THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF EMERSON COLLEGE

Ratified April 21, 2020

# Preamble

We, the undergraduate students of Emerson College (henceforth referred to as “the College”), in order to establish an effective student government, represent student interests; support all affiliated student organizations; act as a liaison between the student body, the administration, and the Board of Trustees; and promote and protect the rights of the students, indiscriminate of race, color, national and ethnic origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, or religion, do hereby establish this Constitution for the Student Government Association of Emerson College.

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# ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Emerson College (henceforth referred to as “SGA”).

# ARTICLE II: Purpose

SGA shall be a democracy based on three (3) Branches:[**Executive**](#_5t5i0uyynneu), **Legislative**, and [**Judicial**](#_fnfrqljocgg4)**.** The purpose of SGA includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. To represent and advocate for student interests, rights, and concerns;
2. To enhance of communication and cooperation across all segments of the College’s community;
3. To stimulate student awareness of and involvement in the many organizations, activities and opportunities available in the Emerson community; and
4. To promote student awareness and appreciation of the values and traditions of the College and SGA.

# ARTICLE III: Membership

## Section 1. Active Membership

1. Active membership includes all currently registered Emerson College undergraduate students who are enrolled in a degree-granting program.
2. Active membership entitles individuals to the following rights and privileges:
3. Voting in SGA-hosted elections;
4. Representation by SGA Officers;
5. Campaign to hold an SGA Office (see Art. [XIV](#_z8hh4rwrnzu6));
6. Bring forth a motion in an SGA Official Meeting;
7. Participate in SGA-sponsored events; and
8. Other rights, privileges, and benefits established by SGA initiatives, legislation, and recommendations.

# ARTICLE IV: Qualifications for Officers

## Section 1. SGA Officers Qualifications

1. All SGA Officers must:
   1. Be in good standing with the College;
   2. Familiarize themselves with SGA’s Constitution, relevant Bylaws and [SGA’s Oath and Code of Ethics](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hiaeosCHy2QAQzD4b5J_OkSXWULzJYqsxbRZnwwwq78/edit?usp=sharing);
   3. Meet all qualifications throughout their term; and
   4. Be enrolled in a degree seeking program at the College throughout their term.

## Section 2. Executive Board Officers Additional Qualifications

1. Must have completed one (1) full academic year of enrollment at the College;
2. Must be an undergraduate student registered and enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credits at the Boston campus of the College throughout their term unless the student in question is in their last semester at the College, in which case they may serve in their role as a part-time student; and
3. Must be able to attend Student Assembly.

## Section 3. Senators Additional Qualifications

1. Class senators must be enrolled in the graduating class they are representing.
2. Academic senators must be enrolled in the academic program or department they are representing.
3. Senators must be able to attend:
   1. Meetings of their perspective Committee or Senate (Student Experience Senate, Financial Equity Committee, or Academic Senate) they serve on; and
   2. Student Assembly.

# ARTICLE V: Powers and Responsibilities of Officers

## Section 1. Delegation of Individual Powers and Responsibilities

1. Any SGA Officer serving in an elected role may grant any of their Constitutional powers and responsibilities as listed in this article to a fellow SGA member (henceforth known as a “Representative”).
   1. The delegation of Constitutional power is subject to a two-thirds (⅔) approval by Student Assembly.
   2. The Representative must qualify for active membership.
   3. The Representative must meet the Constitutional qualifications required to hold the Office they are being granted power and responsibilities by.
2. An SGA Officer may not grant the following powers and responsibilities to a Representative:
   1. Their title;
   2. Their responsibility to attend Student Assembly; or
   3. Their power to vote in Student Assembly.

## Section 2. All SGA Officers

1. Officers are responsible for representing and advocating for their constituencies to Student Assembly and appropriate members of the College administration.
2. Officers are responsible for being familiar with SGA’s Constitution.
3. Officers are responsible for attending meetings and communicating with the meeting’s Chairperson when they cannot attend.

## Section 3. Executive President

1. The Executive President shall serve as the official representative of the student body.
2. The Executive President shall serve for a term of one (1) academic year unless re-elected.
3. If the Office of Executive President should become vacant at any time during the regular term of Office, the Executive Vice President shall assume the Office and duties of the Executive President until the next general election.
4. The Executive President shall serve as liaison between Executive Branch and Student Assembly.
5. The Executive President is required to attend all Executive Board, Student Assembly, Executive Cabinet, Student Experience Senate meetings and weekly meetings with SGA’s Advisor(s).
6. The Executive President shall meet fortnightly with the Vice President for Campus Life.
7. The Executive President shall meet monthly with the President of Emerson College.
8. The Executive President shall handle all correspondence with the student body and administration (when applicable) regarding SGA affairs.
9. The Executive President must either approve or veto any legislation passed in the Student Assembly. To veto legislation, the President must submit a written statement of objections to all SGA Officers and SGA’s Advisor(s) within five (5) school days of the legislation being passed. If the Executive President does not take action within this specified period, the legislation shall become law. A veto may be overturned by a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote of Student Assembly.
10. By Executive Order, the Executive President shall be able to create committees, boards or non-voting positions as needed, with suggestions from Executive Board and Student Assembly. The Executive President will appoint all committee members as requested by the college administration.
11. At least once a semester, the four (4) Class Presidents shall be invited to meet with the Executive President, or the Executive President shall attend a Class Council meeting for each class.

## Section 4. Executive Vice President

1. The Executive Vice President shall serve as the official representative of the student body on:
   1. All academic matters; and
   2. Issues pertaining to student organizations
2. The Executive Vice President shall serve for a term of one (1) academic year unless re-elected.
3. If the Office of the Executive Vice President should become vacant at any time during the regular term of Office, the Academic Senate Pro Tempore shall assume the Office and duties of the Vice President until the next general election.
4. The Executive Vice President shall serve as the liaison between the Student Assembly and Student Organizations and between Academic Senate and Executive Board.
5. The Executive Vice President shall be required to attend Executive Board, Student Assembly, Academic Senate meetings and weekly meetings with SGA’s Advisor(s).
6. The Executive Vice President shall meet monthly with the Provost of the College.
7. The Executive Vice President shall record and maintain written records of Student Assembly proceedings in the absence of the Executive Secretary.

## Section 5. Executive Treasurer

1. The Executive Treasurer shall serve as the official representative of the student body on all issues of finance and financial equity.
2. The Executive Treasurer shall serve for a term of one (1) academic year unless re-elected.
3. If the Office of the Executive Treasurer should become vacant at any time during the regular term of Office, the Vice Treasurer shall assume the Office and duties of the Treasurer until the next general election.
   1. In the absence of a Vice Treasurer, the Financial Advisory Board (henceforth referred to as “FAB”) shall appoint a Treasurer Pro Tempore.
4. The Executive Treasurer shall serve as the liaison between:
   1. FAB, Financial Equity Committee, Executive Board and Student Assembly; and
   2. Student organizations and the College’s Office of Procurement Services and Accounts Payable.
5. The Executive Treasurer shall explain the financial systems to all student organizations’ Presidents or President-equivalents and Financial Officers.
6. The Executive Treasurer shall be required to attend Executive Board, Student Assembly, FAB, Financial Equity Committee, and weekly meetings with SGA’s Advisor(s).
7. The Executive Treasurer, in conjunction with FAB, is responsible for conducting and overseeing the financial workings of SGA funded student organizations.
8. The Executive Treasurer shall monitor all charges to all SGA-funded organizations.
9. The outgoing Executive Treasurer, in conjunction with the Vice Treasurer, Treasurer-elect (if applicable), Executive President, and Executive President-Elect (if applicable) are responsible for preparing the annual SGA budget for the following academic year.
10. The Executive Treasurer may veto modifications to Treasury Policy. To veto, the Executive Treasurer must submit a written statement of objections to all members of the board within five (5) school days. If the Executive Treasurer does not take action within this specified period, the legislation shall become law. A veto may be overturned by a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote of FAB.

## Section 6. Chief Justice

1. The Chief Justice shall serve as the official representative of the student body on all issues relating to the Constitution and Bylaws of SGA.
2. The Chief Justice may remain in Office for up to six (6) semesters (summer sessions not included), as long as eligibility is maintained.
3. If the Office of Chief Justice should become vacant at any time during the regular term of Office, the Deputy Justice shall temporarily assume the Office and duties of the Chief Justice until a new Chief Justice can be appointed.
4. The Chief Justice, upon request of an SGA member, shall interpret the Constitution and review the Constitutionality of any action or legislation and place a ruling if needed.
5. The Chief Justice shall attend all Student Assembly, FAB, Judicial Review Board and Executive Board meetings as a nonvoting member and weekly meetings with SGA’s Advisor(s).
6. The Chief Justice may enact and preside over removal proceedings of any SGA Officer (see [Art. XIII](#_v9h7eh2wlc0l)).
7. The Chief Justice shall oversee all general and special elections.
8. The Chief Justice must resign from the Office of Chief Justice prior to signing the Candidate Intent Form for another Office within SGA.

## Section 7. Chief of Staff

1. In order to be appointed, the Chief of Staff nominee must receive an endorsement from the Executive President. Once appointed, the Chief of Staff shall serve until the end of the academic year.
2. The Chief of Staff is required to attend Student Assembly, Executive Cabinet and is invited to attend Executive Board meetings.
3. The Chief of Staff shall serve as the liaison between Executive Cabinet, Executive Board and Student Assembly.

## Section 8. Executive Secretary

1. In order to be appointed, the Executive Secretary nominee must receive an endorsement from the Executive Vice President. Once appointed, the Executive Secretary shall serve until the end of the academic year.
2. The Executive Secretary is required to attend Student Assembly and is invited to attend Executive Board meetings.
3. The Executive Secretary shall record and maintain written records of all Student Assembly proceedings. In the absence of the Executive Secretary, the Executive Vice President shall assume this duty.
4. The Executive Secretary shall distribute the pending minutes of each meeting to all SGA Officers within forty-eight (48) hours of Student Assembly.
5. The Executive Secretary shall post, for public viewing, the minutes of each meeting within forty-eight (48) hours of their approval. The minutes shall be approved no later than the following Student Assembly meeting.
6. The Executive Secretary shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the Executive Vice President or Executive Board.

## Section 9. Vice Treasurer

1. In order to be appointed, the Vice Treasurer nominee must receive an endorsement from the Executive Treasurer. Once appointed, the Vice Treasurer shall serve until the end of the academic year.
2. The Vice Treasurer shall assist the Executive Treasurer on financial proceedings as deemed necessary by the Treasurer.
3. The Vice Treasurer is required to attend Financial Advisory Board and Student Assembly and is invited to attend Executive Board meetings.
4. The Vice Treasurer is responsible for maintaining SGA’s Operating Budget.
5. The Vice Treasurer shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the Executive Treasurer and/or Executive Board.

## Section 10. Deputy Justice

1. In order to be appointed, the Deputy Justice nominee must receive an endorsement from the Chief Justice. Once appointed, the Deputy Justice shall serve until the end of the academic year.
2. The Deputy Justice shall assist the Chief Justice on judicial proceedings as deemed necessary by the Chief Justice.
3. The Deputy Justice is required to attend Judicial Review Board, Student Assembly and is invited to attend Executive Board meetings.
4. The Deputy Justice will assume the authority of the Chief Justice:
   1. In the event that the Chief Justice chooses to recuse themself from any case; and
   2. In the absence of the Chief Justice.

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## Section 11. Senators

1. Class Senators are responsible for representing the interests of their respective classes to either Student Experience Senate or Financial Equity Committee, in addition to Student Assembly.
   1. Class Senators shall meet regularly with the President (or President equivalent) of their respective Class.
2. Academic Senators are responsible for representing the interests of their respective academic programs to Academic Senate and Student Assembly.
3. Student Experience Senator are responsible for representing their respective constituencies to Student Experience Senate and Student Assembly.
4. Academic Senators must be enrolled in their respective academic programs.
5. Academic Senators and Class Senators shall serve for one (1) academic year unless re-elected.
6. Student Experience Senators shall serve for one (1) academic year unless re-appointed.
7. If the Office of an elected senator should become vacant at any time during the regular term of Office, a designee may be appointed to serve until the next election.
8. Senators shall attend Student Assembly and their respective Senate or Committee meetings.

## Section 12. Board of Trustees Representative

1. The Board of Trustees Representative is responsible for being in attendance and speaking on behalf of the student body at three (3) yearly Board of Trustees Meetings.
2. Any SGA Officer may serve as the Board of Trustees Representative, subject to a two-thirds (⅔ ) majority approval from Student Assembly.
3. The Board of Trustees Representative shall serve for one (1) academic year unless re-elected by SGA.
4. The Board of Trustees Representative must meet all the qualifications required of an Executive Board Officer (see [Art. IV, Sec. 2)](#_wlixkh68v77q).
5. The Board of Trustees Representative is required to attend Student Assembly; one (1) meeting of Academic Senate; one (1) meeting of Student Experience Senate; one (1) meeting of Financial Equity Committee; one (1) Executive Board meeting per semester; and meet once every two (2) weeks with SGA’s Advisor(s) to prepare for their speech.
6. If the role of the Board of Trustees Representative should become vacant at any time during their term, the role is once again put to a vote in Student Assembly.

## Section 13. Advisor(s) of SGA

1. The SGA Advisor(s) will be a full-time employee(s) designated by Student Affairs.
2. The SGA Advisor(s) is responsible for providing advice and guidance to SGA Officers as needed.
3. The SGA Advisor(s) is responsible for meeting weekly with members of Executive Board and as needed with other SGA Officers.
4. The SGA Advisor(s) is invited to attend all SGA Official meetings.
5. The SGA Advisor(s) shall attend Student Assembly, Executive Board and FAB meetings.
6. The SGA Advisor(s) serves as a staff liaison between SGA and administrative areas of the College.
7. The SGA Advisor(s) serves as a resource for history and precedent set forth by SGA and the College. The advisor(s) will also educate and enforce the College’s policy and procedure.

# ARTICLE VI: Meetings

## Section 1. SGA Official Meetings

1. The following are considered SGA Official Meetings:
   1. Academic Senate;
   2. Executive Cabinet;
   3. Financial Advisory Board;
   4. Financial Equity Committee;
   5. Judicial Review Board.
   6. Legislative Review Board;
   7. Student Assembly; and
   8. Student Experience Senate.
2. SGA Official Meetings shall be open to all Emerson students.
   1. In the case of a privacy or confidentiality issue, a motion can be made to close the meeting. If the motion is approved, all recording ceases, minutes are not taken, and the room is limited to SGA Officers and Advisor(s).
3. In an SGA Official Meeting, any SGA Member may make a motion; that motion must then be seconded by a voting Officer.
4. Any Officer, required either by this Constitution or its Bylaws to attend a meeting, shall have a vote in that meeting, unless that Officer is:
   1. The Chairperson of the meeting, in which case they hold the casting vote, and may only vote in the case of a tie; or
   2. The Chief Justice or the Deputy Justice, who may not vote.
5. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting.
6. The Chairperson of a meeting has the power to call additional meetings as deemed necessary.
7. SGA Official Meetings shall be documented by the meeting’s Deputy Chairperson in the form of minutes, including all motions made and votes taken.
   1. In Student Assembly, the Executive Secretary shall take minutes. In the absence of the Executive Secretary, the Executive Vice President shall take minutes.
8. If the Chairperson cannot lead the meeting, the meeting will be led by the Deputy Chairperson.
9. SGA Officers shall make SGA Official Meetings as accessible as possible to all members of the Emerson College Community.
10. SGA Official Meetings shall follow the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order while in a Motion.
11. A quorum is achieved when half (½) or more of the voting Officers are present and is necessary in order to vote on any matter of business.

## Section 2. Student Assembly

1. The time, location and agenda for Student Assembly shall be made available to the Emerson College Student Body.
2. The Executive President is the Chairperson of the Student Assembly and shall hold the casting vote.
3. The Executive Vice President is the Deputy Chairperson of Student Assembly.
4. Student Assembly shall be scheduled on a weekly basis.
   1. Attendance is required for all Voting Officers;
   2. Additional attendance requirements are listed in [Art.V](#_6sdfgbv4h44) and Bylaws.

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# ARTICLE VII: Office of the Executive President

## Section 1. Structure of the Office of the Executive President

1. The Office of the Executive President shall consist of:
   1. Executive Cabinet, a non-legislative Board;
   2. Presidents’ Council, a non-legislative Board; and
   3. Student Experience Senate, a legislative committee.

## Section 2. Student Experience Senate

1. The Student Experience Senate is responsible for acting as the chief liaison between students and SGA on student experience and to initiate legislation, initiatives, and acts within SGA.
2. Student Experience Senate Seating:
   1. The Chairperson, who is the Executive President and shall hold the casting vote;
   2. The Deputy Chairperson, who is an SGA Officer appointed by a two-thirds (⅔) majority of Student Assembly. The Deputy Chair will serve for the remainder of the academic year.
   3. The elected Student Experience Senator from each class that will be determined prior to elections;
   4. Student Experience Senators as appointed by the Student Assembly to represent identity-based communities such as first-generation college students, intercultural students, international students, LGBTQIA+ students, POWER, spiritual life, and student accessibility; and
   5. Additional Student Experience Senators as appointed by Student Assembly to positions listed in the Student Experience Senate Bylaws.
3. Student Experience Senators are required to attend Student Assembly.
4. Additional duties, responsibilities, objectives, and operational guidelines can be found in the Student Experience Senate Bylaws.

## Section 3. Executive Cabinet

1. The Executive Cabinet is responsible for facilitating the internal workings of SGA at the discretion of the Executive President.
2. Executive Cabinet Seating:
   1. The Chairperson, who is the Executive President and shall hold the casting vote;
   2. The Deputy Chairperson, who is the Chief of Staff; and
   3. Executive Cabinet members as appointed by the Executive President to positions listed in the Executive Cabinet Bylaws.
3. The Executive Cabinet shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President, Chief of Staff, or Executive Board.
4. Additional duties, responsibilities, objectives and operational guidelines can be found in the Executive Cabinet Bylaws.

## Section 4. Presidents’ Council

1. The Presidents’ Council’s purpose is to inform the Executive President on the class council's activities and maintaining a relationship between SGA and Class Councils.
2. Presidents’ Council Seating:
   1. The Chairperson, who is the Executive President; and
   2. The President or President-equivalent of each class.
3. Additional duties, responsibilities, objectives, and operational guidelines can be found in the Presidents’ Council Bylaws.

# ARTICLE VIII: Office of the Executive Vice President

## Section 1. Structure of the Office of the Executive Vice President

1. The Office of the Executive Vice President shall consist of:
   1. The Academic Senate, a legislative committee; and
   2. The Legislative Review Board, a non-legislative board.

## Section 2. Academic Senate

1. The Academic Senate is responsible for acting as the chief liaison between students and SGA on academic matters and to initiate legislation, initiatives, and acts within SGA to represent their academic departments and constituents.
2. Academic Senate Seating:
   1. The Chairperson is the Executive Vice President and shall hold the casting vote;
   2. The Deputy Chairperson is the President Pro Tempore elected by the Senate no later than the third meeting of the semester. The Deputy Chair will serve for the remainder of the academic year.
   3. The Academic Senate will be seated by the elected Academic Senator from each academic program.
   4. Additional Senators shall be added on as needed to represent specific, pre-existing academic programs, dictated by the Academic Senate Bylaws.
3. To serve on Academic Senate the Officer must meet the qualifications listed in [Art. IV, Sec. 3.](#_rheln9m0n17k)
4. Additional duties, responsibilities, objectives, and operational guidelines can be found in the Academic Senate Bylaws, which shall be ratified by Academic Senate no later than the third meeting of the semester.

## Section 3. Legislative Review Board

1. The Legislative Review Board is responsible for assisting those who wish to present legislation to Student Assembly.
2. Legislative Review Board Seating:
   1. The Chairperson, who is the Executive Vice President;
   2. The Deputy Chairperson, who is an Officer of Student Assembly appointed by a two-thirds (⅔) majority of Student Assembly. The Deputy Chair will serve for the remainder of the academic year; and
   3. Legislative Review Board members are appointed by the Executive Vice President to positions listed in the Legislative Review Board Bylaws.
3. Additional duties, responsibilities, objectives, and operational guidelines can be found in the Legislative Review Board Bylaws.

# ARTICLE IX: The Office of the Executive Treasurer

## Section 1. Structure of the Office of the Executive Treasurer

1. The Office of the Executive Treasurer shall consist of:
   1. The Financial Advisory Board (FAB) a non-legislative Board; and
   2. The Financial Equity Committee, a legislative Committee.
2. Voting members may serve on either FAB or Financial Equity Committee, not both.

## Section 2. Financial Advisory Board (FAB)

1. FAB is responsible for enacting and maintaining Financial Policies and Guidelines set forth in the SGA Treasury Handbook.
2. FAB is responsible for developing recommendations for the overall budget of SGA.
3. FAB is responsible for holding hearings for Budgetary Appeals made to SGA.
4. FAB Seating:
   1. The Chairperson, who is the Treasurer and shall hold the casting vote;
   2. The Deputy Chair, who is the Vice Treasurer;
      1. In the absence of the Vice Treasurer, FAB shall appoint a Pro Tempore to assume the responsibilities of Deputy Chair of FAB.
   3. One representative from each class council, subject to a two-thirds (⅔) approval by Student Assembly;
   4. An SGA representative who serves on the Student Organization Affiliation Process (SOAP); and
   5. The Chief Justice and SGA Advisor(s), who shall sit on FAB as non-voting members.
5. Additions and modifications to the Treasury Handbook must pass approval of the FAB by a simple majority (>50%) of the board’s present voting Officers.
6. Additional duties, responsibilities, objectives, and operational guidelines can be found in the FAB Bylaws, which shall be ratified by the FAB no later than the third meeting of the semester.

## Section 3. Financial Equity Committee

1. The Financial Equity Committee is responsible for advocating for the financial needs of the student body.
2. The Financial Equity Committee Seating:
   1. The Chairperson, who is the Executive Treasurer and shall hold the casting vote;
   2. The Deputy Chair, who is an Officer of Student Assembly appointed by a two-thirds (⅔) majority of Student Assembly. The Deputy Chair will serve for the remainder of the academic year;
   3. The elected Financial Equity Senator from each class; and
   4. Members appointed by the Executive Treasurer to nonvoting positions listed in the [Financial Equity Committee Bylaws.](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_mmEChBK1EGZQilOBR9Ppgq99b5SlzwxcstRcK7gnvQ/edit#heading=h.tler9vfsg6ou) Appointed members are not required to attend Student Assembly.
3. The Financial Equity Committee is invited to propose modifications to SGA’s Treasury Policy as needed. Modifications are subject to a two-thirds (⅔) approval by FAB to be enacted.
4. The Chairperson is responsible for presenting the legislation put forth by the Financial Equity Committee to appropriate parties.
5. Additional duties, responsibilities, objectives, and operational guidelines can be found in the Financial Equity Committee Bylaws, which shall be ratified by the Financial Equity Committee no later than the third meeting of the semester.

# ARTICLE X: Executive Branch

## Section 1. Structure of the Executive Branch

1. The Executive Board;
2. The Executive Cabinet(see [Art. VII, Sec. 3](#_rg80vbs2qysw))*.*

## Section 2. The Executive Board

1. The Executive Board Seating:
   1. Executive President, Executive Vice President, Executive Treasurer, and Chief Justice.
   2. The Executive Board may appoint the following additional Executive Board Officers: Chief of Staff, Executive Secretary, Vice Treasurer, and Deputy Justice.
2. Appointed Executive Board Officers are subject to a two-thirds (⅔) approval by Student Assembly. In order to be appointed:
   1. The Chief of Staff nominee must receive an endorsement from the Executive President.
   2. The Executive Secretary nominee must receive an endorsement from the Executive Vice President.
   3. The Vice Treasurer nominee must receive an endorsement from the Executive Treasurer.
   4. The Deputy Justice nominee must receive an endorsement from the Chief Justice.
3. The Executive President, Executive Vice President, Executive Treasurer, and Chief Justice each reserve the right not to endorse a nominated Executive Board Officer.

# ARTICLE XI: Legislative Branch

## Section 1. Structure of the Legislative Branch

1. Student Experience Senate, overseen by the Executive President.
2. Academic Senate, overseen by the Executive Vice President.
3. Financial Equity Committee, overseen by the Executive Treasurer.

## Section 2. Purpose

1. Legislative Committees are responsible for representing the Emerson College community, authoring legislation and, when necessary, sponsoring legislation prior to its presentation to Student Assembly.

# ARTICLE XII: Judicial Branch

## Section 1. Structure of the Judicial Branch

1. The Judicial Branch is overseen by the Chief Justice.
2. The Judicial Branch shall consist of:
   1. The Judicial Review Board, a non-legislative Board supporting the Chief Justice; and
   2. The Elections Board, a non-legislative Board that conducts SGA Elections.

## Section 2. The Judicial Review Board

1. The Judicial Review Board’s purpose is to review and interpret SGA’s Constitution and SGA’s Bylaws.
2. Judicial Review Board Seating:
   1. The Chairperson, who is the Chief Justice and shall hold the casting vote;
   2. The Deputy Chairperson is the Deputy Justice; and
   3. Additional Judicial Review Board members as appointed by the Chief Justice to positions listed in the Judicial Review Board Bylaws.
3. Additional duties, responsibilities, objectives, and operational guidelines can be found in the Judicial Review Board Bylaws, which shall be ratified by the Judicial Review Board no later than the third meeting of the semester.

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## Section 3. Elections Board

1. The Elections Board’s purpose is to conduct SGA Elections.
2. Elections Board Seating:
   1. The Chief Justice;
   2. The Deputy Justice; and
   3. Additional Elections Board members as appointed by the Chief Justice to positions listed in the Judicial Review Board Bylaws.
3. If a member of Elections Board runs for office in an upcoming election, they shall resign from their role.
   1. A designee will be appointed for the remainder of the semester.
4. The Elections Board shall recommend the election timeline to Student Assembly.
5. The Elections Board shall meet regularly with SGA Advisor(s).
6. Additional duties, responsibilities, objectives and operational guidelines can be found in the Elections Bylaws.

# ARTICLE XIII: Funding Student Organizations

1. SGA shall receive upon validation of enrolled students each semester, a student activity fee from each student.
2. SGA shall allocate this funding for student activities and organizations through a fair and representative annual process as deemed appropriate by FAB and Student Assembly.
3. SGA-funded organizations must have an approved Constitution on file with the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership (hereafter referred to as SEAL) and published on EmConnect.
4. SGA may allocate funds to events and organizations through two processes:
   1. Annual budgetary allocations; or
   2. As-needed budgetary appeals.
5. SGA-funded organizations must stay within the approved SGA annual budget allocation set forth by FAB and approved by Student Assembly.
6. No current Emerson College student may receive monetary compensation for duties performed for an SGA-funded organization.
7. SGA-funded organizations must comply with all rules and procedures set forth within SGA’s Treasury Handbook.
8. Policies set forth in SGA’s Treasury Handbook are superseded by the policies of Emerson College.
9. In the case where an organization knowingly violates the rules and procedures set forth within SGA’s Treasury Handbook they can be called to a hearing in front of FAB.
10. In order to utilize SGA allocated funds, organizations must comply with Registration and Hazing Requirements communicated by SEAL and Massachusetts Commonwealth Law.

# ARTICLE XIV: Elections and Appointments

## Section 1. Elections Procedure

1. There shall be one (1) SGA Fall Election each year, to fill first-year class council positions and any vacant positions for the remainder of the academic year and one (1) SGA Spring Election, for all elected positions for the following academic year.
2. All elections shall be conducted according to the Australian Ballot System (see Glossary).
3. Elections shall be handled as specifically outlined in the Elections Bylaws.
4. Any SGA Elected Officer must comply with all election procedures as stated in [Art. XIV](#_z8hh4rwrnzu6) and the Elections Packet for their position to be sworn into their office.

## Section 2. Seating

1. No SGA Officer shall hold more than one elected Office within SGA concurrently.
2. Elected Officers shall be elected by their respective constituent bodies.
   1. Elected Executive Board Officers shall be elected by current undergraduate students.
   2. Academic Senators shall be elected by undergraduate students enrolled in their academic program.
   3. Class Senators shall be elected by undergraduate students enrolled in their respective classes.
3. The Top Vote getter shall be offered to the Office.
   1. If the Top Vote getter declines the offer, it is offered to the next highest vote getter as long as they have received a plurality of votes.
4. In the case of a tie, a runoff election will be held.
5. In the case of an Office being vacant where there is no clear path of succession, the SGA Executive President may appoint a designee to that Office, subject to a two-thirds (⅔) vote of Student Assembly.
   1. If the Office of Executive President is vacant and there is no clear path of succession, then a runoff election will be held.
   2. The designee will serve for the remainder of the academic semester.
   3. The designee will take on the powers and responsibilities entrusted to that Office.
   4. The designee must meet the qualifications of that Office, except those relating to elections.

## Section 3. Appointed Officers

1. All Appointed Officers required to attend Student Assembly shall be confirmed by a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote of Student Assembly.
2. All other Appointed Officers are appointed by the Chairperson of the Board they wish to serve on, subject to a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote of said Board, unless otherwise specified in the Board’s bylaws.

# ARTICLE XV: Removal and Resignation

## Section 1. Grounds for Removal

1. Any SGA Officer who knowingly evades their responsibilities as set down by SGA’s Constitution or its supporting Bylaws is subject to removal.
2. Any SGA Officer who does not meet the qualifications for their Office is subject to removal.
3. Any SGA Officer who commits any act that is determined to be detrimental to the welfare of the student body is subject to removal.
4. No Officer may be brought up on the same charges a second time.
5. No Officer may be brought up on charges based on hearsay.

## Section 2. Loss of Powers and Responsibilities

1. The Officer in question shall cease all SGA related duties for the duration of the removal process.
   1. In the case of urgent matters entrusted to the Office in question, a designee will be appointed to the Office by a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote by Student Assembly to serve for the duration of the removal process.

## Section 3. Initiation of Removal

1. Initiation is the act of bringing the Officer in question up for review before Student Assembly.
2. Accused Officers must abstain from all votes pertaining to the removal process.
3. Any Officers in question may request for removal proceedings to be a closed meeting (See Art. VI, Sec. 1)
4. Removal proceedings may be initiated by the Chief Justice or a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote.
5. Notification of the initiation of removal proceedings shall be sent to all SGA Officers and Advisor(s), including the Officers in question, at least two (2) school days prior to the next Student Assembly meeting in order to continue with the proceedings.
6. Upon review of the complaint, a vote shall be taken as to whether or not to continue with impeachment proceedings. A two-thirds (⅔) majority vote of Student Assembly is required to continue removal proceedings.
7. If the motion carries, the removal process shall be considered tabled and will become the first item of Old Business at the next Student Assembly.
8. If the motion carries, the accused Officer shall be notified in writing of the removal proceedings and their right to appear at Student Assembly within forty-eight (48) hours of the motion.

## Section 3. Removal Proceedings

1. The Chief Justice shall preside over all removal hearings. In the event that the Chief Justice is the Officer in question, the SGA Executive President shall be the presiding Officer.
2. A motion must be made and seconded to review the proposed grounds for removal.
3. The Officer in question shall be given the opportunity to speak in their own defense and offer evidence as they deem necessary.
4. Following full discussion, the motion shall be voted on immediately. The Officer in question is removed from Office following a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote.
5. If an Officer is removed from an Office, they may not hold that Office again.

## Section 4. Resignations

1. To resign from SGA, the Officer must submit a written resignation stating the reason for departure and the effective date of their resignation to the Executive President of SGA, Chief Justice, and SGA’s Advisor(s).
2. In the event that the Executive President wishes to resign, they must submit a written resignation to the Executive Vice President, Chief Justice, and SGA’s Advisor(s).

# ARTICLE XVI: Initiatives and Referendums

## Section 1. Student Initiative

1. Any member of the student body may initiate legislation by petition. The petition shall have signatures and ID numbers of at least five percent (5%) of the current semester’s enrollment. This petition shall be submitted to the Executive President and the Legislative Review Board. The petition is subject to a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote by Student Assembly.

## Section 2. Referendum

1. All sections of this Constitution and Bylaws shall be subjected to a referendum vote of the student body. A written petition with signatures and ID numbers of at least five percent (5%) of the current semester’s enrollment shall be necessary for referendum. This petition shall be presented to the Executive President. The Executive President shall present the referendum at a Student Assembly. Student Assembly shall either rescind the action or call an election within ten (10) school days after the filing of the said petition. At least five percent (5%) of the student body must vote in the election. A majority vote (51%) of all votes cast towards the referendum shall be necessary to rescind the action (see Glossary).

# ARTICLE XVII: Amending Procedure

## Section 1. Proposal for Amendments

1. Any amendments to this Constitution are subject to approval by the Judicial Review Board prior to postings and elections.
2. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any member of SGA subject to a two-thirds (⅔) vote of Student Assembly.
3. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed to the Judicial Review Board by a petition signed with Emerson ID numbers of at least ten percent (10%) of the current semester’s enrollment of the undergraduate student body.

## Section 2. Postings of Amendments

1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be posted on the Boston campus in central locations specified in the Bylaws and on the SGA website at least five (5) school days prior to amendment voting.
2. A simple majority (>50%) of all votes cast towards the amendment shall be necessary for adoption.

# ARTICLE XVIII: Bylaws

## Section 1. Bylaws

1. Each branch (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial) of this government shall develop Bylaws to serve as more specific guidelines that are adopted by a majority vote (>50%) of Student Assembly.
2. Additionally, individual boards shall develop and adopt Bylaws to serve as more specific guidelines.
   1. The boards are Academic Senate, Elections Board, Executive Cabinet, FAB, Financial Equity Committee, Judicial Review Board, Student Assembly, Student Experience Senate.
   2. The board shall ratify their respective Bylaws with a majority vote (>50%) no later than their third meeting of the semester.
3. Bylaws shall elaborate on duties, responsibilities, and objectives set forth by this Constitution, as well as any other guidelines such as attendance and additional positions necessary for operation of each Board.

# ARTICLE XIX: Parliamentary Authority

In all instances not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws, the Parliamentary Authority shall be the most current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order (Revised).

# ARTICLE XX: Adoption

This Constitution, upon ratification by a majority of the votes cast in an election, has been in effect as of April 21st, 2020.

Glossary

Australian Ballot System: An official ballot listing candidates for election to public office and distributed inside the polling place to be marked by the voter in secret: it originated in Australia and is widely used in the United States. This is the voting format that will be used for SGA Elections. (See Art. XIII)

Bill: A piece of legislation enacted into law.

Bylaws: A secondary law or rule adopted by an organization or assembly for governing its own meetings or affairs.

Deputy Chairperson: The second chair of any SGA official meeting.

Initiative: The right of a legislature to introduce new legislation on some specified matter; the right of a group of citizens to introduce a matter for legislation either to the legislature or directly to the voters; the procedure by which such matters are introduced, usually a petition signed by a percentage of the voters (see Art. IX, Sec. 1).

Member: Active membership includes all currently registered Emerson College undergraduate students who are enrolled in a degree-granting program and have paid a student activities fee. An active membership entitles individuals to the following rights and privileges

Officer: A member of SGA who holds a title that is either elected or appointed to their office

Organization Affiliation Process: a recognition and review process for the student organizations of Emerson College.

Recall: The process of removing, or right to remove, an official from office by popular vote (see Art. Sec. 3).

Referendum: The submission of a law, proposed or already in effect, to a direct vote of the people; the right of the people to vote directly on such laws, superseding or overruling the legislature; the vote itself (see Art. IX, Sec. 2).

Simple Resolution: Simple resolutions are also used to express the sentiments of a the assembly, such as providing advice to the college’s administration or sharing a stance of the assembly on a particular matter.

Student Assembly: A meeting where Elected Officers, Appointed Members and the Executive Board; this meeting takes place every week.

Term: A set period of time; duration of time in which an Officer may hold office (one (1) academic year) (See Art. IV, Sec. 1)

Presented by

## Authored by

William Palauskas, Executive President

Melissa Bordelon, Executive Vice President

Abigail Semple, Executive Treasurer

Joseph Johnson, Chief Justice

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Julia Stanton, Executive Secretary

Issel Solano-Sanchez, 2020 Class President

Naomi Jones, 2021 Class President

Cassandra Shelley, 2022 Class President

Ariane Ivanier, 2023 Class President

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## Ratified by

The 2019/2020 Emerson College

Student Body

## Student Government Association

*Executive Board*

William Palauskas, Executive President

Melissa Bordelon, Executive Vice President

Abigail Semple, Executive Treasurer

Joseph Johnson, Chief Justice

Julia Stanton, Executive Secretary

*Class Council Representatives*

2023 President: Ariane Ivanier

2023 Senator: Seamus Butcher

2022 President: Cassie Shelley

2022 Senator: Lindsay Debrosse

2021 President: Naomi Jones

2020 President: Issel Solano-Sanchez

*Executive Cabinet*

Chief of Staff: Gianna Gironda

Communications Director: Hannah Flaherty

Elections and Outreach Director: Lilly Meehan-Egan

Social and Events Director: Thea Nagle

History and Education Director: Jay Rosato

*Senators*

Comedic Arts: Hannah Mittermeier

CSD: Jake Apitz

Communication Studies: Elizabeth Fretz

Journalism: Jehan Ayesha

Marketing Communications: Talia Aiges

Performing Arts: Connor McNinch

Visual Media Arts: Thomas Coughlin

WLP: Alison Michalak

*Commissioners*

Fraternity & Sorority Life: Maximo Lawlor

LGBTQIA+: Anthony Allocca

POWER: Eryn McCallum

Student Accessibility: Harper McKenzie

Sustainability: Gianna Gironda

Transfer Student: Annie Kew