

Watkins Student Government Constitution

Article I Name and Purpose

Section I Name & Grant of Power

- A. The name of this organization will be **Student Government Association**
- B. Student Government Association shall represent all students of Watkins and shall derive its authority from these students.
- C. Student Government Association shall be comprised of the elected representatives and any ad hoc committees.

Section II Mission and purpose

- A. The mission of **Student Government Association** is to provide the connection between students, faculty, and administration; to create an awesome place of learning, growth, and development; and to make sure the student body has voice in all matters pertaining to them.

Article II: Rights and Responsibilities

Section I Recommendations to the College

- A. To initiate proposals or make recommendations to the College President or any other appropriate office or official of the College on all matters relevant to the general welfare of the college and students.
- B. To disseminate and communicate information regarding College policies to students.
- C. To determine policies and procedures regarding student events, clubs, organizations, and activities in consultation with the Office of Student Life.
- D. To take formal notice of any action taken by the College or any representative thereof, and provide an official statement of reaction on behalf of the student body.
- E. To act as a mediator between the student body and faculty to resolve grievances that are beyond a personal or singular affair and that effect the student body as a whole.

Section II Responsibilities

- A. Student Government Association shall act as a primary liaison between the undergraduate students and the faculty, administration, and other appropriate groups.
- B. Student Government Association shall work with the Office of Student Life in developing procedures regarding student clubs and organizations.
- C. Student Government Association shall hold its members and appointees accountable to the rules and responsibilities set forth in this Constitution.
- D. Student Government Association shall carry out annual elections according to procedures established in this Constitution.

- E. Student Government Association shall have the power to establish committees and subcommittees and shall reserve the sole right to appoint undergraduate student members to College committees.
- F. Student Government Association or members thereof will meet regularly with the President or his or her designee, no fewer than twice per semester
- G. Student Government Association will host regular town hall meetings no fewer than two times per semester to allow for face-to-face communication between Student Government Association and the student body. These town halls can either be student body oriented or specific to a major depending on the needs or issues at the time.

Article III: Membership

Section I Non-Discrimination Clause

- A. Student Government Association of Watkins College of Art and Design shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, national origin, status as a veteran, gender identity, or handicap in recruitment, admission to membership, or access thereof, or treatment in its programs and activities.

Section II Membership Status

- A. Student Government Association shall be represented by all six student majors with at least one representative, maximum three, from each major. If no nominee from a certain major runs for office, any student may be eligible for that position, regardless of major. Student Government Association shall also include at least one residential student and one non-residential student.
- B. Any enrolled student with good academic and disciplinary standing, with a 2.0 GPA or better, shall be eligible to seek and maintain membership or position in Student Government Association. To maintain such membership or position, a student does not need to be enrolled during the summer semester.
- C. Members appointed to ad hoc committees by Student Government Association must be enrolled students in good academic and disciplinary standing.
- D. Any Member who fails to represent Watkins Student Government either through lack of attendance, lack of participation, or poor academic or disciplinary standing shall be eligible for impeachment.
- E. Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification from holding any office in Student Government Association for the entirety of the academic year following that officer's removal.

Article IV: Officers and Duties

Section I The President

- A. Will serve as the *impartial* Chair of Student Government Association at all regularly scheduled meetings and special meetings, and an ex-officio member of all other committees.
- B. Will serve as the chief spokesperson and representative.
- C. Will see that elections are held each April for the following academic year and will designate an elections official to conduct such elections.
- D. Will be selected by a majority of representatives in its annual spring election.
- E. Part of the count of three representatives from each department.
- F. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of Watkins Student Government.

Section II The Vice President

- A. Will serve as the Chair of meetings in the absence of the President.
- B. Will see that Student Government Association operates in conformity with the policies set forth in this Constitution
- C. Will be selected by a majority of representatives in its annual spring election.
- D. Part of the count of three representatives from each department.
- E. In case of the removal or departure of the President from office, the Vice President shall become President.

Section III Departmental Representatives (6)

- A. At least one representative (maximum three) from each academic major (Bachelor of Arts, Film, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photography) shall be elected each year to Student Government Association. In the event that a department does not produce a suitable or willing nominee, the sitting President shall reach out to the appropriate academic department chair in an effort to have that chair encourage a student to run for office. If the President and Chair cannot find a suitable and willing nominee, the Departmental Representative seat for that department may be filled by the runner up with the highest number of votes from any other department.

Section IV Member at Large (2)

- A. Two members at large shall be elected each year to Student Government Association. These members may be from any academic department, but one position will be reserved for a residential student and one shall be reserved for a commuter student. In case there is no nominee representing residential students, an additional commuter student may be elected. Likewise, an additional residential student may be elected if there is no nominee from among the commuter students.

Section V Duties

- A. The business of Student Government Association will be dictated by the student body and the initiative of members of Student Government Association. Members shall decide among themselves how to best distribute the duties necessary to accomplish the

goals and initiatives of Student Government Association according to the members' talents, skills, and interests. However, the following duties MUST be executed by members of Student Government Association regardless of other initiatives:

Secretarial

- a. Keep accurate record of all students running in annual spring elections
- b. Keep accurate record of the attendance of each WAC member at all meetings
- c. Keep accurate minutes of all Student Government Association board meetings and town hall meetings

Financial

- a. Keep accurate record of all financial transactions
- b. Conduct an audit of financial records at the end of each term of office
- c. Set a budget for the academic year

Section VI. **Term of Office**

- A. The term of office shall begin on the first day of the Summer Semester and run through the last day of the Spring Semester of that academic year.

Article V. Elections

- A. Student Government Association shall see that elections are held each April for the following academic year and will designate an elections official to conduct such elections.
- B. A review committee of non-Student Government Association members shall be selected of faculty, staff and student representatives to review the election process and to count ballots.

Article VI. Meetings

- A. Student Government Association shall establish General meetings at regularly scheduled intervals, but shall meet no fewer than eight times per semester.
- B. The Committees of Student Government Association shall establish individual committee meetings at regularly scheduled intervals.
- C. In addition to the eight closed meetings per semester, Student Government Association will host no fewer than two Town Hall meetings per semester that are open to the student body.
- D. The President of Student Government Association shall preside at all meetings.
- E. The presiding officer shall vote only in the case of a tie.
- F. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the total voting membership of Student Government Association. A vote reflecting the absence of quorum constitutes a call for quorum. If quorum is not present, Student Government Association meeting will proceed, but all voting procedures will be suspended until such time quorum is present.
- G. Notification of Student Government Association members of the time and place of an emergency meeting must occur at least 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.

Article VII: Termination of Office

Section I. Grounds for Removal

- A. Any Student Government Association member may be removed from office for failure to act according to the rules and expectations set forth in this Constitution. The following are grounds for review for dismissal.
- B. Failure to perform agreed-upon duties
- C. Excessive hostility toward other members of Student Government Association
- D. An inappropriate use of funds or authority
- E. Excessive absence from Student Government Association meetings (3 or more absences in a single semester barring extenuating circumstances)
- F. Qualifying for academic or disciplinary probation

Section II. Grievance and Removal Process

- A. For a Student Government Association member to be removed from office, members must adhere to the following procedure:
- B. Another Student Government Association must file a grievance against the member in question with the Vice President and with the faculty/staff advisor
- C. The grievance will be addressed in the next Student Government Association board meeting and opened for discussion
- D. The members present at the meeting will vote on whether to take action, with both the member in question and the President abstaining from the vote. The President will only vote in the event of a tie.
- E. If Student Government Association votes to take action, the member in question will receive an official censure for the first offense. A subsequent offense will result in removal.

Article VIII. Vacancies

- A. In the event that one of the offices besides the President or Vice President should become vacant prior to the first day of the month in which Spring Break occurs, Student Government Association shall fill that position with a new candidate from the student body. Replacements shall be approved by a simple majority of members of Student Government Association.
- B. In selecting replacements, Student Government Association shall prioritize candidates that represent the same segment of the student population as the previous holder of that office, i.e. a vacant departmental representative seat should ideally be filled by someone from the unrepresented department and a member at large seat should be filled by whichever population (commuter or residential) is currently unrepresented.
- C. In the event that no suitable or willing candidate arises from the population represented by the vacant seat, Student Government Association may nominate any student of its

choosing provided that student meets the criteria for membership described in Article III, Section II.

Article IX. Advisor

- A. By nature of the job responsibilities the advisor to Student Government Association will be the Director of Student Life or his/her designee.

Article IX. Amendments to the Constitution

- A. Any member of Student Government Association may propose an amendment to the Constitution during any closed meeting of the Student Government Association. If and when an amendment is proposed, the procedure for voting on the amendment shall be as follows:
 - B. The proposed amendment will be added to the agenda for the next regularly scheduled town hall meeting. A member of Student Government Association shall explain the proposed amendment to the students in attendance at the meeting. The proposed amendment, along with online voting instructions, shall also be sent to the entire student body.
 - C. A simple majority of students is needed to approve a proposed amendment.
 - D. All proposed changes to the constitution are subject to review by the Director of Student Life.