



Student Government Association Constitution

The University of South Carolina Board of Trustees and the Lancaster County Higher Education Commission are by law the governing boards of the University of South Carolina at Lancaster, and this constitution in no way abrogates or limits the authority of these boards in matters of governance.

THE PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of South Carolina at Lancaster in order to conduct student affairs in an efficient, orderly, and systematic manner; to clearly define the powers and responsibilities of the students; to secure for ourselves training and experience in self-government; and to provide an organizational framework through which our efforts for a better institution may be directed, do hereby ordain, and establish this constitution of the Student Government Association of USC Lancaster.

ARTICLE I: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section 1.

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of USC Lancaster, to be henceforth designated as SGA.

Section 2.

Jurisdiction

All full-or part-time students registered at USC Lancaster shall be members of the Student Body and shall be subject of this constitution and its bylaws, The Student Government Statutes.

Section 3.

Franchise

All students registered at USC Lancaster shall be entitled to vote in special and general elections of the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE II: THE LEGITAMACY OF THE ACTIVE CONSTITUTION

Section 1.

Unforeseen Predicaments

In the happenchance that an unforeseen circumstance develops, the constitution is to be upheld as a living document for the students and by the students. Should students or other persons of importance have questions or concerns, the constitution should be viewed as a resource for guidance and counsel.

ARTICLE III. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1.

Executive Powers

All executive powers of the Student Government shall be vested in a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer hereby known as the executive officers, who shall be elected in a manner provided for by SGA statute.

Section 2.

Duties and Powers of the President

The President of the Student Government shall:

1. Serve as presiding officer of SGA and vote only in the case of a tie.
2. Uphold the Constitution of the SGA and administer all regulations established in Student Government Statutes.
3. Have the power to veto or sign acts of the Student Government, provided that they exercises that power within six school days of passage.
4. Call special sessions of SGA.
5. Nominate, with approval of the SGA, a cabinet of such officers as they may deem necessary, other Student Government officers whose appointments shall be established by Statute, and all committee chairmen. The SGA may vest the power of appointment of any other officer as it thinks proper in the President.
6. Remove any officer whom they have appointed to any executive position by majority vote of the SGA.
7. Act as the official representative of the SGA.
8. Coordinate the activities of the cabinet officers and the various executive committees and approve all policies made by them.
9. With the assistance of the Secretary and Treasurer, provide for the preparation of a proposed year's budget to be submitted in writing to the SGA and the Administration for their approval
 - * NOTE: SGA is advised by the Director of Student Life. SGA will not oversee creating the Student Life budget. They will, however, have the opportunity to present changes, address concerns, and request information regarding fund use.
10. Ask members of the SGA and students to attend meetings related to school affairs.

Section 3.

Duties and Powers of the Vice-President

The Vice-President of the Student Government shall:

1. Serve in lieu of the President of the Student Government in their absence or disability and communicate all acts and resolutions of the SGA to the President of the SGA which are passed during their absence.
2. Appoint a member of all standing SGA committees.
3. Succeed to the Office of President of SGA should it become permanently vacated.

Section 4.

Duties and Powers of the Secretary

The Secretary of the Student Government shall:

1. With the help of the Treasurer, record all receipts, expenditures, and appropriations of monies from Student Government. These records shall be public and subject to audit as the Student Government may provide.
2. Maintain the official Student Government Archives.
3. Be responsible for sending and receiving official Student Government directives.
4. Be responsible for seeing that the library system has official copies of all Student Government directives
5. Act as Secretary to the President of SGA.

Section 5.

Duties and Powers of the Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Student Government shall:

1. Have access to all financial records of any student organization which receives monies from Student Activity fees.
2. With the help of the Secretary, record all receipts, expenditure, and appropriations of monies from Student Government. These records shall be public and subject to audit as the Student Government may provide.
3. Render a financial report when requested by the SGA.
4. Be responsible for presenting the SGA budget for the summer and each semester for approval by the SGA before putting the budget into effect.

- * NOTE: SGA is supervised by the Director of Student Life. SGA will not be in charge of creating the Student Life budget. They will, however, have the opportunity to present changes, address concerns, and request information regarding fund use.

Section 6.

Senators

Senators:

1. Bring ideas to Student Government from students.
2. Assist the SGA in passing laws and in making decisions.
3. Have the right to introduce new legislation.
4. Be willing to serve in assisting the SGA in any capacity.
5. Are appointed from each division (BBCE, MSN, Humanities) to represent students from all areas of study (*see division clarification below*).

Section 7.

Term of Office

The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Senator of Student Government and all officers appointed by them in the executive branch shall maintain in good conduct for their respective offices for a term of one year from the inauguration of the President in the spring to the inauguration of the new President the following spring.

ARTICLE IV. LEGISLATIVE POWERS

Section 1.

Legislative Powers

The legislative power of the Student Government shall be vested in SGA. The SGA shall be the supreme legislative body of the students and its statutes shall have binding effect on all other student governmental bodies.

Section 2.

Composition of the SGA

Composition of the SGA will be as follows:

- A. The executive officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Senator
- B. Representatives from all chartered clubs and organizations, as designated by that organization

Section 3.

Duties and Powers of the Student Government

The SGA shall, in accordance with this constitution:

- A. Have the power to make rules and regulations governing the non-academic conduct of the Student Body subject to approval by the Dean.
- B. Have the power to make rules and regulations in academic areas with the approval of the faculty.
- C. Enact, by majority vote, bylaws to this constitution, to be known as the Student Government Statutes.
- D. Propose, by vote, amendments to this constitution.
- E. Provide for the compilation and publication of SGA proceedings to ensure that the student body is informed.
- F. Ratify all appointments made by the President of the Student Body by a majority vote.
- G. Establish its own meeting time and rules of procedure
- H. Hear the President of the SGA as directed in Article III, Section 2, subsection 5 or by SGA rules, and consider bills or resolutions offered by them.
- I. Allow only Student Officers and the Student Minority Affairs Leader to serve in the Student Government and allow no proxies, substitutes, or alternates to act in place of elected Student

Body Officers.

J. Open all meetings to the public unless designated by the President of the SGA or by a majority vote of that body, as an executive session.

K. Allow non-members to address the Student Government upon the request of an individual or group to speak.

L. Provide for the holding of a referendum on pertinent issues to the Student Body.

M. Have the innate power to hold impeachment proceedings against any officer of the SGA on grounds of misconduct or neglect.

N. Have the power to approve and review the budget of the SGA acting in collaboration with the Treasurer.

O. Have the power to charter, upon approval of the Dean, all groups of students who present a constitution, a list of officers and members. Charters may be revoked by SGA statute and such revocations shall automatically be subject to review by the Dean.

P. 1. Any officers of the Student Government may be impeached.

2. The President of SGA shall preside over the SGA during the impeachment proceedings, except in cases where charges have been brought against them, whereupon the next ranking officer of Student Government shall preside. The SGA shall in the event of an impeachment proceeding determine the guilt or innocence of the accused. The quorum for an impeachment proceeding shall be majority of the total membership of the Student Government. If the accused is found guilty by majority vote of the Student Government, they is declared by the presiding officer to no longer be entitled to use the title or execute the duties of the office from which he has been impeached. In the event the accused is found guilty, the presiding officer shall be responsible to fill the vacancy within two weeks. There shall be no appeal of impeachment by the SGA.

Q. The SGA will have the power to determine dress codes for USC Lancaster students with the approval of the Dean.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Section 1.

Offices to be filled under the Student Government Constitution, qualifications for office, and method of election.

A. The following elective and appointive offices shall be designated as executive offices:

1. President of the Student Government should have earned at least 15 hours at USC Lancaster at the time of inauguration. Must have a 3.0 GPA.

2. Vice-President of the Student Government should have earned at least 15 hours at USC Lancaster at the time inauguration. Must have a 3.0 GPA

3. Secretary and Treasurer of the Student Government can be part of the Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior or Senior class. They must have a 3.0 GPA.

4. If any officer is recommended for disciplinary suspension or convicted of a felony they must resign.

Section 2.

A. All candidates for Sophomore and Freshman Senators must have earned prior to the time of their inauguration the following number of semester hours credit:

Freshman standing 0 hours

Sophomore standing 12 hours

B. Any full-time student carrying at least a minimum load may be a candidate for or hold office. No students shall be candidates for or hold more than one major office.

Section 3.

Time of elections

A. The Spring election cycle is to begin late February or early March. The following elective offices will be filled on that day:

1. President of the SGA
2. Vice-President of the SGA
3. Secretary of the SGA
4. Treasurer of the SGA
5. Senator of the SGA

The fall election is to be held the first week of October after the start of the fall term. The exact date will be established by the SGA statute. The following elective offices will be filled on that day:

5. Other offices that were not filled the previous spring

Section 4.

Procedures for Nominations and Elections

- A. Procedures for nominations and elections will be determined by SGA.
- B. Election officials will be appointed by the student vote for the SGA. These officials shall not hold any other Student Government office or be a candidate for any other Student elective office
- C. Each candidate will be responsible for knowledge of the qualifications for the office which he seeks, and election rules as established by SGA.
- D. All elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
- E. In spring and fall elections, to be elected, a candidate must receive a plurality of the votes cast in the first election. In the case that no candidate shall receive a plurality, there shall be a run-off election on a day designated by the Election Committee within 14 days after the first election, upon approval by a majority vote of the Student Government. Those candidates receiving a majority in the run-off shall be declared elected.
- F. In a general election, candidates must receive plurality to be elected.

ARTICLE VI. ANNUAL AND PERIODICAL PERSONNEL SELECTION

Section 1.

Advisor Appointment

A. Advisors will be appointed by the Dean. Job descriptions state that the SGA reports to the Director of Student Life. The Director of Student Life will serve as the SGA Advisor.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

Proposal

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of the SGA or by a petition signed by not less than ten percent of the Student Body.

Section 2.

Ratification

A proposed amendment shall become effective when ratified by a majority of those voting in a campus-wide election. All amendments shall be voted on within 60 days after being proposed. Any proposed amendments must be made public not less than 14 days before the election in which it is to be considered.

Section 1.

Amendment One

The Student Government Association Council, consisting of all other SGA members except the President may by a majority vote override a President's veto within six school days of the veto.

ARTICLE VIII. AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

Section 1.

Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award

During spring elections for SGA officers, students will also vote for who they believe are the most distinguished teachers from the 3 divisions (BBCE, MSN, Humanities). There will be one winner from each division. The SGA will then form a committee of student representatives to decide who the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award will go to from the division winners pool. The decision made by the DTY student committee will be based upon interviews, course evaluations, and statements of teaching philosophies. The Distinguished Teacher of the Year will be announced during Spring Fling. The division winners will also be recognized during spring fling.

Only Full Time Faculty, Tenured Faculty, Tenure Track Faculty, and Senior Instructors who teach 9 credit hours (lecture) minimum **per semester** qualify to run for Distinguished Teacher of the Year. Full Time Faculty, Tenured Faculty, Tenure Track Faculty, and Senior Instructors who teach 8 credit hours with two lectures and two labs **per semester** will also qualify.

Section 2.

Servants Heart Award

DIVISION ABBREVIATIONS	
MSN	Math, Science and Nursing
BBCE	Business, Behavioral Science, Criminal Justice and Education
Humanities	History, Arts, Philosophy, Theology, etc.

The SGA holds the power to determine the staff member who is awarded the Servants Heart Award. This award is given during at Spring Fling if applicable.

Date of Revision	Reason for Revision
	Original Constitution Publication
02/04/20	Newly elected officers making changes as they see fit, for example –abolishing the $\frac{3}{4}$ voting rule to accommodate SGA during a global pandemic
09/03/20	Transition in the role of Director of Student Life, continuing changes that ceased occurrence due to global pandemic in early 2020