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Parliamentarian

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We, the Students of Ball State University, in order to insure a university community and a community at large responsive to the present and future welfare of students, do organize ourselves for the purpose of governance and hereby establish the Ball State University Government Association and its governing body, the Ball State University Executive Branch, the Ball State University Student Senate, the Ball State University Judicial Court; and the philosophy pertaining thereto.

Since students, the necessity of higher education, have intimate and life-oriented interests in the University and are affected at a most crucial juncture, by any of its policies we, the students of Ball State University, deem it necessary and proper that policy decisions of the University should be reached only with the advice and consent of elected student representatives and their appointees at every level of policy formulation. Our goal is to give and to preserve for students the power of effective choice at Ball State University.

Membership in the Student Government Association is limited to Ball State University undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff. Participation in the Student Government Association is without regard to arbitrary consideration of characteristics such as age, color, physical or mental disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Article I Executive Function

- Section 1. The officers of the Student Government Association (SGA) shall consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- Section 2. The above-mentioned officers shall be elected annually by the direct vote of the student body of Ball State University in accordance with the Student Government Association Elections Code.
- Section 3. In the case that the President or Vice President of the Student Government Association is removed from office or relinquishes his/her office, the line of succession shall be: President of the Student Government Association; Vice President of the Student Government Association; President Pro Tempore of Student Senate.
- Section 4. In the case that more than one executive officer is removed from office or relinquishes his/her office, the provisions established in the Student Government Association Elections Code shall be followed.
- Section 5. The executive function of the Student Government Association shall be performed by the President and he/she shall be empowered to appoint, with the

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approval of the Student Senate, all official aides, who shall constitute the Executive Cabinet.

Section 6. The Treasurer of the Student Government Association shall present to the Student Senate the annual budget and manage all monies of the Student Government Association as approved by Student Senate.

Article II Legislative Function

Section 1. The Student Senate shall perform the legislative function of the Student Government Association and shall be composed of representatives elected in accordance with the Student Government Association Elections Code.

Section 2. Representation within the Student Senate shall be distributed in-accordance with Article III, Section 1 of the Student Government Association Bylaws.

Section 3. Each representative of the Student Senate shall be a member within the respective district of said representative.

Section 4. The election and all matters pertaining to the election of representatives to the Student Senate shall follow the provisions established in the Student Government Association Elections Code.

Section 5. Qualifications for the election and membership of the officers and members within the Student Government Association shall be determined in accordance with Article IX of the Student Government Association Bylaws.

Section 6. The Vice President of the Student Government Association shall act as President of Student Senate, but shall have no vote except in the case of a tie within the said body.

Section 7. The following members shall constitute ex-officio non-voting members of Student Senate:

- a) The President of Student Government Association
- b) The Secretary of Student Government Association
- c) The Treasurer of Student Government Association
- d) The Advisor of Student Government Association
- e) The Dean of Students
- f) Members of Judicial Court
- g) The Student Member of the Board of Trustees
- h) Directors of Executive Departments

Section 8. The Student Senate shall hold at least twenty (20) weekly meetings per academic year, all of which shall be open to the public.

- Section 9. Any individual shall have the privilege of the floor upon recognition by the presiding officer.
- Section 10. All meetings shall run according to Robert's Rules of Order, except where provisions in the Student Government Association Bylaws take precedence.

Article III Judicial Function

- Section 1. The judicial function of the Student Government Association shall be performed by a body to be known as the Judicial Court.
- Section 2. The membership of the Judicial Court shall be composed of the following individuals:
- a) The Secretary of Justice of the Student Government Association, who shall serve as Chair, and will not have voting privileges at any time.
 - b) The Vice President of the Student Government Association shall serve as Chair in the absence of the Chief Justice of the Student Government Association and will not have voting privileges at any time. If the case involves an executive officer and the Secretary of Justice is unable to attend, the Parliamentarian will serve as Chair and will not have voting privileges at any time.
 - c) Between seven and seventeen voting justices elected at large from and by the Student Government Association who shall be at least a second semester freshman.
- Section 3. The Chair of Judicial Court Shall hold meetings of the Judicial Court as the business of the Court demands, or meetings may be called upon the request of five members of said body. Such meetings may be public at the discretion of the membership.

Article IV Amendments

- Section 1. Amendments to the main body of the Constitution of the Student Government Association shall be reviewed and recommended by the Student Government Association Rules and Constitution Committee and then may be proposed by either of the following procedures:
- a) A petition signed by twenty-five (25) percent of the Student Government Association;
 - b) A majority vote of the membership of the Student Senate.
- Section 2. Amendments shall become a part of this Constitution upon ratification by one of the following means:
- a) A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Student Government Association.

- b) A three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the Student Senate.

Article V
Ratification

This constitution shall be in effect upon ratification according to ratification of the Student Government Association Constitutional amendments.