PREAMBLE

We, the students of Georgia Southern University, in order to form a democratic, efficient and responsible student government to represent, lead, and unify the student body, to decide and act for the students, faculty, and administration, while protecting the individual rights of students, do hereby establish and adopt this constitution for the Georgia Southern University Student Government Association.

The Student Government Association (SGA) applies only to the internal governance of the SGA. If any part of the SGA Constitution conflicts with the Board of Regents (BOR), University System of Georgia (USG) regulations, and/or the Georgia Southern University (GSU) policies and procedures; then the BOR, USG, and GSU policies and procedures will take precedent.
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ARTICLE I: OBJECTIVE

Section 1: Name
A. The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association, hereinafter referred to as the “SGA” of Georgia Southern University, hereinafter referred to as “GSU.”

Section 2: Purpose
A. To provide direct channels for the responsible and effective participation in the Georgia Southern University community.
B. To provide an official and representative organization to receive complaints, consider problems, and participate in making decisions affecting the Georgia Southern University community.
C. To provide financial assistance to support registered eligible student organizations and individual students that may directly benefit the Georgia Southern University community.
D. To provide a means whereby student members of the Georgia Southern University community may gain experience and training in responsible political participation and community leadership.
E. To review regulations affecting academic activities, general educational policy of the University, the welfare of the University, and such other matters as may maintain and promote the best interest of the Georgia Southern University community.
F. To assist in the development of academic programs and policies in the Georgia Southern University community.
G. To participate in those organizations and/or programs outside the campus community that are judged in keeping with the purpose of these statutes.
H. To serve as a liaison between the students, faculty, professional staff, and Administration of the Georgia Southern University community.
I. To promote understanding and cooperation among students, faculty, and Administration of the Georgia Southern University community.
ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP
Section 1: Structure
   A. The Student Government Association shall exist as the governing body composed of Executive Officers, Senators, and Ex-Officio members.
   B. Non-Discrimination & Diversity Policy
      Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, shall be extended to all students without regard to age, ethnicity, gender, disability, color, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or sex and gender identity.

ARTICLE III: THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
Section 1: Composition
   A. Elected Executive Officers
      i. Shall be the President, the Executive Vice President, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Vice President of Finance, and the Vice President of Auxiliary Affairs.
   B. Appointed Executive Officers
      i. Shall constitute the Publicity Coordinator, Executive Assistant, Web Designer and the Graduate Assistant.

Section 2: Qualifications of the Executive Officers
   A. Shall be elected at large.
   B. Shall be enrolled as a student in good standing with GSU at the time of election or appointment and maintain this standing throughout the time of office.
   C. Shall hold the office for a period of one calendar year beginning at the close of the annual spring banquet.
   D. Shall not hold a position within the Senate during their term in office, unless specifically authorized within this Constitution.
   E. Must be enrolled for a minimum of four hours and have paid their spring semester student activities fee.
   F. Elected Executive Officers shall maintain a minimum of a 2.5 GPA throughout their term. Appointed Executive Officers shall maintain a minimum of a 2.5 GPA throughout their term.
Section 3: Authority and Responsibilities of the Executive Officers
A. With the exclusion of the President and presiding officer, shall be voting members of the Senate.
B. Shall ensure that legislation passed by the Senate meets the original organization intent when implemented by the SGA or when discussed or drafted into the University Policy at the respective University Senate Committee.
C. Shall meet at regularly scheduled times as determined by the President.
D. Shall vote on SGA matters not requiring Senate approval.
E. Shall supervise, maintain, and advise on policies, regulations and recommendations that are formulated by the Senate in the interest, convenience, and necessity of the student body.
F. Provide a positive representation of the SGA on and off the campus.

Section 4: Duties of the President
A. Shall be the official representative of the student body at official university functions.
B. Shall serve as the liaison between students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community.
C. Shall serve as the University delegate to the Student Advisory Council of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and shall have the authority to appoint Student Advisory Council delegate(s). May be appointed to any standing university committee or board other than those of the SGA, or may appoint a representative to serve in such capacity.
D. Shall oversee the Presidential Advisory Committee.
E. Shall work with the other officers in initiating programs for their area of responsibility.
F. Shall only vote during Senate meetings in the case of a tie.
G. May veto any Senate action within five working days of its passage. This action should be delivered in writing to the Executive Vice President, hereinafter referred to as “EVP,” and available for viewing by the Senate for three days.
H. Shall have the power to make all special student appointments.
I. Shall make all special student appointments.
J. Shall serve on the Activity Budget Committee.
K. Shall serve as Parliamentarian in the absence of the Executive Vice President.
L. Shall present a full report at the close of each semester reporting the status of the SGA and the activities presented.
M. Shall maintain a minimum of 10 office hours per week.

Section 5: Duties of the Executive Vice President
A. Shall serve as the presiding officer and President of the Senate.
B. Shall act as the interim President in the absence of the President.
C. Shall act as President in the case of removal or resignation of the President
D. Shall be responsible for upholding Parliamentary procedures during Senate meetings.
E. Shall train senators to uphold their responsibilities.
F. Shall serve in any capacity that will assist the SGA President in the execution of all actions taken by the SGA.
G. Shall serve as a non-voting member.
H. Shall maintain a minimum of 10 office hours per week.

Section 6: Duties of the Vice President of Academic Affairs
A. Shall be responsible for overseeing the total development of academic programs.
B. Shall oversee the work of all Faculty Senate Standing Committees and Student Government Association.
C. Shall oversee the Academic Affairs Committee
D. Shall attend all Undergraduate Council and Calendar Committee and serve as the voting member of both committees.
E. Shall be the official representative to the Academic Advisory Council.
F. Shall attend all Faculty Senate meetings and serve as a voting member.
G. Shall oversee the Student Government Association’s annual scholarship selection process.
H. Shall identify and investigate University-wide academic issues and draft and propose related legislation to the Senate.
I. Shall oversee the United Way philanthropy and the Eagles for Eagles initiative.
J. Shall chair Senate meetings in the absence of the President and the Executive Vice President.
K. Shall maintain a minimum of 10 office hours per week.

Section 7: Duties of the Vice President of Finance
A. Shall be in charge of all disbursements and financial operations of the Student Government Association.
B. Shall oversee expenditures by organizations receiving funding from the Student Government Association.
C. Shall oversee the Financial Advisory Committee.
D. Shall serve on the Activity Budget Committee.
E. Shall make an overall Budget report by the first Senate meeting of every month.
   i. Shall present an itemized budget report to the Senate once per month.
F. Shall maintain a minimum of 10 office hours per week.

Section 8: Duties of the Vice President of Auxiliary Affairs

A. Shall act as a liaison on for the student body and consult the Director of Auxiliary Services.
B. Shall be responsible for initiating policy and programs concerning all Auxiliary services provided by the university.
C. Shall oversee the Auxiliary Affairs Advisory Committee.
D. Shall chair the Auxiliary Services Committee.
E. Shall serve and attend Housing Appeals Committee meetings or appoint a designated representative.
F. Shall be responsible for producing and distributing the Student Government Association Student Directory.
G. Shall identify and investigate University-wide issues pertaining to student life and create legislation to address the issue.
H. Shall facilitate feedback from the student body regarding any University Auxiliary Services offered.
I. Shall maintain a minimum of 10 office hours per week.

Section 9: Duties of the Publicity Coordinator

A. Shall be responsible for coordinating and creating all advertisements, publicity, and press releases for Student Government Association functions.
B. Shall be the contact person for media transactions.
C. Shall oversee the Marketing Committee.
D. Shall actively promote a positive image of the SGA throughout the University and Statesboro community.
E. Shall manage the imaging and branding of Student Government Association.
F. Shall be hired to assist the Senate.
G. Shall be appointed by the Elected Executive Officers.
H. Shall be affirmed by a majority vote of the entire Senate.
I. Shall not have the same voting privileges as the Elected Executive Officers, the Senate, or the Faculty Representative.
J. Shall maintain a minimum of 10 office hours per week.

Section 10: Duties of the Executive Assistant
A. Shall be responsible for keeping the official roll, as well as recording, securing, and distributing the minutes of the Executive Board and Senate meetings.
B. Shall be responsible for all administrative duties.
C. Shall be appointed to be a non-voting member of a committee deemed necessary by the Executive Board.
D. Shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of all Executive and Senatorial relations.
E. Shall conduct monthly audits of Student Government Association records.
F. Shall be hired to assist the Senate.
G. Shall be appointed by the Elected Executive Officers.
H. Shall be affirmed by a majority vote of the entire Senate.
I. Shall not have the same voting privileges as the Elected Executive Officers, the Senate, or the Faculty Representative.
J. Shall maintain a minimum of 10 office hours per week.

Section 11: Duties of the Web Designer
A. Shall be responsible for promoting a positive media presence on the Student Government Association website.
B. Shall oversee all operations regarding the Student Government Association website.
C. Shall continuously improve the current website and bring new ideas to implement, further improving the function of the site.
D. Shall be hired to assist the Senate.
E. Shall be appointed by the Elected Executive Officers.
F. Shall be affirmed by a majority vote of the entire Senate.
G. Shall not have the same voting privileges as the Elected Executive Officers, the Senate, or the Faculty Representative.
H. Shall maintain a minimum of 10 office hours per week.

Section 12: Duties of the Graduate Assistant
A. Shall oversee Shuttle Gus.
B. Shall oversee elections for the Student Government Association.
C. Shall notify members of their absences as well as dismiss members from the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE IV: THE SENATE

Section 1: Composition

A. There shall be a total number of three (3) Senators from each college at Georgia Southern University elected and two (2) appointed each year, one (1) upperclassman and one (1) freshman. If there are any additional open senatorial seats, Senators will be appointed by the Executive Vice President and the Senate Selection Committee in the corresponding semester.

B. There shall be a total of five (5) seats, one (1) in each college except COGS, reserved with the intention of appointing freshmen Senators beginning in the Fall.

C. There shall be a total number of three (3) At-Large Senators elected and two (2) appointed each year, one (1) upperclassman and one (1) freshman that will represent those students who are undeclared or not represented by a college at Georgia Southern University.

D. There shall be a total of three (3) seats in the College of Graduate studies elected and two (2) appointed.

E. The Parliamentarian is non-voting member of the Senate responsible for maintaining decorum and ensuring Senate procedures are conducted in accordance with the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.
   i. The Executive Vice President will serve as the Parliamentarian to the Senate.

Section 2: Qualifications of the Senate

A. Shall be enrolled as a student in good standing with GSU at the time of election or appointment and maintain this standing throughout the time of office.

B. Shall hold the office for a period of one calendar year beginning from the close of the spring banquet.

C. No part of this constitution shall be construed so as to prevent Senators from holding an internship, Co-op, or student teach during his/her term in office provided office hours are maintained.
D. Must be enrolled for a minimum of four (4) hours and have paid their spring semester student activities fee.
E. Shall maintain a minimum of a 2.5 GPA for the term in which they are serving.

Section 3: Duties of the Senate
A. Shall approve the final budget of the Student Government Association at the annual fall retreat.
B. Shall serve as the liaison for the students to the faculty, staff, and administration of the University.
   i. It is key that Senators understand that decisions should be based on the students that they serve.
C. Shall approve all non-budgetary expenditures in excess of $500.
D. Shall provide a voice for the student body in the academic and institutional affairs of the University.
E. Shall propose legislation on behalf of the student body.
F. Shall have the authority to override a Presidential veto with a two-thirds majority vote of Senators present. Upon this vote, the previously vetoed action goes into effect without the President’s further approval.
G. Shall retain any and all powers, rights, and/or responsibilities not specifically enumerated in this document to other bodies.
H. Shall confirm or reject all appointments to the Senate and Executive Board.
I. Shall convene within their college outside of regular Senate meetings a minimum of two (2) times per month to discuss business and to implement and carry out plans to improve each respective college.
J. Shall serve two (2) office hours in the Student Government Association office per month.

ARTICLE V: THE EX-OFFICIO OFFICERS

Section 1: Composition
A. Shall be the Student Government Advisor (or his/her designee) and a representative appointed by the Faculty Senate.

Section 2: Duties and Responsibilities
A. The Faculty Senate Representative shall have a vote on the Student Government Association Senate as long as the Student Government Association representative to the Faculty Senate has a vote on the Faculty Senate.
B. Shall act the liaison between Faculty Senate and SGA.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

Section 1: Composition
A. There shall be eight permanent Student Government Association committees.
   i. Each committee will consist of at least three active Senators, one of which may serve as chair of the committee.
B. Each committee will be responsible for submitting a report of their activities to the Senate as deemed necessary by the committee.

Section 2: Standing Committees
A. The 17 standing committees are as follows: Presidential Advisory Committee, Constitutional Review Committee, Banquet Committee, Senate Selection Committee, Responsibilities and Recognition Committee, Student Activity Budget Committee, Financial Advisory Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, Scholarship Committee, United Way Committee, Technology Fee Committee, Library Advisory Committee, Auxiliary Affairs Committee, Parking and Transportation Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, Elections Committee, Marketing Committee.
B. Further details regarding the structure and duties of the standing committees shall be defined in the SGA By-Laws.
C. Ad Hoc committees shall be created and appointed on occasions deemed necessary by the Senate or Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS

Section 1: Voter Eligibility
A. An eligible voter shall be defined as anyone who has paid his or her spring semester activity fees.
B. Each eligible voter will be allowed to vote only once.
C. Voting more than once will result in disqualification as a voter and your ballot will be considered null and void.

Section 2: Candidates Requirements
A. The nomination/application process shall be no less than one (1) week.
B. A mandatory candidates meeting will be held prior to campaigning. Failure to attend may result in your disqualification.
C. Must meet all criteria in Election Guidelines Procedures.
Section 3: Electoral Procedures

A. Elections will be held campus wide during the spring semester for both the Elected Executive Officers and Senators (excluding Freshman Senators).

B. There will be two options for electoral procedures. The Student Government Association reserves the right to select the option.
   i. Option 1: Hand Ballot Elections
      The Elections Committee is responsible for simultaneously holding 3 days of elections at no less than 3 locations. The results will be posted no later than 5:00 pm on the day following the final day of elections in the Student Government Association Office.
   ii. Option 2: Online Elections
      Online Elections will begin at 12 a.m. on the first day and conclude after seventy-two (72) hours. The results will be posted no later than twelve (12) hours following the completion of the elections.
   iii. A majority vote of over 50% of the votes cast is required for an Executive Officer candidate to win. If no one receives over 50% of the vote, a run-off shall be held between the top two candidates. Run-offs, if necessary, will be held one week following the set election date and will replicate the general election in every way. The candidate who receives the most votes will be declared the winner of the run-off election.

C. There shall be a total of three (3) senators elected from each college at Georgia Southern University. A student must have a major in the college in which they wish to run.
   i. There shall be a total of three (3) At-Large senators elected that will represent those students who are undeclared or are not represented by a college.

D. The term of office shall be for one calendar year, beginning at the SGA banquet (held in the spring) and continuing until the SGA banquet the following year.

E. If a candidate wishes to contest the election, he or she must do so in writing, stating reasons for contesting the election to the Director of the University Judicial Board (weekends are not included in the 48 hour time span).

F. The University Judicial Board will hold a hearing, if necessary, within one week after the election is contested to consider any candidate’s case. Only a
recognized candidate can contest the Student Government Association election. The decision rendered by the University Judicial Board will be considered final.

G. Grounds for contesting the election results:
   i. Irregularities by the Elections Committee or a violation of campaign rules by a candidate or anyone involved in the election procedures shall be grounds for contesting the election.
      a. An irregularity is defined as a violation whose penalty is not covered by the campaign regulation guidelines or whose ramifications drastically alter the official results of the election.
   ii. The right to contest may extend to incidents where the elections committee may have voluntarily or involuntarily taken actions that may have altered the outcome of the elections.

H. Further information on electoral procedures shall be defined by the SGA Bylaws.

I. For additional information or clarification please consult the Student Government Association election guidelines.

Section 4: Vacancies

A. In the case of a vacancy on the Executive Board the remaining Executive Officers shall accept applications and conduct interviews consisting of a series of questions and then submit candidates to the Senate for approval by a majority vote.
   i. No portion of this clause shall prevent the Executive Vice President from becoming President upon the removal or resignation of the President.

B. In the case of a vacancy of a Senatorial position, applications will be taken following the vacancy of the position.
   i. Applications for the fall semester will be accepted until the withdrawal date from a class without academic penalty.
   ii. Applications for the spring semester will be accepted until the second week of classes.
   iii. Interviews will consist of a series of questions administered by the Senate Selection Committee.
   iv. Replacement appointments will be confirmed by a majority vote of the senators present.
v. In the case of a college representative vacancy, a serving senator from the same college may assume that vacancy; if no one is available then a same college applicant must be selected.

C. The order of succession will be as follows: In the event of presidential vacancy, the Executive Vice President will assume the office of President. In the case of Executive Vice President vacancy, the Vice President of Academic Affairs will assume the office of Executive Vice President. The office of the Vice Academic Affairs will need to be appointed.

D. In the case of two or more vacancies in the Executive Board, the highest-ranking Vice President will become President and the remaining Executive Board seats will be awarded to candidates by a majority vote of the Senate.

ARTICLE VIII: Impeachment and Removal

Section 1: Qualifications for Impeachment

A. Failure to adhere to the Georgia Southern University Code of Conduct.

B. Failure to adhere to the ethics and requirements set by the Georgia Southern University Student Government Association.

C. Any Student Government Association member may be removed from office by a three-fourths majority vote of the entire Senate body.

D. Automatic removal occurs upon violation of any of the qualifications or regulations listed in this document.

E. Must be nominated for impeachment or by an elected executive officer and confirmed by a majority (51%) vote by the Senate to proceed to a hearing.

Section 2: Rights of the Accused

A. Shall be given a minimum of five days’ notice if they are to come before the appointed Senate committee.
   a. The committee can only be comprised of an appointed Senator from each college. Each senator shall be appointed by the Executive Vice President and confirmed by the President.
   b. The charges must be formally presented to the accused with written documentation and verbal communication.

B. The accused may present any information necessary to clear their name.

Section 3: Procedures

A. The Executive Vice President shall preside over the hearing.
a. The President of SGA will preside in the case of an impeachment hearing of the EVP.
B. The accuser and accused will each have a chance to present their case to the committee.
C. The impeachment may only be confirmed by two-thirds vote of the appointed committee.
   a. The final decision rests in the Senate in the case of a tie.
      i. Regular voting procedures will apply.

**ARTICLE IX: FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

**Section 1:** Further information on financial procedures shall be outlined and defined by the SGA Bylaws.

**ARTICLE X: ORGANIZATIONAL BODY**

**Section 1:** The Organizational Body is an an adjunct body that will allow organizations to have representatives who will meet with SGA regularly.
   A. The organizational representatives will act as a liaison between SGA and their organization in order to address any campus wide concerns and create solutions
   B. Further information on the Organizational Body shall be outlined and defined by the SGA bylaws.

**ARTICLE XI: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND HAZING**

**Section 1: Anti-Discrimination**
   A. This organization will not discriminate against any otherwise qualified individual on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability.

**Section 2: Define Hazing**
   A. Hazing is defined in the Georgia Southern University Student Conduct Code as: an act which endangers the emotional, mental, or physical health or safety of a student, with or without their expressed permission, or which destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. Hazing includes acts that are intended to or
actually cause physical discomfort, embarrassment and/or ridicule of other purposes mentioned above or are violations of the Student Conduct Code.

**Section 3: Anti-Hazing**

B. This organization will not initiate, participate in, or be witness to any act that inflicts or intends to inflict physical or mental harm or discomfort or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s).