

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION
UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA**

Preamble

We, the students of the University of West Alabama, in order to preserve and defend the rights and privileges of student self-governance, to assure a student voice and involvement in University decisions, to foster a spirit of unity among students, to strive toward a better understanding between administration, faculty, staff, and students, to serve the common interest of all students, to train ourselves in democratic government, and to promote citizenship on campus, do hereby establish this Constitution of the Student Government Association for the students of the University of West Alabama.

Article I

Name of Organization

The name of this organization shall be called the Student Government Association of the University of West Alabama and may be abbreviated as SGA.

Article II

Purpose

- To encourage student activity and engagement on the campus of the University of West Alabama.
- To uphold the Constitution of the Student Government Association.
- To work with the University administration in all matters affecting the student body.
- To establish reasonable standards for recognition of all organizations on campus.
- To encourage and promote a closer relationship between students, faculty, and staff.
- To stimulate and develop good citizenship and democracy among students.
- To cultivate and maintain leadership among the students.
- To provide the means whereby students at The University of West Alabama may express themselves effectively in University programs that affect their welfare.
- To promote a continuous exchange of ideas and opinions between students and the faculty and staff of The University of West Alabama
- To coordinate and regulate the activities of the Student Government Association for the benefit of the entire UWA community.

Article III

Membership

Section 1: The membership of this organization shall consist of all currently enrolled full-time students of The University of West Alabama that pay the Student Activity Fee.

Section 2: Qualified members may become elected officers of the Student Government Association

Section 3: Members of this organization shall be entitled to vote in SGA elections.

Section 4: No student may hold more than one office in the Student Government Association at the same time.

Article IV

Budgeting

Section 1: Organizational Funding

- A. Every registered on-campus may request up \$450.00 every year from SGA
- B. An organization must submit their request to the Student Body President, Vice President, or the SGA Advisor
 - a. The request must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the date in which the organization needs funding. The SGA Officers will evaluate the organization's request to make sure that all required materials have been submitted.
- C. The Student Government Association may allot funds to help an organization with their registration fees and traveling costs to their national or regional conventions, and the SGA may only allot funds to help the minimal required numbers of organizational members to attend.
- D. An organization may request funds any number of times, but may receive funds only once per fiscal year.

Article V

Officers

Section 1: All executive power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the SGA Officers.

Section 2: Composition. The SGA Officers shall consist of six members: The Student Body President, Vice President, Senior Representative, Junior Representative, Sophomore Representative, and Freshman Representative.

Section 3: Eligibility. Eligibility requirements of all candidates are as follows:

A. Officer Qualifications

- a. All candidates shall be currently enrolled as full-time students and shall maintain at least a GPA of a 2.50 on a 4.0 scale.
- b. A candidate for any officer position must be a currently enrolled full-time student of The University of West Alabama that pays the Student Activity Fee
- c. SGA Officers may not serve on the Campus Activities Board while serving as an SGA Officer.
- d. A candidate must be able to serve a full academic year i.e. both the Fall and Spring semesters of the tenure.
- e. Candidate for the office of Student Body President and/or Vice President must be active in at least on-campus organization, must be going into their Junior or Senior academic year, and must submit a Letter of Recommendation to the Student Association advisor from the on-campus organization in which they are a part of

Section 4: Duties of Officers

A. The Student Body President (or the President)

- a. The President shall preside over the weekly officer meeting.
- b. The President may call special meetings of the Student Government Association with one working day's notice.
- c. Execute the laws and regulations of the Student Government Association.
- d. Work with organization presidents to communicate relevant information including but not limited to registering as an official on-campus organization, requesting funding through SGA, advertising for events, updating rosters every semester with updated organization Presidents and Advisors, Homecoming Court elections, Get on Board Day, and planning events.
- e. Make appearances at select events at the request of the SGA Advisor, on-campus organizations, or departments with notice given at minimum 5 days advance of the event. Events may include but are not limited to Commencement, Homecoming Events, Greek Awards, and Alumni Events.
- f. Plan events for the Student Government Association designed to increase student engagement and wellness while also addressing the concerns of the student body.

- B. The Vice-President
 - a. In the absence of the President, shall perform all the duties of the Office of the Student Body President.
 - b. Assist the Student Body President in planning events for the Student Government Association designed to increase student engagement and wellness while also addressing the concerns of the student body
 - c. Serve as the de facto secretary for all SGA meetings
 - d. Work with the Alabama Higher Ed Partnership to coordinate College Colors Proclamation Day, College Colors Day, and Higher Ed Day.
 - e. Other duties as assigned

- C. The Senior Representative.
 - a. Represent the needs and concerns of the senior class at The University of West Alabama.
 - b. Other duties as assigned

- D. The Junior Representative.
 - a. Represent the needs and concerns of the junior class at The University of West Alabama.
 - b. Other duties as assigned

- E. The Sophomore Representative
 - a. Represent the needs and concerns of the sophomore class at The University of West Alabama.
 - b. Responsible for organizing a Freshmen Forum to increase engagement among the freshmen class and assist freshmen through their first year of college
 - c. Other duties as assigned

- F. The Freshman Representative
 - a. Represent the needs and concerns of the freshmen class at The University of West Alabama.
 - b. Assist the Sophomore Representative in organizing a Freshmen Forum to increase engagement among the freshmen class and assist freshmen through their first year of college
 - c. Other duties as assigned

Section 5: Office Hours

- A. All SGA Officers must get weekly office hours working for the Office of Student Activities and/or the Office of Student Involvement & Communications.
- B. The required number of office hours for each Student Government Association Officer is to be determined by the SGA Advisor.

Article VI

Meetings

Section 1: Student Government Association Officer Meetings

- A. Student Government Association Officers shall meet at minimum once per week during the Academic Year. Meeting dates and locations shall be determined by the SGA Officers within 5 business days after the start of a semester.

Section 2: Organization Meetings

- A. Organization meetings will occur at minimum once per month during the months of September, October, November, January, February, March, and April with the all organizations Presidents or a designated representative present at each meeting.

Article VII

Elections

Section 1: Election Procedure for Student Government Association Officers

- A. All students at The University of West Alabama that pay the Student Activity Fee are eligible to run in the election of SGA Officers

Section 2: Voting Privileges during Elections

- A. All students at The University of West Alabama that pay the Student Activity Fee are eligible to vote in the election of SGA Officers

Section 3: Ballot Counting and Posting of Results

- A. The winners of elections will be based on a simple majority, which is equal to 50% plus one of all ballots cast.
- B. If a runoff is necessary, it will be held on the Thursday following the official election.
- C. If all positions are unopposed no formal election will be held; officer will be automatically instated
- D. The results of the Student Government Association elections dealing with officer elections shall be sent out by e-mail to all UWA students by the Office of Student Involvement and Communications and/or announced via an approved social media account i.e. UWA Connect.

Article VIII

Organizations

Section 1: Organizations

- A. Any group whose activities are not offered for college credit is considered to be an organization.
- B. Each organization shall maintain an updated roster and listed President and Advisor via semesterly communication with the Student Body President
- C. It is the responsibility of all organizations on campus to submit a list of active members, current advisors, and bylaws/constitutions (if applicable) of that organization when registering as an active on-campus organization at The University of West Alabama.
- D. Organizations must be listed as an active on-campus organization in order to qualify for funding through the Student Government Association
- E. Each organization President is required to attend the one SGA organization meeting per month. In the event that an organization's President can not be in attendance, an alternate organization representative may attend in his or her place. Failure for an organization to be represented at 50% of organization meetings disqualifies said organization from receiving funding through the Student Government Association.

Article IX

Amendments

Section 1: Amendments

- A. Amendments to this constitution shall originate through the Officers of the Student Government Association. All proposed amendments shall be typed and signed by the proposing officer of the Student Government Association. They shall be given to the Student Body President by the Wednesday prior to the next business meeting. If the proposed amendment receives a unanimous vote for the SGA Officers, it shall be enacted on the first day of the following semester.