

Preamble

The University of Vermont

Student Government Association Constitution

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, as a representative of The University of Vermont community, values and upholds 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, socioeconomic status, 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-seeking students paying the Student Government Association Fee, are members of the student body.
2. 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.
2. The SGA Financial Policies and Procedures Manual is the official document defining financial operations and policies of the SGA and SGA Organizations.

Article III Executive Branch

Section A: General Guidelines

1. The Executive Branch will be made up of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Speaker.
2. Each member of the Executive Branch shall be a member of the student body.
3. 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.
4. No Executive Branch member may introduce legislation and are ex-officio non- voting members of the Senate.
5. Each member of the Executive Branch shall uphold this Constitution and the Operational Documents.
6. 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.
7. Members of the Executive Branch shall be responsible for training the successor of their position.
8. Each member of the Executive Branch shall receive a weekly stipend, pending the fulfillment of constitutional obligations; the amount will increase by 2% annually and be implemented by the SGA Business Manager, unless a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate is recommended by the Judicial Committee.
9. 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.
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.
 - a. Shall appoint member(s) of the SGA to organizations seeking student representation.
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 be responsible for authorizing the creation of any and all SGA ad hoc committees.
9. Shall be responsible for a weekly report to the Senate on the activities of the President.
10. Shall make known to the Senate body the intentions of the President over the summer and the goals for the Senate for the upcoming year.
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 be responsible for submitting to the Senate a copy of their written and oral BOT reports at least one (1) week before they are due to be submitted to the BOT.
13. Shall report to the UVM Administration and any other persons the concerns, interests, and happenings of the student body.
14. Shall work closely with UVM Administration on matters pertaining to the student body, including, but not limited to, UVM policies that may affect students.
15. Shall work with the Senate's Public Relations Committee to establish an uninterrupted means of communication with the student body.
16. Shall be Chair of the Executive Committee and shall be responsible for conveying to the Senate the actions of the Executive Committee.
17. May veto any action by the Senate within accordance with Article X of this Constitution.
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,
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 be the Chair of the Appointments Committee and is held responsible for the creation and adoption of the SGA Appointment Process.
7. Shall be responsible for any and all final changes to the SGA Appointment Application.
8. 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.
9. Shall make known to the Senate body the intentions of the Vice President over the summer and the goals for the Senate for the upcoming year
10. Shall be responsible for a weekly report to the Senate on the activities of the Vice President.
11. Shall jointly with the Speaker of the Senate be responsible for training newly elected and appointed Senators.
12. Shall jointly with the President oversee the staff of the SGA, including, but not limited to, compensation, work hours, and SGA related duties.
13. Shall be responsible for organizing a retreat for the SGA, one per semester, in which attendance of all SGA members is required.

14. 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 the SGA Galaxy Space.
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. Any undergraduate student of the University of Vermont is eligible to apply to be the Treasurer of the Student Government Association.
2. The application process will be overseen by a selection committee determined by the President.
 - a. The selection committee will determine one (1) candidate to be nominated.
3. Shall be nominated by the President, Vice President, Standing Committee Chair, 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 Treasurer by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
5. Any persons who are nominated for the position of Treasurer shall not be allowed to vote on the approval of the Treasurer.
6. Shall be appointed for the summer, fall, and spring semesters.
7. Shall take the Oath of Office for the Treasurer of the Student Government Association, upon approval by the Senate, administered by the outgoing Treasurer.
8. Shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the SGA, which shall include an annual review of the SGA Financial Policies and Procedures Manual.
9. Shall supervise the SGA's financial structure, planning, and operations in coordination with the office coordinator and accounting specialist.
10. Shall attend all SGA Meetings, or as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
11. Shall make known to the Senate body the intentions of the Treasurer over the summer and the goals for the Senate the upcoming year.
12. Shall be responsible for presenting a monthly report on the activities of the Treasurer to the Senate, or as deemed necessary.
13. Shall prepare in cooperation with the President, Vice President, and Finance Committee the central budget of SGA organizations.
14. Shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Finance Committee.
15. Shall be a member of the Executive Committee.
16. 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 elected for the summer, fall and spring semesters.
 - a. If appointed, shall serve until the Senate-Elect takes the Oath of Office for the Senators of the Student Government Association.

4. 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.
5. Any member of the student body running for a Senate position must have at least one full semester left at UVM.
6. Upon taking the Oath of Office for the Senators of the Student Government Association,
 - a. Each member of the Senate shall uphold this Constitution and the Operational Documents.
 - b. Each member of the Senate shall serve on only one Standing Committee at a time.
 - c. Each member of the Senate shall be responsible for attending the SGA retreat, one per semester, in which attendance is required.
 - d. Each member of the Senate shall attend all SGA Meetings in accordance with the Attendance Policy of the Speaker of the Senate.
 - e. Each member shall attend weekly committee meetings. If unable to do so, members must meet one-on-one with their Chair.
 - f. 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.
 - g. Each member shall respond to correspondence from their committee Chair in a timely manner. A timely manner will be at the chair's discretion and be made known at the beginning of the semester.
 - h. Each member shall attend events around campus both those sponsored by SGA and those not.
 - i. Each member shall be involved in at least one initiative per semester.
 - j. Each member shall act in accordance with Our Common Ground while representing SGA. This includes treating colleagues with respect and using appropriate and inclusive language both in and outside the office.
 - k. Each member 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. The Speaker of the Senate shall be responsible for training the successor of their position.
3. Shall be an elected or appointed Senator
4. Shall be nominated by the President, Vice President, a Chair, or a Senator, at the second meeting of the newly elected senate.
 - a. No self-nominations may be made.
 - b. The Senate shall vote to approve the nomination of the Speaker of the Senate by a two thirds (2/3) vote. If no Speaker is approved in the first round of voting, the candidate who received the fewest vote will be eliminated. Further rounds of debate voting, and elimination will occur until a two- thirds (2/3) majority is achieved.
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 Judicial Committee when necessary.
8. Shall select a member of the student body to be the Minutes Taker for the SGA Meetings.
9. Shall be responsible for creating their version of Parliamentary Procedure in accordance with the most recent version of *Robert's Rules of Order*.
 - a. 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 Fall SGA retreat.
10. Shall be responsible for calling two meetings of the newly elected Senate before the close of the spring semester.
11. Shall moderate and facilitate SGA Meetings upon consultation with the Executive Committee and in accordance with their version of Parliamentary Procedure.
12. Shall conduct SGA Meetings in an objective manner.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
 - b. The Speaker of the Senate may alter the order of the Agenda Template as needed.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. Shall be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate parties sign all passed legislation within forty-eight (48) hours of passing the legislation.
 - a. If the sponsor of the legislation is unable to sign their passed legislation, the chair of their respective committee may sign in their place.
 - b. If the President is unable to sign passed legislation, the Vice President may sign in their place.
19. Shall jointly with the Public Relations Committee make any and all legislation considered by the Senate public to the members of the student body.
20. Reserves the right to make grammatical, and upon consultation with the author of the legislation, dictional changes to newly passed legislation as long as the meaning of said legislation is not changed.
21. Shall be a member of the Executive Committee.
22. Shall be the Chair of the Judicial Committee.
23. Shall receive a weekly stipend, pending the fulfillment of constitutional obligations. The amount will increase by 2% annually and be implemented by the SGA Business Manager, unless a two-thirds (2/ 3) vote of the Senate is recommended by the Judicial Committee.

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.
 - b. In the case that both the President and Vice President cannot come to an agreement as to who to name a chair of a standing committee, the Speaker of the Senate shall break the tie.
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. Each Standing Committee Chair shall be responsible for providing a transition report to their successor.
5. Shall be responsible for setting an agenda of goals for their respective committee.
6. Shall be responsible for ensuring that any and all resolutions and bills pertinent to the respective committee are signed and followed through.
7. 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.
 - b. Standing Committee Chairs may substitute one-on-one meetings with each Senator in lieu of a full committee meeting
8. Shall be responsible for recording the attendance of committee members at committee meetings and reporting violations to the Speaker of the Senate.
9. Shall delegate tasks to each committee member and ensure that tasks are completed.
10. Shall be responsible for giving a weekly report of the committee's activities to the SGA.
11. Shall appoint a member of their committee to be a member of the Judicial Committee.
12. 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.
13. Shall have the option of naming a Vice Chair who will carry out the duties of Chair if the Chair is unable to do so.
14. Shall receive a weekly stipend, pending the fulfillment of constitutional obligations. The amount will increase by 2% annually and be implemented by the SGA Business Manager, unless a two-thirds (2/ 3) vote of the Senate is recommended by the Judicial Committee.
15. 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.
 - c. Members of the chair's committee can vote by secret ballot administered by the Speaker of the Senate to keep the fired chair. The vote by the committee members must be unanimous to override the chair's termination. The chair is not permitted to vote.
 - d. In the case that both the President and Vice President cannot come to an agreement as to whether or not to remove the chair of a standing committee, a vote of the committee by secret ballot will then be administered by the Speaker of the Senate in

which a simple majority vote is required to remove the chair. The chair in question shall not partake in the vote.

Section D: Composition and Obligations of the Senate

1. Shall be composed of forty-two (42) members,
 - a. Spring election results should consist of one ballot.
 - b. Spring Senatorial Elections should not include eight (8) seats, which shall be held for incoming first-year students to be elected within the first three weeks of the Fall Semester.
 - c. If there are five (5) or more empty Senate seats that exist at the conclusion 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 in accordance with the rules set forth in the SGA Elections Rules and Regulations

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. The Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee shall be responsible for meeting with the Center for Academic Success and the Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and Student Success at least once per semester.
 - i. Shall partner with these departments to ensure academic resources are accessible and attainable by the student body.
2. The Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs (COLCA)
 - a. Shall serve as a student voice to the 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 mediator 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 COLCA shall serve as the Co-Chair of the Community Coalition. Senators COLCA are expected to attend all Community Coalition meetings unless there are extenuating circumstances.
 - g. Shall host semesterly Community Clean-up events and encourage participation from UVM students and Burlington residents alike. Will call upon the Committee on the Environment for assistance regarding the trash, compost, and recycling process.
 - h. Shall engage and inform students on local and national political elections.

3. 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 allocation exceeds \$10,000.
- 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 30th 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.

4. Committee on Student Action & Well-Being

- a.** Shall consider matters concerning student safety, health, and overall well-being.
- b.** The committee shall serve as a liaison between SGA and departments such as: UVM Athletics, Department of Student Life, UVM Residential Life, UVM Dining Services, Living Well, UVM Counseling and Psychiatry Services, Rally Cat Cupboard, and the Center for Health and Wellbeing.
- c.** The Chair of the Committee on Student Action & Well-Being shall be responsible for meeting with the Executive Director for the Center of Health and Well-being and the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Coordinator.
- d.** Shall work jointly with the Public Relations Committee to plan an annual Week of Kindness program to promote well-being, show support for mental health resources, and build student morale.

5. The Club Affairs Committee

- a.** Shall have two standing committee chairs acting as Co-Chairs.
 - i.** Each Co-Chair will be equally responsible for all tasks required of the Club Affairs Committee Chair.
 - ii.** Co-Chairs will represent one committee, but each have one individual vote in all SGA meetings.
 - iii.** Co-Chairs will alternate giving The SGA Club Affairs Committee Report to the full senate body each week.
 - iv.** Co-Chairs shall appoint members of the committee to be liaisons to SGA Organizations, to help keep consistent contact and mitigate any other issues deemed necessary by either Co-Chair.
 - v.** If the Co-Chair disagrees on internal committee decisions, then the Speaker will break the tie.
- b.** Shall consider all requests for New Recognized Student Organizations (RSO) according to the Process for Recognizing SGA Organizations and submit them before the Senate for approval.
 - i.** The Process for Recognizing SGA Organization's must include a review process where the committee assesses the organization's ability to meet a need on campus, including the perceived student interest.
- c.** Shall advise SGA Organizations on general matters, including but not limited to risk management, club transitions (leadership and otherwise), and general operations.
 - i.** Shall keep in close contact with SGA Organizations' ClubSigners (President and Treasurer) to ensure that Club Leaders are operating in accordance with the SGA Code of Conduct and University Policies.

- ii. Shall serve as an advocate for resolving SGA Organizations' issues with the SGA.
 - iii. Shall maintain consistent contact with SGA Organizations, including monthly emails to ClubSigners, including but not limited to deadlines, events, and requirements.
 - iv. Shall hold a training that requires the attendance of both ClubSigners from each active organization and that is to be held at least twice a year: Once in the Spring Semester and once in the Fall Semester.
 - 1. For the Fall Training, the Club Affairs Committee Co-Chairs will work with the Finance Committee Chair and Treasurer to hold a joint training.
 - v. Shall plan a yearly Sexual Violence Prevention Training that requires the attendance of two ClubSigners from each active organization.
 - d. Shall ensure that all SGA Organizations are open to all members of the student body.
 - i. If deemed necessary by either Club Affairs Committee Chair, the committee shall issue censures, recommend sanctions or de-recognition of an SGA Organizations.
 - ii. Shall hold a club ActivitesFest
 - e. Shall work collaboratively with other SGA members and SGA Office Staff to provide a consistent standard for all SGA RSO's.
 - i. Shall consider and make recommendations to the Finance Committee on eligibility for funding for SGA Organizations throughout each semester for supplemental funding and budgeting.
 - ii. Shall work in coordination with the PR Committee to aid SGA Organizations on publicity and other matters of public relations, including outlining proper advertising.
 - f. Shall be responsible for maintaining accurate data, effective policies, and sufficient resources for the Committee and SGA RSO's.
 - i. Shall review and make any necessary edits to all manuals and policies for SGA RSO's before each academic year.
 - ii. Shall be responsible for checking and answering the Club Affairs email inbox in a timely fashion.
 - iii. Shall track each organization's current standing, active, inactive, or de-recognized, throughout the year and make that information public to the student body.
 - iv. Shall provide reasonable and timely opportunities for ClubSigner's to get their organization back in good standing with SGA or reactivate.
 - 1. An organization's status is determined by policies laid out in a good standing document accessible to the student body.
 - v. Shall promptly update the SGA Office Staff when processes are changed.
6. Committee on Our Common Ground Values
- a. Shall be responsible for addressing concerns in the areas of respect, integrity, innovation, openness, justice, and responsibility.
 - b. Shall consider and make recommendation on issues pertaining to social equity, including but not limited to, issues surrounding race, color, ethnicity, sex,

religion/spirituality, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability/disability, veteran status, age, or socioeconomic status.

- c. Shall be responsible for advising the SGA President and Vice President on encouraging an inclusive environment within the Senate, the Galaxy Space, and SGA recognized clubs and organizations.
- d. Shall be responsible for communicating, advocating, and supporting the student body, including but not limited to: SGA recognized clubs and organizations, UVM faculty and staff, UVM administration, and members of the UVM community.
- e. Shall meet with the Interfaith Center, Prism Center, Mosaic Center, and Women and Gender Equity Center at least once (1) per semester.
- f. Shall meet with the Office of International Education and Student Accessibility Services at least once (1) per year.
- g. Shall be responsible for planning and promoting April's Sexual Violence Awareness Month (SVAM) initiatives in collaboration with the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Coordinator and other campus partners.
- h. The chair of the committee, along with one standing committee member shall serve on the planning committee for MARCH!, A Celebration of Leaders and Gender Equity in Partnership With the WAGE Center and will assist with necessary efforts.
- i. The Committee on Our Common Ground Values shall be in communication with cultural, diversity and religious SGA recognized clubs and other organizations or individuals in regard to the Diversity Enhancement Fund every semester. The process shall be made as transparent as possible.

7. Committee on the Environment (CoE).

- a. Shall be responsible for addressing student concerns in the areas of environmental stewardships and sustainability.
- b. Shall consider and make recommendations pertaining to environmental impact and sustainability, and be responsible for providing, promoting, and supporting educational opportunities relating to campus sustainability.
- c. Shall Serve as a liaison between the Senate and groups on campus including, but not limited to, the Office of Sustainability, Eco-Reps, UVM Dining, and environmentally related clubs and organizations.
 - i. Shall help coordinate and execute various Earth Week programming during April alongside these organizations.
- d. Shall uphold SGA's commitment to making and implementing partnerships to reduce SGA's overall environmental impact.

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.
 - h. Shall assist the Vice President in appointing Senators to vacancies.
2. The Judicial Committee
- a. Shall consist of the Speaker of the Senate, the Vice President ex-officio, and seven (7) Senators—one (1) from each of the standing committees
 - i. Each Senator shall be nominated by their chair and confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate at the first meeting of the Fall semester after the fall retreat.
 - 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 amendments brought to the attention to the Judicial Committee shall be made public to the Senate by the Chair of the committee and given time for defense on the Senate floor.
 - f. Shall be responsible for working with the SGA Business Manager to determine if the annual stipend increase shall be brought before the Senate
 - i. If the SGA Business Manager recommends a stipend increase other than a 2% annual increase, the new increase shall be brought to a two-thirds (2/3) vote before the Senate.
 - ii. The Judicial Committee reserves the right during any year to bring the 2% annual stipend increase to a two-thirds (2/3) vote before the Senate.
 - 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 adjudicating violations of the Constitution, Operational Documents, Our Common Ground, and other SGA Policies and Procedures by members of the SGA in accordance with the Judicial Operational Documents
 - i. The Judicial Committee may order the removal of a member of the SGA in accordance with the Judicial Operational Documents.
 - ii. Any member of the SGA who has been removed by the Judicial Committee may appeal.
 - iii. Removal of a member of the SGA by the Judicial Committee may be overturned by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
 - i. Shall be responsible for handling censuring proceedings in accordance with Article XIII of this Constitution and the Judicial Operational Documents.
 - j. Shall be responsible for handling impeachment proceedings in accordance with Article XIV, Section B of this Constitution and the Judicial Operational Documents.
 - k. Shall attend all Judicial Committee meetings in accordance with the Attendance Policy of the Speaker of the Senate.

3. The Public Relations Committee (PR)

- a.** Shall consist of eight (8) senators, including one (1) from each of the other standing committees, and the Committee Chair.
 - i.** Each senator shall be nominated by their committee chair during the first meeting following the Senate committee placements, approved by the Public Relations Chair, and confirmed by the Senate.
 - ii.** A member of the public relations committee can resign their position before the conclusion of the Senate term following a conversation with their standing committee chair and the Public Relations chair. The standing committee chair must have a replacement nomination prepared before this resignation.
 - iii.** The chair of the Public Relations Committee shall be a senator appointed by the President and Vice President immediately following the Spring Senate Elections.
 - iv.** The chair shall not serve on any of the other seven (7) standing committees.
- b.** Shall ensure that the student body is informed about the activities and actions of the SGA through means of social media, videos, emails, tabling, posters, and other marketing.
- c.** Shall coordinate SGA publicity, including but not limited to: student appointment positions, UVM Board of Trustees Selections, student rights, the SGA Constitution and Operational Documents and SGA elections.
 - i.** Any and all SGA Elections publicity will be coordinated with PR and the Elections Committee.
- d.** Shall maintain relationships with media organizations throughout the UVM community and the State of Vermont.
- e.** Shall search for and convey pertinent information about UVM and SGA Organizations to the members of the student body and the SGA.
- f.** Shall aid SGA Organizations, in coordination with the Club Affairs Committee, on publicity and other matters of public relations.
- g.** Shall hold a small-scale SGA forum in various locations around campus.
- h.** Shall organize and host a larger, town-hall style SGA outreach event once a semester with the Executive Committee in attendance.
- i.** Shall seek and receive complaints and suggestions from the student body and share them with the Senate.
- j.** Shall work with the SGA Vice President to improve transparency regarding SGA affairs and actions.
- k.** Shall coordinate with the Speaker of the Senate to make legislation available to students.
- a.** Shall work jointly with the Committee on Student Action and Wellbeing to plan an annual Week of Kindness program to promote well-being, show support for mental health resources, and build student morale.
- l.** Shall work with the Assistant Director of Marketing for Student Life as appropriate.

4. The Elections Committee.

- a.** Shall consist of five (5) Senators that have declared that they will not be running in the upcoming election to the Elections Committee Chair.
- b.** The Elections Committee shall be appointed a chair by the President and Vice President.

- i. The Elections Committee Chair shall receive a weekly stipend, pending the fulfillment of constitutional obligations when elections occur. The amount will increase by 2% annually and be implemented by the SGA Business Manager, unless a two-thirds (2/ 3) vote of the Senate is recommended by the Judicial Committee.
- c. Shall be responsible for creating, maintaining and interpreting the SGA Elections Rules and Regulations.
 - i. Shall be responsible for bringing the SGA Elections Rules and Regulation to the Senate for renewal by vote prior to the start of General Elections and as needed if updates are deemed necessary by the Elections Committee Chair.
- d. Shall have the right to determine the precise dates of elections in accordance with the SGA Elections Rules and Regulations.
- e. 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.
- f. Shall provide any member of the student body seeking office with the appropriate sections of the SGA Election Rules and Regulations and the appropriate timeline of the election.
- g. Shall meet as deemed necessary by the Elections Committee Chair
- h. Shall work in coordination with the PR Committee to publicize First Year, Mid Term, Presidential and Vice Presidential, and Spring Elections.
- i. Shall seek the consultation of the Executive Committee when deemed necessary.
- j. Shall host at least one debate for official candidates for President and Vice President.
 - i. Approximate debate dates in relation to election will be advertised by the Elections Committee and Public Relations Chair no less than three (3) weeks before debate.
 - ii. Debate formats will be determined by the Elections Committee and publicized to candidates at least one (1) week in advance of the debate.

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.
3. The Advisor of the SGA is a support position only. All SGA decision-making authority rests with the elected and appointed members of the SGA.

Article VI 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 Club Affairs 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, socioeconomic status, major, or minor.
3. Eligibility and recognition of SGA organizations shall be governed by Process for Recognizing SGA Organizations.

Article VII 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.
3. Agenda items that do not require votes by the Senate may occur without quorum, including but not limited to: public forum, executive and committee reports, and senatorial forum.

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 VIII 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. All business pertaining to the SGA and its operations shall not be considered a conflict of interest.

Section B: Procedure

1. A question of conflict of interest 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 IX 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. 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 X 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 3.
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.
2. Quorum shall not be required for votes to be held at an emergency meeting.
3. Any business passed at an Emergency Meeting where quorum is not present may be overturned at the next SGA meeting with quorum by a simple majority vote.

Article XI Initiative and Referendum

Section A: Initiatives

1. A formal petition presented by the student body to the SGA will allow for accompanying legislation, originating outside of the Senate, to be acted on by the Senate or to be put to the student body for a vote.
2. A formal petition brought to the Speaker of the Senate must contain the signatures of at least ten percent (10%) of the student body.
3. Only one (1) piece of legislation may be brought up at a time with a single petition,
 - a. Each petition will be accompanied by properly formatted legislation to be introduced to the body.
4. Once the Formal Petition is brought to the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker will add the accompanying legislation to the agenda under either Emergency Business or New Business at the following SGA Meeting.

Section B: Referendum

1. At any point during a discussion of legislation, the final vote can be put towards the student body with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the SGA Senate.
2. The legislation in question must be put forth to the student body with voting to be completed within fourteen (14) days.
 - a. A referendum requires a simple majority to pass with a minimum of five percent (5%) of the student body voting in the election.
 - b. The Elections Committee is responsible for outreach and vote tallying for referenda.

Article XII 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.

Section B: Grounds for Censure

1. If any member of the SGA fails to respect and abide by the policies and procedures established in the Constitution, Operation Documents, or Our Common Ground, that member of the SGA is subject to censure.

Section C: Procedure

1. A motion to censure may be brought up by any member of the Senate; the written motion is to be given to the Chair of the Judicial Committee.
2. The Judicial Committee is responsible for investigating the allegations and making these findings public at the censure proceedings.
 - a. If any member of the Judicial Committee is the member of the SGA in question, they shall not take part in the investigation done by the Judicial Committee.
 - b. The Judicial Committee is responsible for determining whether or not to bring the motion before the Senate in accordance with the Judicial Operational Documents and must inform the member of the SGA in question immediately.
 - c. Censure proceedings will take place at the next Senate meeting, but in no less than one week, after receipt by the Judicial Committee.
 - d. A petition containing the signatures of a simple majority of Senate may override the Judicial Committee if the Committee decides not to bring the motion before the Senate.
3. 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.
 - b. Only one motion to censure may be heard for each member of the SGA at any given meeting.
4. Any member of the SGA is automatically impeached if they receive three (3) censures.

Article XIII 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.
 - a. 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) week's 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 Judicial 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. The Judicial Committee shall bring the motion before the Senate if:
 - i. They find that a violation, as outlined in Article III Section A of the Judicial Committee Operational Documents, has occurred.
 - ii. The violation the SGA member committed is detrimental to the SGA's mission of upholding the pillars of *Our Common Ground* or serving UVM's community and student body.
 - c. If any member of the Judicial Committee is the member of the SGA in question, they shall not take part in the investigation done by the Judicial Committee.
2. The Judicial 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 Judicial Committee shall then have one (1) week from the time the motion is filed to investigate the allegations.
 - a. The Judicial Committee is responsible for determining whether or not to bring the motion before the Senate in accordance with the Judicial Operational Documents, and must inform the member of the SGA in question immediately
 - b. The Judicial Committee shall bring the motion before the Senate if they find that the SGA member has failed to fulfill their constitutional obligations after repeated notice or participated in conduct detrimental to the SGA's image and legitimacy.
 - c. If the Judicial Committee determines that the motion should be brought before the Senate, the Senate shall be notified with impeachment proceedings to occur at the next SGA meeting under Emergency Business.
4. A petition containing the signatures of a simple majority of Senate may override the Judicial Committee if the Committee decides not to bring the motion before the Senate.
5. All impeachment proceedings shall occur in Executive Session.
6. Impeachment requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
7. 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 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 a committee chair, nominated and chosen by the Senate, shall fulfill the duties of the two (2) offices respectively until the Emergency Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections are concluded.
 - a. The Elections Committee shall be responsible for the Emergency Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections.
 4. In the event 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 or 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 XIV Amendments

Section A: Procedure

1. The Judicial 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 one (1) week 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.
5. Amendments shall be effective immediately upon approval by the Senate.

6. 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 XV 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 commence occur only with a motion from the Senate and a three-fourths (3/4) 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 XVI Operational Documents

Section A: General Guidelines

1. The SGA Operational Documents can be opened and amended with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at any meeting of the SGA Senate.
 - a. The SGA Operational Documents may be opened at the same meeting at which they are amended.
 - b. Any member of the Senate may motion to open or amend the SGA Operational Documents.

Article XVII: Oaths of Office

Section A: All oaths of office mentioned in previous Articles of this constitution shall be stated in the Article.

1. The Oath of Office for the President shall read, "I hereby affirm that I will faithfully serve the Students of the University of Vermont, act in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution, uphold the values of Our Common Ground, and fulfill all duties and responsibilities required of the President of the Student Government Association. I will, to the best of my ability, strive to achieve the high level of expectation that accompanies the Office of the President of the Student Government Association.
2. The Oath of office for the Vice President shall read, "I hereby affirm that I will faithfully serve the Students of the University of Vermont, act in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution, uphold the values of Our Common Ground, and fulfill all duties and responsibilities required of the Vice President of the Student Government Association. I will, to the best of my ability, strive to achieve the high level of expectation that accompanies the Office of the Vice President of the Student Government Association.
3. The Oath of office for the Speaker of the Senate shall read, "I hereby affirm that I will faithfully serve the Students of the University of Vermont, act in accordance with the

Student Government Association Constitution, uphold the values of Our Common Ground, and fulfill all duties and responsibilities required of the Speaker of the Student Government Association Senate. I will, to the best of my ability, strive to achieve the high level of expectation that accompanies the position of the Speaker of the Student Government Association Senate.

4. The Oath of office for the Treasurer shall read, “I hereby affirm that I will faithfully serve the Students of the University of Vermont, act in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution, uphold the values of Our Common Ground, and fulfill all duties and responsibilities required of the Treasurer of the Student Government Association. I will, to the best of my ability, strive to achieve the high level of expectation that accompanies the Office of the Treasurer of the Student Government Association.
5. The Oath of Office for a Standing Committee Chair shall read, “I hereby affirm that I will faithfully serve the Students of the University of Vermont, act in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution, uphold the values of Our Common Ground, and fulfill all duties and responsibilities of a Student Government Association standing Committee Chair.
6. The Oath of Office for a Senator shall read, “I hereby affirm that I will faithfully serve the Students of the University of Vermont, act in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution, uphold the values of Our Common Ground, and fulfill all duties and responsibilities of a Student Government Association Senator.