



# Student Government Administration

91<sup>st</sup> Administration (2020-2021)

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## 91-USO-RQ-01

### A University-Wide Special Order to Place a Constitutional Referendum Before the Student Body

**Introduced by:** Senator Aijaz Parpia  
**Sponsor(s):** Senator(s) Spencer Bivins, Sabrina Jamil, John Le, Alhi Nguessan, Fati Toure  
**Submittal Date:** 01/19/21 **Sent to:** Bylaws Committee on 01/21/21  
**First Reading:** 01/21/21  
**Second Reading:** 02/18/21  
**Third Reading:**  
**Date Voted On:** 02/18/21

**WHEREAS**, Membership in the Student Government Association at Georgia State University (SGA) is tied to whether students pay their respective Student Activity fees, and,  
**WHEREAS**, the structure of our Senates are laid out in the SGA Constitution, and,  
**WHEREAS**, the SGA Constitution can only be amended during the Spring Election Ballot,

### THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY THAT

**Section 1:** Article 1 – Name and Membership of the SGA Constitution be amended from,”

This Constitution establishes, under the laws of the State of Georgia, a representative student government that shall be known as the Student Government Association of Georgia State University, abbreviated hereinafter as SGA.

All currently enrolled students at Georgia State University, hereinafter referred to as the University, who have paid their respective student activity fees, shall automatically be members of the SGA, and are subject to this Constitution, its Amendments, Bylaws, and the Student Code of Conduct and Policies (available at <http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu>).

All members of the SGA who are elected or appointed to positions provided for in this Constitution, its Amendments, and Bylaws, shall be considered officers of the SGA. These officers must be in good academic standing with the University and meet any other qualifications specified in this Constitution of the SGA, its Amendments and Bylaws, and the Student Code of Conduct.”

to,”



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2 This Constitution establishes, under the laws of the State of Georgia, a representative student  
3 government that shall be known as the Student Government Association of Georgia State  
4 University, abbreviated hereinafter as SGA.

5  
6 All currently enrolled students at Georgia State University, hereinafter referred to as the  
7 University, shall automatically be members of the SGA, and are subject to this Constitution, its  
8 Amendments, Bylaws, and the Student Code of Conduct and Policies (available at  
9 <http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu>).

10  
11 All members of the SGA who are elected or appointed to positions provided for in this Constitution, its  
12 Amendments, and Bylaws, shall be considered officers of the SGA. These officers must be in good  
13 academic standing with the University and meet any other qualifications specified in this Constitution of  
14 the SGA, its Amendments and Bylaws, and the Student Code of Conduct.”

15  
16 **Section 2:** Article 5 – Legislative Branch, Section 5.1 Composition of the SGA Constitution be stricken and  
17 moved to the SGA Bylaws under Title I – The Legislative Branch, Article 1 – Purpose. This new section will  
18 be amended to read “Section 1 – Composition.” All sections following will have their section numbers  
19 updated to reflect this addition.

20 *“Section 5.1 Composition*

21 *A. The officers of the Senate shall be those students duly elected or appointed to the Senate*  
22 *according to this Constitution, its Amendments and Bylaws.*

23 *B. For the purpose of legislating at each of the campuses, there is a Campus Senate*  
24 *(presided over by the respective Speaker of the Senate) and a University-Wide Senate*  
25 *(presided over by the President of the SGA).*

26 *C. The presiding officers of the Campus Senates and University-Wide Senate only vote in*  
27 *the case of a tie.*

28 *D. If the SGA President is temporarily unable to preside over the University-Wide Senate,*  
29 *the President shall appoint a current Executive Vice President from the current existing*  
30 *Executive Vice Presidents to do so.*

31 *E. In the absence of the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker Pro Tempore shall forfeit*  
32 *their voting privileges to facilitate the Campus Senate meeting. The Speaker Pro*  
33 *Tempore fulfills the Campus Senate responsibility of the Speaker of the Senate until the*  
34 *return or replacement of the Speaker of the Senate.*

35 *F. The Senate Speaker Pro Tempore shall be a Senator appointed and confirmed by a*  
36 *simple majority vote of the Senate and is a voting member of the Senate.*

37 *G. All Senators shall have equal authority and equal vote as members of the Senate, with*  
38 *the exception of the Speaker or Speaker Pro Tempore, who shall vote only in the case of*  
39 *a tie.*



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1 *H. The University-Wide Senate has 46 seats which are apportioned to the campuses,*  
2 *colleges and schools based on the previous fall enrollment, with each campus, college or*  
3 *school having at least two senators.*

4 *I. Each campus will designate the appropriate number of senators, based on the previous*  
5 *fall's enrollment, to serve on the University-Wide Senate. A senate position at the*  
6 *campus level does not guarantee a position on the University-Wide Senate.*

7 *J. The Atlanta Campus Senate is comprised of the elected senators, senate clerk and*  
8 *appointed liaisons currently enrolled at the Atlanta campus.*

9 *a. Freshman and Transfer Liaisons are non-voting members of the Senate. They*  
10 *are responsible for attending all scheduled meetings and are encouraged to*  
11 *attend the standing committee meetings of the SGA.*

12 *b. The Speaker Pro Tempore chairs a committee of at least two senators who will*  
13 *review, and interview select applicants in order to make nominations for*  
14 *appointment to the Liaison positions to the Senate. The nominations require a*  
15 *two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) affirmative vote of the Senate members present and takes effect*  
16 *immediately upon approval.*

17 *c. The Atlanta Campus Senate Clerk is an individual outside of the Senate*  
18 *appointed by the Speaker of the Senate as a non-voting member.*

19  
20 *K. The Perimeter Campus Senates are comprised of the elected Senators currently*  
21 *enrolled at the Perimeter Campuses and consist of the following members on each*  
22 *campus:*

23 *a. The elected Speaker of the Senate and six elected/appointed Senators who will*  
24 *serve as the representatives of all students of their respective campuses.*

25 *b. There shall be no more than seven voting representatives on the Senate.*

26  
27 *L. The Communications Director on each campus is an individual appointed by each*  
28 *Executive Vice President to serve as a non-voting member of their respective Senates.*  
29 *The Communications Director will serve at the pleasure of the respective campus'*  
30 *Executive Vice President.*

31 *a. For the Perimeter Campuses Senates, the Communications Director is*  
32 *responsible for tracking attendance, recording minutes and agendas of the*  
33 *Senate meetings, distributing any supportive materials to the Campus Senate and*  
34 *producing the Campus Senate Journal to be published on the SGA's website.*

35 *b. For the Atlanta Campus, the Communications Director oversees the public*  
36 *relations and marketing efforts of the Atlanta campus and University-Wide SGA*  
37 *and also reports to the President.*

38  
39 *M. The Finance Director is an individual appointed by each Executive Vice President to*  
40 *serve as a non-voting member of the Senate, who is responsible for attending all*  
41 *scheduled meetings and providing budget updates to the Senate. The Finance Director*  
42 *will serve at the pleasure of the respective campus' Executive Vice President.*



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1 *N. The Parliamentarian is responsible for ensuring Senate procedures are conducted in*  
2 *accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order; maintaining decorum by*  
3 *removing unruly members and observers at the request of the Speaker of the Senate;*  
4 *carrying out the actions of enforcement of appropriate conduct at meetings and the*  
5 *Bylaws of the SGA. a. The Parliamentarian is a non-voting member of the Senate and will*  
6 *serve at the pleasure of the Chief Justice.*

7 *b. For the Perimeter College Senates, the Finance Director will also serve as the*  
8 *Parliamentarian, a non-voting member of the Senate.*

9 *c. For the Atlanta Campus and University-Wide Senates, the Atlanta Campus*  
10 *Student Judicial Board (SJB) Liaisons, who are appointed by the Chief Justice, will*  
11 *serve as the Parliamentarian and shall provide the Senate updates on SJB*  
12 *activities and vice versa."*

13  
14 **Section 3:** Article 5 – Legislative Branch, Section 5.1 Composition of the SGA Constitution be  
15 stricken and moved to the SGA Bylaws under Title I – The Legislative Branch, Article 1 –  
16 Purpose. This new section will be amended to read “Section 2 – Authority and Responsibilities.”  
17 All sections following will have their section numbers updated to reflect this addition.

18  
19 *“Section 5.2 Authority and Responsibilities*

20 *A. The University-Wide Senate shall have the following powers:*

21 *a. To make laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the*  
22 *foregoing powers and all powers vested by this Constitution in the SGA.*

23 *b. To approve University-Wide committees, commissions or boards as are needed to*  
24 *perform the functions of this SGA.*

25 *c. To make laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the*  
26 *foregoing powers and all powers vested by this Constitution in the SGA.*

27 *d. The Senate shall have the authority to remove SGA Officers from the University-Wide*  
28 *Executive Committee following the procedures outlined in the Constitution and*  
29 *Bylaws.*

30 *B. The University-Wide Senate shall have the following responsibilities:*

31 *a. Provide a voice for the student body in the academic, and institutional, and*  
32 *community affairs of the University.*

33 *b. Seek student feedback and recommend solutions to student issues.*

34 *c. Approve the establishment of university-wide ad hoc committees as needed to*  
35 *perform the functions of the SGA.*

36 *d. Establish rules and bylaws for internal operation.*

37 *e. Propose legislation on behalf of the University-Wide student body.*

38 *f. Advocate for student rights.*

39 *g. Approve appointments to fill University-Wide appointments.*

40 *h. Review reports from each University-Wide Senate Standing Committee and*  
41 *University Senate Standing Committee.*

42 *i. To call when necessary a special meeting of the University-Wide Senate upon written*  
43 *petition signed by a simple majority of the members of the University-Wide Senate.*



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- 1 C. *The Perimeter College Senates shall have the following powers:*
- 2 a. *To make laws specific to their campus which shall be necessary and proper for*
- 3 *carrying into execution the foregoing powers and all powers vested by this*
- 4 *Constitution in the SGA.*
- 5 b. *The authority to remove SGA Officers from the Campus Executive Committee*
- 6 *following the procedures outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.*
- 7 c. *To appoint its own Speaker Pro Tempore.*
- 8 d. *To discipline its own members by appropriate legislation.*
- 9 e. *To appoint members to all Perimeter College activity fee committees.*
- 10 f. *To review and recommend modifications to the Student Activity Fee Codes.*
- 11 g. *To confirm all appointments made by the Executive Vice President by a simple*
- 12 *majority vote of members present. This includes, but is not limited*
- 13 *to, Student Judicial Board positions and any other non-elected positions of the*
- 14 *Executive Committee.*
- 15 D. *The Perimeter College Senates shall have the following responsibilities:*
- 16 a. *Provide a voice for the student body of the campus where they are located.*
- 17 b. *Seek student feedback and recommend solutions to student issues.*
- 18 c. *Approve the establishment of ad hoc committees as needed to perform the functions*
- 19 *of SGA.*
- 20 d. *Propose legislation on behalf of the student body at their campus.*
- 21 e. *Advocate for student rights.*
- 22 f. *Approve appointments to fill campus vacancies.*
- 23 g. *Review reports from each Senate Standing Committee on their campus and the*
- 24 *University Senate Standing Committee.*
- 25 h. *Review the expenditures and balance sheet of their Campus SGA.*
- 26 i. *To call, when necessary, a special meeting of the Senate upon written petition signed*
- 27 *by a simple majority of the members of the campus Senate.*
- 28 j. *To be consulted in proposed stipend increases before their submission to the Student*
- 29 *Activity Fee Committee.*
- 30 E. *The Atlanta Senate shall have the following powers:*
- 31 a. *To make laws specific to their campus which shall be necessary and proper for*
- 32 *carrying into execution the foregoing powers and all powers vested by this*
- 33 *Constitution in the SGA.*
- 34 b. *To approve and/or amend the budget of the SGA for their campus;*
- 35 c. *To approve committees, commissions or boards as are needed to perform the*
- 36 *functions of SGA;*
- 37 d. *The authority to remove SGA officers following the procedures outlined in the*
- 38 *Constitution and Bylaws.*
- 39 F. *The Atlanta Senate shall have the following responsibilities:*
- 40 a. *Provide a voice for the Atlanta Campus student body.*
- 41 b. *Seek student feedback and recommend solutions to student issues.*
- 42 c. *Approve the establishment of ad hoc committees as needed to perform the functions*
- 43 *of SGA.*



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- 1           d. *Propose legislation on behalf of the student body.*
- 2           e. *Advocate for student rights.*
- 3           f. *Approve appointments to fill Atlanta Campus vacancies.*
- 4           g. *Review the expenditures and balance sheet of the Atlanta Campus SGA.*
- 5           h. *Review reports from each Atlanta Senate Standing Committee and the University*
- 6                 *Senate Standing Committee.*
- 7           i. *To be consulted in proposed stipend increases before their submission to the Student*
- 8                 *Activity Fee Committee.*
- 9           j. *To call, when necessary, a special meeting of the Atlanta Senate upon written*
- 10                 *petition signed by a simple majority of the members of the Senate.”*
- 11

12 **Section 4:** Article 6 – Executive Branch, Section 6.1 Composition of the SGA Constitution be  
13 stricken and moved to the SGA Bylaws under Title II – The Executive Branch, Article 1 – The  
14 Student Body President and the Executive Committee, Section 1 Purpose. This new section will  
15 be amended to read “Section 2 – Composition.” All sections following will have their section  
16 numbers updated to reflect this addition.

17  
18 *“Section 6.1 Composition*

- 19           A. *The University-Wide Executive Committee (UEC) shall be composed of the President, the*
- 20                 *Executive Vice Presidents for each campus (six), and the Atlanta Communications*
- 21                 *Director (non-voting) as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.*
- 22           B. *The Campus Executive Committees (CEC) shall be composed of Executive Vice President,*
- 23                 *the Communication and Finance Directors, Speaker and the Speaker Pro Tempore (as a*
- 24                 *non-voting member), as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.*
- 25                 a. *The Communications Director is an individual appointed by each Executive Vice*
- 26                         *President to serve as a voting member of the Executive Committee. The*
- 27                         *communications director will serve at the pleasure of the respective campus’*
- 28                         *Executive Vice President.*
- 29                 b. *The Finance Director is an individual appointed by each Executive Vice President to*
- 30                         *serve as a non-voting member of the Senate, who is responsible for attending all*
- 31                         *scheduled meetings and providing budget updates to the Senate. The Finance*
- 32                         *Director will serve at the pleasure of the respective campus’ Executive Vice*
- 33                         *President.*
- 34           C. *For the Atlanta campus, the Senate Standing Committee Chairs also serve on the CEC as*
- 35                 *non-voting members.”*
- 36
- 37

38 **Section 5:** Article 6 – Executive Branch, Section 6.2 Authority and Responsibilities of the SGA  
39 Constitution be stricken and moved to the SGA Bylaws under Title II – The Executive Branch,  
40 Article 1 – The Student Body President and the Executive Committee, Section 2 Composition.  
41 This new section will be amended to read “Section 2.1 – Authority and Responsibilities.” All  
42 sections following will have their section numbers updated to reflect this addition.

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1 *“Section 6.2 Authority and Responsibilities*

2 *A. The University-Wide Executive Committee shall:*

3 *a. Set the agenda for the University-Wide Senate Meeting.*

4 *b. Submit to the University-Wide Senate for approval nominations for the University-*  
5 *Wide Senate, University Senate Committees, and SGA Committees in the event the*  
6 *President fails to make nominations during the time allotted.*

7 *B. The Campus Executive Committee shall:*

8 *a. Perform any additional duties and reasonable functions to continue the essential*  
9 *business of the SGA as may be specified in this Constitution, its Amendments and*  
10 *Bylaws.*

11 *b. Submit to the Campus Senate for approval nominations for vacancies on the Campus*  
12 *Executive Committee and Senate in the event the Executive Vice President fails to*  
13 *make nominations during the time allotted.”*

14

15 **Section 6:** Article 9 – Constitutional Review, Section 9.1 Amendments, Section A be amended  
16 from, “

17

18 A. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of a Campus Senate.”

19

20 to,”

21

22 A. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of a Senate.”

23

24 **Section 7:** Article 9 – Constitutional Review, Section 9.1 Amendments, Section C, subsection b  
25 be amended from, “

26

27 b. After passage by the University-Wide Senate, the text of the proposed changes and the  
28 original text shall be published on the spring semester ballot.”

29

30 to,”

31

32 b. After passage by the University-Wide Senate, the text of the proposed changes and the  
33 original text shall be published on a ballot.”

34

35 **Section 8:** Article 13 – Advisors, Section A be amended from, “

36

37 A. Shall be appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs and serve as an advisor to  
38 their campus’ SGA.”

39

40 to,”

41

42 A. Shall be appointed by the Vice President for Student Engagement and Programs and  
43 serve as an advisor to their campus’ SGA.”



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1 **Section 9:** Article 13 – Advisors, Section E be amended from, “

2

3 E. Shall process all expenditures approved by the Campus Senates and signed by the  
4 Finance Directors in a timely manner.

5 to,”

6

7 E. Shall process all expenditures approved by the Senates and signed by the Finance  
8 Director in a timely manner.”

9

10 **Section 10:** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Student Government  
11 Association, the welfare of the students requiring it.

12

13 ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT SENATE: VOTE for 16 against 0 abstentions 0

14

15 ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

16

17 Signature Kaelen Thomas Date 02/18/2021