

CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

Amended November 20, 2003

Preamble

A Student Government Association, representing the student body of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is hereby created in order to represent students in matters pertaining to student welfare, student activities, student participation in university planning, and administration and student opinion.

The Student Government, in its representative capacity, shall initiate and integrate student activities, inform the student body of the aim, policies and ideas of the university which pertain to or affect enrollees or the university among students and alumni, and shall be considered and referred to as an advisory body to the university administration in all functions affecting the student body.

ARTICLE 1: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Every student enrolled in the University of Louisiana at Lafayette shall be a member of the student body.

Section 2: The governing organization of the student body shall be the Student Government Association composed of elected and appointed officials belonging to separate and distinct branches. Membership in one branch shall preclude membership in any other branch.

Section 3: Membership shall not be denied on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, gender or disability.

Section 4: Activities that result in undue physical stress or any subtle or covert technique that will impair, make captive, or destroy an individual's freedom of thought will not be tolerated. This organization will adhere to all policies and regulations of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the Board of Trustees of State Colleges and Universities.

ARTICLE II: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

All legislative powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Student Senate.

Section 1. The Student Senate shall be composed of the following:

- a. The President of the Senate shall be the Vice President of the Student Government Association.
- b. Chairman shall be chosen from the Student Senate and shall assume the duties of the President of the Senate if the latter is absent or if the seat is vacated. The Chairman of the Senate shall be elected by a majority of those seats filled.
- c. Each college shall have one (1) senator for every four hundred (400) students enrolled within that college with a minimum of two (2) senators per college. This representation shall be computed according to the previous fall enrollment.
- d. College Presidents: The president of each college is elected by students in that college according to Article II, Section 4.
- e. Freshman Senators: Four- (4) freshman shall be elected by freshman to the Student Senate at the beginning of the fall semester.
- f. University College Senator: One (1) shall be appointed by the Student Senate and approved by the SGA President in accordance with the SGA By-laws, Article I, Section 8, Part 5.

Section 2: The Student Senate shall have the power to override any presidential veto by a two-third (2/3) majority vote of those present at a Student Senate meeting.

ARTICLE III: EXECUTIVE BRANCH

All executive power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the executive branch.

Section 1: The executive branch shall be composed of:

- a. President: The President shall have the power to veto in writing, any measure that he feels inconsistent with or detrimental to the welfare of the student body. This power must be exercised before noon on the fifth (5) day after the Student Senate approves the measure or it becomes law.
- b. Vice President: The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in the event the President's seat is vacated.
- c. Treasurer.

- d. Executive Departments: Such executive departments shall be established as the President of the Student Government Association deems necessary and desirable. The establishment of such departments and the appointment of their heads shall be done by the President with the approval of a majority of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE IV: JUDICIAL BRANCH

All judicial power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the judicial branch.

Section 1: The Judicial Branch shall be composed of:

- a. The Chief Justice
- b. 6 Justices

Section 2: Eligibility

- a. All justices must be eligible under Article 1 Section and remain qualified under Article 1 Section 6 of the SGA By-Laws.
- b. Term will be continuous until graduation, resignation, or termination.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

Section 1: The Student Government Association shall meet on Monday of each week during the fall and spring semesters and at special meetings. The President or Chairman of the Senate may call a special meeting when he deems it necessary, when he is requested to do so by a majority of the Student Senate or by a five (5%) percent petition of the student body.

Section 2: Special meetings may be held by the President or Chairman only after notification shall state the date, time, place and purpose of the special meeting.

Section 3: The Judicial Branch will meet once weekly to discuss and review all legislation passed and approved by the Senate and Executive Branch. This meeting time, which will be determined by the justices, shall be publicly announced.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCE

Section 1: The following student fee assessments shall be collected and deposited to each individual account. Withdrawal of the funds shall be subjected to Student Government Association and Business Office procedures.

Academic Enhancement
Academic Excellence
Art Museum
Band Association Fee
Book Fee
Building Use
Cheerleader
Club Sports Coun.
Day Care
Debate
Energy Fee
Entertainment
Freshman
Graduate Student Organization Fee
I.D. Photo Fee
Insurance
Insurance Grad.
International Insurance
International Student Council Fee
Intramural Fee
KRVS Radio Station Fee
L'Acadien Yearbook Fee
La Louisiane Magazine Fee
Lyceum Speakers Fee
Non Residents-Grad
Non Residents-Undergrad
Parking & Transit
Performing Arts
Police
Recreational Facilities/Equipment
SGA
SGA Legal Assistance Program
SGA Scholarship Program
Student Evaluation
Student Health Services
Student Loan Fee
Student Technology Fee
Student Union Building Fee
Student Union Building New
Symphony Orchestra
Vermilion Fee

**See the Referendum or Resolution Book in the SGA Office for complete details regarding these fees.

Section 2: Within six (6) weeks after registration, the business office shall submit a complete account of the amount of money collected for each of the organizations named in Section 1 to the Student Government Association Treasurer.

Section 3: Each agency receiving fees shall be responsible for submitting a yearly budget to the Treasurer by the ninth (9) week of the fall semester and shall be held accountable to the Student Government Association for all fiscal matters, and upon request of the Student Government Association shall make semesterly reports, including the summer season, concerning the usage of funds derived from student fees or agency activities.

Section 4: All obligations of the Student Government Association shall be paid by check upon the authorization of the Student Government Association, and after the signature of the President or Treasurer of the Student Government Association and the faculty advisor's names have been affixed to the purchase requisition.

Section 5: The UL Lafayette Union fee shall be deposited in the Union account and shall be dedicated towards paying the interest and retiring UL Lafayette bonds. A schedule of such payments shall be submitted to the Student Government Association for publication.

Section 6: The Student Union Entertainment fee shall be deposited as an agency fund and dedicated to entertainment. The University Program Council shall be accountable for the fund. The University Program Council shall be responsible for the disbursement of the funds, subject to the regulations applying to other agency funds.

Section 7: UL Lafayette Union: A University Program Council shall be established, which shall be directly responsible for all funds allocated to UL Lafayette Union Entertainment Fee in Section 6 above.

Section 8: All fund raising activities shall be carried out in accordance with the rules and policies of the Office of Student Affairs and the UL Lafayette Union.

ARTICLE VII: UNIVERSITY PROGRAM COUNCIL

Section 1: The governing power of the UL Lafayette Union shall be vested in the UL Lafayette University Program Council.

Section 2: The UL Lafayette University Program Council shall be responsible to the students of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Nothing contained herein shall limit in any way the fiscal authority of the University to supersede its rules and regulations governing the UL Lafayette Union.

Section 3: All groups or individuals using the buildings or otherwise coming within the jurisdiction of the UL Lafayette Union are subject to the rules and regulations established by the UL Lafayette University Program Council. These rules shall be filed with the appropriate university committee for appeal purposes.

Section 4: The functions for the UL Lafayette University Program council shall be as follows:

- a. To review the budget of each committee regularly and make recommendations to the Union Director concerning the operating budget.
- b. To elect officers as provided for in this document.
- c. To provide for public relations with the surrounding community and municipalities of the University.
- d. To conduct research, provide for evaluation of all UL Lafayette Union policies, programs, and facilities, coordinate the work of the program committees, discuss committee problems and study techniques of effective group work.
- e. To maintain a set of by-laws.

Section 5: Voting members of the UL Lafayette University Program Council shall consist of president, vice-president, committee chairpersons, seven (7) Student Government Association appointees, and two (2) faculty members.

- a. The President shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) votes of the outgoing UL Lafayette University Program Council and must have been actively involved in activities programming before election to this office. The President must not be an incoming program committee chairman, incoming Student Government Association executive officer or the Chairman of the Senate.
- b. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the incoming council from among the members of the program council herein defined.
- c. Union Chairman shall be selected by the interview process at the beginning of the spring semester and shall take office at the close of the last meeting of the outgoing program council. The interview process shall be performed by a committee composed of at least seven (7) voting members: three (3) previous committee members, if possible, selected by the appropriate committee, and one (1) Union Program Advisor, who shall chair this committee. Chairman must have two-thirds (2/3) vote of the committee to be elected.

- d. Two (2) members at large shall be appointed by the President of the Student Government Association with the approval of the legislature. These members must be elected members of the Student Government Association.
- e. Five (5) members at large of which one (1) shall be from the men's dormitories and one (1) shall be from the women's dormitories shall be appointed by the President of the Student Government Association with the approval of the legislature and must not be a member of the incoming Student Government Association or present member or Chairman of the incoming University Program Council.
- f. Two (2) faculty members shall be appointed for a one (1) year period by the President of the University

Section 6: Non-voting members of the UL Lafayette University Program Council shall consist of the Director of the UL Lafayette Union and the program advisors of the UL Lafayette Union.

Section 7: In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President of the UL Lafayette University Program Council, the Secretary of the Program Council shall become Acting President for a minimum of two (2) weeks during which time applications shall be taken and interview shall be held.

- a. In the event of a vacancy in the position of the Treasurer or Secretary, a new Treasurer or Secretary shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Program Council at the regular scheduled meeting.
- b. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Chairman, a new Chairman will be selected through interview process by the procedure set out in Section 5.

Section 8: The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members of the University Program Council: President, Secretary, Treasurer, two (2) other voting members elected by the Program Council, and a program advisor, who shall be a non-voting member.

- a. Executive Committee members shall have the power to vote and act only after the members of the UL Lafayette University Program Council are unable to meet quorum.
- b. Any actions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to review and reversal by the UL Lafayette University Program Council.

Section 9: All meetings of the UL Lafayette Program Council shall be public except when a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Program Council members deem it necessary to go into executive session without including invited guest.

- a. No final or binding action shall be taken in executive session.

Section 10: The UL Lafayette University Program Council shall meet on a weekly basis and special meetings may be called by the President of the Program Council or by a majority of the members of the Program Council. No business other than for which a special meeting is called shall be transacted except by unanimous consent of those present.

Article VIII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: The Student Assembly, with the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of its total membership, may propose amendments to the Constitution. Such proposed amendments shall be announced and read at a regular meeting of the Student Senate. Should the proposed amendment receive unfavorable consideration by the Student Senate, it may be placed before the student body providing that a written petition signed by no less than 10 (10%) percent of the student body has been presented to the President of the SGA.

Section 2: Proposed amendments shall become part of this Constitution if approved by a majority of those who vote in an election designated for the purpose of accepting or rejecting such amendments.

Section 3: Any major amendment shall be submitted to the UL Lafayette Organizations Committee for final approval.

ARTICLE IX: RATIFICATION

The provisions of this Constitution shall go into effect immediately upon passage by a majority of the voters in a special election. All Constitution by-laws, rulings or regulations in conflict with this Constitution are hereby repealed and prohibited.

ARTICLE X: BY-LAWS

The Student Assembly shall have the power to adopt by-laws, which shall enumerate the powers and responsibilities of its officers and the procedures necessary to effectively govern. Such laws shall be adopted by no less than two-thirds (2/3) majority of those seats filled.

ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION

Should the UL Lafayette Student Government Association ever dissolve, all assets under its jurisdiction shall revert to the Student Loan Fund of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Upon the time of termination, the University shall discontinue to collect referendum funds, which provide SGA's operating budget.