

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We, the students of High Point University, in order to promote community, to embody the principles of democracy, to practice leadership and governance, and to serve the University community, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution for the Student Government Association of High Point University.

Article I: Name

The association shall be called the Student Government Association (SGA) of High Point University.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to develop honor and self-control; to encourage wholesome ideals and personal responsibility; to exercise those executive, legislative, judicial, and social responsibilities vested in the Student Government Association; to enhance the quality of campus life, to encourage community on campus; to budget and administer resources; to appropriate funds, where deemed appropriate, to campus organizations and other campus activities; and to facilitate open and effective communication among students, faculty, staff and administrators at High Point University.

Article III: Organization

The Student Government Association shall be composed of the Executive Council (EC) and three boards: the University Community Affairs Board; the Student Senate; and the Judicial Board.

Article IV: Powers

Section I. The executive powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Executive Council (EC).

Section II. The University Community Affairs Board shall encourage community on campus and shall assist the University in assessing and improving the quality of campus life.

Section III. The Judicial Board shall exercise the judicial powers vested in the Student Government Association and shall assist the University in establishing and assessing effective judicial systems.

Section IV. The Student Senate shall conduct elections; confirm appointments; install and remove, where appropriate, officers and justices; exercise legislative powers; and administer the funds of the Student Government Association.

Article V: Representation

All day students shall be represented directly by the Student Government Association. All graduate and undergraduate students shall be represented indirectly by the Student Government Association. All day students may attend all regular and called meetings of any board of the Student Government Association except that judicial hearings administered by the Judicial Board may be closed. Although meetings of the Executive Council are closed, any student may request an audience with the Executive Council.

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Article VI: Executive Council

Section I. Members. The Executive Council of the Student Government Association shall be composed of the following members:

Elected Members. The following members of the Executive Council of the Student Government Association shall be elected by the day students of High Point University, except the Vice President who is elected by the Student Senate:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

Appointed Members. The following members of the Executive Council of the Student Government Association shall be jointly recommended by the respective outgoing officers and the incoming President of the Student Government Association and shall be confirmed by both the elected members of the Executive Council and the Student Senate:

1. Chief Justice
2. Attorney General
3. Chief of Staff

Chairs of Standing Committees.

1. Academic Chair
2. Publicity Chair
3. Student Services/Diversity Chair
4. Technology Chair
5. Service Chair

Installation of Officers. The elected Executive Officers appointed Executive Officers, and elected Class Officers of the Student Government Association shall be installed by the outgoing Chief Justice after the votes have been tallied by the Attorney General, provided there are no appeals. The Student Justices shall be installed by the Attorney General.

Oath of Office. Before taking office, each member of the Executive Council, Class Officers, and Judicial Board Members shall take the following oath:

(Raise your right hand.) "I, _____, do solemnly swear to uphold the Constitution of the Student Government Association of High point University, the University Conduct Code, and the University Honor Code; and I swear to perform, to the best of my abilities the duties and responsibilities of the office which I now assume.

Terms of Office. All elected and appointed members of the Exectuivie Council shall serve terms not to exceed on year beginning with their installation and concluding at the next Installation Ceremony. The one exception shall be the Chief Justice, who shall serve from the time they are installed until the Installation Ceremony of the semester in which they graduate, unless they resign their office, are impeached, or otherwise removed from the Judicial Board.

Section II. Expectations of the Executive Council. In addition to the duties of each Executive Council position, the following should also be expected of each Executive Council member:

1. attend all Executive Council and Student Senate meetings;
2. uphold the High Point University Student Government Association Constitution, University Honor Code, and University Conduct Code;
3. serve as a positive representative of High Point University

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Article VII: Class Officers

Section I. Members. Each class shall be composed of:

1. one President of each of the four classes;
2. three Class Representatives from each of the four classes.

Section II. Expectations of the Class Officers. In addition to the duties of each Class Officer position, the following should also be expected of each Class Officer member:

1. attend all Student Senate meetings;
2. uphold the High Point University Student Government Association Constitution, University Honor Code, and University Conduct Code;
3. serve as a positive representative of High Point University.

Article VIII: The Student Senate

Section I. Members. The Student Senate shall be composed of:

1. the Vice President who shall serve as the President of the Student Senate;
2. the President of each of the four classes;
3. the elected and appointed members of the Executive Council (ex officio);
4. all standing committee chairpersons appointed to the separate boards by the Executive Council. These boards shall consist of Academic, Publicity, Student Services/Diversity, Technology, Service, and all others seen fit to enact at the discretion of the Executive Council;
5. the representatives of all duly recognized campus organization who shall be known as Senators.

Section II. Voice. Any student may participate in deliberations of the Student Senate, except that time limitations may be imposed by the President of the Student Senate. Such limitations may be overturned by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate. The committee chairs are ex officio members of the Student Senate with voice and with vote. All other members of the Executive Council are ex officio members of the Student Senate with voice and without vote, except that the President of the Student Government Association rules in the case of a tie.

Section III. Quorum.

1. For a vote to be taken, there must be a minimum of two-thirds of the active chartered organizations present at that time for quorum to be met;
 - a. for a vote to be taken, there must be a minimum of one-third of the active, recognized organizations present at that time for quorum to be met
2. For a vote to pass the Student Senate there must be a vote in favor of half present plus one from active chartered and recognized organizations.

Section IV. Meetings.

1. The Student Senate shall meet at least bi-monthly for a total of nine (9) meetings per semester;
2. Following their election in the spring of each year, the Executive Council shall schedule regular meetings of the Student Senate for the upcoming year and provide a copy to the Vice President of Student Life and the Director of Student Activities so that meeting can be listed on the calendar of student activities;
3. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Council of the Student Senate, as needed, provided notice is distributed to the membership at least 36 hours in advance of called meetings.

Section V. Philanthropy.

1. Collectively, the Senate in conjunction with the Executive Council will plan a philanthropy event.

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Article IX: The Judicial Board

Section I. Members. Members of the Judicial Board shall include:

1. The Chief Justice of the Student Government Association who serves as Chief Justice of the Judicial Board and as the Hearing Chair of the University court system;
2. All University Justices will be appointed by the Chief Justice, and approved by the Student Government Association President as well as the Office of Student Conduct;
3. The Attorney General of the Student Government Association who serves as the Hearing Officer of the University court system;
4. In the event that the Chief Justice is unable to preside over a court hearing as the Hearing Chair, an appropriate designee will serve in his or her place as the Acting Hearing Chair;
5. In the event that the Attorney General is unable to preside over a court hearing as the Hearing Officer, an appropriate designee will serve in his or her place as the Acting Hearing Officer;
6. Two members of the faculty or staff of High Point University appointed by the Provost of the University and the Vice President of Student Life, respectively.

Section II. Meetings. The Judicial Board shall meet as many times necessary during the course of the University calendar. Meetings are scheduled in conjunction with the Office of Student Conduct.

Section III. Supreme Court. The judicial power of the Student Government Association Student Senate shall be vested in a Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of the Student Government Association shall be composed of the Chief Justice, and four (4) Associate Justices.

Members: The Chief Justice of the Student Government Association shall serve as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Associate Justices shall be selected from the Student Justices of the Judicial Board and appointed by the President of the Student Government Association. All Supreme Court Justices shall serve until they graduate, unless they resign their office, are impeached, or are otherwise removed from the Judicial Board. Members of the Executive Council of the Student Government Association shall not simultaneously serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Article X: The University Community Affairs Board

Section I. Members. The University Community Affairs Board is composed of:

1. the president of the Student Government Association who serves as President of the University Community Affairs Board
2. representatives of campus organizations;
3. representatives of athletic teams;
4. Class Officers;
5. representatives of every Greek lettered organization that is not already represented above.

Section II. Voice. Any student shall have the right to be heard by the University Community Affairs Board. Voting members shall include the representatives of campus organizations. The President of the University Community Affairs Board shall vote only in case of a tie.

Section III. Meetings. The University Community Affairs Board shall:

1. meet no later than the week before Fall Break in the fall semester and no later than the week before spring break in the spring semester;
2. special meetings can be called by the President of the University Community Affairs Board;
3. in the event of quorum not achieved the meeting will continue.

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Article XI: Professionalism

Section I. Conduct of Meetings. All meetings will be run according to Roberts Rules of Order. In addition, all organizational representatives (Senators), Class Officers, standing committee members, and the Executive Council members shall raise their hand and wait until the President of the Senate calls on them. When the President of the Senate calls on them, that person shall state their name and who they are representing. Furthermore, there shall be no texting, eating, drinking, computer usage, or loud outbursts during a meeting. Failure to abide by these rules shall result in removal of the meeting at the discretion of the President of the Senate and Attorney General.

Section II. Special Procedures. The Executive Council and each Board shall develop and publish operational guidelines for recurring activities. Such procedures shall be established and revised by two-thirds voted of the respective body.

Section III. Dress Code. All participating members of the Student Senate, including the Executive Council, Executive Officers, Senators of each class, all standing committee chairpersons appointed to the separate boards by the Executive Council, consisting of Academic, Publicity, Student Services/Diversity, Technology, Service, and all others seen fit to enact at the discretion of the Executive Council, the elected representatives of all duly recognized campus organizations who shall be known as Senators, shall comply with the following dress code:

1. Gentleman: collared shirt, dress slacks, or khakis, and dress shoes or loafers. No jeans, flip flops, and tennis shoes;
2. Ladies: dress, skirt, or dress pants. No jeans, flip-flops, and tennis shoes.

Article XII: Impeachment and Removal

Section I. Cause. Students may be impeached or otherwise removed from office only for cause:

1. failure to perform the duties prescribes in the Constitution and operational guidelines of the Student Government Association;
2. failure to follow published procedures;
3. violation of the University Conduct Code;
4. violation of the University Honor Code.

Section II. Executive Council. Members of the Executive Council may be impeached for cause, in which case the following procedures shall apply:

1. the charges shall be investigated by the Supreme Court under the leadership of the Attorney General of the Student Government Association, except in the case of the conflict of interest, in which case the Executive Council, absent the accused, shall appoint a chief investigator or chair;
2. following their investigation, the Supreme Court shall advise the Executive Council of their decision;
3. where impeachment is recommended, the Executive Council, absent the accused, shall establish concurrence or non-concurrence by simple majority vote;
4. where the Supreme Court recommends impeachment and regardless of the decision of the Executive Council, a resolution to that effect shall be introduced during a scheduled meeting of the Student Senate at which time the action of the Executive Council shall be reported;
5. the accused Officer has the right to address the Senate, but not to respond to questions;
6. ordinarily, following discussion, the vote shall be delayed until the next regular meeting, except that a special meeting may be called provided that at least 48 hours shall have elapsed;
7. where at least three-fourths of the Senators vote to support impeachment, the Officer shall relinquish the office held.

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Section III. Justices. University Justices and Supreme Court Associate Justices may be impeached, in which case the following procedures shall apply:

1. the charges shall be investigated by the Executive Council under the leadership of the Attorney General of the Student Government Association, except in the case of conflict of interest, in which case the Executive Council, absent the accused, shall appoint a chief investigator or chair;
2. where the Executive Council recommends impeachment, a resolution to that effect shall be introduced and discussed during a scheduled meeting of the Student Senate;
3. ordinarily, following discussion, the vote shall be delayed until the next regular meeting, except that a special meeting may be called provided that at least 48 hours shall have elapsed;
4. where at least three-fourths of the Senators vote to support impeachment, the Justice shall relinquish the position.

Section IV. Committee Chairs. The Executive Council may remove chairs of standing committees, in which case three-fourths of the Senators must concur.

Section V. Officers of Organizations. For reasons of cause, the Student Senate may recommend that organizations initiate impeachment proceedings against officers of the organization, in which case the following guidelines shall apply:

1. the charges shall be investigated by the Supreme Court under the leadership of the Attorney General;
2. following their investigation, the Supreme Court shall advise the Executive Council of their decision;
3. where impeachment is recommended the Executive Council, absent the accused, shall establish concurrence or non-concurrence by simple majority vote;
4. where the Supreme Court supports impeachment and regardless of the decision of the Executive Council, a resolution suggesting that an organization initiate impeachment proceedings shall be introduced and discussed in the Student Senate;
5. ordinarily, following discussion, the vote shall be delayed until the next regular meeting, except that a special meeting may be called provided that at least 48 hours shall have elapsed;
6. where at least three-fourths of the Senators vote to support impeachment, the organization shall be advised.

Article XIII: Bylaws

The Bylaws shall be the official rules and operating procedures of the High Point University Student Government Association. The Bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote (fifty percent present plus one) of the Student Senate. Amendments may be voted on and ratified during the same meeting at which they are presented and shall become effective immediately. Only specific rules or procedures in the Bylaws may be suspended on the floor of the Senate, and those sections shall be listed in the Bylaws. The Constitution shall not be suspended for any reason.

Article XIV: Amendments

Section I. Proposal to Amend. An amendment to this constitution may be proposed in two ways:

1. by any member of the Student Senate with the approval of a majority of the Senators;
2. by a petition which is signed by ten percent of the student body and presented to the Student Senate.

Section II. Notification. Where amendments to the constitution are proposed, the Executive Council shall advise the student body of the proposed amendments at least two weeks before the Student Senate shall hold a referendum on the proposed amendment(s). Responsibility for notification may be assigned to a standing committee of the Student Senate.

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Section III. Referendum. An amendment shall become effective upon ratification by two-thirds of the students voting.

Section IV. Constitutional Reviews.

1. A Constitutional Review meeting shall be held at least once during the academic year.

Amended April 18, 2013 by the HPU SGA Student Senate

Amended April 10, 2014 by the HPU SGA Student Senate

Amended March 19, 2015 by the HPU SGA Student Senate

Amended February 2, 2017 by the HPU SGA Student Senate