STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Mission Statement

Providing a means of communication between the student body and its elected officials, in order to promote more interaction and fluid proceedings, such that the government may make changes, provide guidance, and take action on the issues brought forth, on behalf of the student body.

PREAMBLE

Student Government is a means whereby students of the College of Coastal Georgia become an active part of their own governmental environment. Student governance is, therefore, dedicated to the academic, cultural, social, and recreational growth of all students of the college and, as such, strives to provide activities, programs, and even and, in general, to promote the welfare of the students and to work for the betterment of the total college. To this end, the Constitution of the Student Government Association is presented.

Article I. Student Government Association

Section 1. Name
The organization shall be known as the College of Coastal Georgia Student Government Association, hereafter referred to as SGA.

Section 2. Purpose
The purpose of SGA is to develop and work for the best interests of the students of the College of Coastal Georgia, to cooperate with the college administration and faculty in all matters of common interest to the College, to uphold students’ rights and college regulation, and to provide a means of communication between students and their college.

Section 3. Functions - The SGA shall have its major functions;

A. To solicit, receive, and discuss matters of interest and concern to the students of the college and to present those interest and concerns as either policy proposals or as items for consideration to the appropriate administrator or faculty body;

B. To develop and implement with the assistance of the Director of Student Life a budget for the operation of the SGA; and

C. To assist, when possible, any campus group or organization that requests help in improving the academic, social, and recreational growth of all students of the college.
Section 4. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the three (3) named officers of SGA. The Executive Committee Members shall provide leadership to the SGA by establishing agendas, chairing committees, recruiting members, and increasing campus awareness of SGA.

All Executive Committee Members shall meet the following criteria:

A. A GPA of 2.75 during each semester of enrollment while on Executive Committee;

B. Enrollment in at least 9 credit hours each semester while on Executive Committee;

C. Free of academic or disciplinary probation or action; and

D. Completion of all tasks required of the position that is held.

Any Executive Committee Members who fail to meet the above criteria will be suspended from involvement in SGA.

Section 5. Executive Officer Qualifications

1. The President must be at least a sophomore have completed at least twenty-four (24) semester hours. The individual must have been at least a Senator or Executive officer for one semester in good standing. While in term of office, the individual must not be in final year of teaching or in the nursing practicum.

2. The Vice President must have completed thirty (30) semester hours. The individual must have been at least a Senator for one semester in good standing. While in term of office, the individual must not be in final year of teaching or in the nursing practicum.

3. The Secretary must have completed twenty four (24) semester hours. The individual must have been at least a Senator for one semester in good standing. While in term of office, the individual must not be in final year of teaching or in the nursing practicum.

Article II. Elections for Executive Branch

Section 1. Election for all three Executive Committee positions will be held before spring break of each year. The election for all three positions will be held at one time. Any College of Coastal Georgia student will be eligible to seek election to an Executive Branch Office. However, students seeking office must meet the criteria designated in Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution in order to have their candidacy certified.
Students seeking Executive Committee Office will have to satisfy the following requirements prior to having their name placed on an election ballot:

A. A formal petition for candidacy must be filled with the Office of Student Affairs prior to the posted deadline for submission for election petitions. Formal petitions will be available through the Office of Student Life & Student Affairs. Informal petitions will not be accepted.

B. The formal petition for candidacy must contain the signatures of 40 currently enrolled College of Coastal Georgia students. The student signatures will be validated by the Office of Student Affairs.

C. Potential candidates will have their academic and disciplinary records with the college reviewed by the Vice President for Student Affairs (or their designee) to ensure that the potential candidate is free of any academic or disciplinary action.

D. Petitions for candidacy will be filed in the Office of Student Affairs no later than ten (10) working days prior to the scheduled date of the elections. Late petitions or incomplete petitions will not be considered.

E. Campaigning by students seeking election will be begin ten (10) working days prior to the scheduled date of the election, after their candidacy has been certified. Students seeking election are held responsible for all campaign materials; this includes following all guidelines for posting on campus as well as removal of material within 24 hours after the election has taken place.

F. All currently enrolled CCGA students are eligible to vote in SGA elections, students will be required to show their college student ID card in order to be eligible to vote in SGA elections. For online voting, students log in their student account to vote.

G. Votes for SGA elections will be tallied in the Office of Student Life and certified by the Vice President of Student Affairs.

H. Simple majority of the votes cast will decide all elections.

Section 2. The Executive Officers of the Student Government Association shall be chosen by the direct vote of the student body by no later than spring break and will begin a full year term immediately following the officer induction ceremony.

Section 3. The time between the certification of the elections and the induction ceremony shall be used as a transitional period, during which the officers-elect shall work with the current executive officers to create a smoother transition.
Section 4. There shall be elected from among the students of the College of Coastal Georgia, the following Student Government Association Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 5. The placement of the SGA in the institutional administrative structure of the college is as follows:

- President of the College
- Vice-President for Student Affairs
- Faculty Senate
- SGA
- Student Body

Article III. Succession to the Executive Office

Section 1. In the event of a President’s inability to serve, through removal from office, death, resignation, withdrawal, or lack of qualifications, the Vice-President of the Student Government Association shall become President. If the Vice-President does not meet the qualifications of President the succession will go down the line in the following order of succession to the presidential office: Secretary, qualified senator.

Section 2. In the event of a Vice-President’s inability to serve, through removal from office, death, resignation, withdrawal, or lack of qualifications, or filling the position of President, the Secretary shall serve the remainder of the term.

Section 3. In the event of the Secretary, inability to serve, through removal from office, death, resignation, withdrawal, or lack of qualifications, a qualified replacement shall be chosen among the Senate members, by the Student Government Association President, and shall be approved by two thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate, to serve the remainder of the term.

Article IV. Officers’ Functions

Section 1. Functions of the President

The President of SGA shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer and spokesperson for SGA, as the presiding officer of Executive Committee, and shall preside at all SGA Executive Board meetings. The president will be held responsible to attend leadership development activities during their term of office. The president will be expected to follow all policies, agreements and procedures developed by and for the SGA executive committee. The president will be held responsible for attendance at various campus committees and meetings and will serve on campus
policy boards as directed or appointed. The SGA President shall serve as the voting representative to the Board of Regents’ Student Advisory Council.

Section 2. Functions of the Vice-President

The Brunswick Vice-President shall serve as the Assistant Chief Executive Officer and spokesperson in the absence of the President in both SGA meetings and Executive Council Meetings. The Vice-President will serve as the president of joint Brunswick/Camden Senator Meetings. The Vice-President will be held responsible to attend leadership development activities during their term of office. The Vice-President will be expected to follow all policies, agreements and procedures developed by and for the SGA executive committee. The Vice-President will be held responsible for attendance at various campus committees and meetings and will serve on campus policy boards as directed or appointed. The Vice-President shall serve as a representative to the Board of Regents’ Student Advisory Council in the absence of the SGA President. The Vice-President is charged with the gathering of information, design, development, publication, and posting of the Bathroom Browser for the Brunswick Campus.

Section 3. Functions of the Secretary

The Secretary shall serve as the recorder of the minutes of all the meetings held by SGA and file these minutes with the Office of Student Life. The minutes will be filed, when possible, in electronic format on the CCGA SGA Website. The Secretary will be held responsible for maintaining records of attendance at SGA meetings and SGA committee meetings. The Secretary will be held responsible for all correspondence that the SGA sends as well writing articles for the student campus newspaper.

Article V. Removal from Executive Office

Section 1. Impeachment Guidelines:

A. Any Officer may be removed from office for violation of this Constitution, the By Laws, College of Coastal Georgia Code of Conduct and any Board of Regent’s Policies.

B. A member of the Student Government Association can bring up the Impeachment charges. It is highly suggested to bring charges through the Internal/External Affairs Committee, but it is not a requirement.

C. To present the Articles of Impeachment, the Senate shall move into a Special Session under Robert’s Rules of Order.
D. The Vice President shall preside over the Special Session. If the Vice President is under the impeachment articles, the President shall preside over the Special Session.

E. A member of the SGA presents the case to the Senate. In the event the member is under the Impeachment charges, another member of the Executive Board will present the case to the Senate.

F. A two thirds (2/3) vote shall impeach an officer of the Student Government Association.

G. The Articles of Impeachment are presented to the judicial board, and a majority vote can remove the officer from their position.

H. Officers removed shall be ineligible for a stipend and will be removed from office. Removed officers will not be allowed to run for a Student Government Association office for a full calendar year from the date impeached.

Article VI. Legislative Branch

Section 1. The legislative branch of the student government association shall be chosen by the direct vote of the student body by the first twenty-eight (28) days of the fall semester, and will begin their one-year Senate term upon taking the “Oath of Office” as a Senator.

Section 2. Membership

A. Membership of the Senate shall be apportioned by class status.

B. There shall be three (3) Senators from each of the following classes: Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior class on the Brunswick campus and two (2) Senators from the Camden campus. To be considered for the role of Camden Senator, these two students must take at least one class on the Camden Campus.

C. In addition, there shall be two (2) at-large positions, which shall be open to any qualified candidate regardless of class rank.

D. There will be one spot on the Brunswick campus for a representative from the Residence Halls.

E. Classification shall be determined by the number of credit hours earned at the time of the Senate election.

Section 3. Qualifications
To be qualified for the Senate, any enrolled student at College of Coastal Georgia with a cumulative grade point average of 2.30 or higher, and in good academic standing, shall be eligible to run for election or be appointed to the Senate. For first semester freshmen, a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.5 will be required.

Section 4. Legislation

A. Bills – A bill is defined as legislation that is a request that a new policy or procedure be implemented on campus, that may or may not require approval of additional funding, but that will need to be approved by senior administration at the College. No bill shall be passed unless it is by the Senate. The Senate shall adopt no Bill until all affected individuals or organization have had at least one (1) week to be heard.

B. Resolutions – All other legislation is defined as a resolution. No resolution shall be passed unless it is by the Senate.

C. Before enactment, all legislation must be:

1. Read before the Senate
2. Entered into the minutes
3. Passed by a Senate majority vote
4. Signed by the Student Government Association President

D. All legislation that passes through the Senate must then be presented to the Student Government Association President.

1. The President can approve the legislation by signing it.
2. The President can return it with objections in the form of a line item veto.
3. The President can veto the entire bill or resolution and return it to the Senate with two (2) weeks after presentation through the President Pro Tempore
4. Every resolution, having been enacted by the Senate and approved by the Student Government Association President, shall be submitted to the President of College of Coastal Georgia.

E. Senate Action of Vetoes

1. Legislation voted by the Student Government President can be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Senators
2. Line item vetoes by the Student Government Association President can be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of senators.

F. Senator Privileges - Each senator shall cast one vote for his or her constituent section of the student body on every issue and motion that shall come before the Student Government Association. Senators have the power to make motions and hold the floor during meetings of the Senate and during committee meetings.

Section 5. Standing Committees

A. Student Concerns Committee – shall consider matters relating to services provided by the College which are deemed unsatisfactory by undergraduate services.

B. Internal/External Affairs Committee – shall consider matters concerning the function and operation of the Student Government Association.

C. Public Relations Committee – shall consider matters concerning the advertising and promotion of the Student Government Association and its sponsored events.

D. Appropriations – shall consider, review, and recommend allocations of student activity fee monies.

Section 6. Committee Chairs - Shall be a member of the Student Government Association and appointed by the Student Government Association President.

Section 7. Senate Vacancies

A. If the seat of a Senator shall be vacated by resignation, academic probation, recall election, non-enrollment at College of Coastal Georgia, or otherwise, the Student Government Association President shall appoint a new Senator of any classification.

B. In the event that a Senator has accumulated three (3) unexcused absences from scheduled meetings and/or events, the Senator shall be removed from office.

C. The newly elected/appointed Senator shall take office during the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting, after taking the “Oath of Office.”

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1. The SGA will hold regularly scheduled meetings during the fall and spring semesters. The exact number, time, and place of these meetings will be determined by the Executive Committee of the SGA, in consultation with the Vice President for Student Affairs, and written into a yearly team agreement. These meetings will be publicized to the campus as a whole. Meeting times may vary in order to include evening meetings. The executive committee of the SGA may determine that a
staggered schedule of meetings may be appropriate in order to better serve the student body.

SGA Senate meetings will be open to all students. Conflicts over points of order will be resolved by using Parliamentary Procedures. Meetings will be conducted in a fashion agreed on by the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Vice President for Student Affairs, and written to the team agreement. Officers and Senators are expected to submit excuses for absences to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of a meeting or event. Secretary is to expect to submit excuses for absences to the President. In the event where both the President and Secretary are absent, excuses are to be submitted to the SGA advisor. After three (3) unexcused absences, officers or senators may be presented to the Executive Committee for removal from office.

**Article VIII. Amendments**

**Section 1. Procedure**

A. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Student Senate or by petition of the student body as prescribed in this Constitution.

B. An amendment must receive a two-thirds’ majority vote by full membership of SGA to pass and must be passed by a majority of the membership of the Student Affairs Council in order to pass.

C. A roll call vote shall be taken on proposed amendments.

D. Technical amendments which correct items such as grammar, spelling, numbering, cross-references, or otherwise corrects manifest typographical or other similar errors shall not be subject to the requirements of Article IV.

**Article IX. By-Laws**

The By-Laws to the Constitution may be added to or amend upon the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate membership.