

The University of Evansville Student Government Association



Constitution

As adopted April 18, 2024

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Constitution of the University of Evansville Student Government Association

Ratified on April 18th, 2024

Preamble

We the students of the University of Evansville, in order to empower each student to think critically, act bravely, serve responsibly, and live meaningfully in a changing world, as well as establish communication between the students, faculty, staff, and administration, do ordain and establish this University of Evansville Student Government Association.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Student Government Association will follow all Non-Discrimination policies of the University of Evansville. These can be found [here](#).

Article I: The Student Government Association

Section 1.

The Student Government Association (SGA) shall be composed of an Executive Board and a Student Congress.

Section 2.

The SGA shall promote the interests of the Student Association throughout the University. The SGA shall provide effective, influential leadership to promote the advancement of the student experience. Their top two priorities include representing the Student Association in all University matters and governing the Student Activity Fee in a way that ensures students have a voice in how their fee is spent.

Section 3.

The Student Association shall be composed of all full-time undergraduate students who have paid their Student Activity Fee. This will include all students who have been exempt from paying this fee by the Dean of Students or the President of the SGA.

Section 4.

The SGA shall have authority over all organizations recognized by the SGA. The governing documents of the SGA shall be this Constitution, the SGA Bylaws, the Student Handbook, and all University Policies. These documents will have authority over the governing documents of the aforementioned organizations.

Article II. The Executive Board

Section 1.

- a. All Executive powers of the SGA shall be vested in an Executive Board (Board), led by the President who will be elected by the Student Association each year.

The President shall represent the Student Association and the SGA in all University matters. The President shall appoint a Vice President to the Board to assist them in their duties and serve as de facto President in their absence. The Vice President will serve as the University Enhancement chair, focusing on improvements that will enhance the student experience. The President shall also appoint a Director of Community to focus on the culture of the Student Association and SGA and act as the Student Ombudsperson. The Student Association shall elect a Chairperson of Student Congress (Chairperson) to the Board as a liaison and representative of the Student Congress. The Chairperson shall appoint a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and a Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) to the Board each year to act as financial authority and advisor, and public relations authority and advisor respectively. The Student Association shall also elect a Chair of the Academic Fund Board (AFB) to the Executive Board to represent the interests of the AFB. Each year, Representatives of the Student Congress shall nominate a Parliamentarian and Secretary to serve on the Board as parliamentary authority and record keeper respectively.

- b. Officers of the Executive Board will take and uphold the following oath upon entering office:

"I, (officer's name), do solemnly swear to carry out the responsibilities of the office to which I have been elected and now accept. I further agree to abide by and execute the provisions of the office as stated in the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws, and to abide by all of the policies and regulations of the University of Evansville."

- c. The Executive Board shall receive compensation for their work each year in the SGA Budget.

Section 2.

- a. The President, Chairperson, AFB Chair, and CFO must have been a voting member of Student Congress for two (2) semesters, have a minimum of 60 hours of University of Evansville credit at the end of the semester of their candidacy, and have at least a 2.75 cumulative grade point average, which must be maintained for the duration of their term of office. Candidates to these offices may not be under substantial University disciplinary action as determined by the Dean of Students and the Student Handbook and may not have any outstanding debt to the University, per Student Financial Services. The President shall have served one (1) semester on the Executive Board at the time of their election to office.
- b. The Vice President, Parliamentarian, Director of Community, Secretary, and CMO must have been a voting member of the Student Congress for one (1) semester, have a minimum of 30 hours of University of Evansville credit at the end of the semester of their candidacy, have at least a 2.75 cumulative grade point average, which must be maintained for the duration of their term of office. Candidates to these offices must not be under substantial University

disciplinary action as determined by the Dean of Students and may not have any outstanding debt to the University, per Student Financial Services.

- c. The term of office is one (1) academic year in duration which will begin and end on the date of the University Spring Graduation.

Section 3.

- a. Officers will either be elected by the Student Association, appointed by an elected member, or nominated by the Student Congress.
- b. Elections for President, Chairperson, and AFB Chair shall begin at 8:00 the third Monday in March and will last until 11:59pm the subsequent Wednesday, or at a time brought forth through a resolution approved by a 2/3 majority of the Student Congress. The ballots will be cast in a manner determined by the Elections committee and Center for Student Engagement. The election will be governed by rules laid forth in the SGA Bylaws.
- c. All appointments and nominations of officers shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Student Congress.

Section 4.

- a. If a member of the Executive Board has violated this Constitution, the SGA Bylaws or the University of Evansville Student Code of Conduct, or is otherwise unable to fulfill their duties as an effective member of the Board, this individual may be impeached and removed from office pursuant to the SGA Bylaws.
- b. An officer may seek an appeal pursuant to the Bylaws of the SGA.

Article III. The Student Congress

Section 1.

- a. The Student Congress shall have legislative authority of the SGA. The Student Congress is responsible for passing monetary resolutions to allocate funds and non-monetary resolutions to make statements on behalf of the SGA or amend the policies and procedures of the SGA.
- b. The Representatives Student Congress shall petition for and populate committees necessary for the operation of SGA.

Section 2.

- a. The Student Congress shall consist of one or two Representatives of each SGA-recognized organization, chosen by their respective organization.
- b. These Representatives are responsible for advocating on behalf of their organization within the Student Congress, as well as bringing forth resolutions in the name of their organizations.

Section 3.

- a. The SGA shall have authority over which organizations they recognize. Each SGA recognized organization shall first be recognized by the Center for

Student Engagement. SGA recognition will be granted by a procedure outlined in the SGA Bylaws.

- b. SGA recognized organizations will be in good or bad standing as defined by the SGA Bylaws.

Section 4.

- a. Meetings of the Student Congress shall be held in the Schroeder Family School of Business Administration Room 170, or an alternate location determined by the Executive Board. Meetings shall occur on Thursdays at 5:00 pm. The first meeting of the year will be held the first Thursday in September.
The latest edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order” shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically defined by this Constitution or the SGA Bylaws.

Section 5.

- a. Resolutions shall be submitted by representatives of SGA recognized organizations in good standing or specified members of the Executive Board. Each resolution shall be submitted and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board prior to its presentation to Student Congress.
- b. The President, Vice President, Chairperson, and Director of Community may bring resolutions to the floor on behalf of their office to further their goals and projects within their role on the Executive Board.
- c. Resolutions may be submitted in a manner put forth by the Executive Board with the approval of the Director of the Center for Student Engagement. This shall be codified in the SGA Bylaws.
- d. A quorum of one half plus one member of the Student Congress must be present before a resolution may be voted on. A quorum call may be requested by any member of Student Congress when in session. Quorum will be assumed to be held until a quorum call is requested by a member.
- e. Resolutions will be voted on in a manner decided by the Executive Board and approved by the Director of the Center for Student Engagement.
- f. All resolutions, after approval of the Student Congress, shall be signed by the Chairperson of Student Congress and presented to the President within two (2) weeks of the passing vote. If the President approves, they may sign the resolution. If they disapprove, the President may veto the resolution and present their objections at the next meeting of the Student Congress. A veto may be overruled by a 2/3 majority vote of the Student Congress.
- g. If a resolution is not signed or vetoed within ten (10) days of presentation, the resolution shall automatically take effect.
- h. Organizations may not put forth a request on behalf of any other organization or individual member of the Student Association, but multiple Representatives may sponsor one resolution if it is in the interest of multiple organizations.

Article IV. The Academic Fund Board

Section 1.

- a. The Academic Fund Board (AFB) will hear requests related to the funding of academic or professional development activities submitted by members of the Student Association.
- b. The AFB will receive a budget allocation in the SGA budget each year.
- c. Meetings of the AFB shall occur on the first week of each month during the academic year, or at another time that may be established by the AFB.

Section 2.

- a. The AFB shall consist of the AFB Chair, the President or Vice President, the Chairperson, the CFO, and student representatives appointed by the AFB Chair. The representatives must be members of the Student Association. They must have a 2.75 GPA and have a minimum of 30 hours of University of Evansville credit at the beginning of the semester on the AFB.

Section 3.

- a. The AFB will only hear grant requests related to academic or professional development activities. Eligibility shall be determined by the SGA Bylaws.

Article V. Finances of the SGA

Section 1.

- a. The budget of the SGA shall be comprised of the money collected from the Undergraduate Student Activity Fee minus the specific deductions outlined in the SGA Bylaws.
- b. The Finance and Budget Committee of Student Congress shall have authority to compose the SGA budget each year. SGA recognized organizations must be in good standing to be eligible for a budget.
- c. University entities may request a budget from the SGA on a case-by-case basis. The budget of the SGA must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of Student Congress as well as approval from the President.

Section 2.

- a. The Finance and Budget Committee will allocate a specific amount of money in the budget as the Resolution Fund. This money will be allocated through monetary resolutions.
- b. All money that is not used from a resolution will be returned to the Resolution Fund.

Section 3.

- a. The SGA Reserve Fund will make up of all funds that are considered surplus within the SGA Budget over the several years. The Reserve Fund shall be for use of the SGA for large scale projects or emergencies. Allocation from the Reserve Fund will require a resolution put forth by a representative of SGA recognized organizations in good standing or specified members of the

Executive Board. This resolution must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the Student Congress. Resolutions allocating money from the Reserve Fund shall be tabled for one week after presentation to Student Congress before a vote on the resolution can be held.

- b. The Reserve Fund must have a minimum balance of \$50,000. If a resolution will cause the funds in the Reserve Fund to fall below the \$50,000 minimum, the resolution must be approved by the President, CFO, and the Director of the Center for Student Engagement.

Article VI. Amendments

Section 1.

- a. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any SGA representative in good standing and four (4) supporting members of student congress, or ten (10) members of the Student Association. This Amendment will be presented in the form of a non-monetary resolution and will require 3/4 approval from the Executive Board and Student Congress.
- b. The governing documents of the SGA are subject to the approval of the President of the University of Evansville and the Dean of Students.

Section 2.

- a. After the ratification of each amendment, it shall be in place for a period of two (2) semesters, before it may be amended again, in order for its full effect to be realized. This shall be enforced by the Parliamentarian.
- b. This may be waived by a unanimous vote of the Student Congress.
 - (i) This vote may not be a voice vote and shall be recorded.

Article VII. Authority of the SGA Constitution

- a. The SGA Constitution is supreme over all documents governing the SGA, and SGA recognized organizations. Any provisions within the governing documents of the SGA, and SGA recognized organizations that are contrary to the SGA Constitution will be void.
- b. The policies and procedures of the University of Evansville will have authority over the SGA. All policies and procedures of the SGA that violate, contradict, or do not correlate with those of the University will be null and void.
- c. The Director of the Center for Student Engagement will serve as advisor over the SGA.

Article VIII. Ratification

- a. This Constitution shall be ratified by a 3/4 majority vote of the Executive Board, Student Congress, and signed by the President.
- b. This Constitution shall take effect once signed by the President and Chairperson of Student Congress.