

The Constitution  
*of the*  
Student Government  
*of the*  
Catholic University of America

We, the Undergraduate Students of The Catholic University of America, establish this Constitution for the Student Government Association. The student government is established to effectively advocate on behalf of the students of our University community, unite the student body, propose positive and purposeful changes in policy that govern our university. Furthermore, it is our responsibility to foster a sense of academic excellence, moral integrity, and to better serve and represent the students of The Catholic University of America.

ARTICLE I  
THE EXECUTIVE

**Section 1      Composition**

Clause 1      The Student Government Association shall be led by an Executive Board comprised of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

**Section 2      Election**

Clause 1      The Executive Board shall be elected in April and serve a one-year term of office commencing on May 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on April 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.

Clause 2      The President and Vice President shall be elected on a joint ticket.

Clause 3      The Treasurer shall be elected independently.

Clause 4      The Secretary shall be elected independently.

Clause 5      Rules governing ballot access and campaign procedures shall be delineated in the Procedures for Election, which may be amended by an Act agreed to by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate and signed by the President.

**Section 3      The President**

Clause 1      The President shall be the head of the Student Government Association.

Clause 2      The President shall represent the student body to the University Administration and Board of Trustees.

Clause 3      Upon approval by the President, a bill passed by the Senate shall be enacted.

- Clause 4 The President shall create a Cabinet to assist presidential duties and spearheading Student Government Association initiatives. Membership in the President's Cabinet is not subject to Senate approval, except for vacancies for the Treasurer and Secretary.
- Clause 5 The President shall have the authority to make Student Government Association appointments to University Boards and Committees where student representation is sought.
- Clause 6 The President shall, with the advice and consent of the Senate, fill vacancies in the Senate and of the Secretary and Treasurer.

**Section 4 The Vice President**

- Clause 1 In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President shall assume the Presidency.

**Section 5 The Treasurer**

- Clause 1 The Treasurer shall lead the Treasury Board.
- Clause 2 The Treasury Board shall be responsible for the distribution and allocation of funds generated by the student activity fee. Funds may be allocated to undergraduate students, student organizations, and other initiatives deemed appropriate by the Treasury Board.
- Clause 3 The Treasury Board shall consist of the Treasurer and eight (8) Directors appointed by the Executive Board, with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- Clause 4 All Directors shall possess full voting rights.
- Clause 5 The Treasurer may only vote in case of a tie.
- Clause 6 Directors shall be selected and appointed by the Treasurer-elect with the advice and consent of the President-elect by May 1. The Senate must vote upon the proposed slate of Directors within five (5) calendar days of its submission by the Executive Board.
- Clause 7 All undergraduate students shall be eligible to serve on the Treasury Board unless otherwise stated in this Constitution.
- Clause 8 At least one (1) Director must be a member of the freshman class, at least one (1) Director must be a member of the sophomore class, at least one (1) Director must be a member of the junior class, and at least one (1) Director must be a member of the senior class.
- Clause 9 Class standing shall be defined by the following standard earned credit schedule: freshman 0-29 credits, sophomore 30-59 credits, junior 60-89 credits, senior 90+ credits. All Treasury Board members must have the necessary credits upon the beginning of the fall semester of their term.
- Clause 10 Members of the Senate may not serve on the Treasury Board,

- Clause 11 The Treasury Board shall serve a one-year term of office from May 1<sup>st</sup> until April 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.
- Clause 12 The Treasury Board shall be governed by a set of written procedures.
- Clause 13 The Treasurer shall be authorized to audit any operation receiving funds from the Student Activity Fee.

**Section 6 The Secretary**

- Clause 1 The Secretary, in collaboration with the Vice President, shall ensure that proper minutes are kept of all meetings of the Senate and that these minutes are made publicly available.
- Clause 2 The Secretary, in collaboration with the Treasurer, shall ensure that proper record is kept of all decisions rendered by the Treasury Board and that these records are made publicly available.
- Clause 3 The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that the student body remains knowledgeable of decisions of the Student Government Association, opportunities to join Student Government Association, and any other information deemed relevant.
- Clause 4 The Secretary may deputize one or more undergraduate students to assist in exercising the duties of the Secretary's office.

ARTICLE II  
THE SENATE

**Section 1 Duties**

- Clause 1 All legislative power shall be vested in a Senate.

**Section 2 Composition**

- Clause 1 The Senate shall be composed of two (2) Senators from the senior class, two (2) Senators from the junior class, two (2) Senators from the sophomore class, two (2) Senators from the freshman class, and two (2) Senators from each school of the University in which undergraduate students are enrolled.
- Clause 2 For the purposes of voting, candidacy, and assumption of elected positions, the following standard earned credit schedule shall be utilized: freshman 0-29 credits, sophomore 30-59 credits, junior 60-89 credits, senior 90+ credits. All Senators representing their class must have the necessary credits upon the beginning of the fall semester of their term.
- Clause 3 A candidate may only hold office for a school or class in which the candidate is currently enrolled.

**Section 3**      **Term**

Clause 1      The Senate’s term shall begin at the time of its first Senate session where the Senate shall elect its leadership.

**Section 4**      **Leadership**

Clause 1      The Vice President shall be the President of the Senate and shall serve as the Senate's presiding officer.

Clause 2      As President of the Senate, the Vice President will only be able to cast a vote in the event of a tie in the Senate.

Clause 3      The Senate shall elect a senator to serve as President pro tempore. The President pro tempore serves at the pleasure of the Senate for the term of the Senate.

Clause 4      The President pro tempore shall serve as presiding officer of the Senate in the absence of the Vice President.

Clause 5      The President pro tempore shall assume the office of the Vice President if vacated.

Clause 6      The President pro tempore shall assume the Presidency in the event of simultaneous vacancies in the offices of President and Vice President

**Section 5**      **Meetings**

Clause 1      The Senate shall meet regularly at a uniform time and place no less than one time per month, as circumstances permit. All meetings shall be open to the University community and no undergraduate student shall be denied admittance to observe a meeting of the Senate.

Clause 2      The Senate shall determine the rules of its proceedings concurrent with a majority vote.

**Section 6**      **Election**

Clause 1      The Senate shall be elected in September and serve a term of office commencing on October 1 and ending with the conclusion of the spring academic semester.

Clause 2      Rules governing ballot access and campaign procedures shall be delineated in the Procedures for Election, which may be amended by an Act agreed to by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate and signed by the President.

Clause 3      Candidates may seek election to only one office at a time.

Clause 4 Students may only vote for offices that represent their respective class and schools in which they are enrolled.

**Section 7** **Funds**

Clause 1 The Senate shall approve or deny expenditures made by the Executive Board in excess of one hundred and fifty (150) dollars beyond the approved operating budget.

Clause 2 The Senate shall establish procedures for distributing and allocating dedicated Student Government Association funds to the members of the Executive Board for use on Student Government Association initiatives.

Clause 3 The Senate shall have the authority to override any decision made by the Treasury Board subject to a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote and approval of the President or a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote to override a presidential veto.

ARTICLE III  
REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

**Section 1** **Procedures**

Clause 1 Should any member of the Student Government Association fail to attend to the duties of the office in which they are serving, as outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution and Student Government Association Bylaws, the Senate may remove that individual from office.

Clause 2 A member may only be removed from office after having been given an opportunity to rehabilitate their position in Student Government Association, in accordance with procedures included within the Student Government Association Bylaws.

Clause 3 Removal from office shall require a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the full Senate.

ARTICLE IV  
AMENDMENTS

**Section 1** **Processes**

Clause 1 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any member of the Senate.

Clause 2 All amendment proposals shall be subject to notification one meeting prior to their consideration.

- Clause 3 A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate or petition signed by twenty (20) percent of the undergraduate student body shall place the amendments to a vote by the Student Body to occur within thirty (30) academic days.
- Clause 4 An amendment shall be considered ratified when a majority of those voting approve the amendment. No fewer than ten (10) academic days written notice shall be given to the campus community through University communication.
- Clause 5 Adoption and changes to the Student Government Association Bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the Executive Board for their bylaws, which are subject to the approval by a majority vote in the Senate. The Senate's Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote which is subject to the approval of the President. A three-fourths (3/4) vote is necessary to override a presidential veto.

ARTICLE V  
UNIVERSITY CLAUSES

**Section 1 University Policies**

- Clause 1 Student Government abides by all University policies as laid out at <http://policies.cua.edu>.

**Section 2 Non-Hazing**

- Clause 1 The Student Government Association will not participate in any activities which could be regarded as hazing. "Hazing" refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

**Section 3 Non-Discrimination**

- Clause 1 The Student Government Association fully adheres to the University's non-discrimination policies which can be found at <http://policies.cua.edu/EEO/affirmact.cfm>.

Authorizing Legislation adopted by:  
The Student Association General Assembly: October 14, 2014

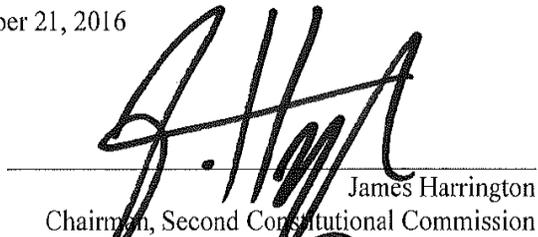
Approved by:  
The Constitutional Commission: December 3, 2014

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The Student Body: April 13, 2016

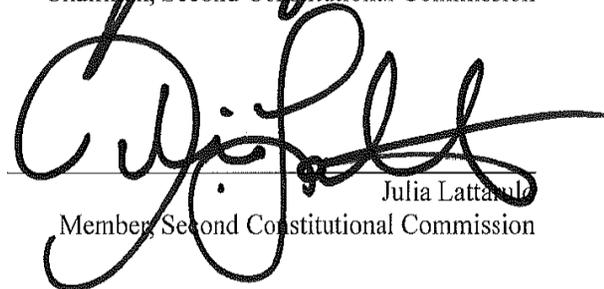


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Amended by:  
The Second Constitutional Commission: October 21, 2016



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Adopted by:  
The Student Government Association Senate: October 24, 2016

Ratified by:  
The Student Body: November 16, 2016