



Constitution of the Student Government Association of Athens State University

Preamble

We, the students of Athens State University, in order to instill, develop, carry out, and perpetuate the ideals of our university, community and the nation in which it has grown and prospered, to assume rightful responsibility to the institution of Athens State University and its student body, to promote student interests and supervise student affairs in exchange of ideas, to establish unity and cooperation, to assume responsibility in the maintenance of character strength of the student body, and to promote democratic ideals and practice among the students of today for better leadership in the nation of tomorrow, do ordain and establish this Constitution.



ARTICLE I. Name

Section 1

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Athens State University, abbreviated as "SGA".

Section 2

The school colors shall be royal blue and white.

Section 3

The school symbol shall be the bear.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

The purpose of the Student Government Association shall be to encourage and promote cooperation between the students and the faculty and administration, to unify the student body and to promote an intellectual interest in all phases of university citizenship, and to increase the sense of individual responsibility.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section 1

The Student Government Association shall be open to any student who is currently enrolled at Athens State University, full time or part-time.

Section 2

The Student Government Association shall be composed of the Executive (E-board) and Legislative branch known as the "General Body".

Section 3

Voting membership in the Student Government Association shall consist of the Executive Board and General Body. The Executive Board and General Body shall be known collectively as "SGA Membership".

ARTICLE IV. Legislative Branch

Section 1

The legislative branch will be made up of active SGA members. An active SGA member is defined as any full or part-time student attending SGA meetings.



ARTICLE IV. Executive Branch

Section 1

The Executive Branch of the Student Government Association shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Mascot, known as the “Executive Board” (or “E-board” for short.)

Section 2

The E-Board has the power to create any position (called “auxiliary positions”) or committees it deems necessary for the functioning of the SGA. Some common auxiliary positions/committees may include a Public Relations Representatives, Photographers, Social Media Manager, etc.

Section 3

The Executive Branch can choose to appoint any person to an auxiliary position or as head of a committee it has created.

ARTICLE V. Qualifications of Officers

Section 1: Qualification for All SGA E-Board positions:

- All candidates must be currently enrolled students and must have and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75.
- All candidates must have a clear judicial record
- All candidates must adhere at all times to the SGA constitution, the Student Organizations Policy Handbook, and the Student Code of Conduct.
- Any candidate who runs for an E-board position must complete the application

Section 2: Qualifications for SGA President

- To run for President of SGA, candidates must have 1 semester of experience in SGA or 2 semesters of club or organizational leadership experience at an institution of Higher Education.
- Student must also be able to provide a letter of verification & support from their previous faculty or staff advisor.

The Director of Campus and Community Engagement may make exemptions to these requirements when necessary to fill the position.

Section 3: Qualification for SGA V.P, Secretary and Treasurer

- Candidates for Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer must submit a letter of recommendation for the position for which they are running from a university faculty or staff member.



Section 4: Voting

- Each candidate who meets the qualifications set forth in Article V, Sections 1-4 shall have his/her name placed on the official ballot for election to the specified office of the Student Government Association of Athens State University.

ARTICLE VI. Election Of Officers

Section 1

President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Student Government Association will be elected online by the student body during the spring or early fall. The Director of Campus and Community Engagement will coordinate the election process.

Section 2

On the week of election each student at Athens State University may vote by secret ballot for one qualified candidate for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 3

The candidate who is elected by a plurality of votes cast for each office shall be elected. Run-off elections shall be held until one candidate for each office has received a plurality of votes cast for that office.

Section 4

Any officer who is unable to complete a full term in office must secure permission from the Director of Campus and Community Engagement before seeking an office in the Student Government Association again.

ARTICLE VII. Term of Office for Officers

All Executive Board officers of the Student Government Association shall be elected and installed during the spring or fall. The term of office ends with the completion of a new election cycle.

ARTICLE VIII. Duties of Officers

Section 1: President

The duties and powers of the President shall be the following:

- a. To administer and enforce the constitution, its bylaws, and student representative statutes.
- b. To appoint committee chairpersons and committee members.



- c. To preside overall all Executive Board meetings
- d. To provide leadership in outlining and achieving predetermined goals as they relate to increasing student participation on campus and assessing and fulfilling the overall needs of the student body.

Section 2 : Vice President

The duties and powers of the Vice President shall be the following:

- a. To coordinate the actions and activities of the SGA and to see that each member does his/her assigned duties.
- b. To assume the position of SGA president and preside over meetings and have all the rights and privileges of the president during the president's absence or dismissal.
- c. To see that each committee chairperson does his/her assigned duties in accordance with the Student Government Association's wishes.
- d. To preside over all general body meetings unless otherwise directed by the President to do otherwise.

Section 3: Secretary

The duties and powers of the Secretary shall be the following:

- a. To hold the primary responsibility of recording minutes of all meetings.
- b. To assume the responsibility for all official correspondences and other work of a clerical nature.

Section 4 : Treasurer

The duties and powers of the Treasurer shall be the following:

- a. To assume the responsibility for accounting for the expenditure of all Student Government Association funds.
- b. To coordinate all SGA monies.

ARTICLE IX. Meetings of Officers

Section 1

The SGA Executive Board will meet weekly at a time and place to be determined by the officers. SGA general body meetings, including all SGA Officers, will also occur weekly if deemed necessary by the SGA Executive Board.



Section 2

All General Body meetings shall be open to all students of Athens State University.

Section 3

Special meetings may be called by the SGA President, Director of Campus and Community Engagement, or at the request of one-half of the officers.

Section 4

A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the voting members of the Student Government Association that are in attendance of a General Body Meeting.

Section 5

Robert's Rules of Order (revised), shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by the constitution.

Section 6

SGA Officers will be allowed no more than four unexcused absences from the Student Government Association meetings. After four unexcused absences have occurred, the officer will lose voting privileges for the remaining semester. For an SGA E-board member, more than 4 absences can also be grounds for dismissal.

ARTICLE X. Removal or Vacancies of Officers

Section 1

The President shall be succeeded by the Vice President. The Vice President shall be succeeded by the Secretary and then the Mascot. All other vacancies shall be filled by an election of the voting members of the Student Government Association or by appointment of the Director of Campus and Community Engagement when the election cycle has already occurred.

Section 2

Any elected or appointed official may be removed for failure to uphold the SGA Constitution. Any elected or appointed official of the student body may be removed from office for failure to attend meetings or SGA scheduled activities. Any disciplinary action taken against a SGA member shall be deemed just reason for removal.



Section 3

The Director of Campus and Community Engagement can remove any member of the executive board for not fulfilling the requirements of their position or if an executive board member violates the student code of conduct.

ARTICLE XI. Chartering Clubs and Organizations

Section 1

Any university group desiring to organize a group or club shall apply to the officers of the SGA or to the Director of Campus and Community Engagement for a charter.

Section 2

At the time of application, each group shall complete the Student Organization Handbook. Application and reapplication must be completed and submitted to the SGA Council or the Director of Campus and Community Engagement by the beginning of the fall semester.

Section 3

The officers of the SGA must act on each application and submit the information and their recommendation to the Director of Campus and Community Engagement who signs the application and passes it to the Vice President of Student Affairs for his/her signature. After this review by the SGA and the administration, a copy of the application is returned to the organization as a formal notification of recognition.

All student organizations shall be under the supervision of the Director of Campus and Community Engagement and the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Support Services.

ARTICLE XII. Committees

Section 1

The Student Government Association can create additional committees.

Section 2

The committee chairs shall be appointed by the executive board and approved by the Director of Student Activities. Members of the committees may include student volunteers and one faculty/staff member.

Concluding Remarks:



The majority of our students are commuters, many of whom hold full-time or part-time jobs. The average age of our students is 30 and many are married with families. Therefore, our committees must be structured in a way to allow for a maximum of student input and involvement with the limited amount of time available to these students.

ARTICLE XV. Ratification of this Constitution

This Constitution shall become effective when it is approved by a 2/3 vote (a quorum) of the Student Government Association voting body.