

## Preamble

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We, the students of the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, recognize and respect the rights of all university students to be active participants in all aspects of university governance. We also recognize the ability of university students to vest these rights in an organization of our creation. Through our empowered organization, we seek to secure and promote those conditions conducive to intellectual development and personal growth, and protect the right of students to participate in university governance.

Therefore, in compliance with Wisconsin State Statute (W.S.S.) 36.09[5], the Merger Implementation Statement, we, the students of the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, secure our right to participate in all aspects of university governance in the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay Student Government Association, and enact this constitution in accordance with those wishes.

## Article 1 The Legislative Branch

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### **Section 1.**

A Student Senate shall be the chief legislative authority and possessor of legislative power. This Student Senate shall have one standing council, the Residence Hall and Apartment Association, to handle housing issues of particular complexity.

### **Student Senate**

### **Section 2.**

**(1)** The membership of the Student Senate shall include a Chairman, a Speaker, their appointees, and 35 Senators. In addition, the Senate is allowed to add, to their membership, members as deemed fitting by majority vote of the body.

**(2)** The Senate shall fill seats by election each spring. At the beginning of each academic year, the Senate shall take count of the total number of seats filled. The Senate shall then divide the total number of filled seats by 5 and create additional seats equal to that number, open to students newly enrolled in the fall term.

**(3)** Each committee is responsible for the creation of standing rules governing its behavior consistent with this Constitution.

**(4)** The Student Senate is responsible for the creation of standing rules governing its behavior consistent with this Constitution.

**(5)** The Student Senate shall possess the sole power to confirm all Presidential appointments by a majority vote except those appointments immune from such confirmation as noted in this Constitution. The Senate must ensure that, when confirming the Chair of the Segregated University Fee Allocations Committee, the President of the Student Government Association has designated a student with at least one Semester of prior SUFAC experience, if such a member seeks the position.

**(6)** The Student Senate shall possess the power to impeach and remove Student Government Association members by a 2/3 majority vote of the body. Impeachable offenses shall include, but are not limited to, inappropriate or illegal behavior and poor job performance.

**(7)** One Speaker shall be elected from among the present Senators at the first meeting of each academic year, to serve as second in authority and as chair of the Senate-in-full when the Student Government Association Vice-President is unavailable. The Speaker shall take care to see that all committees are adequately staffed and that the Student Government budget is presented to Student Senate for final confirmation.

**(8)** The Student Senate shall hold full session at least once per month.

**(9)** The Senate shall hear any appeals with regards to decisions made by the Student Court in elections. Court decisions in elections can only be overruled by a 3/4 vote of the Senate. The Senate shall certify all elections results by a majority vote.

**(10)** The Senate leadership is required to create an operating budget each fiscal year and present that budget to the Student Government Association President for inclusion in the Student Government Association Operating Budget. The Senate is also allowed to maintain its own agency funds.

### **Section 3.**

**(1)** The Student Senate shall have the following nine standing committees: Environmental Affairs Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, University Governance Committee, Union and Dining Committee, Health and Safety Committee, Student Resources Committee, Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee, and Student Recreation and Athletics committee, and Equality and Diversity Committee.

**(2)** Each of these committees shall be chaired by a corresponding Chair from the Executive branch. Chairs shall have no vote in the full Senate and only a vote in the committees should a tie occur;

**(3)** The Environmental Affairs Committee shall have primary legislative responsibility for all matters related to the campus environment, campus ecology, and campus sustainability. The Environmental Affairs Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of Environmental Affairs.

**(4)** The University Governance Committee shall have primary legislative responsibility for tracking campus, local, state, and federal decisions and legislation that affect higher education and taking any action deemed necessary on these decisions. The University Governance Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of University Governance.

**(5)** The Union and Dining Committee shall have primary legislative responsibility for all matters related to the University Union and all matters regarding dining and food service on campus. The Union and Dining Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of Union and Dining.

**(6)** The Academic Affairs Committee shall have primary legislative responsibility for review and recommendation of academic policies, or any matters concerning academics at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay. The Academic Affairs Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of Academic Affairs.

**(7)** The Health and Safety Committee shall have primary legislative responsibility for review and recommendation of all matters of health, safety, and living climate at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay. The Health and Safety Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of Health and Safety.

**(8)** The Student Resources Committee shall have primary legislative responsibility for all matters relating to campus technology and University resources such as the library. The Student Resources Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of Student Resources.

**(9)** The Student Recreation and Athletics Committee shall have primary legislative responsibility for all matters relating to student recreation, athletics, and the Kress Center. The Student Recreation and Athletics Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of Student Recreation and Athletics.

**(10)** The Equality and Diversity Committee shall have primary legislative responsibility for all matters relating to encouraging respect and understanding of all cultural traditions, promoting greater diversity and equality among faculty, staff, and students, supporting campus diversity and equality-related initiatives and communicating their results to the campus and the surrounding community. The Equality and Diversity Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of Equality and Diversity.

**(11)** The Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee shall have primary responsibility for the Segregated University Fee Budget, which shall include the non-allocable budget, the allocable budget, and the Segregated University Fee level which is established by the committee and recommended to the Chancellor for approval. The Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee shall hold annual public hearings regarding the non-allocable university budgets, and make recommendations to the Chancellor regarding those budgets. The Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee shall hold annual public hearings regarding the allocable university budgets, and shall approve or disapprove requested items in such budgets except for the Student Government Association budget, which requires final approval from the Student Senate. The committee shall have responsibility for allocating and reallocating any remaining fee monies whose distribution is requested during each fiscal year. The committee shall follow all state laws and court decisions applicable to its work. The Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee.

**(12)** Items successfully passed by majorities in committees are considered to have passed the full Senate via automatic consent after one meeting of the Senate in full subsequent to the passage date in the originating committee. At any point during that time a Senator may bring the particular item to the full Senate for review, or to have the full Senate bypass the committee structure and consider an item directly; however, both of these options require a petition carrying the signatures of a simple majority of the members of the Student Senate. A majority of the Senate will then determine how to proceed. The SUF rate is exempt from the automatic consent clause, and must be voted upon by the full Senate each academic year.

**(13)** In the case of the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee, a full Senate vote may only occur when the Student Government Association budget is presented for approval and when there has been a violation of viewpoint neutrality or proper procedure. Members of the Senate must initiate a review by petition carrying the signatures of a simple majority of the members of the Student Senate to determine if those conditions exist and must resolve the issue within seven (7) working days of the action's passage by the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee.

**(14)** The Senate shall have the ability to create additional standing or ad hoc committees, chaired by a member of the Senate's choosing. Said committees may make recommendations to the Senate on issues consistent with their charge.

## **Residence Hall and Apartment Association**

### **Section 4.**

**(1)** The membership of the Residence Hall and Apartment Association shall include a President, a Vice-President, their designees, and Representatives. The Residence Hall and Apartment Association is allowed to add to their membership members and associated organizations as deemed fitting by majority vote of the body.

**(2)** A President and Vice-President of Residence Hall and Apartment Association, responsible for the daily operation of the board, shall be elected for a one year term as a ticket in the spring prior to the upcoming academic year. Only campus residents may

vote for the President and Vice President of the Residence Hall and Apartment Association.

**(3)** Residence Hall and Apartment Association is responsible for the creation of standing rules governing its behavior consistent with this Constitution.

**(4)** Residence Hall and Apartment Association shall have primary responsibility for review and formulation of policies pertinent to issues affecting students residing in University housing. Jurisdictional disputes with the Senate shall be decided by the Student Court.

**(5)** Due to Residence Hall and Apartment Association's unique function, Residence Hall and Apartment Association shall be allowed to coordinate programming for the education and enjoyment of students residing in University housing.

**(6)** The Residence Hall and Apartment Association leadership shall determine a budget each year based upon a resident per-student charge established by the Director of Residence Life. The budget shall be reviewed by the Director of Residence Life for final approval. The Residence Hall and Apartment Association may appeal changes to the Residence Hall and Apartment Association budget Director of Residence Life to the Student Court, with a court majority overruling the actions of the Director.

**(7)** Residence Hall and Apartment Association shall monitor its own financial affairs independent of the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee due to its exclusionary membership and unique funding structure. Residence Hall and Apartment Association also has the right to maintain its own agency funds.

**(8)** Any changes to this section of the Constitution shall require a 2/3 majority vote of approval by the Residence Hall and Apartment Association membership.

## Article 2 The Executive Branch

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### **Section 1.**

**(1)** The executive power shall be vested in a President of the Student Government Association. The President shall officially represent the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay student body, in conjunction with the Vice-President, at the campus, local, state, and national levels.

**(2)** The President and Vice-President shall be elected for a one year term as a ticket in the spring prior to the upcoming academic year.

**(3)** The President shall appoint all justices to the Student Court, to be confirmed by the Student Senate.

**(4)** The President shall, at least once per semester, address the Senate of the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, on matters related to student governance and the general welfare of students.

**(5)** The President shall appoint students to standing University of Wisconsin - Green Bay governance committees outside the Student Government Association, as designated by the Dean of Students or the Secretary of the Faculty and Academic staff each academic year. These appointments are exempt from approval by the Senate.

**(6)** The President shall take care to faithfully execute the orders of the Senate and to recommend to the Senate's consideration such measures as he or she shall judge necessary and expedient. The President may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the Senate.

**(7)** The Vice-President shall serve as Chairman of the Student Senate, responsible for the

daily operations of the board.

**(8)** The President and Vice-President are responsible for the review, compilation, and submission of an operating budget for the Student Government Association each year, composed of the Senate, Student Court, and Executive budget requests, for presentation to the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee annually.

**(9)** In the event that the President is unable to fulfill his or her obligations and duties, the Vice-President shall immediately assume the office of President. The Vice-President shall be responsible for the appointment of a new Vice-President which must be confirmed by a 2/3 vote of the Senate. Should the office of the Vice-President become vacant or should the Vice-President be unable to fulfill his or her obligations and duties, the President shall be responsible for the appointment of a new Vice-President which must be confirmed by a 2/3 vote of the Senate.

## **Section 2.**

**(1)** All legislative business which shall have passed the Student Senate, shall, before it becomes record, be presented to the President of the Student Government Association. If the Student Government Association President approves and signs the measure within seven (7) working days, that measure shall become record. The seven (7) working day period begins on midnight of the day the President receives the measure.

**(2)** If the Student Government Association President objects to a measure, the President may veto the measure by returning it to its origin of vote together with a statement of the objections, again within the same seven (7) working day period. Unless the originating body subsequently votes by a 2/3 majority to override the vote, the measure does not become record.

**(3)** If the Student Government Association President does not act on a measure - approving or vetoing it - within seven (7) working days, the fate of the measure depends on whether the Student Senate is in session or not. If the Student Senate is in session, the measure becomes record without the Student Government Association President's approval. If the Student Senate is not in session, the measure does not become record.

## **Section 3.**

**(1)** The President shares responsibility with the Vice-President for nomination, supervision, and/or removal of the Chairs of the Standing Committees. There shall be nine standing committee Chairs: Chair of the Environment, Chair of Academics, Chair of University Governance, Chair of Union and Dining, Chair of Health and Safety, Chair of Student Resources, Chair of Student Recreation and Athletics, Chair of Segregated University Fee Allocation, and Chair of Equality and Diversity. These chairs must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.

**(2)** The Chair of Segregated Fees is not subject to removal by the President, and can only be impeached and removed by a 2/3 the Senate.

**(3)** The President shall appoint one student to serve as Chief of Staff. This appointment is exempt from approval by the Senate. The Chief of Staff shall, upon appointment, form a recruitment committee to fill available seats within the Student Government Association. This committee may be chaired by the Chief of Staff or his or her designee.

**(4)** The President shall appoint one student to serve as Press Secretary. This appointment is exempt from approval by the Senate.

**(5)** The President and Vice-President, in addition to the standing Committee Chairs, may appoint additional Chairs whose term expires with the President and Vice-President's.

**(6)** In the event that a Chair is unable to fulfill his or her duties, the President and Vice-President shall assume the responsibilities of that Chair until the nomination of a new student to assume the responsibilities of that position. That student shall become an acting Chair upon nomination until such time as the Senate has approved the President's nomination for the position.

### Article 3 The Judicial Branch

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#### **Section 1.**

- (1)** The Judicial power shall be vested in a Student Court, which shall have five justices, one of which will serve Chief Justice.
- (2)** Student Court Justices shall have terms extending for the entire time in which they are students at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, or otherwise choose to relinquish their respective seat on the Court.
- (3)** The Student Court is responsible for the creation of standing rules governing its behavior consistent with this Constitution.
- (4)** The Court has jurisdiction over any issues or disputes arising under this constitution.
- (5)** The Student Court is responsible for the Student Government Association elections each year. The Court is to take care that all elections are conducted truthfully and fairly, and according to such rules as the Court, subject to the Senate's will, shall make. The Court is responsible for ensuring maximum student participation in each election.
- (6)** The Court shall adopt standing election rules, to be confirmed by a simple majority of the Justices and 2/3 of Senate.
- (7)** The Court has the ability to request information and/or data, or solicit testimony, on an issue before the Court.
- (8)** The Chief Justice of the Student Court is required to create an operating budget each fiscal year and present that budget to the Student Government Association President for inclusion in the Student Government Association Operating Budget.

#### **Section 2.**

- (1)** The Court shall hear any appeals by individuals or groups regarding funding decisions made by the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee and the Senate. Organizations or any person aggrieved by a student fee funding decision may request a review of said decision where it is alleged that viewpoint neutrality was violated and the funding decision was based on a student organization's extracurricular speech or expressive activities. Procedural disputes may also be considered by the student court.
- (2)** Organizations or any person aggrieved by a student fee funding decision must first request a review of said decision by providing a written request for review detailing the basis for the appeal to the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee. The Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee shall review said decision within seven (7) days of receiving the appeal.
- (3)** After review by the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee, organizations or persons aggrieved by a student fee funding decision may request a review of said decision by providing a written request within seven (7) days for review detailing the basis for the appeal. The Court shall gather all necessary information in a timely manner, and shall then either a. overturn the decision in question, or b. affirm the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee decision. In both situations, the Chief Justice shall provide a written response to either the organization or person, and to the Senate.
- (4)** Any organization or any person that does not agree with the response of the Senate

and the Student Court may request that the Chancellor or designee review the decisions. A written request must be provided to the Chancellor within seven (7) days after the response of Student Court was issued that articulates with specificity the disagreement with the decision. This request can only be made after both remedies (review by the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee and by the Student Court) have been exhausted. The Chancellor will review the appeal and provide a decision no later than 21 days after the Chancellor's review was requested. The Chancellor's decision shall be final unless the matter is brought before the Board of Regents in accordance with Regent Policy Documents 86-4 and 86-6.

## Article 4 Membership

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### **Section 1.**

**(1)** Any UW-Green Bay student is eligible to participate in the activities of the Student Government Association. All members of the student body are entitled to the rights, privileges, and protection secured through the efforts of the Student Government Association.

**(2)** The Student Government Association will not discriminate against any student interested in participation in Student Government Association activities on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, national origin or ancestry, political ideology, command of the English language, or age, unless pursuant to an exception recognized by Wisconsin state or federal law.

**(3)** All Student Government Association members must be currently enrolled students at U.W. Green Bay and carrying a minimum of three credits per regular semester. Members and candidates for membership must also have at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average calculated on a 4.0 scale. New students to U.W. Green Bay without a cumulative GPA are assumed to be eligible for membership. The Dean of Students Office will conduct the GPA check at the beginning of each semester upon receiving a Student Government Association membership list from the Student Government Association President.

**(4)** Any Student Government Association member whose GPA falls below a 2.0 cumulative GPA during his or her term will be given a one-semester grace period in which to raise the cumulative GPA to the required level. If, after one semester, the student's cumulative GPA does not reach 2.0, the student will lose membership status.

**(5)** The Student Government Association affirms its commitment to broadly diverse and representative participation on its boards and committees. Students from diverse backgrounds are especially encouraged to participate in Student Government Association and university governance.

**(6)** Members are expected to conduct themselves professionally, ethically, and with respect. Members must adhere to state and local law, and University policy.

**(7)** No student may serve in more than one branch of Student Government Association as a voting member, or on more than one board within a branch.

**(8)** The terms of all members, excluding those of Student Court Justices, expire on May 1st of each academic year.

## Article 5 Student Government Association Resource Liaisons

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## **Section 1.**

(1) Resource liaisons are those of the administration, faculty, and/or staff who are appointed to provide historical and statistical information to the Student Government Association bodies and to aid in the facilitation of group communication and effective group dynamics.

(2) Each body of the Student Government Association (the Executive branch, the Judicial branch, the Senate, and the Residence Hall and Apartment Association) will have only one resource liaison. Each committee of the Senate, due to their varied functions and roles, is allowed one advisory liaison to work with the group.

(3) The Dean of Students is responsible for selecting the resource liaison person for all Student Government Association groups.

(4) Resource liaisons are to serve as references for the Student Government Association to utilize, and as such, the resource liaisons are not permitted to introduce motions or legislation, or vote on any issue before the Student Government Association bodies. In turn, the Student Government Association leaders are to respect the knowledge of the resource liaisons and to appreciate their input and commitment to shared university governance.

(5) The Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee will be permitted to utilize the Organizational Finance Officers and a member of Good Times Programming, or in their absence, a designee of the Director of Student Life as resources in addition to the appointed liaison to the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee. These resources shall be nonvoting.

(6) The Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee will be permitted to include in its membership a voting student designee of the Director of the American Intercultural Center and a voting student designee of the Director of the International Center in addition to the appointed liaison to the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee.

(7) The University and Dining Committee will be permitted to utilize the University Union Director, or his or her designee, as a resource in addition to the appointed liaison to the Union and Dining Committee should the University Union Director not be selected as the resource liaison by the Dean of Students.

## Article 6

### Student Government Association Meeting Procedures

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## **Section 1.**

(1) The rules of order for the Student Government Association will be contained within the official Student Government Association copy of the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

(2) The rules of order are designed to promote efficient and orderly meetings, and are to be used in all applicable situations consistent with this Student Government Association Constitution.

(3) Instances of parliamentary authority and meeting procedure not provided for in the respective board by-laws or within Robert's Rules of Order are to be conducted at the parliamentary discretion of the meeting's presiding officer, and subject to the approval of the body in attendance at that meeting.

## **Section 2.**

(1) All students of the U.W. Green Bay will have the right of free access to all Student Government Association information pursuant to the State of Wisconsin open records

law. This access will include, but is not limited to, attendance at meetings where policy is discussed and access to all Student Government Association documents.

**(2)** Unless a closed session as explained in section 3 is initiated, meetings must be open to all students and the general public, and individual items intended for consideration at all meetings of the Student Government Association bodies must be articulated and posted in a public area prior to any Student Government Association meeting as provided for by the Wisconsin open meeting laws, W.S.S. Chapter 19.

**(3)** Upon recognition by the presiding officer of a meeting, any guest may voice an opinion, but not vote, on any issue before the meeting body.

### **Section 3.**

**(1)** Any Student Government Association body has the right to move into a closed session consistent with W.S.S. Chapter 19.85. A Student Government Association body may move into a closed session to: deliberate any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing, consider disciplinary information, dismissal, or demotion of any Student Government Association member or employee and investigate any such charges against such a person, consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation of any Student Government Association active member or employee, consider specific personnel and/or organizational problems resulting from personal conflicts between group members, confer with legal counsel in the rendering of oral or written information concerning litigation involving the Student Government Association.

**(2)** Twenty-four hours public notice must be given prior to entertaining a motion to move into closed session. The presiding officer must announce at the meeting at which such a motion is made, the nature of the business to be considered while in closed session meeting and the subsection of W.S.S. Chapter 19.85 by which closed session is claimed to be authorized.

**(3)** A motion to enter into closed session will be executed by a roll-call majority vote in favor of the closed session meeting.

## Article 7 Amendments

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### **Section 1.**

**(1)** Amendments to this Constitution may be made by a 3/4 majority vote of the Senate.

**(2)** Amendments to this Constitution may be made by a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate, and a corresponding majority vote of the student population.

RATIFIED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE  
TWENTIETH APRIL TWO THOUSAND NINE  
Nick Cibula, Speaker of the Student Senate  
Ricky Staley, President