

Student Government Association of Goucher College



CONSTITUTION

Goucher College

Proposed: 04/30/2025

Ratified: 04/30/2025

PREAMBLE

We, the undergraduate students of Goucher College, in recognition of our responsibility to take an active role in the governance of our College community, in our commitment to protecting the interests and welfare of all members of the student body, in our obligation to promote Goucher Community values and spirit throughout the Goucher College Community, and in our duty to provide a representative leadership body for the general student populace do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Student Government Association of Goucher College.

Article I. FRANCHISE AND CITIZENSHIP

Section 1. Name

- A. The official name of this body shall be the Student Government Association of Goucher College, hereafter referred to as the SGA.

Section 2. Purpose.

- A. SGA shall be a college-wide student organization taking as its mandate the following responsibilities:

1. To provide a central agency where students can promote the interest and welfare of the Goucher community.
2. To further the development of a wholesome relationship between the administration, faculty, staff, and the student body, and serve as the representative of undergraduate students to all stakeholders.
3. To demonstrate the ability of the students to aid in the solution of their problems.
4. To encourage student participation in the control of those problems that relate specifically to student life.
5. To foster a connection between the students and administration.
6. To stimulate critical thinking; especially when dealing with the problems facing the College.
7. To serve as an agency for the expression of student thought.
8. To represent the student's opinions through membership on college committees to promote academic freedom, academic responsibilities, student health, wellness, and safety.
9. To promote academic responsibility.
10. Plan and conduct occasional listening sessions during the year.
11. Designate student representatives as required on the various College committees.
12. Formulate general co-coordinating regulations with reference to the operation of student organizations.
13. Enact and enforce legislation necessary to carry out the provisions of this constitution.

Section 3. Organization

- A. The SGA shall be the student governing body in all matters pertaining to the common interest of all students, with such limitations as are hereinafter stated.
- B. SGA shall be organized into two branches: Legislative and Executive. The powers of each branch are separated and described in this Constitution.
- C. The SGA will abide by Goucher College policies, State and Federal Laws, and follow local ordinances and regulations.

Section 4. Membership in and Election to Student Government Association

- A. All currently enrolled undergraduate students at Goucher College have full voting rights in all SGA elections.
- B. All interviewed-and-appointed senators as well as Cabinet members are members of the SGA.
- C. All full-time students of Goucher College are eligible for election to a position, or appointment to an office, and all members are eligible for selection to a committee unless otherwise restricted through SGA law and/or Goucher College personnel.

Section 5. Terms & Requirements of Office

- A. The term of office for a member of the SGA shall be one (1) academic year.

- B. The general election for officers will be held as prescribed in Article IV of this constitution.
- C. No member may serve more than four (4) one (1) year terms across all elected offices.
- D. No member of the SGA may serve in more than one of the branches at any one time.
- E. Individuals must be full-time undergraduate students while in office. Failure to remain full-time will result in automatic removal from office.

Article II. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH: THE STUDENT SENATE

Section 1. Purpose of the Student Senate & legislative authority. The purpose of the Student Senate is to represent the student body, pass proper and necessary legislation, and monitor college policies and/or programming that concerns the undergraduate student body at Goucher College.

Section 2. The legislative power for the student body is vested in the Student Senate of the SGA at Goucher College.

Section 3. Student Senate Selection

- A. The President and Vice President of the SGA will appoint Senators each academic year.
- B. In the event of a graduate cohort of the Student Senate, each Senator will be appointed by the President and Vice President of the SGA.

Section 4. Student Senate Leadership

- A. Student Senate officers
 - 1. A Speaker of the Student Senate shall be chosen from and by the Senate within the first two (2) general assembly meetings.
 - 2. The President of the Student Senate is the Vice President of the SGA.
- B. Student Senate leadership election
 - 1. The Speaker of the Student Senate shall be responsible for the administration of the affairs of the legislature.
 - 2. The Student Senate may remove any Senate officer by an affirmative two-thirds vote of seated senators.
 - 3. Resignation or removal from the Student Senate shall result in loss of office.
- C. Speaker of the Student Senate duties and responsibilities
 - 1. With the consent and advice of the President of the Student Senate, assign senators to the various standing committees.
 - 2. Serve as the presiding officer and chairperson over any General

- Assembly meetings in the absence of the Student Senate President.
3. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Student Senate and shall only vote in the event of a tie among the senators during General Assembly meetings.
 4. Monitor activities and initiatives of the Student Senate to ensure it is fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities.
 5. Serve on the Student Senate Community Outreach Committee.
 6. Call special session meetings of the Student Senate with advanced notice of two (2) business days, unless otherwise approved by Student Senate leadership by a simple majority vote.
 7. Compile and disseminate Student Senate Legislation Packets to all SGA members.
 8. Publicly announce any presidential vetoes at the subsequent General Assembly meeting after a veto has been made.
 9. All other duties are enumerated in the bylaws.

Section 5. Student Senate powers and responsibilities

- A. The powers and responsibilities of the Senate are:
 1. Enact by majority vote, constitutional bylaws, except for bylaws concerning elections which shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate.
 2. Propose and take all necessary actions on constitutional amendments.
 3. Provide for the compilation and publication of legislation.
 4. Create such committees as it deems necessary.
 5. Have the authority to impeach elected officers of SGA by a vote of senators in accordance with the SGA bylaws. Cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold and any other office within the Student Government Association.
 6. Require at any regular meeting by majority vote, an explanation of any action taken by any member of the Student Government Association taken in their official capacity.
 7. Override a veto by the SGA President by a three-fourths vote of the total Student Senate.
 8. Confirm all presidential appointments to the cabinet with a simple majority.
 9. Pass resolutions deemed proper to express the will or opinion of the student body concerning important topics of the day.
 10. Confirm or deny by a simple majority vote Registered Student Organizations' requests for funds.
 11. Confirm or deny by a simple majority vote additional financial assistance for student clubs.
 12. Confirm or deny by a simple majority vote the yearly operating budget of the SGA.
- B. Limitation of powers

1. No law, act, or charter of any type passed by the Student Senate shall be construed to limit or modify any of the powers granted by this constitution, except by constitutional amendment.

Section 6. Removal of senators or leadership

A. Resignation

1. Those who wish to resign from the Legislative Branch must provide a formal, written, notice of resignation to the Speaker of the Senate and the President of the Senate with an effective date when resignation will occur.
2. The President of the Student Senate shall announce the resignation of any former Senators to the Student Senate on their behalf at the subsequent General Assembly

B. Impeachment

1. The Student Senate shall have the power to remove any officer outside its own membership.
2. The Student Senate shall have the sole power of impeachment, but a majority of seated Senators must vote in favor of the articles of impeachment.
3. Grounds for impeachment shall be limited to malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of duties as prescribed by this constitution and SGA bylaws or failure to meet the qualifications for office.
4. Articles of Impeachment must contain a separate article for every alleged violation.
5. Upon the passage of articles of impeachment, an officer of the Senate shall communicate to the Election Commissioner and the impeached SGA officer the articles of impeachment within twenty-four hours of their passage.
6. The Election Commissioner will then convene an impeachment Court pursuant to hear the impeachment case.
7. The process of impeachment proceedings is outlined in the SGA Bylaws.
8. Articles of Impeachment must be submitted electronically to the SGA President, SGA Vice President, and SGA Advisor(s).

Section 7. Student Senate sessions and meetings

A. Sessions

1. The Senate shall have two sessions.
 - a. Session I: commencing at the beginning of the fall semester and ending the day before the start of the Spring semester.
 - b. Session II: commencing with the beginning of the Spring semester and ending at the close of Spring semester.

B. Meetings

1. The Student Senate shall meet at least three (3) times each month during the fall and spring semesters. Meetings shall occur on a day

- and at a time approved by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate.
2. Special meetings of the Student Senate may be called by the Vice President, the Speaker of the Senate, or by petition of one-third of seated senators.

Section 8. Student Senate Committees

- A. Each Standing Committee must maintain its specific purpose and responsibilities in the Constitutional Bylaws.
- B. Types of committees
 1. Standing committees are permanent legislative panels. These committees exist beyond the adjournment of each one (1) year session of the Student Senate. A standing committee can only be disbanded by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate and approval of the President of the Student Senate.
 2. Ad-Hoc committees are formed for a specific task or objective and are dissolved upon the completion of the task or achievement of that objective.
 3. Each senator shall serve on at least one, but no more than three (3) standing committees.
 4. Senators may serve on up to two (2) ad-hoc committees.
- C. Standing Committees
 1. The standing committees of the Student Senate are the Rules Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, and the Community Outreach Committee.
 2. The senators shall be divided into the standing committees at the discretion of the President of the Senate.
- D. Ad-Hoc Committees
 1. Senators, with the advice and consent of the Speaker of the Senate, may form Ad-Hoc Committees or Task Forces if a matter of concern is not within the jurisdiction of the Standing Committees.
 2. Each Ad-Hoc Committee shall complete a bi-weekly report, and submit it to the Vice President, and deliver an oral report at General Assembly meetings.
 3. Ad-Hoc committees and/or task forces are permitted to establish their own rules and procedures, as they deem necessary, so long as they do not conflict with SGA Governing Documents.

ARTICLE III. EXECUTIVE BRANCH: The SGA Executive Board and Executive Cabinet

Section 1. Authority

- A. All executive powers granted herein shall be vested in the President of the Student Government Association.

Section 2. Executive Branch Officers

- A. **The Executive Board** consists of the President, the Vice President, the Attorney General, Chief of Staff, and the Treasurer of the SGA.
- B. **The Executive Cabinet** consists of the Chief of Staff, Director of Student Affairs, Director of Academic Affairs, Director of Student Organizations, Director of Communications & Marketing, Director of Special Events and Procurement, and Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.
- C. Directors reserve the right to appoint an Assistant Director unless otherwise specified. The Assistant Directors will assist the Directors as needed through daily tasks and serve in the Director's place should the Directors be unavailable for meetings, events, and/or other obligations.
- D. All members of the executive branch are required to attend General Assembly meetings.

Section 3. Executive Board Officer Responsibilities

- A. **President:** The President shall:
 - 1. Be elected at-large by the student body of Goucher College during the General Election.
 - 2. Create and/or dissolve any Executive Cabinet position(s).
 - 3. Be the chief spokesperson for the SGA.
 - 4. Be the chief representative of the students at Goucher College.
 - 5. Fulfill all laws and actions of the SGA as prescribed by this constitution, the bylaws, and Student Senate legislation.
 - 6. Be responsible for the effective administration of the SGA.
 - 7. Have authority over the removal of any executive officers and staff except for the Vice President.
 - 8. Approve or veto any legislation that passes through the Student Senate. No piece of legislation is considered binding before the signature of the President is affixed.
 - 9. Call any SGA governing body into a special meeting with two (2) business days notice.
 - 10. Have the power to establish administrative procedures and job descriptions for members of the Executive branch and councils or commissions of the Executive branch by executive order. Unless otherwise stated in this Constitution, all executive orders shall remain in effect until terminated by another executive order or reversed by the Senate. A copy of all executive orders shall be sent to the Speaker of the Senate within five days of enactment.
 - 11. With the advice and consent of the Senate and applicable college stakeholders, shall have the power to negotiate all contracts and agreements between the SGA and other entities.
 - 12. Be responsible for maintaining all new and old SGA records and laws in a complete and accessible manner.

13. Address the Student Senate at least once each session.
14. Be the holder of the SGA seal and the Goucher flag.
15. Chair Executive Board and Executive Cabinet meetings.
16. Enact and enforce all legislation that is approved by the Student Senate.
17. Represent the SGA in all affairs that pertain to the faculty and staff of Goucher College, the Administration of Goucher College, other universities/colleges, and the community.
18. Ensure and enforce fiscal stewardship of all organizations receiving student activity fee monies.
19. Have the authority to suspend (indefinitely) any Registered Student Organization found to have severely breached SGA policies.

B. Vice President: The Vice President of SGA shall:

1. Be elected at large by the student body of Goucher College during the Spring General Election.
2. Serve as the President of the Student Senate.
3. Serve as the final vote in the event of a tie in the Student Senate.
4. Serve as the Executive Board liaison for the Student Senate.
5. Assist the President with any of their duties.
6. Exercise the powers of the President should they be unavailable or unable to do so.
7. Call special meetings with the members of Student Senate leadership as deemed necessary with an advanced notice of two (2) business days.
8. Oversee all Senate Committees.

C. Chief of Staff : The SGA Chief of Staff shall:

1. Be appointed by the SGA President.
2. Oversee all projects and timelines of Executive Board Officers.
3. Oversee and enforce SGA office hour requirements.
4. Maintain the calendar of the SGA President.
5. Maintain minutes of all Senate and Cabinet meetings.
6. Approve or deny weekly reports submitted by Executive Officers.
7. Report to the SGA President.
8. Enforce the roles and responsibilities of all SGA members as outlined in the Constitutional Bylaws.
9. Supervise all Executive Offices.
10. All other duties as assigned by the SGA President.
11. Serve at the pleasure of the SGA President.

D. Treasurer: The Treasurer of SGA shall:

1. Be appointed by the SGA President.
2. Develop an operating budget for the SGA.
3. Submit to the Student Senate for approval of the proposed SGA

- budget changes as needed.
4. Have the authority to deal with the Goucher College Office of the Controller concerning the accounts of the SGA and all chartered student clubs.
 5. Be consulted on all matters concerning the release of funds from the SGA accounts. If it is deemed by the Treasurer that funds cannot be released, the matter shall be brought to the SGA President.
 6. Convert RSO allocation and expenditure requests into bills to be presented to the Student Senate. This item can be delegated in part to the Ways and Means Committee chair.
 7. Compile and record all internal expenses of the SGA.
 8. Serve as the advisor to the Student Senate Ways and Means Committee.
 9. Examine the financial records of any student organizations that are funded through SGA.
 10. Communicate to student organizations when and if their accounts are frozen due to being overdrawn or if their funds have been revoked.
 11. Examine and maintain all finances of the SGA.

E. Attorney General: The SGA Attorney General shall:

1. Be appointed by the SGA President.
2. Provide proper and clear interpretation of all SGA governing documents.
3. Investigate all alleged violations of all SGA governing documents.
4. Enforce the roles and responsibilities of all SGA members as outlined in the Constitutional Bylaws.
5. Have the power to suspend student organizations' funding that is in violation of the SGA Financial Policy for Student Organization, which must be approved by a simple majority vote of the Student Senate.
6. Enforce and clarify Rules of Order for the organization.
7. Reprimand any Registered Student Organization for violation of the SGA Financial Policy for Student Organizations or other governing documents concerning the matters of student organizations upon communication from the Treasurer.
8. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Rules Committee.
9. Reports to the SGA President.
10. Serves at the pleasure of the SGA President.

Section 4. The Executive Cabinet

- A. The Executive Cabinet's purpose is to advise the SGA President and Student Senate on any matters of student policy or any student programs and services and to assist in the coordination of the Executive Branch.
- B. The presiding officer of the Executive Cabinet shall be the SGA

President.

Section 5. Executive Cabinet Powers & Responsibilities

A. The Director of Academic Affairs shall:

1. Be appointed by the SGA President.
2. Serve as the liaison between the faculty and the student body.
3. Meet monthly with the Provost of the College.
4. Serve as a student representative on the Faculty Governance Academic Policies Committee.
5. Manage the appointment process of students to the Student Board of Trustees and Faculty Governance Committees.
6. Organize any efforts of the student body to express concerns in relation to academics or to try and initiate change in the academic climate.
7. Report to the SGA President.
8. Serve at the pleasure of the SGA President.

B. The Director of Special Events and Procurement:

1. Be appointed by the SGA President.
2. Procure any items for SGA events and programming.
3. Be responsible for SGA apparel and brand standards.
4. Meet with the President of SET as needed.
5. Meet with the Advisor of SET as needed.
6. Meet with the Live Events Presenter as needed.
7. Report to the SGA President.
8. Serve at the pleasure of the SGA President.

D. The Director of Student Organizations shall:

1. Be appointed by the SGA President.
2. Meet monthly with the Office of Student Engagement staff.
3. Keep accurate records on Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) pertaining to membership, finances, denied charters, approved charters, and internal RSO governance documents.
4. Address the concerns of RSOs.
5. Enforce all student organization-specific policies outlined in the Office of Student Engagement RSO Handbook.
6. Assist RSOs in the preparation of Controller's Office documents.
7. All other duties as assigned.
8. Report to the SGA President.
9. Serve at the pleasure of the SGA President.

E. The Director of Communications & Marketing shall:

1. Be appointed by the SGA President.
2. Create, maintain, and utilize relationships with college communication office staff.
3. Produce the social media and online marketing of the SGA.
4. Ensure that all SGA content complies with Marcomm's ADA and follows Goucher's Community Standards.
5. Oversee all public relations pertaining to the organization,

especially crisis communication.

6. Create and analyze student feedback surveys for purposes of organizational improvement.
7. Generate all graphic designs for SGA marketing content including, but not limited to, official statements, social events, advocacy campaigns, and elections.
8. Be responsible for the creation and maintenance of the SGA branding/marketing strategy.
9. Coordinate all SGA outreach including tabling events, and representation at involvement fairs and other campus-wide events.
10. Assist the President and Chief of Staff with all press releases.
11. Manage the SGA newsletter.
12. Serve as liaison between SGA and media entities.
13. Shall publish the voting records of the Student Senate and General Assembly minutes to the SGA website.
14. Report to the SGA President.
15. Serve at the pleasure of the SGA President.

F. The Director of Student Affairs shall:

1. Be appointed by the SGA President.
2. Represents the student body in all matters pertaining to campus services.
3. Serve as the liaison between the student body and the administrators who are responsible for Dining Services, Campus Safety, and Facilities Management Services.
4. Advocate for the importance and improvement of all eight dimensions of health and wellness among the student body of Goucher College.
5. Provide students with information, programs, and activities to promote and enhance their overall well-being.
6. Reserve the right to coordinate Health and Wellness events on and/or off campus in collaboration with Health Center and Wellness Center respectively.
7. Meet monthly with the Director of Student Health & Wellness.
8. Report to the SGA President.
9. Serve at the pleasure of the SGA President.

G. The Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion shall:

1. Be appointed by the SGA President.
2. Serve as a liaison between any club that promotes cultural, social, religious, and/or political awareness and SGA.
3. Stay engaged and aware of the news and activities of the above clubs, including optional attendance of club meetings.
4. Inform the Executive Board of all activities of these clubs.
5. Be responsible for planning activities that promote diversity and incorporate the whole college community.
6. Advocate for the diverse student population on a campus-wide level.

7. Attend monthly meetings with the Associate Dean of Students for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Title IX.
8. Maintain a semester master calendar of all diversity, equity, & inclusion-related events on campus.
9. Report to the SGA President.
10. Serve at the pleasure of the SGA President.

Section 6. Executive Branch Vacancies

- A. A vacancy in the Executive Branch position, resulting from the resignation or removal of an appointed and/or elected official after May 31 shall be filled through an application process.
- B. Any full-time undergraduate student at Goucher College may apply for the position.
- C. The Chief of Staff, President, and/or Vice President shall interview all candidates.
- D. After interviewing candidates, the President shall appoint the nominee(s) to fill the vacant position.
- E. Once appointed, the nominee(s) to the Executive Branch must immediately swear oath, and assume office.

Section 7. Resignation from the Executive Branch

- A. Those who wish to resign from the Executive Branch must submit a formal written Notice of Resignation to the Chief of Staff with an effective date.
- B. In the event a member of the Executive Board resigns they must submit a formal written Notice of Resignation to the SGA President with an effective date. In the event the SGA President resigns, they must submit a formal written Notice of Resignation to the SGA Vice President and SGA advisor with an effective date.
- C. The Chief of Staff or SGA President will announce the resignation of the Executive Branch member to the Student Senate at the subsequent General Assembly meeting or Special Senate Session.

ARTICLE IV. CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAWS

- Section 1.** The Constitutional Bylaws shall be a supplemental document that specifies the duties and responsibilities of members within the SGA. The Bylaws shall be confirmed by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the Senate each one (1) academic year.

ARTICLE V. RATIFICATION & AMENDMENTS TO THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

- Section 1.** All amendments or alterations to the Goucher College SGA Constitution shall require a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the Student Senate.
- Section 2.** All amendments and alterations to the Constitution and Bylaws passed by the Student Senate must be sent to the President to be approved or

vetoed. If the President vetoes the proposed amendment, then their veto can be overridden with a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

ARTICLE VI. SGA MEMBER COMPENSATION

Section 1. Certain offices within the SGA may be compensated for their work within the organization.

Section 2. Compensation shall be commensurate with office hours, duties/responsibilities, supervisory status, and the term of the position.

Section 3. The SGA shall abide by the college's pay structure(s), policies, and rates.

Section 4. Compensation guidelines shall be outlined in the bylaws.