



**STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION**  
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

**Associated Students of Saint Louis University  
Student Government Association  
Constitution**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the Associated Students of Saint Louis University, in order to establish a representative student government; to provide an open forum for dialogue and a voice for student opinions concerning the affairs of the University; to involve students in a productive partnership of shared governance with the faculty, staff, and administration of the University; to promote the welfare and unity of the greater student community; to uphold the ideals and values of the Jesuit Catholic tradition, especially the ideal of *People for and with Others*; do hereby ordain and establish this constitution for the service of the student body and *ad majorem Dei gloriam*.

**ARTICLE I NAME**

- I. The name of the associated students of Saint Louis University shall be the Saint Louis University Student Government Association, hereafter referred to as SGA.

**ARTICLE II PURPOSE**

- I. SGA shall:
  - A. Act as the official student voice on all appropriate matters concerning the students as part of the Saint Louis University community.
  - B. Represent the interests of students in the University decision-making process on all University committees that affect student welfare, and to ensure student participation in all appropriate decision-making processes within the University.
  - C. Encourage programs beneficial to the education, welfare, and growth of the students and the University community.
  - D. Provide guidance and support for student organizations and other student programs.

**ARTICLE III SUPERIOR AUTHORITY**

- I. SGA, being composed of students and chartered by the Board of Trustees of Saint Louis University, is therefore:
  - A. Subject to the rules and regulations of the University, in addition to the statutes of government entities in which the University resides
  - B. Has the authority to govern chartered student organization



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C. Serves as the leading voice on all student matters

**ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP & POSITIONS**

I. Members Eligibility:

A. All full-time and part-time registered students of Saint Louis University are eligible to hold any position within their constituency or any committee within SGA unless otherwise limited by a position's eligibility requirements or a prior violation of SGA governing documents

1. A full-time student shall be defined as a student enrolled in 12 or more credits per semester. A part-time student shall be defined as a student enrolled in 6 to 11 credits per semester

B. The Executive Board:

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following seats:

- a) One President
- b) One Vice President of Academic Affairs
- c) One Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- d) One Vice President of Finance
- e) One Vice President of Communications and Internal Affairs
- f) One Vice President of International Affairs
- g) One Vice President for Student Organizations

C. The Senate:

1. The Senate shall consist of the following seats at a minimum:

- a) Two College of Arts and Sciences Senators
- b) Two College of Philosophy and Letters Senators
- c) Two College for Public Health and Social Justice Senators
- d) Two Doisy College of Health Science Senators
- e) Two Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business Senators
- f) Two School of Education Senators
- g) Two School of Law Senators
- h) Two School of Medicine Senators
- i) Two School of Nursing Senators
- j) Two School for Professional Studies Senators
- k) Two School of Science and Engineering Senators
- l) Two Black Student Alliance Senators
- m) Two Commuter Senators
- n) Four Diversity Leadership Cabinet Senators
- o) Four First-Year Senators
- p) Two Graduate Student Association Senators
- q) Two International Student Senators



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- r) Two Residence Hall Association Senators
  - s) One Transfer Student Senator
  - t) Two School of Social Work Senators
2. Each college/school shall initially have two academic Senators. When the enrollment for a college/school has reached 1000 Full-Time Equivalency students during the academic school year, and for each subsequent 1000 students enrolled, the college/school will be granted an additional seat for the following academic year. Equivalency is defined as one full-time student or two part-time students.
3. Adjustment of the Senate:
- a) Removal of Senate positions due to the elimination of a University college, school, or organization shall take effect immediately after passage.
  - b) All adjustments to the minimum number of Senators require approval of the senate as an amendment to the constitution.
  - c) The Internal Affairs Committee will review and adjust all additional apportionments to all academic colleges/schools for the following academic year based on the number of students currently enrolled therein by the second senate meeting in January.
- D. Committee Representatives
1. The committees within SGA that shall have membership as outlined by the SGA bylaws include the following:
- a) Academic Affairs Committee
  - b) Assembly for Sexual Assault Prevention
  - c) Committee for Student Organizations
  - d) Constitution and Policy Review Committee
  - e) Diversity Leadership Cabinet
  - f) Facilities and Services Committee
  - g) Finance Committee
  - h) Food Advisory Committee
  - i) Internal Affairs Committee
  - j) International Affairs Committee
  - k) Mission and Ministry Committee
  - l) Student Outreach Committee
  - m) Sustainability Committee
  - n) Wellness Committee
  - o) Communications Committee
  - p) Information Technology Services Committee
- E. Adjustment to the Members of SGA
1. Any addition to the executive board, the senate, or committee



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- representative positions listed shall take effect immediately after passage.
2. The removal of any positions will not require the removal of a seat before its term of office expires unless specified otherwise.
  3. Adjustments to the seats listed require an amendment to the constitution.

**ARTICLE V NON-VOTING APPOINTEES**

- I. Non-voting appointees shall serve in an advisory capacity to SGA
- II. Non-voting appointees include the following:
  - A. Chaplain
  - B. Chief of Staff
  - C. Election Commissioner
  - D. Parliamentarian

**ARTICLE VI PROCEDURES**

- I. Election of Senate Members
  - A. On the last Monday in February, all full-time and part-time students qualified to vote shall elect by secret ballot the Senate members for the following academic year. Students may only vote for representatives of the constituency to which they belong. The name of a senate seat describes the constituency it represents, and qualified students may run for any constituency of which they intend to be a member at the start of the following academic year.
    1. Any full-time and part-time student, excluding 1818 students, is qualified to vote within their constituency based on their spring enrollment.
    2. The Vice President of Communications and Internal Affairs must nominate someone for those positions not filled during the SGA general elections before the second senate meeting of the academic year.
  - B. Law School Senators shall be selected during the elections held by the Student Bar Association (SBA)
  - C. Medical School Senators shall be selected during elections held by the Medical Student Government.
  - D. Election of Graduate Student Association Senators shall be organized as follows:
    1. Elections for the Senator who must serve on the Executive Board of the Graduate Student Association as the External Affairs Officer shall take place during the same period as the General Elections for the Graduate Student Association. Candidates must meet the criteria established by GSA to run for the position. The General Assembly of GSA will vote on who will fill this position



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2. The second GSA Senator position will be elected through the SGA general elections for graduate students only
  - E. Diversity Leadership Cabinet Senators shall be selected through an SGA application process. Candidates will apply to represent one of the four areas of DLC:
    1. Interfaith Affairs
    2. Multicultural Affairs
    3. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities
    4. Opportunity and Ability
  - F. Black Student Alliance Senators shall be selected during the elections held for the Black Student Alliance (BSA)
  - G. International Student Senators must apply through the SGA application process, handled by the Cabinet during the fall. This must be done prior to the first senate meeting.
  - H. Elections of Residence Hall Association Senators shall be organized as follows:
    1. One of the two senators for the RHA will serve on the Executive Board of the Residence Hall Association as the Vice President of Advocacy. The SGA election for this senator will take place during the same time as the General Election of the SGA. Candidates must apply through the RHA.
    2. The second RHA Senator position must be filled during the SGA general election process
  - I. First-year senators must apply through the SGA application process, handled by the Cabinet during the fall. This must be done prior to the first senate meeting
  - J. The Transfer Senator must be filled during the SGA general election process
  - K. Elections of Commuter Senators shall be organized as follows:
    1. Elections for the Senator who must serve on the Executive Board of the Commuter Student Association (CSA) shall take place during the same time period as the General Election of the SGA. Candidates must apply through CSA
    2. The second Commuter Senator position shall be filled during the SGA general election process
- II. Senate Member Term of Office
- A. Senate members elected during the general elections of SGA, International Student Federation, Black Student Alliance, and the Student Bar Association shall take office at 12:00 AM on the day after the last day of the academic year during which they were elected
  - B. An elected member's term of office shall end at 11:59 PM on the last day of the academic year for which they are serving
  - C. A term is defined as one academic school year
- III. Senate Meetings



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- A. Regular weekly meetings: The Senate shall meet every Wednesday at 5:00 PM during the academic year when classes are in session unless otherwise ordered by SGA. These meetings shall be open to the public
- B. Special meetings: The President or a majority of the executive board may call special meetings of the senate, provided at least one-third of the whole senate concurs with the calling of such meetings. However, the Senate must have a quorum to vote on legislation. These meetings shall be open to the public at the discretion of the SGA executive board
- C. The Associated Students of Saint Louis University Student Government Association shall refrain from using gendered language and will respect the chosen pronouns of an individual in all SGA communications and internal business conduct, including, but not restricted to, Senate meetings

IV. Voting Rules

- A. At any senate meeting, the presence of a majority of Senators seated constitutes a quorum and is necessary for any vote to be conducted.
  - 1. Quorum shall be set at the beginning of the meeting when official business begins and shall remain the same for the duration of the meeting
  - 2. At the beginning of the meeting, voting members may motion to lower quorum for that meeting at the discretion of the Chair
- B. Any legislation passed by the senate must have a majority vote to pass. If a vote ties, the motion fails
- C. A simple majority is defined as 50%+1 of voting members present
- D. A vote that requires two-thirds of the Senate to pass must have at least a two-thirds majority based on the number of Senate members seated
- E. Voting members should abstain from voting due to conflicts of interest, where the voting member has conflicting loyalties or derives personal benefit from the decision. Their vote shall be removed from the number of Senators in the quorum for that vote
- F. Voting members may not abstain from a two-thirds vote of the senate
- G. When calculating the number of votes needed to pass from the percent, if the ratio for yay votes needed is a non-integer, then the number of votes needed to pass shall be rounded to the next highest integer

V. Selection of Committee Representatives

- A. The Internal Affairs Committee shall nominate a full-time or part-time student to fill all committee representative seats for a term of office
- B. The nominees shall be presented to the senate for confirmation

VI. Impeachment

- A. Senators, appointed representatives, and executive board members who have violated the Oath of Office, Oath of Inclusion, SGA Constitution, and/or SGA Bylaws may be impeached by a two-thirds vote of the Senate with at least 48



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hours written notice prior to impeachment being heard by the Senate.

1. “Written notice” will be defined as:
  - a) Formal, written communication via official SGA digital communications channels by an official or committee acting within their duties as an elected or appointed official of SGA
2. The Vice President of Communications and Internal Affairs and the Internal Affairs Committee shall review and recommend to the Senate the impeachment and removal from office or censure of members who fail to perform their duties as outlined by the SGA Constitution and Bylaws, or who may violated such, via an impeachment inquiry
  - a) An impeachment inquiry shall be conducted over the course of two Senate sessions. Shall the impeachment inquiry find that violations have occurred, the impeachment hearing shall be heard at the third Senate session preceding the initial inquiry
  - b) Upon finding impeachable violations, written notice must be provided by the Internal Affairs Committee to both the member being impeached and the Senate at least 48 hours prior to the impeachment hearing in the Senate. This notice must clarify and justify the committee’s decision, citing specific and convincing evidence of the alleged violations. The member facing impeachment may or may not be present during the impeachment hearing, but must receive 48 hours written notice
  - c) At the impeachment hearing, the Vice President of Communications and Internal Affairs shall have 10 minutes to address the Senate with the impeachment charges being brought and 10 minutes to answer questions by the Senate
    - (1) The member facing impeachment will then, if present, have 10 minutes to address the Senate and 10 minutes to answer questions by the Senate
    - (2) After this, the Vice President of Communications and Internal Affairs may choose to address the Senate for an additional five minutes, restricting their comments only to clarifications
    - (3) The Senate will then vote on the impeachment as consistent with Article VI; (VI); (A)
  - d) The constituency of the Student Government Association must be notified of any impeachment within 24 - 48 hours of the impeachment. Constituents must be notified through written communication by the Internal Affairs Committee

VII. Vacancies



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- A. The President shall nominate a senate member to fill any vacancy to the executive board for the remainder of the academic year
    - 1. Should a vacancy exist in the office of the President, the Vice President of Communications and Internal Affairs shall become the interim President
    - 2. Senate shall confirm a new President with a majority vote
    - 3. The new President must be a current senator or member of the executive board
  - B. The Internal Affairs Committee shall nominate a full-time or part-time student to fill a vacancy within the senate or committee for the remainder of the academic year
    - 1. A Senate member must be appointed from the appropriate constituency
  - C. All nominees shall be presented to the senate for confirmation within two weeks of the vacancy
- VIII. Parliamentary Authority
- A. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used to establish parliamentary procedure for SGA unless it conflicts with one or more of the following documents:
    - 1. The Associated Students of Saint Louis University, Student Government Association, Constitution
    - 2. The Associated Students of Saint Louis University, Student Government Association, Bylaws
  - B. The Parliamentarian and Chairperson of the Constitution and Policy Review Committee shall have interpretive authority over these documents
    - 1. When in conflict with each other, the Parliamentarian will have authority over interpretations of Robert's Rules of Order and the Chair of the Constitutional and Policy Review Committee will have authority over interpretations of the Constitution and Bylaws, both of which may be overridden with a two-thirds vote of the Senate
- IX. Governing Documents Review
- A. Every three years, the Legislative Advisor shall chair a task force charged with reviewing SGA's governing documents. The task force shall be composed of a diverse set of students who represent various communities within the SLU campus and shall be created in October of the Fall semester
    - 1. The task force must be publicized to the student body through the Internal Affairs Committee, and members will be decided anonymously by the President, advised by the Legislative Advisor
    - 2. At the end of the Fall semester, the task force shall present their ideas to the senate to hear feedback. The Senate shall then hear from the task force in March of the Spring semester, where any amendments or changes shall be voted upon by the Senate



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X. Non-Representative-Led Initiatives

A. The SLU general student body shall have the opportunity to offer legislative policy to SGA representatives. Any legislation heard in the Senate must be written and submitted by an elected SGA representative

1. All initiatives led by an unelected student of Saint Louis University must be presented in the monthly forum led by the Communications Committee, as outlined in Section III; (XIV); (I) of the SGA Bylaws

XI. SGA Code of Conduct

A. All elected and appointed representatives of SGA must abide by the following:

1. Aiding or Facilitating

- a) Any act by an individual or group to aid, facilitate, promote, collude, or encourage another to commit a violation shall be prohibited

2. Complicity

- a) Complicity with or failure of any elected or appointed representative to take action to prevent or appropriately address known or obvious violations of any SGA policy shall be prohibited

3. Honesty

- a) Elected and appointed representatives of SGA shall act with honesty
- b) Acts of dishonesty include the following:
  - (1) Providing false and/or misleading information to an SGA official, University official, faculty, or other member of the University community
  - (2) Inappropriately manufacturing, altering, possessing, or otherwise misusing any SGA document, record, or instrument of identification
  - (3) Providing misinformation during an investigation or hearing process to a hearing officer or committee

4. Orderly Conduct

- a) Break of peace; leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled or normal activities shall be prohibited

5. Disruptive Behavior

- a) Behaviors or expressive activities that disrupt, interfere with, obstruct, sabotage, or prevent SGA activities or functions shall be prohibited

6. Community Standards

- a) Any action, or inaction to comply with established expectations, that may endanger the health, safety, and/or welfare of the Student Government Association and its constituency shall be prohibited



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7. Harassment

- a) Any unwelcome, unsolicited, and offensive conduct that is severe or pervasive, intends to injure, degrade, disgrace, or show hostility toward a person because of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, military status, gender expression/identity, genetic information, or pregnancy shall be prohibited

8. Inappropriate Conduct

- a) Behavior that fails to uphold the mission, values, objectives, and responsibilities of the Student Government Association or of the University shall be prohibited; behavior that fails to model good citizenship and leadership

9. Retaliation

- a) Any harassment, threat, intimidation, coercion, or attempts thereof that would discourage any person from reporting a violation of SGA Policy, University Policy, or from participating in an election, investigation, or hearing process. This may include any conduct that includes harassment, threats, intimidation, or coercion, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege shall be prohibited

XII. Accessibility

A. Translation

1. Every 5 academic years, a translation task force - composed of bilingual students, faculty, and staff members (in collaboration with professional translation services) shall be created to:
  - a) Identify priority languages based on the demographics of the student population and the languages commonly spoken by international students
  - b) Translate all SGA governing documents into priority languages
  - c) Ensure the accuracy and cultural sensitivity of translations by engaging native speakers and subject-matter experts

**ARTICLE VII POWERS AND DUTIES**

I. The Executive Board

A. The executive board shall have the power:

1. To ensure the execution of legislation passed by SGA
2. To manage the daily operations of SGA

B. Duties of the executive board shall be:

1. To fix the place and time of its meetings
2. To control the internal budget of SGA



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- To perform any other duties as prescribed by the Bylaws of SGA
3. To be subject to the rules and orders of SGA
- II. The Senate
- A. The Senate shall have the power:
1. To pass resolutions and bills that concern the welfare of the Saint Louis University student community as a whole or as necessary to carry out the purpose of SGA
  2. To hold referenda of the entire student body whenever necessary and appropriate
  3. To levy a student activity fee on the associated students of Saint Louis University, subject to the student body's approval and that of the University administration by a referendum
  4. To approve or deny the charter of a proposed student organization and to revoke the chartered status of a current student organization
- B. Duties of the Senate shall be:
1. To act as the final student voice on all matters of student interest
  2. To review any current, changing, or new policies of the University
- III. The Committee Representatives
- A. The committee representatives shall have the power:
1. All members within the committee will share equal power as their fellow representatives, regardless of their ranks and/or roles of power in other government settings
- B. Duties of the committee representatives shall be:
1. To attend all meetings of the committee on which they serve
  2. To attend meetings of the Senate when legislation pertinent to their committee is being debated
  3. To represent student interests on the standing committees of SGA
- C. The committee representatives shall not have the power:
1. To vote within the meetings of the Senate as a committee representative
    - a) If serving as both a Senator and a committee representative, individuals may only vote in Senate meetings within their capacity as a Senator. Such individuals may vote in committees but in accordance with Article VII; (III); (A); (1)
- IV. Any powers not included in the Constitution or Bylaws shall not be assumed by any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association

**ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS**

- I. Senate may amend this constitution by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, provided that the amendment has been tabled at a previous senate meeting in its entirety as amended



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- II. Any full-time or part-time student may amend this constitution by referendum
- III. Any Amendments to the Constitution of the Association shall go into effect July 1st following the passage of the Amendment

**Last Amended April 24, 2024**

