

Definitions

- Board of Regents – The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System.
- Campus – The publicly owned or leased buildings and grounds which comprise all or part of an institution or the extension.
- College campus – Any one of the 2-year collegiate campuses of the system.
- Chair – An elected chair and committee member of a UWSSGA standing committee.
- Committee Member – A sitting member of one of the UWSSGA committees.
- Institution – Any university or an organizational equivalent designated by the board and the University of Wisconsin colleges.
- Officer – All Senators, Executive Staff, Chairs, the President, and the Vice President.
- Senator – An appointed voting member of the UWSSGA.
- Student – Any person who is registered for study in any institution for the current academic period.
- Student Government – A unified organization of students organized under Wis. Stat. 36.09(5) to represent their student body, participate in institutional governance, and work with their respective universities.
- System – The University of Wisconsin System.
- University – The 13 baccalaureate or graduate degree granting institutions.
- University of Wisconsin Colleges – The college campuses as a whole.

Article I – Name

1. The Name of this organization shall be the University of Wisconsin System Student Governance Association, abbreviated as UWSSGA.
2. The name of this organization shall not be lent to any political candidate, political campaign, or political organization, or used to endorse any commercial enterprise.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the UWSSGA is to represent the interests of the students of the University of Wisconsin System in the governance of the system and the state. The Student Governance Association works in conjunction with the administration, faculty, staff, and students of the University of Wisconsin System, the state of Wisconsin, and with the Wisconsin community in order to provide the best possible university environment and educational experience for students of the System.

Article III – Authority

The Student Governance Association of the University of Wisconsin System derives its powers from the consent of the student governments it represents and from Wisconsin state law. The Student Governance Association is the organization of student representation recognized by the students and student governments of the University of Wisconsin System in accordance with Wisconsin State Statute 36.09(5).

As such, and according to Board of Regents Policies and Wisconsin case law, the Student Government Association reserves the authority and obligation to:

1. Initiate policies concerning student life, services, and interests, and to review existing and proposed policies in these areas before they are amended or adopted by the other constituencies of the System.
2. Be the body to provide ultimate student input to the System and the state of Wisconsin on all matters concerning student life, services, and interests.
3. Appoint students to participate in institutional governance, including student appointments to the Board of Regents.

Article IV – Membership

1. All rights, responsibilities, offices, and benefits of the UWSSGA are equally available to all students without regard to age, ancestry, color, creed, caste, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, parentage, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
2. All Senators, Executive Staff, Chairs, the President and Vice President are considered Officers of the Student Governance Association.
3. The Student Regents of the Board of Regents are considered ex-officio members of the Student Governance Association.
4. Any student in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of no less than 2.00 (with the exception of incoming freshmen) enrolled in at least six academic credits at the undergraduate level or three credits at the graduate level at the System during the current semester or in the semesters both preceding and following other periods such as Winter and Summer breaks shall be eligible to hold any office or position in the UWSSGA

Article V – The Legislative Branch

1. The Legislative Branch, known as the University of Wisconsin System Student Senate, shall consist of Senators and be headed by the Speaker of the Senate.
2. A maximum of thirty-nine Senators shall be appointed by each participating student government within the System.
 - a. Participating universities shall appoint up to two Senators each, with at least one appointed Senator not being on the executive board of that campus's Student Government.
 - b. Participating college campuses shall appoint up to one Senator each.
 - c. These senators shall be chosen in a manner of that Student Government's choosing.
 - d. Senators serve at the pleasure of their individual Student Government.
3. In the event of vacant seats due to resignations, removal of senators, or unfilled seats in the initial appointments, it shall be the responsibility of the member Student Government to appoint students to fill vacancies in a manner of their choosing.
4. The Senate may declare seats vacant if a Senator fails to attend two meetings of the Senate in a row without prior approval.

Commented [GU1]: Specify this includes Board of Regent appointees?

Commented [GU2]: MGR - Decrease to 2 Senators each? Branch campuses would stay at 1

5. The Speaker of the Senate shall be elected by a majority of the Senators present from among themselves at the final meeting of the Senate each academic year, with elections to be held after the seating of new Senators.

Article VI – The Executive Branch

1. The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, the Executive Coordinator, and the Parliamentarian.
2. The President, Executive Coordinator, and Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Senate at the final meeting of the Senate each academic year, with elections to be held after the seating of new Senators.
 - a. Each participating Student Government shall receive one vote for President and Executive Coordinator.
 - b. There must be a majority vote to confirm the appointment, the Senate may establish rules for a runoff election in the Bylaws.
 - c. In the event the President or Executive Coordinator is unable to complete their term, the Senate shall appoint a new President or Executive director in the manner described above.
3. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for:
 - a. All cases brought forward regarding the Student Government Association's adherence to its Constitution, Bylaws, Statutes, and governing documents.
 - b. Serving as the chair of the elections committee
 - c. Serving as the Senate's impartial parliamentarian.

Article VII – Advisors

1. The Advisors of the UWSSGA shall be appointed by the President and Confirmed by a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate.
2. The responsibilities of the Advisors shall be assigned by the Student Governance Association.
3. An Advisor may be removed by a motion of no confidence on the Senate floor with a 2/3 majority vote.

Article VIII – Terms of Office

1. The terms of all offices shall begin during the final Senate meeting of the academic year, or upon special appointment by the Senate or President.
2. The terms of all offices shall end upon the close of the final Senate meeting of the academic year.
3. No individual may hold more than one office simultaneously with the exception of the Chairs and Speaker of the Senate, who perform the duties of their offices concurrent with those of a Senator.
4. Members transitioning between offices will assume the duties of the new office upon adjournment of the meeting at which they were approved.

Article IX – Student Governance Association Committees and Student Representation

1. The standing committees of the Student Governance Association shall consist of the Shared Governance Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, Finance Committee, Elections Committee, and the Presidential Council.
2. The purpose, membership, policies, and procedures of the Student Governance Association standing committees shall be laid out in the Bylaws of the Student Governance Association.
3. Any seated officer of a member Student Government shall be eligible to vote on a committee of the Student Governance Association, unless otherwise specified by the Bylaws.
4. The seated committee members shall appoint from among themselves a Chair, with the election facilitated by the Executive Coordinator. Each University of Wisconsin College will receive one vote.
5. Subcommittees may be formed by any Student Governance Association standing committee. The parent committee shall set the responsibilities, guidelines, and chair of subcommittees.
6. Ad-hoc committees may be formed by the President and Speaker of the Senate.
7. Senators may create ad-hoc Committees with a motion on the Senate floor and a majority vote of the Senate.
8. Senators may create Standing Committees with a motion on the Senate floor and a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate.
9. All committee appointments not otherwise stated in this document shall be made by the President.

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Article X – Resignation and Removal from Office

1. If any Senator is to resign, they must submit their written resignation to the President and Speaker of the Senate.
2. If any officer of the Executive Branch is to resign, they must submit their written resignation to the Speaker of the Senate and to the remaining highest-level officer in the Executive Branch.
3. Officers of the Student Governance Association shall be able to be removed through Impeachment.
 - a. Impeachable offenses shall be laid out in the Bylaws of the Student Governance Association.
4. Articles of Impeachment shall be able to be brought forward by any Senator.
 - a. A majority vote of the Senate shall be enough to advance the Impeachment proceedings to an investigation.
5. The Parliamentarian, in consultation with the Advisors, shall conduct an investigation and release their findings to the Senate within four weeks of the passage of Articles of Impeachment.
6. After the release of the Parliamentarian's findings, an impeachment trial shall be held in the Senate and overseen by the Parliamentarian, in consultation with the Advisors.
 - a. The procedures for impeachment trials shall be laid out in the Bylaws of the Student Governance Association.

7. Upon the completion of the trial, a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate shall be required to convict and remove an officer.
 - a. Officers shall not be eligible to hold any positions in the Student Governance Association in the current or following session.
8. Senators may be removed by their Student Government at that Student Government's discretion.

Article XI – Amendments

1. Any officer of the Student Governance Association may submit an amendment to the Senate for consideration.
2. Constitutional Amendments shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the full seated senate.
 - a. The vote must not take place during the same meeting of the amendment's introduction, and all Senators must have at least 48 hours prior to introduction to review the amendment.
3. Upon the passage of the amendment, the amended constitution shall be sent to all member schools for ratification.
 - a. The amendment must be ratified by a 2/3 majority of member university student governments within one calendar year from Senate passage in order to go into effect.
4. Amendments may also be initiated by any participating member Student Governments through the same process.
5. Any changes to any other Student Governance Association governing documents including the Bylaws, committee bylaws, and others, must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the full seated Senate.
6. Corrections of spelling, grammar, and numbering in the Constitution and Bylaws may be made by the Speaker of the Senate or the President upon a majority vote of the Senate

Commented [GU4]: Should make this the same as the ratification process, remove branch campuses

Article XII – Dissolution

1. Only the member Student Governments may dissolve the Student Governance Association.
2. Any Senator may introduce Articles of Dissolution to the Senate for consideration.
 - a. Articles of Dissolution shall require a majority vote of the Senate.
3. Upon the passage of Articles of Dissolution, the Articles shall be sent to the member student governments for consideration.
4. Upon the passage of the Articles in 2/3 of member universities the Student Governance Association shall be considered dissolved. The Board of Regents shall be notified of the dissolution by the President, with details on their role going forward.
5. This process can also be done in the reverse direction, with 2/3 of member universities the Student Governance Association passing articles, thereby passing it to the Senate for final passage.
6. The dissolution of the Student Governance Association shall trigger a Constitutional Convention, convened by the System and facilitated by the student governments of the System.

7. The System shall convene the Constitutional Convention in a space accommodating no less than 300 students within one month of a successful vote.
8. All student governments of the System shall be invited to participate in the Constitutional Convention.
9. All advertising shall be paid for by the remaining funds of the Student Governance Association, with the remainder being paid to the new body created by the Constitutional Convention and ratified by the Student Governments.

Article XIII – Ratification

1. This Constitution shall be considered adopted upon the ratification of nine of the thirteen University Student Governments.