

# **The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government**

*Last Updated September 30, 2020 by Counsel Tyler Watt*

## **Article I – Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and shall be referred to hereinafter as the Government. Student Government and LSA SG shall be the official abbreviations of the Government.

## **Article II - Purpose**

LSA Student Government shall be the democratic government representing the entire Student Body of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts (hereafter the College). The Government shall actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life.

## **Article III – Composition**

The Government shall consist of the following members:

- A. Elected Representatives.** Representatives, elected from and by the Student Body of the College, shall be members of the Government. There shall be thirty (30) elected representatives, fifteen (15) of which are elected in the fall election and fifteen (15) of which are elected in the winter election. Each elected representative shall have one vote for two consecutive semesters, not considering Spring and Summer semesters.
- B. Associate Representatives.** Any student who has attended three consecutive General meetings shall be members of the Government. They shall not have a vote, but they shall have speaking rights
- C. President.** The President shall be elected by the Student Body of the College during Winter Semester elections. They shall only have a vote in an instance of tie.
- D. Vice President.** The Vice President shall be elected by the Student Body of the College in a paired slate with the President. They shall have one vote.
- E. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President and shall be a member of government. They shall have one vote.
- F. Counsel.** The Counsel shall be appointed by the President and shall be a member of government. They shall have one vote.
- G. Academic Relations Officer.** The Academic Relations Officer shall be appointed by the President and shall be a member of government. They shall have one vote.
- H. External Relations Officer.** The External Relations Officer shall be appointed by the President and shall be a member of government. They shall have one vote.
- I. Student Life Relations Officer.** The Student Life Relations Officer shall be appointed by the President and shall be a member of the government. They shall have one vote.
- J. Secretary.** The Secretary shall be appointed by the President and shall be a member of government. They shall have one vote.

- K. Appointed Representatives.** Vacancies in Elected Representative seats may be filled for a period lasting equal or less than one semester (not considering Spring and Summer semesters). The process for the appointment of Appointed Representatives shall be defined in the Bylaws. Appointed Representatives shall serve as members of the government and be entitled to vote on matters before the government, excluding any matters defined in the Bylaws that they are discharged from.
- L. Committee and Subcommittee Chairs.** Committee and Subcommittee Chairs shall be elected by the voting members of the Government. If they serve concurrently as a representative, they shall have one vote.
- M. Committee and Subcommittee Vice Chairs.** Committee and Subcommittee Vice Chairs shall be elected by the voting members of the Government. If they serve concurrently as a representative, they shall have one vote.

#### **Article IV – Officers**

- A. President.** The President shall be President of the Student Body of the College, and chief executive officer of the Government. When the President is present, the President shall preside at all General Meetings of the Government. The President shall be the chief spokesperson for the Government, except when and in such cases that the Government shall designate another spokesperson.
- B. Vice President.** The Vice President shall coordinate the administrative functions of the Government and the activities of Government committees. The Vice President shall also manage the Government's offices.
- C. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Government. The Treasurer shall disburse all funds appropriated by the Government, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and of the Bylaws. The Treasurer shall prepare a semesterly budget to be submitted to the Government for approval.
- D. Counsel.** The Counsel shall serve as the Parliamentarian of the Government. The Counsel shall also serve as legal representative in all matters before the Central Student Judiciary. The Counsel shall oversee the Internal Review Committee.
- E. Academic Relations Officer.** The Academic Relations Officer shall serve as spokesperson to the Dean's Office regarding academic affairs. The Academic Relations Officer shall oversee the Academic Affairs Committee.
- F. External Relations Officer.** The External Relations Officer shall be a spokesperson of the Government. The External Relations Officer shall oversee the Communications Committee.
- G. Student Life Relations Officer.** The Student Life Relations Officer shall serve as spokesperson to the Dean's Office and to the Office of the Vice President of Student Life regarding student life issues. The Student Life Relations Officer shall oversee the Student Life Committee.
- H. Secretary.** The Secretary shall record and publish the minutes of all Government meetings. The Secretary shall maintain Government documents, records, and attendance.

#### **Article V - Powers and Functions**

Consistent with the limitations of the rest of this Constitution, the Government shall have the following powers and functions:

- A. Advocating.** To advocate on behalf of the students of the College.
- B. Legislation.** To adopt legislation to address and improve upon concerns of the College.
- C. Projects and Activities.** To originate student projects and activities.
- D. Fees.** To act as the beneficiary of student and college government fees as paid by the students of the College and set by the University of Michigan Board of Regents, appropriating these fees within the Government and awarding funds to other student organizations.
- E. Election.** To conduct a semesterly election for the purpose of electing the representatives and proposing ballot questions and referenda. During the winter semester elections the President and Vice President slate shall also be elected.
- F. Appointment.** To appoint or provide procedures for the appointment of student representatives to College and University wide committees, to College and University wide boards, to College and University wide panels, and to vacant seats representing the College on the Central Student Government (or its successor), and to remove or provide procedures for the removal of such appointees.
- G. Bylaws.** To establish a set of Bylaws to carry out the powers and functions described here or elsewhere in this Constitution.

#### **Article VI - Committees**

- A. Structure.** Each Committee shall have a single Chair and Vice Chair elected by the voting members of the Government.
- B. Membership.** The composition of committees shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, representatives, and volunteer members.
- C. Permanent Committees or Subcommittees.** Permanent Committees or Subcommittees may be created in order to accomplish recurring tasks or to assist the Government in the performance of its duties. Permanent Committees may be created or dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the Government. Subcommittees may be created or dissolved by a simple majority vote of the Government. The powers, functions, and composition of each Permanent Committee and Subcommittee shall be defined in the Bylaws.
- D. Temporary Committees or Task Forces.** Temporary Committees or Task Forces may be created in order to accomplish a specific task or project, or to respond to a short term need. The Government may establish Temporary Committees or Task Forces by a majority vote. The general rules governing Temporary Committees or Task Forces shall be defined in the Bylaws.

#### **Article VII - Operating Procedures**

- A. Chair.** The Chair of the Government shall be the President.
- B. Quorum.** A quorum shall consist of a majority of the total number of voting members of the Government then in office.

- C. Open Meetings.** All meetings of the Government and Government committees shall be open to the Student Body of the College and to the public at large. The Government shall provide reasonable means for the participation of constituents at Government meetings.
- D. Public Notice.** The time, place, and agenda of each meeting shall be made public in advance of each meeting and publicized as much as possible.
- E. Minutes.** Minutes shall be taken at each meeting of the Government and shall be made available for public inspection promptly afterwards.
- F. Rules of Order.** Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) shall be the official rules of procedure for all meetings of the Government and its committees, except where the Government may adopt other procedures in its Bylaws or legislation, and except where Robert's Rules may conflict with this Constitution.
- G. Roll Call Votes.** A roll call on any issue shall be taken upon the request of one-fifth of the voting members present.
- H. Attendance Roll Calls.** There shall be a roll call of members present at the beginning and the end of each Government meeting. Each roll call shall be recorded in the minutes.
- I. Actions Effective.** Actions of the Government shall become effective immediately after the meeting at which they are taken has adjourned, unless specified otherwise in the action being taken. This shall not include amendments to this Constitution.
- J. Budget.** The Government shall adopt a budget on a semesterly basis. The manner of adopting and periodically amending the budget shall be specified in the Bylaws.
- K. Financial Awards.** No financial awards shall be made to any outside organizations except by a majority vote of the Government. No disbursements shall be made without the prior appropriation, approval, or authorization of the Government. All financial records shall be open to public inspection.
- L. Jurisdiction.** The Central Student Judiciary shall have original jurisdiction over all cases concerning regulations, legislation, or other actions enacted by the Government. This will be further established in the Bylaws.
- M. Salaries Prohibited.** No officer or member of the Government shall be paid a salary. Actual expenses incurred on Government business, however, may be reimbursed in a manner provided for in the Bylaws.
- N. Other Procedures.** Additional operating procedures may be established in the Bylaws provided that they are entirely consistent with this Constitution and the powers and functions of the Government.

### **Article VIII – Elections**

- A. General Elections.** The Government shall hold two General All-College Elections each year. One shall be held during November and the other shall be held during March. The election shall be held on the same days and in conjunction with the fall and winter term elections of the Central Student Government (or its successor), unless the Government chooses different dates by a two-thirds vote. The operation of these elections shall be provided for in the Bylaws.
- B. Special Elections.** The Government may call special elections on dates other than the General All-College Elections. Special elections may be called in order to vote on referenda of any sort or

to hold a new election for a given seat on the Government, a given set of seats on the Government, or on a given referenda question when the original results of the election were contested and, in the opinion of the Central Student Judiciary, a new election should be called to determine a result. The operation of these elections shall be provided for in the Bylaws.

**C. Elected Representatives.** Representatives shall be elected each year from and by the Student Body of the College during the General All-College Elections. Half shall be elected during the November elections and half shall be elected during the March elections. If the number of representatives is odd, then one more representative will be elected in the March Elections than in the November Elections.

- a. Term.** Representatives elected in November shall serve until the next November election and seating of representatives. Representatives elected in March shall serve until the next March election and seating of representatives. No term shall exceed one year and thirty-five days.
- b. Voting.** Each voter may vote for N candidates for the position of representative where N is the number of representatives being elected. The voter shall rank the candidates from 1 to N on the basis of preference. A first place vote shall count for N points, where N is the number of representatives being elected, a second place vote shall count for (N-1) points, and so on. An N-th place vote shall count for one point. The number of points shall be summed for each candidate, and the N candidates with the most points shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie, the Government shall choose among the tied candidates. The candidate with the majority vote shall receive the seat.
- c. Candidacy.** Candidates for representative seats must be students at the Ann Arbor campus of the University of Michigan and must be enrolled in the College at the time of their election.
- d. Vacancy.** The seat of any representative shall be declared vacant if the representative resigns, fails to enroll, or unenrolls from the College during either the fall or winter academic term, graduates from the College, fails to meet minimum attendance requirements established in the Bylaws, or is recalled by the Student Body of the College. Vacancies shall be filled by a vote of the Government. Persons appointed to fill vacancies must be currently enrolled in the College.

**D. President and Vice President.** The President and Vice President of the Government shall be elected together as a slate during the March general elections.

- a. Term.** The President and Vice President shall serve until the election and seating of their successors. This term shall not exceed one year and thirty-five days.
- b. Voting.** Each voter may vote for only one slate. The slate receiving the highest total number of votes shall be declared elected.
- c. Candidacy.** Candidates for President and Vice President must be students at the Ann Arbor campus of the University of Michigan and must be enrolled in the College at the time of their election. Candidates for President or Vice President may not simultaneously be candidates for representative.



shall be described in the Bylaws. If a majority of those voting on the proposed amendment in the referendum approve it, the amendment shall be adopted.

**C. Student Process.** The adoption of an amendment, or of this Constitution, shall be an entirely student process. No non-student body shall review, suspend, or approve this Constitution or amendments to this Constitution in any way.

**D. Effective Date.** No amendment to this Constitution shall take effect until thirty days after the referendum in which it was adopted unless a different effective date is specified in the referendum question. No amendment shall take effect, in any case, until after the results of the election in which it was adopted are certified.

#### **Article X - Affiliation**

**A. Affiliation.** LSA SG shall be affiliated with, and sponsored by, the Office of The Dean of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts of the University of Michigan. LSA SG has no current affiliations with local, state, or national organizations or businesses.

#### **Article XI - Non-Discriminatory Practices**

**A. Non-Discrimination Clause.** LSA SG admits students to its membership through its elective, appointive, and associative processes and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, citizenship status, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status.