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Constitution 1992-1993

Student Government Association BBC, Florida International University

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CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

ARTICLE I Purpose

- A. The purpose of the Student Government Association (hereafter referred to as SGA) is to serve as a governing body responsible for representing student interests and addressing student needs on matters of University, county, or state concern.
- B. The responsibilities of the SGA are to represent students interests through:
 - 1. Serving on University and campus committees.
 - 2. Identifying and supporting student interests to the administration and faculty at each campus.
 - 3. Working in partnership with the administration and faculty to address student issues at each campus.
 - 4. Allocating Activity and Service fees.

ARTICLE II Composition

- A. The SGA is comprised of two Student Government Councils, one to represent the interests of students at University Park (hereafter referred to as SGC University Park) and one to represent the interests of students at the North Miami Campus and Broward Centers (hereafter referred to as SGC North Miami).
- B. Each SGC shall be comprised of the following:
 - 1. SGC President
 - 2. SGC Vice President
 - 3. Eighteen (18) Representatives as follows:
 - a. One (1) representative for each college or school primarily based at that campus.
 - b. Two graduate student representatives.
 - c. Four (4) lower division representatives.
 - d. On the SGC North Miami, one (1) representative for the Broward Centers.
 - e. All remaining representatives at-large.
- C. The SGA also will be comprised of a University Council to coordinate the activities of the SGCs and to represent the interests of all FIU students on matters of University-wide, county, or state concern.

- D. The University Council will be comprised of:
1. Each SGC President.
 2. Each SGC Vice President.
 3. Each SGC Finance Committee Chairperson.
 4. One representative elected from the SGC at University Park.

ARTICLE III Authority

- A. This SGA is established through the power of the President of the University by direction of the Board of Regents which established the first Student Government Senate in June, 1973.
- B. The SGA is authorized to exist in accordance with the Florida Administrative Code, 1984, 6C-6.11 (1); 6C-6.12 (1) (a); 6C-6.12 (1) (b); and 6C-6.12 (1) (c).
- C. Unless specifically addressed within the Constitution or Bylaws of the Student Government Association, issues of parliamentary procedure will defer to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order as the parliamentary authority.

ARTICLE IV Officers of the SGC

- A. The officers of each SGC will be the President and Vice President.
- B. Qualifications of the SGC President:
1. Must be a student of Florida International University and attending at least 50 percent of classes at the campus he/she represents to run for and hold office.
 2. May not be under any academic or disciplinary sanction as detailed in the Student Rights and Responsibilities document to run for and hold office.
 3. Must maintain no less than a 2.50 cumulative grade point average to run for and hold office.
 4. Must have held an elected or appointed leadership position with the SGC for at least one year prior to election, commencing with the 1993 General Election.
 5. Must be of at least sophomore standing to run for and hold office.
 6. Must maintain a minimum of nine (9) credit hours for each semester in office, excluding summer semester.
- C. Duties of the SGC President shall be to:
1. Preside over the SGC meetings and make all necessary arrangements for those meetings, including setting the agenda and conducting the business of the meeting in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of

- Order and all provisions of the SGA Constitution and Bylaws. He/she will vote only in case of a tie.
2. Represent the interests of the SGC to the administration and faculty of his/her campus.
 3. Fulfill all duties and responsibilities of the SGC President in regard to the SGA University Council.
 4. Serve on and/or nominate and/or appoint individual students to campus governing bodies and recommend names for appointment to University committees.
 5. Have the power to convene special campus SGC meetings, provided there is at least 48 hours notice of such meetings.
 6. Appoint assistants as needed, subject to majority approval of the SGC members in attendance at a regular meeting.
 7. Authorize any disbursement of SGC funds in the absence of the Finance Committee Chairperson.
 8. Set and maintain a minimum of ten (10) weekly office hours.
 9. Fulfill all duties and responsibilities as detailed by the SGA Constitution and Bylaws or as delegated by the SGC.
- D. Qualifications of the SGC Vice President:
1. Must be a student of Florida International University and attending at least 50 percent of classes at the campus he/she represents to run for and hold office.
 2. May not be under any academic or disciplinary sanctions as detailed in the Student Rights and Responsibility document to run for and hold office.
 3. Must maintain no less than a 2.50 cumulative grade point average to run for and hold office.
 4. Must be of at least sophomore standing to run for and hold office.
 5. Must maintain a minimum of nine (9) credit hour for each semester in office, excluding summer semester.
- E. Duties of the SGC Vice President shall be to:
1. Fulfill all SGC presidential responsibilities for that campus in the absence of the President as detailed in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.
 2. Fulfill all duties and responsibilities of the SGC Vice President in regard to the SGA University Council.
 3. Set and maintain a minimum of eight (8) weekly office hours.
 4. Fulfill all duties and responsibilities of the SGC Vice-President as detailed by the SGA Constitution and Bylaws or as delegated by the SGC.
- F. No officer, appointed or elected, shall have any authority not specified in this document, the Bylaws of the SGC, or as may be granted to him or her by majority vote of the SGC.

ARTICLE V
Representatives

- A. Qualifications of Representatives:
1. Must be a student of Florida International University and attending no less than 50 percent of his/her classes at the campus he/she represents to run for and hold office.
 2. Representatives of specific schools, colleges, or class levels must be accepted students of that school, college, or class level as defined in the Bylaws. Graduate students shall be eligible to run only for graduate or at-large representative seats.
 3. May not be under any academic or disciplinary sanctions as detailed in the Student Rights and Responsibilities document to run for or hold office.
 4. Must maintain no less than a 2.0 cumulative grade point average to run for and hold their position on SGC.
 5. Must maintain a minimum of nine (9) undergraduate credit hours or three (3) graduate credit hours for each semester in office, excluding summer semester.
- B. Duties of SGC Representatives shall be to:
1. Attend regularly scheduled and special meetings of the SGC.
 2. Serve on one (1) SGC committee.
 3. Serve on one (1) campus or University committee, community committee, or special project.
 4. Faithfully represent the needs and interests of the students they represent to the SGC.
 5. Fulfill all special assignments as delegated by the SGC.

ARTICLE VI
Elections and Referenda

- A. SGA annual elections will be held for two (2) days of the second week following Spring Break (usually the third week of March). The SGC elections at University Park will not be held the same days as the SGC elections at the North Miami Campus.
- B. The annual elections will be held for the offices of SGC President, Vice President, and all SGC representatives on each campus. The President, Vice President and all at-large positions will be elected campus-wide. Positions for specific schools, colleges, lower division and graduate seats, and the Broward campus will be elected by the student membership of that school, college, division or campus.
- C. Unless otherwise specified, all elections shall be decided by simple majority of those voting.

- D. Campaigning for election to SGC will begin on each campus the week following spring break (usually the second week of March).
- E. All SGC positions are elected for one year, with the terms beginning the first day of summer semester and ending the last day prior to the following summer semester.
- F. A vote on Constitutional amendments and referenda may also be conducted during the annual election. Campus-specific amendments and referenda on any issue may be called with approval by two-thirds vote of SGC representatives present at a meeting at which there is a quorum. Amendments and referenda pertaining to University-wide issues may be called by either SGC and require approval by two-thirds vote of the University Council at a meeting at which there is a quorum or may be called through petition of five (5) percent of the total student population of the University.
- G. All provisions of this article will commence with the 1993 general election.
- H. The officers and representatives elected in the 1992 special election will serve until the last day prior to the 1993 Summer Semester in accordance with the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII Powers

Each SGC of the Student Government Association shall have the power to conduct the following business during official meetings at which there is a quorum:

- A. Determine positions and elect individuals as necessary to conduct the business of the SGC, and arrange its meetings provided there is a regular meeting with fixed time and place at least twice monthly.
- B. Call for a special election or referendum with two-thirds vote of the SGC representatives in attendance at the meeting.
- C. By two-thirds vote of those present, the SGC may recommend the establishment or dissolution of Standing Committees be submitted to a vote of the student body at the next campus wide election.
- D. Establish ad hoc committees with a simple majority vote of the SGC representatives at the meeting.
- E. Allocate Activity and Service Fees that have been designated for the campus and monitor the use of those funds through the

Finance Committee.

- F. Pass motions and resolutions to conduct the business of the SGC with the required vote of the SGC representatives.
- G. May remove any member of the SGC from office by a two-thirds vote of the entire SGC. In the event that the Chair of the meeting is the subject of the removal proceedings, the SGC will elect an acting chair who will preside over the meeting.
- H. Carry out other such responsibilities and duties as are consistent with the purposes of SGA and conform to State laws and University policies.

**ARTICLE VIII
University Council**

- A. It is the responsibility of the University Council to represent student interests and address student needs on matters of University-wide, county, or state concern. The University Council also serves to aid in the coordination and support of the activities of each SGC. Issues may be brought before the Council by recommendation of the SGC of either campus or the University Council itself.
- B. The University Council shall meet monthly or more frequently as needed on a rotating basis between University Park and the North Miami Campus. The SGC President at his/her respective campus shall make all necessary arrangements for the meeting, set the agenda, and chair the meeting.
- C. The University Council, through majority vote of the members in attendance at a meeting at which there is quorum, can conduct the business of the University Council. The University Council does not have the power to override any vote, recommendation, or decision made by either SGC on matters that pertain to their respective campus. The University Council may make recommendations to the administration and faculty on behalf of the entire student body, and when necessary, call for and conduct a University-wide referendum.
- D. The University Council shall make necessary appointments or create ad hoc committees it deems necessary to carry out the business of the University Council.
- E. The University Council shall not create any standing committees, but shall itself serve as a Finance Committee to determine fixed expenses of SGA and make initial allocations of Activity and Service fees to each SGC based on current FTE percentages.

- F. The University Council shall choose the official representatives involving both SGCs to lobby on behalf of student needs and interests with state and local government organizations.

**ARTICLE IX
Removal from SGC**

The basis for removal of a SGC member shall be malfeasance, misfeasance, and/or non-feasance.

**ARTICLE X
Vacancies and Succession**

- A. If the office of the SGC President becomes vacant, the order of succession shall be as follows:
1. The SGC Vice President.
 2. A person elected by a temporary election by a vote of two-thirds of the SGC members present at a meeting at which there is quorum, until a pre-scheduled mid-year special election or regular annual election, whichever comes first.
- B. When a vacancy occurs in the SGC Vice President position or SGC representative seat, the position shall be temporarily filled through a process of nominations and selection through a majority vote of the SGC representatives present and voting at a meeting at which there is a quorum, until a pre-scheduled mid-year special election or regular annual election, whichever comes first. Nominees must be qualify for that vacancy which they intend to fill.

**ARTICLE XI
Amendments**

No provision of the SGA Constitution may be waived. Such provisions may only be added, deleted or altered through the following amendment process:

- A. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by either a petition of five (5) percent of the total student population or by a two-thirds vote of the University Council members present at a meeting at which there is a quorum.
- B. A simple majority of the student body voting in a University-wide general or special election is sufficient for ratification of an amendment to the SGA Constitution.

**ARTICLE XII
Bylaws**

- A. Each SGC shall maintain a set of campus-specific Bylaws which

may be amended only by a majority vote of that entire SGC.

- B. No provision of the SGC Bylaws may be waived. Such provisions may only be added, deleted, or altered through the amendment process.

ARTICLE XIII Remuneration

All members of each SGC shall be entitled to compensation as follows:

- A. SGC Presidents shall receive annually an amount equal to three hundred percent (300%) of forty-five (45) undergraduate credit hours of tuition to be paid at the mid-point and end of each semester for a total of six (6) equal payments.
- B. SGC Vice-Presidents and Finance Committee Chairpersons shall receive annually an amount equal to two hundred percent (200%) of forty-five (45) undergraduate credit hours of tuition to be paid at the mid-point and end of each semester for a total of six (6) equal payments.
- C. Other SGC Standing Committee Chairpersons shall receive annually an amount equal to one hundred-fifty percent (150%) of forty-five (45) credit hours of tuition to be paid at the mid-point and end of each semester for a total of six (6) equal payments.
- D. Other SGC Representatives shall receive annually an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of forty-five (45) undergraduate credit hours of tuition to be paid at the mid-point and end of each semester for a total of six (6) equal payments.
- E. Other appointed or elected positions of each SGC, including such positions as State Lobbyist, Elections Commissioner, Parliamentarian, and Secretary; but not to exceed five (5) positions, shall receive annually an amount equal to a SGC Representative.
- F. Members or appointed individuals of each SGC holding more than one (1) position shall receive remuneration for only one (1) position, whichever is highest.

ARTICLE XIV Dissolution

This Constitution will be dissolved upon the full ratification of a new Student Government Constitution.

ARTICLE XV
Ratification

Ratification of this Constitution or any other Constitution replacing this document shall be achieved through a two-thirds affirmative vote of the University Council members present and voting at a meeting at which there is a quorum, a simple majority vote of the student body voting in a University-wide election, and the approval of the President of Florida International University.

