

Constitution of the Student Government Association of Emerson College

Ratified November 30, 1999 | Amended December 2011

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↵ Preamble

We, the undergraduate students of Emerson College, in order to establish an effective student government, represent student interests, establish and facilitate all recognized 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, age, sexual orientation, handicap, or religion do hereby establish this constitution for the Student Government Association of Emerson College.

↵ Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be The Student Government Association of Emerson College. (Hereafter referred to as SGA.)

↵ Article II

Purpose

The purpose of SGA includes but is not limited to the following:
Represent student interests, rights, and concerns;
Stimulate student awareness of and involvement in the many organizations, activities, and

opportunities available in the Emerson Community;
Promote student awareness and appreciation of the values and traditions of Emerson College and the SGA;
Enhance communication/cooperation between all segments of the campus community;
And, provide funding for student activities and organizations through a fair and representative annual process.

↕ **Article III**

Membership

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:

Vote in all SGA elections;
Be represented by SGA officers;
Hold SGA office ([See Article VII](#));
Participate in SGA sponsored organizations and events;
And other rights, privileges, and benefits established by SGA bills, resolutions, and recommendations.

↕ **Article IV**

Governmental Organization

The government shall be a democracy based on three branches: the executive (Executive Officers and Executive Advisory Council), the representative (Senate) and judicial (Chief and Deputy Justices).

↕ **Section One: Executive Branch**

- A. The Chief Executive of SGA shall be the President.
- B. The Executive Board shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Chief Justice.
 1. The Executive Board shall meet weekly with the advisor(s) to SGA to discuss pending agenda and business items. ↕
 2. At least once per month, the Class Presidents shall jointly attend an Executive Board meeting.
- C. Powers and Responsibilities of Elected Officers
 1. President
 - a. The President is the official representative of the student body.
 - b. The President shall be elected to a term not to exceed one (1) academic year unless re-elected.
 - c. The President is responsible for executing legislation and directing programs as established by the Senate and Executive Advisory Council and provided for in the SGA budget.
 - d. The President must either approve or veto any legislation passed in Joint Session. To veto legislation, the President must submit a written statement

of objections to all SGA officers and advisors within five (5) school days. If the President does not take action within this specified period, the legislation shall become law. A veto may be overturned within five (5) school days by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a Joint Session.

- e. The President shall report on the state of the student body at the first and last Joint Session of each academic year. The meetings shall be advertised and promoted throughout the College community.
- f. The President will appoint all committee members as requested by the College administration.
- g. The President shall chair all Executive Advisory Council and Joint Session meetings and shall only have a vote in the case of a tie.
- h. The President shall have the power to call special Executive Advisory Council and Joint Session meetings as deemed necessary.
- i. The President of SGA shall meet on a regular basis with appropriate members of the College administration.
 - 1. The President shall meet bi-weekly with the Dean of Students.
- j. The President shall call an All Student Assembly at least once every academic year.
- k. The President, in conjunction with the Treasurer, is responsible for conducting and overseeing all financial workings of SGA.

2. Vice-President

- a. The Vice-President shall assume the office and duties of the President if the office becomes vacant within the one (1) year term.
- b. The Vice-President shall be elected to a term not to exceed one (1) academic year unless re-elected.
- c. The Vice-President is the presiding officer of the Senate and may only cast a vote in the case of a tie. The Vice-President is also the liaison between the Senate and the Executive Board. (See also Senate By-Laws)
- d. The Vice-President shall have the power to call special Senate meetings as deemed necessary.
- e. The Vice-President shall have a vote at all Executive Board and Joint Session meetings.
- f. The Vice-President shall be the co-chair of the Organizational Recognition and Review Board (ORRB) with the Associate Dean of Students. ([See Glossary](#))
- g. The Vice-President shall serve as the liaison between SGA and student organizations.
- h. The Vice-President shall record and maintain written records of the Executive Board and Joint Session proceedings in the absence of the SGA Secretary.

3. Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer shall assume the office and duties of the President if the offices of President and Vice-President are simultaneously vacated.
- b. The Treasurer shall have a vote at all Executive Board and Joint Session meetings.

- c. The Treasurer shall be elected to a term not to exceed one (1) academic year unless re-elected.
- d. The Treasurer, in conjunction with the President, is responsible for conducting and overseeing all financial workings of SGA.
- e. The Treasurer shall be the co-chair of the Financial Advisory Board (FAB) along with the Associate Dean of Students.
- f. The outgoing Treasurer, in conjunction with the Treasurer-elect, if an election has already taken place, is responsible for preparing the annual SGA budget for the following academic year. The budget must be prepared in time to be submitted to the Financial Advisory Board.
- g. The Treasurer, in conjunction with the President, Chief Justice, and the Associate Dean of Students, shall investigate any charges of financial misconduct by any SGA funded organization.
- h. The Treasurer may endorse a Vice-Treasurer to be appointed by the President and confirmed by Joint Session.
- i. The Treasurer is responsible for closing the budget for the fiscal year.
- j. The Treasurer of SGA shall meet on a regular basis with the appropriate members of the College administration.

4. Class Presidents

- a. Class Presidents shall be elected to a term not to exceed one (1) academic year.
- b. Class Presidents shall represent the interests and concerns of their respective classes as outlined in their class constitution.
- c. Class Presidents shall be the liaisons between their respective classes and Joint Session.
- d. Class Presidents shall act as the Chief Executives of their respective class governments and are thus responsible for their conduct.
- e. Class Presidents shall attend Executive Board meetings as requires by [Article IV, Section One, Part B.2.](#)
- f. In the case that the office of Class President becomes vacant before their term has ended, their seat will be filled according to the procedures outlined in their respective class constitution.

D. Other Officers

1. Secretary

- a. Once appointed, the Secretary shall serve until the end of the academic year during which they are appointed.
- b. The Secretary shall have a vote in Executive Board meetings.
- c. The Secretary shall record and maintain written records of all Executive Board and Joint Session proceedings. In the absence of the Secretary, the Vice-President shall assume this duty.
- d. The Secretary shall distribute the minutes of each meeting to all officers within forty-eight (48) hours.
- e. The Secretary shall post, for public viewing, the minutes of each meeting within forty-eight (48) hours.
- f. The Secretary shall handle all correspondence as deemed necessary by the President of SGA.

- g. The Secretary shall maintain the SGA office in an efficient and organized manner.
 - h. The Secretary shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or Executive Board.
2. Vice-Treasurer
- a. Once appointed, the Vice-Treasurer shall serve until the end of the academic year during which they are appointed.
 - b. The Vice-Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer on all financial proceedings as deemed necessary by the Treasurer.
 - c. The Vice-Treasurer shall attend Joint Session meetings as deemed necessary by the Treasurer.
 - d. The Vice-Treasurer shall be a non-voting member of the Financial Advisory Board.
 - e. The Vice-Treasurer shall take on the financial responsibilities of the SGA in the absence of the Treasurer.
 - f. If the office of Treasurer should become vacant at any time during the regular term of office, the Vice-Treasurer shall temporarily assume the office and duties of the Treasurer until such time as a special election has been held to fill the vacancy.
 - 1. The special election shall be called according to the guidelines for special elections put forth in the Elections By-laws.
 - 2. The Vice-Treasurer shall be an eligible candidate for the position provided they meet the guidelines set forth for candidacy in [Article VII, Section Two, Part A.](#)
 - 3. The Vice-Treasurer shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or Executive Advisory Council.
- E. The Executive Advisory Council shall consist of the President and all appointed Commissioners.
- 1. Once appointed, these officers shall serve until the end of the academic year during which they are appointed.
 - 2. All appointments to the Executive Advisory Council shall be confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a Joint Session.
 - 3. The Executive Advisory Council shall meet weekly, but may meet more frequently when deemed necessary by the President.
 - 4. The Executive Advisory Council, by their third meeting of the semester, shall elect a Vice President, who shall preside over the Executive Advisory Council meetings in the President's absence.
 - 5. The Executive Advisory Council shall be responsible with planning and executing events and campaigns at the direction of the President, or as referred by Joint Session.
 - 6. The Executive Advisory Council may, at any time, introduce items for consideration to Joint Session.
 - 7. Commissioners are responsible for advising the President on the state of their specific constituencies.

- a. Commissioners shall be in consistent contact with students that fall under their constituency groups.
- b. Commissioners shall meet at least once a semester with the appropriate offices or staff members that offer services to their specific constituencies.
 1. Commissioners shall be in consistent contact with the above mentioned officers or staff members throughout their term of office.

F. Powers and Responsibilities of Appointed Officers

1. Public Relations Commissioner

- a. The Public Relations Commissioner shall be appointed by the SGA President, and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Joint Session.
- b. The Public Relations Commissioner shall be the liaison between SGA, the Office of Communications & Marketing, and the student body.
- c. The Public Relations Commissioner shall publicize and promote SGA throughout the College community.
- d. The Public Relations Commissioner is responsible for maintaining all official SGA communicative channels.
- e. The Public Relations Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or Joint Session.

2. Elections Commissioner

- a. The Elections Commissioner shall be appointed by the SGA President, and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Joint Session.
- b. The Elections Commissioner shall be responsible for conducting all standard and special elections as they are outlined in the SGA Constitution and the Elections By-Laws.
- c. The Elections Commissioner may not be a candidate on the ballot during an election they are conducting.
- d. The Elections Commissioner, upon their appointment, shall form an Elections Committee to help conduct the elections. (See Elections By-laws)
- e. In the event of the resignation of the Elections Commissioner, the president may appoint one of the remaining members of the Elections Committee, subject to a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval from Joint Session.

3. Multicultural Commissioner

- a. The Multicultural Commissioner shall serve as the liaison between SGA, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, and the cultural community.
- b. The Multicultural Commissioner shall advise SGA on any culturally sensitive matters.
- c. The Multicultural Commissioner shall advocate for policies that allow for equal access to and representation of multicultural students in the College's programs, classes, activities and services.
- d. The Multicultural Commissioner shall be responsible for raising awareness for needs of multicultural students with all students at Emerson College.

- e. The Multicultural Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or the Executive Advisory Council.
4. Spiritual Life Commissioner
- a. The Spiritual Life Commissioner shall serve as the liaison between SGA, the Center for Spiritual Life, and the spiritual community at Emerson.
 - b. The Spiritual Life Commissioner shall advise SGA on any matters sensitive to Spiritual Life.
 - c. The Spiritual Life Commissioner shall advocate for policies that allow for equal access to and representation of spiritual students in the College's programs, classes, activities and services.
 - d. The Spiritual Life Commissioner shall be responsible for raising awareness for needs of spiritual students with all students at Emerson College.
 - e. The Spiritual Life Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or the Executive Advisory Council.
5. Athletics Commissioner
- a. The Athletics Commissioner shall serve as the liaison between SGA, SAAC, and the athletics department.
 - b. The Athletics Commissioner shall advise SGA on any sensitive matters pertaining to athletics at Emerson.
 - c. The Athletics Commissioner shall advocate for policies that allow for equal access to and representation of athletic students in the College's programs, classes, activities and services.
 - d. The Athletics Commissioner shall be responsible for raising awareness for needs of athletic students with all students at Emerson College.
 - e. The Athletics Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or the Executive Advisory Council.
6. Greek Life Commissioner
- a. The Greek Life Commissioner shall serve as the liaison between SGA, Greek Council and Greek Life.
 - b. The Greek Life Commissioner shall advise SGA on any matters sensitive to Greek Life.
 - c. The Greek Life Commissioner shall advocate for policies that allow for equal access to and representation of Greek Life students in the College's programs, classes, activities and services.
 - d. The Greek Life Commissioner shall be responsible for raising awareness for needs of Greek Life students with all students at Emerson College.
 - e. The Greek Life Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or the Executive Advisory Council.
7. The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (GLBTQ) Commissioner
- a. The GLBTQ Commissioner shall serve as the liaison between SGA, the Student Life GLBTQ Resources advisor, and the GLBTQ community.

- b. The GLBTQ Commissioner shall advise SGA on any matters sensitive to the GLBTQ community.
 - c. The GLBTQ Commissioner shall advocate for policies that allow for equal access to and representation of GLBTQ students in the College's programs, classes, activities and services.
 - d. The GLBTQ Commissioner shall be responsible for raising awareness for needs of GLBTQ students with all students at Emerson College.
 - e. The GLBTQ Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or the Executive Advisory Council.
8. RHA Commissioner
- a. The RHA Commissioner shall serve as the liaison between SGA, OHRL, RHA and on campus students.
 - b. The RHA Commissioner shall advise SGA on any matters sensitive to OHRL, RHA and on campus students.
 - c. The RHA Commissioner shall advocate for policies that allow for equal access to and representation of on campus students in the College's programs, classes, activities and services.
 - d. The RHA Commissioner shall be responsible for raising awareness for needs of on campus students with all students at Emerson College.
 - e. The RHA Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or Executive Advisory Council.
9. Off Campus Student Commissioner
- a. The Off Campus Student Commissioner shall serve as the liaison between SGA, the Off Campus Student Services office, and students living Off Campus .
 - b. The Off Campus Student Commissioner shall advise SGA on any matters sensitive to students living off campus.
 - c. The Off Campus Student Commissioner shall advise SGA on any matters sensitive to students living off campus.
 - d. The Off Campus Student Commissioner shall advocate for policies that allow for equal access to and representation of off campus students in the College's programs, classes, activities and services.
 - e. The Off Campus Student Commissioner shall be responsible for raising awareness for needs of off campus students with all students at Emerson College.
 - f. The Off Campus Student Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or Executive Advisory Council.
10. External Programs Commissioner
- a. The External Programs Commissioner shall serve as the liaison between SGA, the Office of International Study and External Programs and students at an External Program.
 - b. The External Program Commissioner shall advise SGA on any matters sensitive to students at an external program.

- c. The External Program Commissioner shall communicate with at least one representative from each of Emerson's external programs.
- d. The External Programs Commissioner shall advocate for policies that allow for equal access to and representation of external students in the College's programs, classes, activities and services.
- e. The External Programs Commissioner shall be responsible for raising awareness for needs of external students with all students at Emerson College.
- f. The External Programs Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or Executive Advisory Council.

11. Transfer Student Commissioner

- a. The Transfer Commissioner shall serve as the liaison between SGA and Transfer Students.
- b. The Transfer Commissioner shall advise SGA on any matters sensitive to Transfer Students.
- c. The Transfer Student Commissioner shall advocate for policies that allow for equal access to and representation of transfer students in the College's programs, classes, activities and services.
- d. The Transfer Commissioner shall be responsible for raising awareness for needs of transfer students with all students at Emerson College.
- e. The Transfer Student Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or Executive Advisory Council.

12. Service Learning Commissioner

- a. The Service Learning Commissioner shall serve as the liaison between SGA, the Service Learning and Community Action office and the Service Learning Community.
- b. The Service Learning Commissioner shall advise SGA on any matters sensitive to the Service Learning community.
- c. The Service Learning Commissioner shall advocate for policies that allow for equal access to and representation of students involved in service learning projects in the College's programs, classes, activities and services.
- d. The Service Learning Commissioner shall be responsible for raising awareness for needs of students involved in service learning projects with all students at Emerson College.
- e. The Service Learning Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or Executive Advisory Council.

13. Student Disabilities and Accessibility Commissioner

- a. The Student Disabilities and Accessibility Commissioner shall serve as a liaison between SGA, the Disability Services Office, and students with learning, physical, psychological and/or medical disabilities.
- b. The Student Disabilities and Accessibility Commissioner shall advise SGA on any matters sensitive to students with disabilities.

- c. The Student Disabilities and Accessibility Commissioner shall advocate for policies that provide qualified students with disabilities equal access to the College's programs, classes, activities and services.
- d. The Student Disabilities and Accessibility Commissioner shall be responsible for raising awareness for needs of students with disability and access issues with all students at Emerson College.
- e. The Student Disabilities and Accessibility Commissioner shall take on additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the President and/or Executive Council.

Section Two: Representative Branch

N. Senate

- 1. The Vice-President of SGA shall preside over the Senate. All seats in the Senate shall have one (1) vote each and be determined in the following manner:
 - a. One seat for each degree-granting department of the College
 - b. One seat for each class government
- 2. The Senate shall, by their third meeting of the semester, elect a vice president to preside over Senate meetings in the absence of the Vice President.
- 3. The Senate shall, by their third meeting of the semester, draft and vote on Senate by-laws.

O. Powers and Responsibilities

- 0. The members of the Senate shall act as the chief liaisons between academic departments, class membership and the Joint Session.
 - 1. The Senate shall initiate legislation, initiatives, and acts and present them to Joint Session.
 - 2. The Senate shall address all items of business referred to them by Joint Session and the Executive Advisory Council.
 - 3. Each Senator shall have one (1) vote in Senate and Joint Session meetings.
 - 4. The Senate shall meet weekly, but may meet more often if deemed necessary by the Vice President.

P. Other Duties

- 0. Departmental senators shall be the official liaisons between their department and Joint Session.
 - 1. Class senators shall be the official liaisons between their class and Joint Session.
 - 2. Departmental senators shall be responsible for meeting with their department head at least once a semester.
 - 3. All Senators shall be responsible for creating, debating, and voting on legislation as requested by Joint Session for recommendation.

Section Three: Judicial Process

Q. The judicial powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Chief Justice.

R. Appointment

0. The Chief Justice shall be appointed by the SGA President and subject to approval of a Joint Session.
1. The Chief Justice may remain in office as long as eligibility is maintained, not to exceed eight (8) semesters (summer sessions not included).
2. The Chief Justice must have been enrolled at Emerson College for at least one (1) semester prior to appointment.

S. Duties and Powers

0. The Chief Justice shall, upon request of a member of Joint Session, interpret the Constitution and review the constitutionality of any action or legislation.
1. The Chief Justice shall be charged with the responsibility of reviewing all SGA recognized club constitutions to ensure their compliance with the SGA constitution.
2. The Chief Justice may enact impeachment proceedings of any SGA officer. ([See Article VIII](#))
3. The Chief Justice shall preside over impeachment hearings of all SGA officers in accordance with Article VIII.
4. The Chief Justice shall hear all organizational and student grievances and recommend a course of action.
5. The Chief Justice, in conjunction with the Elections Commissioner, shall oversee all general and special elections.

T. Deputy Chief Justice

0. The Chief Justice may endorse a candidate for Deputy Chief Justice who is to be appointed by the SGA President, and subject to a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of Joint Session.
1. The Deputy's duties will include assisting the Chief Justice in his/her duties as requested.
2. The Deputy is not required to attend Joint Session meetings, except by the request of the Chief Justice.
3. The Deputy Chief Justice will assume the authority of the Chief Justice:
 - . in the event that the Chief Justice recuses himself/herself from any case.
 - a. in the absence of the Chief Justice.
4. In the case the both positions are vacant, the President assumes the responsibility of the Chief Justice.
 - . In the case that any student feels the President cannot be impartial in a matter, they may request for the Associate Dean of Students to render a ruling.
5. If the position of Chief Justice is vacated before the end of an academic year, the Deputy will assume the authority of the Chief Justice until a new appointment to the position can be made.
 - . The Deputy Chief Justice may be considered an eligible candidate for the position.

6. The term of the Deputy Chief Justice will end when the term of the Chief Justice under whom he/she was appointed has ended.

Section Four: Financial Advisory Board

- U. The Financial Advisory Board shall have the responsibility to develop and recommend the annual SGA budget, which shall be approved at a Joint Session meeting to take place before the end of the academic year.
- V. The annual budget decision meeting shall be chaired by the SGA Treasurer.
- W. Voting members shall include the outgoing SGA Treasurer and four (4) class representatives.
 0. The Vice-Treasurer shall sit in as a non-voting member of the board. (See FAB By-Laws)
 1. The incoming SGA Treasurer may, if they elect to do so, sit as a non-voting member of the board if one has been elected.
 2. Additional FAB hearings shall follow the FAB By-Laws.
- X. All SGA recognized organizations must submit the proper paperwork, as detailed in the guidelines created by the SGA Treasurer in conjunction with the Associate Dean of Students, to be considered for budget allocations by the FAB.

Section Five: Organization Recognition and Review Board (ORRB)

- Y. The ORRB shall have the responsibility to create or deny any new SGA funded organizations or interest groups.
- Z. The ORRB shall be co-chaired by the Vice President of SGA and the Associate Dean of Students.
 0. The ORRB shall consist of one (1) representative from each class, and one (1) faculty member.
 - . The faculty representative may be optional pending faculty availability and interest.
- AA. The ORRB will conduct the full recognition and review process during the fall semester according to the ORRB by-laws.
 0. The board will hold workshops in the spring semester for organizations wishing to prepare for the fall recognition process.
- BB. Additional ORRB hearings shall follow the ORRB By-Laws.

Section Six: Advisors

There shall be two (2) advisors for this organization: the Associate Dean of Students and a full-time faculty member to be selected by each administration.

The faculty representative shall be contingent upon faculty interest and availability.

↕ Article V Meetings

- CC. All SGA official meetings shall:
0. Follow the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order
 1. Be open to all Emerson students.
 - . A meeting may only be closed by a motion to enter into executive session in the case of a sensitive issue.
 2. Be documented in the form of minutes and include all motions made and votes taken.
 - . Quorum shall be obtained when half or more of the voting members are present, and is necessary in order to vote on any matter of business.
 - a. Attendance is required for all elected officers, commissioners, the Secretary and the Chief Justice.
 1. Additional attendance requirements shall be outlined in the by-laws for each governing body.

↕ Article VI Student Organizations

Recognition Requirements

- DD. All organizations must have on file an approved constitution.
- EE. All organizations must stay within the approved SGA budget allocation set forth by FAB.
- FF. All SGA funding must be spent for the benefit of undergraduate students.
- GG. All SGA funded organizations must be open to all undergraduate students.
- HH. All organizations must comply with Registration and Hazing Requirements established by the Office of Student Life.

↕ Article VII Elections and Appointments

Section One: Elections

- II. The Elections Commissioner shall form an elections committee in order to conduct elections.
- JJ. Elections shall be handled as specifically outlined in the Elections By-Laws.

Section Two: Qualifications



- KK. President, Vice-President and Treasurer

0. Must have completed one (1) full academic year of enrollment in Emerson College.
 1. Must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.7 prior to elections and during term of office.
 2. Must have submitted a petition to run for office to the SGA Elections Commissioner with no less than fifty (50) valid signatures and ID numbers of registered Emerson College undergraduate students.
 3. Must comply with all election procedures as stated in Article VII and the Elections By-Laws.
 4. Must be an undergraduate student registered and enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credits at the Boston campus throughout his/her term.
- LL. All other elected and appointed officers
0. Must have a minimum grade point average of 2.7 before the election or appointment and during his/her term of office. If the student is a first semester student, s/he must have approval from his/her academic advisor.
 1. Must comply with all election procedures.
 2. Must have submitted a petition to run for office to the SGA Elections Commission with no less than fifty (50) valid signatures and ID numbers of registered Emerson College undergraduate students.
 3. Must be registered and enrolled in a minimum of four (4) credits at the Boston campus throughout their term.

Section Three: Seating

- MM. To be elected, all candidates must receive a majority (at least 51%) of all votes cast in a general election of the entire Emerson College, Boston campus, undergraduate population. In the case that there is no majority, another election must take place within five (5) school days between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the first election.
- NN. No SGA officer shall serve in more than one (1) branch concurrently.
- OO. Senators shall be elected by their respective constituent bodies. Divisional senators may only be elected by undergraduate students majoring in their respective divisions, and class senators shall only be elected by their respective classes.
- PP. If either the Vice-President or Treasurer position becomes vacant within any given academic year, a special election shall be called immediately and shall be held under the special elections guidelines as outlined in the by-laws.
0. If either position becomes vacant in the second semester of an academic year after the general elections process has commenced, the SGA president shall appoint a replacement for the rest of the semester, subject to a two-thirds (2/3) approval by a Joint Session. (See Elections By-Laws)

Section Four: Timeline

- A. Elections for the following academic year shall be held on either the last Tuesday and Wednesday of March or the first Tuesday and Wednesday of April.
- B. The period from the election of new officers through the end of the academic year shall be a mandatory interim training session where all former officers train the newly elected officers.
- C. As the last item of business at a Joint Session of the outgoing administration, inaugural ceremony shall pass all powers of office to the incoming administration.

Section Five: Standard and Special Elections

- D. There shall be one (1) standard SGA election each year.
- E. Special elections shall comply with all special election procedures as outlined in the Elections By-laws. (See Elections By-Laws)
- F. Special elections, when not mandated by provisions in the Constitution or by-laws, shall be called by the President of SGA when mandated by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a Joint Session, or by initiative, referendum, or recall actions. ([Refer to Article IX: Sections One, Two, and Three](#))
- G. All elections shall be conducted according to the Australian Ballot System. ([See Glossary](#))

↕ Article VIII Impeachments

Section One: Grounds for Impeachment

- H. Any officer of SGA who knowingly evades his/her duties as set down by this constitution, or commits any act that is determined to be detrimental to the welfare of the student body is subject to impeachment.
- I. No officer may be brought up under the same charges twice.

Section Two: Impeachment Initiation

- J. If the accused officer is the President, the Vice President shall assume all duties of the President until such time as the proceedings have concluded.
- K. If the accused officer is the Vice President, the Vice President of the Senate shall assume all duties of the President until such time as the proceedings have concluded.
- L. If the accused officer is the Treasurer, the Vice Treasurer shall assume all duties of the Treasurer until such time as the proceedings have concluded.
- M. If the accused officer is the Chief Justice, the Deputy Justice shall assume all duties of the Chief Justice until such time as the proceedings have concluded.

- N. Accused officers must abstain from all votes pertaining to the impeachment process.
- O. Impeachment proceedings may be initiated by the Chief Justice or a majority (51%) vote of the Senate. Initiation is the act of bringing the officer in question up for review before a Joint Session.
 - 0. Notification of the initiation of impeachment proceedings shall be sent to all SGA officers and advisors within 24 hours, or before the next Joint Session meeting, whichever is sooner, in order to continue with the proceedings.
 - 1. The review of the complaint and of the officer in question will be the first item of Old Business in the Joint Session immediately following notification.
- P. Upon review of the officer in question, a vote shall be taken as to whether or not to continue with impeachment proceedings.
 - 0. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Joint Session is required to continue impeachment proceedings.
- Q. If the motion carries, the impeachment process shall be considered tabled and will become the first item of Old Business at the next Joint Session, which shall take place no sooner than seven (7) days after the initiation of proceedings.
 - 0. The officer charged must be notified in writing -- of the impeachment proceedings and their right to appear -- within forty-eight (48) hours or the impeachment must be dropped.

Section Three: Impeachment Proceedings

- R. The Chief Justice shall preside over all impeachment hearings. In the event that the Chief Justice is accused, the SGA President shall be the presiding officer.
- S. A motion shall be made and seconded to review the officer in question.
- T. The officer in question shall be given the opportunity to speak in his/her defense and offer evidence as s/he deems necessary.
- U. Following full discussion, the motion shall be voted on immediately.
- V. If the officer in question holds an appointed position, following a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to impeach him/her, that officer is terminated. If the officer in question is an elected officer, following a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to impeach him/her, a special election for impeachment shall be called. ([See Article VII, Section Four](#))
- W. Impeachment elections shall follow the procedures for special elections, or in cases where these are not clear or written, for the officer's original election.

↴ Article IX Initiative, Referendum, Recall

↴Section One: Initiative

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 President of the SGA. The President shall present the initiative at a Joint Session, where it shall either be passed or submitted within ten (10) school days to a vote of the student body. At least five percent (5%) of the student body must vote in the election. A majority vote of all votes cast shall be necessary for adoption. ([See Glossary](#))

↴Section Two: Referendum

All sections of this government 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 President of the SGA. The President shall present the referendum at a Joint Session. The Joint Session 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 shall be necessary to rescind the action. ([See Glossary](#))

↴Section Three: Recall

All elected officers of this organization shall be subjected to recall by the student body. A written petition with signatures and ID numbers of at least ten percent (10%) of the current semester's enrollment shall constitute a request for recall. Upon presentation of said petition to a Joint Session of SGA, a recall election shall be called within fifteen (15) school days. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast shall be required to recall an elected officer, with this number being at least two-thirds (2/3) the number of votes cast in the officer's original election. ([See Glossary](#))

↴Article X **Amending Procedure**

Section One

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of a Joint Session or by a petition signed with ID numbers of at least ten percent (10%) of the current semester's enrollment of the student body and presented to the Joint Session.

Section Two

Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be posted on the Boston campus at locations specified by the By-Laws for at least three (3) days, not to exceed ten (10) school days before submission to the students for voting. At least ten percent (10%) of the student body must vote in the election. A simple majority (51%) of all votes cast shall be necessary for adoption. The external campuses shall be notified of any proposed amendments.

↕ **Article XI**

By-Laws

- X. Each branch of this government shall develop and adopt By-Laws to serve as more specific guidelines.
 - 0. These branches include, but are not limited to: Joint Session, Senate, Executive Advisory Council, FAB, and ORRB.
- Y. These By-Laws shall elaborate on duties, responsibilities, and objectives set forth by this Constitution, as well as any other guidelines necessary for operation of each prospective branch.
- Z. By-Laws should be developed and adopted by the third meeting of each branch of the fall semester.
- AA. A majority vote (51%) of each prospective branch is necessary for adoption of their own By-Laws.

↕ **Article XII**

Parliamentary Authority

In all instances not covered by the Constitution and By-Laws, the Parliamentary Authority shall be Robert's Rules of Order (Revised).

↕ **Article XIII**

Adoption

This Constitution, upon ratification by a majority of the votes cast in an election, has been in effect as of November 30, 1999.

↕ **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 Article VII](#))

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

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 Article IX, Section One](#))

Joint Session: A meeting where the Executive Council and the Senate meet together; this meeting takes place every other week.

Organizational Recognition and Review Board: A recognition and review board for the student organizations of Emerson College. It is run by the Office of Student Life.

Recall: The process of removing, or right to remove, an official from office by popular vote. ([See Article IX, Section Three](#))

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, superceding or overruling the legislature; the vote itself. ([See Article IX, Section Two](#))

Term: A set period of time; duration of time in which an officer may hold office (1 academic year) ([See Article IV, Section One](#))