

**Concord University**  
**Student Government Association Constitution**

**Preamble**

We the students of Concord University, being fully aware of the responsibilities, obligations, rights, and privileges we possess as members of the Concord University Community, do hereby establish this constitution in order to maintain an organization to represent student interests, opinions, and actions at Concord University.

**Article I: Name and Grant of Authority**

- Section I. The official name of this organization shall be: The Student Government Association of Concord University, Athens, West Virginia written herein as SGA.
- Section II. The administration of Concord University, believing that responsible self-government is excellent training and that representative government is a desirable way of arriving at decisions governing student affairs, and the President of Concord University, believing in the same principles of representative government, hereby grants to this organization the answers and authority set forth.

**Article II: Eligibility**

- Section I. All duly enrolled students of Concord University may be members of this organization.
- Section II. Multiple Office Holding:  
A. No student of Concord University may hold more than one position in or between any of the three branches of the SGA.

**Article III: Membership of SGA**

- Section I. Membership shall include Two (2) Advisors who are to be elected by the SGA, Fourteen (14) Delegates, Nine (9) Arbiters, all duly elected and appointed executives, and the representatives of properly recognized student organizations.
- Section II. The SGA shall be composed of a Legislative branch, Executive branch, and a Judicial branch.
- A. The Legislative branch of the SGA shall be known as Concord University Student Senate.
- i. The voting power of the Student Senate shall be vested in the following members of the Senate:
    - a. Organization Representatives.

- b. Fourteen (14) Delegates: at least one (1) to be a Commuter Delegate; one (1) to be a Beckley Delegate; and a minimum of two (2) to a maximum of four (4) to be Freshmen Delegates.
- c. The Concord University Board of Governors Representative.
- d. The Faculty Senate SGA Representative

- ii. The voting power of the Student Senate shall be vested in the following Executive Officers
  - a. Vice President
  - b. Business Manager in matters dealing with finances
  - c. The Parliamentarian

Section III. The term of office for an elected member of the Student Senate shall be from the swearing in of officers during the last meeting of the Student Senate of a spring semester to the swearing in of duly elected replacements at the last meeting of the following spring semester, or until otherwise removed. In the event of an appointment, the term of office shall be from the date of appointment to the swearing in of new officers at the last meeting of the spring semester, or until otherwise removed.

Section IV. The Student Senate shall have the power to:

- A. Prepare the budget for expenditure of those monies assigned to the SGA by the President of the University.
- B. Make such recommendations, resolutions, and policy statements concerning the interests of the Concord University Student Body as it finds necessary or desirable.
- C. Approve all SGA appointments by a simple majority vote.

Section V. All voting members of the Student Senate, and Executive Officers shall serve on one of its committees.

Section VI. All regular meetings of the Student Senate shall be open unless action is taken to close them.

Section VII. The distribution of funds assigned to the SGA shall be conducted in accordance with the sections of the SGA Bylaws that govern finance.

#### **Article IV: The Student Conduct Branch**

Section I. The judicial powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Student Conduct Branch.

Section II. The Student Conduct Branch shall consist of the Student Conduct Steering Committee, the Student Conduct Supreme Hearing Board, the Student Conduct

Hearing Board, the Chief of the Student Conduct Board, the Liaison of the Student Conduct Board, seven Arbiters, the Student Advocate, and the Student Conduct Board Faculty or Staff Advisor.

Section III. The purpose of the Student Conduct Branch of the SGA shall be to provide an efficient, responsive, and responsible structure that will enable students to receive a fair and impartial hearing in all proceedings concerning student behavior and discipline. The Hearing Boards are not adversarial systems and should not be treated as such.

Section IV. Three or more unexcused absences within one semester by members of the Student Conduct Branch, which includes leaving early, shall terminate duties, responsibilities, and any compensation of the absent member.

#### **Article V: The Executive Branch**

Section I. The powers of the Executive Branch shall be vested in the President and delegated appropriately through the Executive Officers.

Section II. The Executive Officers shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Business Manager, Student Conduct Officer, Student Advocate, Commissioner Secretary, Ombudsman, and a Parliamentarian.

Section III. The President, Vice-President, Business Manager, and Student Conduct Officer shall be chosen by an at large election as outlined in the Bylaws of the SGA and may be re-elected at the student body's discretion.

Section IV. Executives of the SGA who accumulate three or more unexcused absences from the Student Senate meetings, excluding the Student Conduct Officer and Student Advocate, shall have their position and all associated rights, duties, and compensation terminated immediately.

#### **Article VI: Meetings**

Section I. The Student Senate shall meet all Wednesdays when classes are in session at 4:00 P.M.

Section II. The President of the SGA may, when necessary, call additional meetings of the Student Senate at a time and place to be announced and posted publicly on the door of the SGA office no less than 24 hours in advance.

Section III. The President of the SGA shall be vested with the power to cancel Student Senate meetings in exceptional circumstances including inclement weather problems, danger to the student body, and extraordinary events.

Section IV. The Student Conduct Hearing Board shall schedule their normal meeting time at the beginning of every semester and shall be posted outside the Student Conduct office. In addition, they shall meet as necessary to complete the case load for any semester within the confines of that semester unless the offense occurs less than three weeks prior to the completion of the semester. Exceptions may be made by the Student Conduct Steering Committee with approval by the President of the SGA and will require notification of all students and witnesses involved in the case prior to the end of classes for a semester.

Section V. The Chief of the Student Conduct Board shall be vested with the power to cancel Student Hearing Board meetings in exceptional circumstances including weather problems, danger to the student body, and extraordinary events.

Section VI. The quorum of all meetings of the Student Senate and Student Conduct Hearing Board shall be 50% plus 1 of the qualified voting membership at the time of the meeting.

#### **Article VII: Executive Board**

Section I. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Business Manager, Commissioner, Secretary, Ombudsman, and Parliamentarian, as well as the Board of Governors and Faculty Senate Representatives.

Section II. The Executive Board shall meet weekly at a time agreed upon by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Board.

#### **Article VIII: Committees**

Section I. Function through such committees as deemed necessary by the SGA President to represent such student needs.

i. There shall be the following permanent standing committees for the purpose of carrying out the business of the Student Senate:

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- a. The Committee on Rules.
  - b. Safety and Americans with Disabilities Act.
  - c. Publicity.
  - d. Technology.
  - e. Housing and Dining.
  - f. Higher Education Student Affairs.
  - g. Concord University Student Affairs.
  - h. Commuter.
  - i. Beckley.

- ii. The Commuter and Beckley committees will be at large committees attended by the student body and chaired by their respective Delegates.
- iii. The Concord University Student Affairs Committee shall be a standing committee of the SGA governed by rules established by the Faculty Senate and shall consist of a number of student delegates as delineated by those rules.

**Article IX: Impeachment**

Section I. Any position of the SGA may be placed under investigation for misfeasance, malfeasance, and/or nonfeasance.

**Article X: Parliamentary Authority**

Section I. The Student Government Association of Concord University shall be governed by the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.

**Article XI: Amendments.**

Section I. Amendments to the SGA Constitution may be submitted to the Parliamentarian by petition signed by 15% of the Student Body, or a petition signed by 60% of the Student Senate.

Section II. The Student Senate shall discuss the proposed amendment no later than two weeks after submission and ratify by a 4/5 vote no earlier than the week following discussion. In the event of any amendment or changes to the proposed amendment during the meeting of discussion, it will again be up for discussion at any meeting following it, prior to its ratification vote, and may not be voted until that discussion has been allowed and closed.

**Article XI: Constitutional Authenticity**

In order to provide for a guaranteed authentic, official operating copy of the SGA Constitution, a watermarked copy of the most current Constitution, signed and dated by the SGA President, Student Conduct Officer, Faculty and Staff Advisor, shall be maintained in the SGA and Student Center offices by the Parliamentarian of the SGA.

SGA President:	_____	Date:	_____
Student Conduct Officer:	_____	Date:	_____
Faculty Advisor:	_____	Date:	_____
Staff Advisor:	_____	Date:	_____

3/30/2015

## Dates of Amendments to the Constitution

3/25/15

- 03102015D – An Amendment to fix general errors.

Parliamentarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

