Constitution  
Student Government Association  
Gordon State College

Preamble
We, the students of Gordon State College, in order to serve as a medium for student expression, to advocate for student concerns, to nurture a vibrant campus life, to promote engaged citizenship, to partner with the on and off campus communities, to uphold the student code of conduct, and to serve Gordon State College, and in recognition of the need to define formally the role of Student Government Association as a part of Gordon State College, do hereby establish this constitution for the Student Government Association of Gordon State College.

Article I: Purpose

Section A. Objectives
1. The Student Government Association, based on the authority granted by the College administration, shall strive to:
   a. Facilitate communication between the students of Gordon State College and the college administration, staff, and faculty.
   b. Promote student government through:
      • Sharing of ideas and information.
      • Assisting College officials through delegated authority.
      • Nurturing a vibrant co-curricular campus experience, implementing student life programs.
      • Promoting student involvement among the student body and Student Government Association of Gordon State College.
   c. Promote and serve as official agent of the student body of Gordon State College in the presentation of their opinion on matters affecting student welfare and the GSC college student experience.
   d. Promote student integrity and ethics by the enforcement of the College’s Student Code of Conduct.
Section B. Authority and Powers

1. The Student Government Association derives its authority from the Administration of Gordon State College, including but not limited to, the President of the College and Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs.

2. The Student Government Association is subject to the policies and procedures of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and of Gordon State College and the student body thereof.

Section C. Purpose

1. To provide a conduit for student concerns to the administration, faculty, and college committees through proposals and recommendations.

2. To serve as the central governing body for all registered student organizations.

3. To make recommendations to the Dean of Students, with review by the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs and final approval by the College President, on the allocation of Student Activity Fee Funds.

4. To make recommendations to the Dean of Students on the chartering of all student organizations seeking official recognition on campus.

5. To create, monitor, and enforce rules regulating Student Government Association elections.

Article II: Structure

Section A. Membership

Each student may become an active participant of Student Government Association upon enrollment and have a voice in all student elections.

Section B. Student Government Structure

1. Student Government shall consist of the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch.

2. The Dean of Students, with assistance from the Director of Student Life and Recreation, will serve as the Advisor to the Student Government Association.
Sub-section I. Executive Branch

The Executive Branch shall make up the Executive Board which shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Chief Justice.

1. The duties of the President shall be:

   a. To preside over meetings of the Student Government Association.
   b. To chair the Executive Branch.
   c. To represent the Student Body at meetings of the University System of Georgia--Student Advisory Council.
   d. To serve as an ex-officio member of all committees of the Student Government Association.
   e. To appoint students to fill any vacated Senate position(s) after a review by the Senate and with a majority approval vote of the Executive Branch. These appointment(s) will remain in effect until the next scheduled election. The appointee(s) must meet the qualifications set forth in the SGA constitution.
   f. To approve or veto any resolution passed by the Senate. Any vetoed resolution may be over ridden by a 3/4 (three-fourths) majority of the Senate membership. The President shall also have the authority to authenticate by signature all acts, orders, and proceedings of the Senate when necessary.
   g. To appoint committee chairpersons after consultation with the Executive Branch.
   h. To call special meetings of Student Government Association at such times that she or he deems necessary.
   i. To establish ad-hoc committees throughout the year as needed to complete the work of the Student Government Association.
   j. To appoint student members of committees listed in the Faculty Senate Bylaws and other campus committees.
   k. To co-chair the Student Activity Budget Allocation Committee (SABAC) with the Director of Student Life and Recreation.

2. The duties of the Vice-President shall be:

   a. To perform the duties of the President in the event that the President cannot serve.
   b. To serve as a delegate to the Student Advisory Council to the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents in the absence of the President.
   c. To preside over the Senate and have the authority to vote in circumstances where the Senate be equally divided among themselves.

Succession

In the event of a Vice President succeeding to fill the Office of President, a member of the Senate shall be elected by a simple majority of the Student Government Legislative Branch, to fill the vacated Office of Vice President.
3. The duties of the Secretary/Treasurer shall be:
   
a. To keep record of minutes and attendance at meetings.
b. To publicize meetings and events through media channels of Gordon State College.
c. To submit meeting minutes to the Executive Board and Advisor within two days after each meeting. Once minutes are reviewed, the Secretary/Treasurer shall post the minutes to the SGA website.
d. To preserve and keep available to the Student Government Council all minutes, by-laws, attendance records and other documents of the Student Government Association.
e. To serve as Vice-Chair of the Student Activity Budget Allocation Committee (SABAC).
f. To maintain all budget records of the Student Government Association including the preparation of the annual budget.
g. To hold budget trainings for all registered student organizations which receive student activity fee funds in collaboration with the Office of Student Life and Recreation.

Succession
In the event of a vacancy in the office of Secretary/Treasurer, a member of the Senate shall be elected by a simple majority of the Student Government Association to fill the vacated position.

3. The duties of the Chief Justice shall be:
   
a. To chair the Student Judicial Board.
b. To work closely with the Dean of Students on the selection, training, and oversight of the SJB.

   i. To serve as Chief Justice, a student must serve for at least one semester as a member of the Student Judicial Board (SJB).

Sub Section II. Legislative Branch
The Legislative Branch shall consists of 12 Senators and be presided over by the Vice President. Senators shall represent the three academic schools and the residential and commuter student communities. Senators shall serve as an advocate and voice for each of their respective constituents.

1. Senators shall represent:

   a. 3 Senators-School of Arts and Sciences
   b. 3 Senators-School of Education
   c. 3 Senators-School Nursing, Natural and Health Sciences
   d. 1 Senator-Residential Student
   e. 1 Senator-Commuter Student
   f. 1 Senator-McDonough Campus

2. Senators shall chair SGA standing and ad-hoc committees as appointed by the SGA President.
Sub-Section III. Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch shall consist of five student justices in addition to the Chief Justice of the Student Government Association.

1. The Judicial Branch shall be administratively connected to the Dean of Students Office.

2. Judicial members are appointed, not elected. To serve as a Justice, students submit an application to the Dean of Students Office. The application will be reviewed by the Dean of Students and Chief Justice. Students will go through an interview process before placed for service.

3. In addition to routine SGA meetings and responsibilities, all Judicial Branch members must attend trainings and meetings held by the Dean of Student’s Office.

Sub-Section IV. Standing Committees

There shall be five Student Government Association Standing Committees. All committees, standing or ad hoc, shall meet regularly and the Committee Chairs shall report at each regularly scheduled SGA meeting.

1. Student Activity Fee Budget Allocation Committee—Chaired by the SGA President with the SGA Secretary/Treasurer serving as Vice-Chair, this committee shall oversee the allocation of student activity fee funds to registered student organizations and other student-focused student life programs and offices.

   a. Voting members shall include at least four students (including Chair and Vice-Chair) and one faculty/staff member.
   b. The SGA President/Chair shall appointment student members which may be Senators. The Dean of Students shall appoint the faculty/staff member.
   c. The Chair shall only vote in cases of a tie.

2. Registered Student Organization Presidents’ Committee—Chaired by a senator appointed by the SGA President in consultation with the Vice President, this committee of all charted student organization presidents shall regularly meet to discuss matters which effect the student organization experience. Student organization presidents may appoint an organization member to serve on this committee in her or his place.

3. Academic Life Committee—Chaired by a senator appointed by the SGA President in consultation with the Vice President, this committee of interested GSC students (no more than six students) shall regularly meet to discuss issues regarding the GSC academic experience.

4. Student Life Committee—Chaired by a senator appointed by the SGA President in consultation with the Vice President, this committee of interested GSC students (no more than six students) shall regularly meet to discuss issues regarding the GSC outside the classroom experience.
5. Nominations and Elections Committee—Chaired by the SGA Chief Justice, this committee of no more than four senators, appointed by the SGA President in consultation with the Vice President, will work directly with the Director of Student Life and Recreation on the Student Government Association nominations and elections processes.

a. The Chief Justice shall officially certify all election results.

Article III: Meetings

Section A. Time and Location

The Student Government Association shall meet at least bi-monthly during fall and spring semesters at a time and place to be determined by the Student Government Executive Branch. Additional meetings may be called if deemed necessary by the Executive Branch and/or the Advisor.

Section B. Announcement of Meetings

All meetings must be announced to the student body at least three days in advance (except in extenuating circumstances).

Section C. Attendance

All elected and appointed members of the SGA should attend all meetings. Meetings are open to all students, unless otherwise posted and pursuant to applicable law, but only elected and appointed members have voting privileges. The attendance policy shall be as follows: three (3) unexcused absences shall be grounds for impeachment proceedings against the violating member. In addition, two (2) tardies shall equal one (1) absence. If absent, you must provide documentation before the next scheduled meeting explaining why the meeting was missed.

Section D. Quorum

Quorum shall be defined as a simple majority of the three branches.
Section E. Voting

On matters brought before the SGA that require a vote, all elected and appointed members have one vote. For any matter to pass, it must receive a simple majority vote of members present. The President only votes in case of a tie. Voting will follow the process as outlined in Robert’s Rules of Order.

Article IV: Elections and Requirements to Remain in Office

Section A. Elections and Requirements

1. All elected SGA members shall be determined by campus-wide election held no earlier than March 15 and no later than April 15 of each year. All currently enrolled students are eligible to vote.

2. Candidates for all elected offices must meet the following criteria:
   a. Must not be on disciplinary or academic probation.
   b. Must be enrolled in a minimum of eight (8) hours in the semester of election.
   c. To run for Senate, a student must have completed at least one semester of college at GSC.
   d. To run for Executive Branch, a student must have completed at least two semesters of college at GSC.
   e. To run for Chief Justice, a student must have served as a Student Justice for at least one semester.
   f. Must have a 2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA) at the time of application.

3. All students interested in running for elected office must submit a written declaration of intent to run to the Office of Student Life and Recreation.

4. After election, students must attend all Student Government meetings and any official Committee meetings involving their positions.

5. After election, students must work office hours as determined by the SGA President, in consultation with the Executive Branch and Director of Student Life and Recreation.
Section B. Term of Service

1. Elected and appointed students shall serve in their official capacities from the first meeting of the Student Government Association following their designated election in the spring until the election the following spring. Exceptions to this term are in cases of removal from office.

2. Student Judicial Board members shall be exempt from the elections process and be selected by the Chief Justice and Dean of Students.

Section C. Election Process

1. The SGA and Office of Student Life and Recreation shall publicize elections, encourage participation, and certify all candidates for elections based on Article IV. Section A.2.

2. The Office of Student Life and Recreation shall prepare ballots, compile voter lists, and submit ballots to student body.

3. The Director of Student Life and Recreation Activities shall post election results within 48 hours of the elections.

Article V: Impeachment

Section A. Grounds for Impeachment

Elected and selected members are subject to removal from office by impeachment if he or she fails to serve in the best interest of the represented student body and/or fails to accept all responsibilities of the office such as attending meetings and complying with rules and regulations of the college.

Section B. Proceedings

1. As the presiding officer of the Senate, the Vice President of the Student Government Association shall preside over all impeachment proceedings except in impeachment proceedings against the Vice President. A Senator, appointed by the President in consultation with the Advisor, shall preside over impeachment proceedings against the Vice President.

2. Any elected or selected member of the Student Government is subject to impeachment.
3. Any elected or selected member of the Student Government Association may bring impeachment charges against another member and must support the charges during impeachment proceedings.

4. A three-fourths (3/4) majority of all elected and selected members of the SGA must be present for impeachment proceedings, and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present is necessary for impeachment.

Section C. Censure

1. If the Senate wishes to express its disapproval of any action of any member of the Student Government Association, it may pass a motion to censure. Censure is defined as an official expression of criticism and/or disapproval.

2. A motion to censure requires a majority of all members present to pass.

Section D. Vote of Confidence

1. If the Senate membership deems any member unable or unwilling to carry out the duties of their office set forth by this constitution, it may seek a Vote of No Confidence.

2. A Vote of No Confidence requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote, which if failed, indicates the membership has no confidence in the member in question.

Article VI: Amendments and Ratification

Section A. Process for Amendments to the Constitution

Any amendments to this constitution must be presented to the Student Government Association President. He or she will review and then present to the entire SGA for review within one week. After a through discussion, SGA will vote with the amendment passing after receiving at least two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by all elected and appointed members. The amendment must be reviewed by the Dean of Students before adoption.

Section B. Ratification

This Constitution shall be ratified upon two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate and approval by the Dean of Students. It shall be the official document regulating activities of the Student Government Association of the college and shall become effective immediately upon ratification.
Article VII: Warranties

Pursuant to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, this constitution warrants that the Student Government Association does not advocate the overthrow of the government by force or other unlawful means, and that its purpose and activities are lawful. Additionally, the Student Government Association does not discriminate in membership practices based on sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity. Finally, the Student Government Association agrees to abide by the College’s Policy on Hazing.

*Ratified November 18, 2019*