

C W2021.03

An Amendment to the Third, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Articles of the Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government to Create the LSA Student Judiciary

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

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Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

Whereas, the Constitution of LSA SG may be amended in a two stage process: first with an amendment that received $\frac{2}{3}$ approval of the government, and then with the approval of the student body with a simple majority vote;² and,

Whereas, as an organization, LSA SG has a need to consistently evolve and adapt its best practices to serve its constituents; and,

Whereas, our constituents deemed a separate judiciary branch to be a useful addition to LSA SG during the Fall 2020 election; and,

Whereas, the Internal Affairs Bloc has collectively developed procedures and will be proposing amendments to see this new branch created; and,

Whereas, the Judiciary of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SJ) shall be this new branch, known also as the LSA Student Judiciary or LSA SJ; and,

Whereas, the most critical principles guiding LSA SJ ought be contained in the Constitution of this Government; and,

Whereas, such principles should be enumerated in their own section of this document; and,

Whereas, this section ought to be placed within the main body of the document, not following the legalistic sections that are less relevant to regular functioning of the Government.

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II.

² The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article IX, Section A.

Be it therefore resolved, that a constitutional amendment be introduced to the students of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts to vote on the language depicted in Appendix A; and,

Be it further resolved, that if passed, this amendment takes immediate effect following the certification of the referendum's results; and,

Be it further resolved, that no Justices be seated, nor any committees be formed to seat such justices, until on or after March 26, 2021; and,

Be it further resolved, that a Manual of Procedures be developed to contain the finer points of the operations of LSA SJ, and that it be presented to the Government via a separate resolution, and that it exist outside the Bylaws as an autonomous document; and,

Be it finally resolved, that any suits arising out of the Winter 2021 LSA SG elections be considered under the jurisdiction of the Central Student Judiciary, should the need arise for an appellate court.

Appendix A

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.
- N. Chief Justice of LSA Student Judiciary.** *The Judiciary of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA Student Judiciary) shall be headed by a Chief*

Justice, selected in a manner outlined in the Bylaws. They shall manage administrative details of LSA Student Judiciary, and participate in deliberations to which their office is mandated under the Manual of Procedures of the LSA Student Judiciary.

- O. Associate Justices of LSA Student Judiciary.** *LSA Student Judiciary may be further composed of up to four Associate Justices, who shall partake in deliberations and render decisions in matters which they are mandated to hear under the Manual of Procedures of the LSA Student Judiciary. They shall be selected in a manner outlined in the Bylaws. The Associate Justices may hold additional designations as outlined in the Manual of Procedures.*

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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~~ *Student Judiciary of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government* 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, *and in its Manual of Procedures.*

- 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.
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Article IX –

The Judiciary of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

- A. Mission.** *LSA Student Judiciary shall be the judicial branch of the Government, and be responsible for adjudicating cases within their jurisdiction, in order to promote justice within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.*
- B. Jurisdiction.** *LSA Student Judiciary shall have original jurisdiction over matters outlined in Manual of Procedures of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*
- C. Composition.** *LSA Student Judiciary shall be composed of a Chief Justice and up to four Associate Justices, collectively the Justices of the Judiciary of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter Justices). The Justices may not hold a voting position nor campaign for a government position. The terms of the Justices and manner of selection shall be outlined in the Bylaws.*
- D. Judicial Procedures.** *Procedures of the LSA Judiciary shall be outlined in its Manual of Procedures, the Bylaws, this Constitution, and other guiding documents of LSA SG.*

Article ~~IX~~ – Amendments

- A. Government Initiated.** The Government may, by a two-thirds vote, initiate an amendment to this Constitution and refer it to the Student Body of the College. If a majority of those voting on the proposed amendment in the referendum approve it, the amendment shall be adopted.
- B. Petition Initiated.** An amendment to this Constitution may be initiated by a petition signed by at least one thousand students currently enrolled in the college. The procedure for filing a petition 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.

- E. Required Amendments.** Any amended so required by the Center for Campus Involvement or a similar supervisory body that is essential to LSA SG's continued status as a Sponsored Student Organization may be adopted without referral to the student body by referendum. Amendments of this nature must still be adopted by the Government in the same manner as outlined in Article IX, Section A.

Article XI - 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 XII - 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.