR) shall be succeeded by the Public Relations Pro Tempore. If the Public Relations Pro Tempore is not able and (or) willing to be VPPR, the SGA President shall appoint a temporary VPPR until a special election is held. Appointments must be confirmed by the Student Senate.

## **Article IX Amending the Constitution**

**Section 1. Submission.** Constitutional Amendments can be submitted only by Student Senators and Executive Board members.

**Section 2. Adoption.** For a constitutional amendment to be adopted, it must:

1. Be approved by a two-thirds vote in the Student Senate.
2. Be approved by two-thirds of a student body vote (following Student Senate Approval).

*Last Amended March 19, 2025 by VPSS Ayanah Scott*