

# The University of Vermont Student Government Association Constitution

## **Preamble**

WE, the students of the University of Vermont Student Government Association, in order to establish the official representative voice of the undergraduate student body: to realize student power, to have a major role in the decision-making process at the University, and to promote the welfare of the academic, cultural, and social aspects of the University of Vermont Community, and, with the authority recognized and vested by the Board of Trustees and by this Constitution, we do hereby establish an association of governance.

The University of Vermont Student Government Association aspires to be a member of The University of Vermont community that values the pillars of *Our Common Ground*: Respect, Integrity, Innovation, Openness, Justice, and Responsibility.

This association or any part thereof shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, sex, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, veteran status, age, economic or social class, major, or minor.

## **Article I**

### **General Provisions**

#### **Section A: Names, Abbreviations, and Definitions**

1. The name of this organization shall be The University of Vermont Student Government Association.
  - a. Herein The University of Vermont Student Government Association shall be referred to as the SGA.
2. For the purposes of this document the University of Vermont will herein be referred to as UVM.

**3.** For the purposes of this document the University of Vermont Student Government Association shall be defined as both the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch.

**4.** For the purposes of this document the University of Vermont Student Government Association Senate shall be defined as the Legislative Branch only.

**a.** Herein the University of Vermont Student Government Association Senate shall be referred to as the Senate.

## **Section B: Definition of Membership**

**1.** All undergraduate degree students of UVM, paying the Student Government Association Fee, are members of the student body.

**2.** Any undergraduate non-degree students may join the student body through compliance with Section B, Subsection 1 of this Article.

**3.** Any person who is a member of the student body is eligible to hold any position within the SGA.

# **Article II**

## **Scope**

### **Section A: Precedence**

**1.** This Constitution and its Operational Documents shall take precedence over all other instruments for the governance of the SGA or any part thereof.

# **Article III**

## **Executive Branch**

### **Section A: General Guidelines**

**1.** The Executive Branch will be made up of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

2. Each member of the Executive Branch shall be a member of the student body.
3. Each member of the Executive Branch shall be a full time matriculated student at the time of elections and for each semester while holding office.
4. Each member of the Executive Branch shall hold office hours, in accordance with the Davis Center Office Lease and make those hours known to the public.
5. No Executive Branch member may introduce legislation, and are ex-officio non-voting members of the Senate.
6. Each member of the Executive Branch shall uphold this Constitution and the Operational Documents.
7. Each member of the Executive Branch shall be responsible for attending the SGA retreat, one per semester, in which attendance of all SGA members is required.
8. Members of the Executive Branch shall be responsible for training the successor of their position.
9. Each member of the Executive Branch shall receive a weekly stipend, pending the fulfillment of constitutional obligations; the amount will be determined by the previous year's budget and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Senators present and voting.
10. Each member of the Executive Branch shall act in accordance with UVM policies, local, state and federal laws at all SGA events.

## **Section B: The President**

1. Shall be elected by the student body, for the summer, fall, and spring semesters, and shall remain in good academic standing for each semester while holding office.
2. Shall take the Oath of Office for the President of the Student Government Association, at the last meeting of the previous term, administered by the outgoing President.
3. Shall be the chief representative of the student body and the SGA, to UVM, the UVM Administration, and to any other persons or groups deemed necessary.
4. Shall attend all SGA Meetings.
5. Shall be responsible for attending meetings in which student contribution is needed, unless it is deemed appropriate by the President for another member(s) of the SGA to attend.

6. Shall delegate tasks, when necessary, to the various committees and elected as well as appointed student representatives.
7. Shall work jointly with the Vice President in establishing the Senate by assigning elected and appointed representatives to the appropriate committee(s).
8. Shall nominate the Treasurer and Speaker of the Senate at the second meeting of the new term.
9. Shall be responsible for authorizing the creation of any and all SGA ad hoc committees.
10. Shall be responsible for a weekly report to the Senate on the activities of the President.
11. Shall be responsible for conveying information and reporting information to the student body related to student activity, UVM Policy, and other campus initiatives.
12. Shall report to the UVM Administration and any other persons the concerns, interests, and happenings of the student body.
13. Shall work closely with UVM Administration on matters pertaining to the student body, including, but not limited to, UVM policies that may affect students.
14. Shall work with the Senate's Public Relations Committee to establish an uninterrupted means of communication with the student body.
15. Shall be Chair of the Executive Committee and shall be responsible for conveying to the Senate the actions of the Executive Committee.
16. May veto any action by the Senate within accordance with Article X of this Constitution.
17. Shall jointly with the Vice President oversee the staff of the SGA, including, but not limited to, compensation, work hours, and SGA related duties.
18. Shall stay in contact and meet regularly with the SGA Advisor.

### **Section C: The Vice President**

1. Shall be elected by the student body, for the summer, fall, and spring semesters, and shall remain in good academic standing for each semester while holding office.
2. Shall take the Oath of Office for the Vice President of the Student Government Association, at the last meeting of the previous term, administered by the outgoing Vice President.
3. Shall serve as Acting President and fulfill the duties of the President in the case the President is absent, resigns or is removed.

4. Shall attend all SGA Meetings.
5. Shall work together with the President in establishing the Senate by assigning elected and appointed representatives to the appropriate committee(s).
6. Shall select a member of the student body to be the Minutes Taker for the SGA Meetings.
7. Shall be the Chair of the Appointments Committee, and is held responsible for the creation and adoption of the SGA Appointment Process.
8. Shall be responsible for any and all final changes to the SGA Appointment Application.
9. Shall be responsible for recruiting, appointing, and training when necessary, students to any on-campus and UVM-related organizations requesting student representation, and to maintain consistent contact with these representatives and the respective committee chairs.
10. Shall be responsible for a weekly report to the Senate on the activities of the Vice President.
11. Shall be responsible for training newly elected and appointed Senators.
12. Shall be responsible for organizing a retreat for the SGA, one per semester, in which attendance of all SGA members is required.
13. Shall act as the Operations Manager of the SGA and work with the SGA Office Manager to manage office operations, including, but not limited to: the knowledge of keys and passwords and SGA Galaxy Space.
14. Shall jointly with the President oversee the staff of the SGA, including, but not limited to, compensation, work hours, and SGA related duties.
15. Shall be a member of the Executive Committee.
16. Shall stay in contact, and meet regularly with, the SGA Advisor.

#### **Section D: The Treasurer**

1. Shall be nominated by the President, Vice President, or a Senator, at the second meeting of the newly elected senate
  - a. No self-nominations may be made.
2. The Senate shall approve the nomination of the Treasurer by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

3. Any persons who are nominated for the position of Treasurer shall not be allowed to vote on the approval of the Treasurer.
4. Shall be appointed for the summer, fall, and spring semesters, and shall remain in good academic standing for each semester while holding office
5. Shall take the Oath of Office for the Treasurer of the Student Government Association, upon approval by the Senate, administered by the outgoing Treasurer.
6. Shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the SGA, which shall include an annual review of the SGA Financial Policies and Procedures Manual.
7. Shall work in coordination with the office coordinator and accounting specialist.
8. Shall supervise the SGA's financial structure, planning, and operations.
9. Shall attend at least one SGA Meeting a month, or as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
10. Shall be responsible for presenting a monthly report on the activities of the Treasurer to the Senate, or as deemed necessary.
11. Shall prepare in cooperation with the President, Vice President, and Finance Committee the central budget of the SGA organizations.
12. Shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Finance Committee.
13. Shall be a member of the Executive Committee.
14. Shall stay in contact with, and meet regularly with, the SGA Advisor.

## **Article IV**

### **The Senate**

#### **Section A: General Guidelines**

1. The legislative power of the SGA shall be vested in the Senate.
2. Each member of the Senate shall be a member of the student body.

3. Each member of the Senate shall be a full time matriculated student at the time of elections/appointment and for each semester while holding office.
4. Each member of the Senate shall be elected for the summer, fall and spring semesters and shall remain in good academic standing for each semester while holding office.
  - a. If appointed, shall serve until the Senate-Elect takes the Oath of Office for the Senators of the Student Government Association.
5. Shall serve until the Senate-Elect takes the Oath of Office for the Senators of the Student Government Association.
  - a. This excludes the Speaker of the Senate who remains in position until the Senate approves the next Speaker of the Senate.
6. Any member of the student body running for a Senate position must have at least one full semester left at UVM.
7. Each member of the Senate shall uphold this Constitution and the Operational Documents.
8. Each member of the Senate shall serve on only one Standing Committee at a time.
9. Each member of the Senate shall be responsible for attending the SGA retreat, one per semester, in which attendance is required.
10. Each member of the Senate shall attend all SGA Meetings in accordance with the Attendance Policy of the Speaker of the Senate.
11. Each member of the Senate shall hold office hours, in accordance with the Davis Center Student Office Lease and make these hours known to the public.
12. Each member of the Senate shall act in accordance with UVM policies, local, state and federal laws at all SGA events.

### **Section B: The Speaker of the Senate**

1. The Speaker of the Senate of the previous term shall continue to serve until the Senate has approved a new Speaker of the Senate.
2. Shall be an elected or appointed Senator.
3. Shall be nominated by the President, Vice President or a Senator, at the second meeting of the newly elected senate.

- a.** No self-nominations may be made.
- 4.** The Senate shall approve the nomination of the Speaker of the Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- 5.** Any persons who are nominated for the position of Speaker of the Senate shall not be allowed to vote on the approval of the Speaker of the Senate.
- 6.** Shall take the Oath of Office for the Speaker of the Senate of the Student Government Association, upon approval by the Senate, administered by the outgoing Speaker of the Senate.
- 7.** Shall interpret this Constitution and Operational Documents and seek the consultation of the Constitution Committee when necessary.
- 8.** Shall be responsible for creating their version of Parliamentary Procedure in accordance with the most recent version of *Robert's Rules of Order*.
  - a.** The Speaker of the Senate's version of Parliamentary Procedure shall also be known as the Speaker's Rules of Order.
  - b.** The Speaker of the Senate's version of Parliamentary Procedure shall be presented to the SGA at the first meeting of the fall semester.
- 9.** Shall be responsible for calling two meetings of the newly elected Senate before the close of the spring semester.
- 10.** Shall moderate and facilitate SGA Meetings upon consultation with the Executive Committee and in accordance with their version of Parliamentary Procedure.
- 11.** Shall conduct SGA Meetings in an objective manner.
- 12.** Shall not be allowed to vote on any legislation or business unless in the event of a tie.
  - a.** The power of the tiebreaking vote lies solely with the Speaker of the Senate.
- 13.** Shall be responsible for creating an attendance policy upon consultation with the Executive Committee and shall be responsible for recording the attendance of the SGA.
- 14.** Shall provide the SGA with a meeting agenda at least two (2) days prior to each SGA Meeting.
  - a.** The agenda shall be done in accordance with the Agenda Template.
- 15.** Shall be required to temporarily resign their duties as Speaker of the Senate to the Vice President if they wish to present their personal views during a SGA Meeting.

**16.** Shall send the upcoming legislation of the next SGA Meeting out to the SGA.

**a.** Will make their means and schedule of doing so known in their version of Parliamentary Procedure.

**17.** Shall be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate parties sign all passed legislation within forty-eight (48) hours of passing the legislation.

**18.** Shall make any and all legislation considered by the Senate public to the members of the student body.

**19.** Shall be a member of the Executive Committee.

**20.** Shall be the Chair of the Constitution Committee.

**21.** Shall receive a weekly stipend, pending the fulfillment of constitutional obligations. The amount will be determined by the previous year's budget and be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

### **Section C: Standing Committee Chairs**

**1.** Shall be an elected or appointed Senator.

**2.** Shall be appointed by the President and Vice President, at the second meeting of the newly elected senate.

**a.** In the event in which a chair resigns and/or is removed the President and Vice President shall appoint an Acting Chair, until a new chair is appointed.

**3.** Shall take the Oath of Office for the Standing Committee Chairs of the Student Government Association, upon appointment, administered by the Speaker of the Senate.

**4.** Shall be responsible for setting an agenda of goals for their respective committee.

**5.** Shall be responsible for ensuring that any and all resolutions and bills pertinent to the respective committee are signed and followed through.

**6.** Shall be responsible for holding at least one committee meeting a week.

**a.** In order to have a committee meeting, there must be quorum of the committee, in accordance with Article VII of this Constitution.

**7.** Shall be responsible for recording the attendance of committee members at committee meetings and reporting it to the Speaker of the Senate.

8. Shall delegate tasks to each committee member and ensure that tasks are completed.
9. Shall be responsible for giving a weekly report of the committee's activities to the SGA.
10. Shall appoint a member of their committee to be a member of the Constitution Committee.
11. Shall be responsible for meeting with the President and/or Vice President, to discuss matters of their committee and anything else that is deemed necessary.
12. Shall receive a weekly stipend, pending the fulfillment of constitutional obligations. The amount will be determined by the previous year's budget and be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
13. A Standing Committee Chair can be removed from their position by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of their respective committee or at the discretion of the Executive Branch, both with a one (1) week notice provided to the Standing Committee Chair in question.
  - a. Any Standing Committee Chair shall be given the opportunity to join another committee if a vacant seat is available or remain on their respective committee.
  - b. The President and Vice President shall appoint a new chair.

#### **Section D: Composition and Obligations of the Senate**

1. Shall be composed of forty-two (42) members, who shall be elected or appointed from two (2) categories: on-campus and off-campus residential status.
  - a. Only those students planning to live in UVM residence halls the year following the election are eligible to run for the sixteen (16) out of twenty-one (21) on-campus Senate seats.
  - b. Only those students planning to live off-campus the year following the election are eligible to run for the twenty-one (21) off-campus Senate seats.
  - c. The remaining five (5) on campus seats will be filled by an election open only to first-year students; the election shall take place within the first two (2) weeks of the fall semester and shall be carried out by the Elections Committee.
  - d. If there are four (4) or more empty Senate seats that exist two (2) weeks prior to the last SGA Meeting of the fall semester, a mid-term election shall be required; this election shall take place within the first two (2) weeks of the spring semester and shall be carried out by the Elections Committee.
  - e. Any Senator who begins the academic year following the Spring Senatorial Election with a different residential status than that to which they were elected shall be assigned to any vacant

seat as per their new residential status. If no vacant seat exists that Senator will automatically lose their seat.

**f.** In the event that a Senator resigns or is removed from their position that position shall be filled through appointment by the Appointments Committee in accordance with SGA Appointment Process.

- 2.** Shall represent and act on behalf of the members of the student body.
- 3.** Shall be responsible for complying with the Attendance Policy put in place by the Speaker of Senate.
- 4.** Shall meet once a week with their respective committee unless deemed unnecessary by the Chair.
- 5.** Shall be responsible for voting on all bills, resolutions, appointments, amendments, the annual budget, and anything else that passes through the Senate that requires a vote.
- 6.** Shall meet in Emergency Meeting of the Senate in accordance with Article XI of this Constitution.
- 7.** Shall have the authority to override a Presidential Veto in accordance with Article X of this Constitution.
- 8.** Shall act in accordance with UVM policies, local, state, and federal laws at all SGA events.

### **Section E: Standing Committees of the Senate**

#### **1. The Academic Affairs Committee.**

**a.** Shall consider matters of student interest in the areas of academic policy, curriculum, and faculty-student relations, and shall take and recommend actions to the SGA.

**b.** Shall delegate one (1) member to attend the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee meetings.

**c.** Shall represent the students' interests to campus committees pertaining to academic affairs.

#### **2. The Committee on Diversity, Equity and Environmental Ethics (CODEEE).**

**a.** Shall be responsible for student interest in the areas of diversity, social equity, and environmental stewardship.

**b.** Shall consider and make recommendations on issues pertaining to racial diversity, including but not limited to, cultural competency and the health of the UVM community to the SGA.

**c.** Shall consider and make recommendations on issues pertaining to social equity, including but not limited to: the status of women, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equity; economic justice, accessibility for differently-abled students, and socially responsible investments to the SGA.

**d.** Shall consider and make recommendations on issues pertaining to UVM's environmental impact and sustainability, including but not limited to: renewable energy, ecological design and stewardship, and environmental health to the SGA.

**e.** Shall serve as a liaison between the Senate and the President's Commissions, the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of Sustainability.

### **3.** The Committee on Legislative Action (COLA).

**a.** Shall serve as an external student voice to Burlington and Vermont communities.

**b.** Shall deal with matters of local, state, federal, and international issues that pertain to UVM and the members of the student body at large, and serve as a medium between those organizational bodies.

**c.** Shall provide, in conjunction with other UVM departments, information to the State Government of Vermont when necessary.

**d.** Shall communicate with the UVM administration on matters regarding relations with the City of Burlington and the State of Vermont.

**e.** Shall hold forums between local colleges' administrations, local Student Governments, the City of Burlington, the Burlington Police Department, UVM Police Services, and any other groups as deemed necessary.

**f.** The Chair of COLA shall serve as the Co-Chair of the Community Coalition.

### **4.** The Finance Committee.

**a.** Shall be responsible for meeting with SGA Organizations to discuss and allocate funds, and to bring allocation requests before the Senate when necessary.

**b.** Shall organize and maintain all financial documentation and legislation.

**c.** Shall consider matters concerned with SGA financial affairs.

**d.** Shall bring forth a proposal for the SGA central budget to be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Senators present and voting, by April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

- e. Shall monitor and enforce any and all financial policies approved by the Senate.
- f. Shall advise any SGA recognized organization on fundraising activity.

**5. The Public Relations Committee (PR).**

- a. Shall ensure that the student body is informed of the activities and actions of the SGA.
- b. Shall coordinate all SGA publicity, including but not limited to: student appointment positions, UVM Board of Trustees Selections, and SGA elections.
  - i. Any and all SGA Elections publicity will be coordinated with PR and the Elections Committee.
- c. Shall maintain relationships with media organizations throughout the UVM community and the State of Vermont.
- d. Shall search for and convey pertinent information about UVM and SGA Organizations to the members of the student body and the SGA.
- e. Shall aid SGA Organizations, in coordination with the Student Activities Committee, on publicity and other matters of public relations.
- f. Shall hold an information session for all SGA Organizations at least once a semester, in coordination with the Student Activities Committee, outlining proper advertising techniques and other matters pertinent to public relations.
- g. Shall conduct the Vermont Student Opinion Poll (VSOP) at least once a semester, on any relevant issues and make these results known to the SGA.
- h. The Chair of PR shall appoint one (1) member to serve on the Elections Committee.

**6. The Student Action Committee.**

- a. Shall consider matters concerning student interests, issues, safety, and overall student life.
- b. The committee will act on and as a liaison with issues and departments that include but are not limited to: athletics, arts and culture, student life, residential life, and dining services.
- c. Shall address issues of dissatisfaction and need of the members of student body and bring them to the SGA or proper Standing Committee when necessary.
- d. Shall seek and receive complaints and suggestions from the student body, share them with the Senate, and act to improve the needs of the members of the student body.

**e.** The Chair of the Student Action Committee shall receive "Tix-Me-Off" e-mails from students, and bring them to the proper Standing Committee of the Senate when necessary.

**i.** The Chair of the Student Action Committee shall compile the "Tix-Me-Off" e-mails and pass them along to the Senate weekly.

**f.** Shall work in concert with the SGA, UVM advisory councils, various UVM governing bodies, and other groups as deemed necessary on behalf of the members of the student body regarding student life, issues, affairs and other issues that are found appropriate.

**g.** Shall be responsible for gathering input on, updating and disseminating the UVM Student Vision.

## **7. The Student Activities Committee.**

**a.** Shall consider all requests for SGA Organization recognition according to the Process for Recognizing SGA Organizations and submit them before the Senate for approval.

**b.** Shall advise SGA Organizations on general matters, including but not limited to risk management and hazing.

**c.** Shall consider and make recommendations to the Finance Committee on eligibility for funding for SGA Organizations.

**d.** Shall be responsible for monitoring SGA Organizations during meetings and events, and shall keep in close contact with SGA Organizations' officers to ensure that they are running in accordance with the SGA Code of Conduct.

**e.** Shall be responsible for ensuring that SGA Organizations are compliant with UVM policies, local, state, and federal laws.

**f.** Shall serve as an advocate for resolving SGA Organizations' issues with the SGA.

**g.** Shall maintain consistent contact with SGA Organizations.

**h.** If deemed necessary the committee shall issue censures, recommend sanctions or de-recognition of a SGA Organizations according to the Process for Recognizing SGA Organizations.

**i.** Shall ensure that all SGA Organizations are open to all members of the student body.

**j.** The Chair of the committee shall appoint members of the committee to be liaisons to the SGA Organizations, to help keep consistent contact and any other issues deemed necessary by the Chair.

**k.** Shall review and approve a copy of all SGA Organizations' Constitution and Statement of Purpose annually.

**l.** Shall hold a workshop that requires the attendance of at least one member of each organization and that is to be held at least once a semester.

**m.** Shall work in coordination with the PR Committee to aid SGA Organizations on publicity and other matters of public relations.

**n.** Shall work in coordination with the PR Committee to hold an information session for all SGA Organizations at least once a semester, outlining proper advertising techniques and other matters pertinent to public relations.

## **Section F: Non-Standing Committees of the Senate.**

### **1. The Executive Committee.**

**a.** Shall be made up of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Speaker of the Senate, and Standing Committee Chairs.

**b.** The Chair of the committee shall be the President.

**c.** Shall meet once a week unless deemed unnecessary by the Chair.

**d.** Each member shall attend all Executive Committee meetings in accordance with the Attendance Policy.

**e.** Shall consider and make recommendations on the rules and procedures of the SGA and the Senate.

**f.** Shall assist in the direction of proposed bills, resolutions, and amendments to the appropriate committee(s) for consideration.

**g.** Shall assist the President in determining and establishing any ad hoc and/or non-standing committees as deemed necessary.

### **2. The Appointment Committee.**

**a.** Shall be made up of one (1) representative from each of the seven standing committees and one (1) representative from the Executive Committee.

**b.** The Chair of the committee shall be the Vice President.

c. Shall conduct appointment proceedings following the guidelines set forth in the SGA Appointment Process.

d. Shall attend all Appointment Committee meetings in accordance with the Attendance Policy.

### 3. The Constitution Committee.

a. Shall consist of the Speaker of the Senate, the President ex-officio, the Vice President ex-officio, the Treasurer ex-officio and seven (7) Senators—one (1) from each of the standing committees each of whom is appointed by their respective Chair.

b. The Chair of the committee shall be the Speaker of the Senate.

c. Shall be responsible for researching and drafting amendments, referring all amendments to the SGA for this Constitution and the Operational Documents and any other tasks deemed necessary by the Speaker of the Senate.

d. Shall aid the Speaker of the Senate in the interpretation of this Constitution and the Operational Documents.

i. Shall make these interpretations public to the members of the student body and the UVM Administration when requested by the Executive Committee.

e. Any member of the Constitution Committee may bring forth amendments to this Constitution and the Operational Documents.

i. This is restricted to members of the Constitution Committee; others may bring forth amendments through a member of the committee.

f. Any amendments brought to the attention to the Constitution Committee shall be made public to the Senate by the Chair of the committee and given time for defense on the Senate floor.

g. Shall be responsible for approving the suspension of a week's stipend for any member of the Executive Committee upon the request of the Executive Committee.

h. Shall be responsible for handling censuring proceedings in accordance with Article XIII of this Constitution.

i. Shall be responsible for handling impeachment proceedings in accordance with Article XIV, Section B of this Constitution.

j. Shall attend all Constitution Committee meetings in accordance with the Attendance Policy of the Speaker of the Senate.

**4. The Elections Committee.**

a. Shall consist of five (5) Senators.

b. No member of the Elections Committee shall be running in the upcoming election.

c. Shall be responsible for creating, maintaining and interpreting the SGA Elections Rules and Regulations.

d. Shall work in coordination with the PR Committee to publicize First Year, Mid-Term, Presidential and Vice Presidential, and Spring Elections.

e. Shall have the right to determine the precise dates of elections in accordance with the SGA Elections Rules and Regulations.

f. Shall ensure that all candidates uphold the SGA Elections Rules and Regulations, and issue sanctions when necessary in accordance with the SGA Elections Rules and Regulations.

g. Shall provide any member of the student body seeking office with the appropriate sections of the SGA Election Rules and Regulations and the appropriate time line of the election.

i. Shall attend all Elections Committee meetings in accordance with the Attendance Policy of the Speaker of the Senate.

k. Shall seek the consultation of the Executive Committee when as deemed necessary.

## **Article V**

### **SGA Advisor**

#### **Section A: General Guidelines**

1. The Advisor of the SGA shall be the Director of Student Life.

2. Shall meet regularly with the Executive Branch of the SGA.

# Article VI

## Elections

### Section A: General Guidelines

1. The Elections Committee shall run all SGA elections in accordance with the SGA Elections Process, SGA Elections Rules and Regulations and Article IV Section F Subsection 4 of this Constitution.
2. Each member of the student body shall have the right to vote in each election held by the SGA.

# Article VII

## SGA Organizations

### Section A: General Guidelines

1. SGA Organizations are those groups that the Senate has granted the authority to:
  - a. Use the name "University of Vermont," "UVM," and UVM marks in accordance with UVM policies.
  - b. Become eligible for funding upon the recommendation of the Student Activities and Finance Committees.
  - c. Use space in UVM buildings and on UVM grounds.
2. No SGA Organization shall discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, veteran status, age, economic or social class, major, or minor.
3. Eligibility and recognition of SGA organizations shall be governed by Process for Recognizing SGA Organizations.

# Article VIII

## **Quorum and Voting**

### **Section A: Quorum**

1. No business may be voted upon or enacted by the Senate or any of its components unless quorum is present.

a. Quorum is reached when two-thirds (2/3) of its members are present.

2. Unless otherwise specified, quorum is needed for all votes taking place during Senate or any of its components, including standing and non-standing committee meetings.

### **Section B: Voting**

1. All voting members shall have one (1) vote recorded per each voting action of the SGA.

2. All legislation or business that goes through the Senate or any of its components must pass by a simple majority vote, unless otherwise noted in this Constitution.

3. Any and all voting that takes place will be made public, exempting internal business including, but not limited to, motions, informal polls, and calls to question within SGA meetings.

a. No proxy votes shall be permitted; a proxy vote is when a voting member expects to be absent from a SGA Meeting or committee meeting and empowers another member of the SGA to vote in their place at the meeting.

4. All members of the Senate shall abstain from voting on any legislation or business concerning any student organization in which they are actively participating.

a. This excludes the vote of the annual SGA central budget.

5. Unless otherwise specified, all voting taking place during Senate meetings or any of its components--including standing and non-standing committee meetings--require a simple majority.

## **Article IX**

### **Conflict of Interest**

## **Section A: Definition**

- 1.** Conflict of Interest is to be defined as a conflict between a member of the SGA's private interests and official responsibilities.
- 2.** All members of the Senate shall abstain from voting on any legislation or business concerning any student organization in which they are actively participating.

## **Section B: Procedure**

- 1.** A question of conflict pertaining to any member(s) of the SGA may be raised by any Senator.
- 2.** The SGA member(s) is/are entitled to speak in defense of the question raised.
- 3.** After a defense is presented, the Speaker of the Senate shall call a vote among all Senators, excluding the SGA member(s) in question.
- 4.** If the Senate finds there is a Conflict of Interest, through a simple majority vote, then the SGA member(s) in question shall be permitted to take place in the discussion but shall not be permitted to vote until the next motion on the table.

# **Article X**

## **Veto**

### **Section A: Power and Presidential Procedure**

- 1.** The power of the veto lies solely with the President of the SGA.
- 2.** The President will be the only member of the SGA who is not required to sign passed legislation within twenty-four (24) hours.
- 3.** The President has seventy-two (72) hours from the time the legislation passed to veto or not to veto a piece of legislation.
  - a.** The President shall be responsible for immediately notifying the SGA of any Presidential veto, via official written documentation to be inserted into the record.

4. Legislation that has been vetoed by the President, and has not been overridden by the Senate in accordance with Article X, Section B of this Constitution, means that the legislation does not continue and no further action may take place on that piece of legislation.

5. In the case that a Presidential veto is overridden by the Senate, in accordance with Article X, Section B, the President will be required to sign the piece of legislation.

6. If at the end of seventy-two (72) hours the President has not decided to veto or sign onto the piece of legislation, then the legislation passes by default.

a. This allows the legislation to continue as a piece of passed legislation without the signature of the President.

b. Under these circumstances the signature line for the President on the piece of legislation is removed.

7. In the case that a Presidential Veto does take place and is not overridden by the Senate, the legislation that was vetoed may not be duplicatively reintroduced.

## **Section B: Overriding a Presidential Veto**

1. The sole authority to override a Presidential veto shall be vested in the Senate.

2. Overriding a Presidential Veto must take place at the SGA Meeting following the veto, unless an Emergency Meeting is called before then.

3. It shall take a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Senators present to override the Presidential veto.

# **Article XI**

## **Emergency Meeting**

### **Section A: Calling an Emergency Meeting**

1. All Emergency Meetings are to be officially called by the Speaker of the Senate.

2. The Speaker of the Senate shall provide the SGA at least twenty-four (24) hours notice.

**3.** For the Speaker of the Senate to call an Emergency Meeting, a member of the Executive Committee must make a proposal to the Executive Committee; a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee is required.

**a.** For a member of the Senate to propose an Emergency Meeting, a request is to be brought to any member of the Executive Committee, and is to proceed in accordance with Article XI, Section A, Subsection 2.

**4.** If the Executive Committee does not vote in favor for an Emergency Meeting the Senate may bring forth a petition to the Speaker of the Senate containing signatures of a simple majority of the Senate.

**a.** Upon receiving the petition, the Speaker of the Senate shall call an Emergency Meeting, in accordance with Article XI, Section A, Subsection 2 of this Constitution.

### **Section B: Procedure at an Emergency Meeting**

**1.** All Emergency Meetings shall be run in accordance with Article VIII of this Constitution and the Speaker's Rules of Order.

## **Article XII**

### **Formal Petition**

#### **Section A: Guidelines**

**1.** A Formal Petition may be brought to the President of the SGA containing signatures of ten percent (10%) of members of the student body.

**2.** Only one (1) issue may be brought up at a time on a single petition, to bring up more than one (1) issue at a time requires two (2) or more petitions.

**3.** Once the Formal Petition is brought to the President of the SGA, the President then adds the formal petition to the agenda under Emergency Business for the next SGA Meeting.

**a.** Any issue brought forth by a Formal Petition may not bypass a discussion by the Senate; however no legislation is required to come out of it.

# **Article XIII**

## **Censuring**

### **Section A: Definition**

1. A censure is an expression of official disapproval of the actions of any member of the SGA by the SGA.
2. If any member of the SGA fails to respect and abide by the policies and procedures established in this Constitution and/or its Operation Documents that member of the SGA is subject to censure.

### **Section B: Procedure**

1. A motion to censure may be brought up by any member of the Senate, and is to be proposed to the Senate at the same SGA Meeting in which a written motion is given to the Speaker of the Senate.
2. Censure proceedings will take place at the meeting following the motion being put on the table.
3. The Constitution Committee is responsible for investigating the allegations, and making these findings public at the censure proceedings.
  - a. If any member of the Constitution Committee is the member of the SGA in question, they shall not take part in the investigation done by the Constitution Committee.
4. A simple majority of the Senate is required to censure.
  - a. The member of the SGA in question shall not be permitted to vote on the censure.
5. Any member of the SGA is automatically impeached if they receive three (3) censures.

# **Article XIV**

## **Resignation, Impeachment, and Filling Vacancies**

## **Section A: Resignation**

- 1.** Any member of the SGA that wishes to resign must notify their Chair and submit a written statement of intent to the Vice President prior to the following Senate meeting.
  - b.** In the case that the Vice President wishes to resign, a written statement of intent is to be submitted to the President.
- 2.** Members of the SGA that have resigned are responsible for turning in all the materials they have been working on to their Chair and debriefing with either their committee Chair or the Vice President.
  - a.** Any member of the SGA that chairs a standing committee and wishes to resign risks being docked one (1) weeks stipend if they do not cooperate with the Vice President or follow proper resignation procedure.

## **Section B: Impeachment**

- 1.** Any member of the student body or SGA may file a motion to begin impeachment proceedings against any member of the SGA; the motion is to be submitted in writing to the Constitution Committee Chair.
  - a.** This file must be supported by at least one (1) Senator; the written statement of support is to be submitted with the motion.
  - b.** If any member of the Constitution Committee is the member of the SGA in question, they shall not take part in the investigation done by the Constitution Committee.
- 2.** The Constitution Committee shall immediately notify the member of the SGA in question that an impeachment motion has been filed against them and of the grounds on which the motion was filed.
- 3.** The Constitution Committee shall notify the Senate at the next SGA Meeting that an impeach motion has been filed.
- 4.** The Constitution Committee shall then have one (1) week from the time the motion is filed to investigate the allegations.
  - a.** If the Constitution Committee finds that the allegations hold true, an impeachment proceeding shall occur and the member of the SGA in question and the SGA shall be notified immediately of the decision.
  - b.** If the Constitution Committee finds the allegations do not hold true, they shall immediately notify the SGA member in question and the SGA.

- 5.** If an impeachment proceeding is called, it shall occur at the next SGA Meeting under Emergency Business.
- 6.** All members of the SGA must be present at impeach proceedings, unless excused by the Speaker of the Senate.
- 7.** At the impeachment proceeding the Constitution Committee shall make known the grounds on which the motion was filed and the findings from the investigation.
- 8.** The member of the SGA in question shall be given time on the floor to defend themselves.
- 9.** Following all questioning the Senate shall deliberate in Executive Session and vote by secret ballot.
  - a.** The member of the SGA in question shall leave at this time and shall not be permitted to vote.
- 10.** Impeachment requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
- 11.** Upon a minimum vote of two-thirds (2/3), the member of the SGA in question shall be immediately removed from office.

#### **Section D: Filling Vacancies**

- 1.** In the event that the President is absent, the Vice President shall fulfill the duties of the President.
  - a.** In the event that the President resigns or is removed, the Vice President shall assume the position of the President.
  - b.** Within two (2) weeks of assuming the position of President, the new President shall have one (1) week to make a nomination to fill the position of Vice President; the vote to approve shall take place at the meeting following the nomination and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate for approval.
  - c.** If the nominee is defeated once, a nomination may be brought up by the Senate and the President within one (1) week of this defeat; the vote to approve shall take place at the meeting following the nomination and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate for approval.
- 2.** In the event that the Vice President is absent, resigns, or is removed, the Speaker of the Senate shall fulfill the duties of the Vice President.
  - a.** The Speaker of the Senate shall serve as Acting Vice President until the Senate has confirmed the nominated Vice President.

- b.** The nominated Vice President must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
- 3.** In the event that the President and Vice President are both removed or resign, the Speaker of the Senate and the Treasurer shall fulfill the duties of the two (2) offices respectively until the Emergency Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections are concluded.
  - a.** The Emergency Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections shall be held in accordance with Article VI, Section F of this Constitution.
- 4.** In the event that that Treasurer is absent, resigns, or is removed, the Chair of the Finance Committee shall fulfill the duties of the Treasurer.
  - a.** The Chair of the Finance Committee shall serve as the Acting Treasurer until the Senate has confirmed the Treasurer-designate.
  - b.** The nomination for Treasurer shall come from any member of the SGA, including the President and the Vice President.
  - c.** The nominated Treasurer must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
- 5.** In the event that the Speaker is absent, resigns, or is removed from office, the Vice President shall fulfill the duties of the Speaker.
  - a.** The Vice President shall serve as Acting-Speaker until the Senate has confirmed the nominated Speaker of the Senate.
  - b.** The nomination for the Speaker of the Senate shall come from any member of the SGA, as well as the President of Vice President.
  - c.** The nominated Speaker must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
- 6.** In the event that the Chair of a Standing Committee is absent, resigns, or is removed, the President and Vice President shall appoint an Acting Chair until a new chair is appointed.
- 7.** In the event that a Senator resigns or is removed, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the SGA Appointment Process and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

## **Article XV**

### **Financial Policies**

#### **Section A: Definition**

1. The SGA Financial Policies and Procedures Manual is the official document defining financial operations and policies of the SGA and SGA Organizations.

## **Article XVI**

### **Amendments**

#### **Section A: Procedure**

1. The Constitution Committee shall bring amendments forth for this Constitution and its Operational Documents.
2. Amendments to the Constitution are to be presented to the SGA and the student body at least two (2) weeks before the amendments will be voted on.
3. For amendments to the Constitution the Senate must first vote to open the document with a three-fourths (3/4) vote.
  - a. The amendments may not be put on the table at the same meeting.
4. Amendments to the Constitution require a three-fourths (3/4) vote of approval by the Senate.
6. Amendments shall be effective immediately upon approval by the Senate.
7. The Speaker of the Senate reserves the right to make grammatical changes to the newly approved Amendments as long as the meaning of said Amendments is not changed.

## **Article XVII**

### **Dissolution and Adoption**

#### **Section A: Procedure**

1. The dissolution and adoption process must be presented to the SGA and the student body at least one (1) week before the approval.

**2.** Dissolution of this Constitution and adoption of a new Constitution shall occur only with a motion from the Senate and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval.

**a.** Three-fourths (3/4) of the Senate must be present and voting in order to vote on the dissolution of this Constitution and adoption of a new constitution.

**3.** Dissolution and Adoption may occur simultaneously, with the adopted Constitution taking effect immediately.

## **Article XVIII**

### **Operational Documents**

#### **Section A: General Guidelines**

**1.** The SGA Operational Documents can be opened and amended with a 2/3 majority vote at any meeting of the SGA Senate.

**a.** The Senator motioning to open or amend the SGA Operational Documents need not be a member of the Constitution committee.