

## ***Preamble***

We, the undergraduate students of the University of Dayton, believing in the right and the obligation to actively participate in the formation and execution of student and university policy, do hereby establish the University of Dayton Student Government Association. The Student Government Association recognizes the deep-rooted Marianist traditions of the University of Dayton and its call to every student to learn, lead, and serve. We strive to answer this call by integrating the academic, spiritual, and social aspects of university life, fostering communication between faculty and students, and celebrating diversity within the community. Guided by the principles of democracy, we create the constitution of the organization to serve as the framework for the implementation of its goals.

## ***Constitution***

### **Article I.**

#### **NAME**

The official name of the student government of the University of Dayton shall be hereafter referred to as the Student Government Association (SGA).

### **Article II.**

#### **OBJECT**

The SGA of the University of Dayton exists to serve and to improve the general welfare of the undergraduate students of the University of Dayton and to accomplish the following goals:

##### *Section 1.*

To express and interpret student opinion to the administration and faculty

##### *Section 2.*

To resolve common student problems

##### *Section 3.*

To achieve common student purposes within the University and civic life

##### *Section 4.*

To provide official and recognized representatives of the undergraduate students in dealings with other components of the University community

##### *Section 5.*

To participate with the University administration in the formulation and execution of policies

### **Article III.**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

##### *Section 1.*

All full-time and three-fourth (3/4) time undergraduate students of the University of Dayton shall be members of SGA

##### *Section 2.*

Legislative voting shall be limited to those SGA members specified in Article VI, Section 3.

### **Article IV.**

#### **OFFICERS**

##### *Section 1.*

The executive officers of SGA shall be the President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President of Residential Affairs, and Vice President of Finance.

*Section 2.*

Elected officials shall be the President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President of Residential Affairs, and Vice President of Finance. The President and Executive Vice President shall be elected on the same ticket.

*Section 3.*

The officers shall serve for a term of one year, the official term to begin the Friday preceding the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month of April.

**Article V.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*Section 1.*

The Executive Committee (Excom) shall be the executive branch of SGA. The President shall serve as the Chair of Excom and have the final executive powers of the Executive Committee.

*Section 2.*

The Excom shall be comprised of the officers of SGA. Additional officers may include: Entertainment Coordinator(s), Director(s) of Campus Unity and Diversity, Director(s) of Information Technology, Director(s) of Special Programs, Director(s) of Safety and Grievances, Director(s) of Media Relations, Director(s) of Leadership Programming, Trip Coordinator(s), Director(s) of Public Relations, Chief of Staff, Director(s) of Marianist Involvement, Executive Coordinator, Director(s) of Athletic Support, Historian, Photographer, Graphic Designer, Director(s) of Service and Executive Assistants. The President and Executive Vice President shall appoint any of the above positions as they deem necessary to execute their administration.

**Article VI.**

**THE STUDENT SENATE**

*Section 1.*

The Student Senate shall be the legislative body of SGA.

*Section 2.*

Membership of the Student Senate will be determined by election or appointment with the appropriate constituency. If no candidate is found for any given position, the position will be filled by appointment.

*Section 3.*

Student senators shall represent the following constituencies: Marycrest (3), Stuart Hall (2), Founders Hall (1), Marianist Hall (1), Campus South (1), VWK (2), South Quad Garden Apartments (1), East Stewart Garden Apartments (1), Lawnview Apartments (1), Darkside (2), Ghetto (4), Firwood/Irving Commons (1), Freshman Class (1), Sophomore Class (1), Junior Class (1), Senior Class (1), Commuter (1), International (1), African-American (1), Latin-American (1), Humanities (1), Social Science (1), Natural Science (1), School of Education (1), School of Engineering (1), School of Business Administration (1), Vice President of Academic Affairs (1) Vice President of Residential Affairs (1). The number of seats for new residence halls shall be determined using the “1 Senator for X number of people” ratio in effect for the other constituencies at that time.

*Section 4.*

Each senator shall have committee responsibilities within SGA. Senators are required to attend committee meetings.

*Section 5.*

Residential Senators from Marycrest, Stuart Hall, Marianist Hall, Founders Hall, Campus South, VWK, South Quad Garden Apartments, East Stewart Garden Apartments, and Lawnview

Apartments shall serve as the “President(s)” and coordinators of their respective hall, complex, or area councils. The duties for this shall include, but may not be limited to:

- (a) Serving as the “President(s)” for the specific building or area,
- (b) Appointing an executive board and training those board members to best serve the residents,
- (c) Coordinating the elections of floor representatives with the Resident Assistants and the Area Coordinator,
- (d) Holding regular hall, complex, or area council meetings,
- (e) Serving in the Resident Student Association Caucus

*Section 6.*

New positions can be created on the Student Senate, or positions may be eliminated by a special vote of all members of SGA, including the executive officers.

*Section 7.*

Voting members of the Student Senate include those official listed in Article VI, Section 3. In the case of a tie, the Executive Vice President shall be the tiebreaker.

*Section 8.*

The Chairperson of the Student Senate shall be the Speaker of the Senate. The Speaker of the Senate shall be elected from within the Senate.

## **Article VII.**

### **THE RESIDENT STUDENT ASSOCIATION CAUCUS**

*Section 1.*

The Resident Student Association Caucus shall be the collective body of senators and appointed persons who have a specific vested interest in residential life on campus and shall make recommendations to the student senate.

*Section 2.*

The senators who are members of the Resident Student Association Caucus shall consist of the Vice President of Residential Affairs and the senators representing Marycrest, Stuart Hall, Founders Hall, Marianist Hall, Campus South, VWK, South Quad Garden Apartments, East Stewart Garden Apartments, Lawnview Apartments, the Darkside, and the Ghetto.

*Section 3.*

Voting shall be limited to those mentioned in Article VII, Section 2. In the case of a tie, the VPRA shall be the tiebreaker.

*Section 4.*

The Resident Student Association Caucus may appoint other non-voting members to assist in the running of the Caucus. These may include, but are not limited to, a movie channel coordinator, conference chair, and council relations ombudsman.

*Section 5.*

The Resident Student Association Caucus shall be chaired by the Vice President of Residential Affairs. The chair will be responsible for the management of appointed staff and shall call a meeting at least twice a month to discuss residential matters solely, including conferences.

*Section 6.*

The Chair of the Caucus will serve as the primary mode of contact for Residential Programs and will actively and regularly meet with said office.

*Section 7.*

While in the setting of the Resident Student Association Caucus, if the meeting has been scheduled and advertised as so, Senators are forbidden to vote on matters of the student senate of SGA regardless of quorum.

*Section 8.*

The regular meeting of RSAC shall be set so that it does not purposefully exclude any member of RSAC from attending.

## **Article VIII.**

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

#### *Section 1.*

Academic Affairs Senators shall represent the School of Engineering, Education, and Business Administration, and the College of Arts and Sciences through Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. Selection of these six senators shall be governed by Article VI, Section 2.

#### *Section 2.*

Academic Affairs Senators shall initiate, investigate, and attempt to resolve appropriate academic matters of the student body. Senators shall be liaisons between the students, the academic deans' offices, and the faculty of the University.

#### *Section 3.*

The Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) shall also hold the title of Academic Affairs Senator, enabling him or her to vote in the SGA senate. The VPAA will also hold the following duties:

- a. Chair of the SGA Academic Senate
- b. Complete special projects to help advance students academic environment
- c. Report current topics in debate in the University Academic Senate to the SGA public meetings

#### *Section 4.*

Academic Affairs Senators shall be representatives of their respective concentrations in the University Academic Senate, which includes attending the University Academic Senate meetings once a month as well as committee meetings assigned by the University Academic Senate.

#### *Section 5.*

The Academic Senate shall meet once a month under the discretion of the VPAA and the Academic Senate members.

## **Article IX.**

### **RESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS**

#### *Section 1.*

Residential Affairs Senators shall represent Marycrest, Stuart Hall, Founders Hall, Marianist Hall, Campus South, VWK, South Quad Garden Apartments, East Stewart Garden Apartments, Lawnview Apartments, Darkside, and Ghetto. Selection of these senators shall be governed by Article VI, Section 2.

#### *Section 2.*

Residential Senators shall initiate, investigate, and attempt to resolve appropriate residential matters of the student body. Senators shall be liaisons between the students, Residence Education, and Residential Services.

#### *Section 3.*

The Vice President of Residential Affairs (VPRA) shall also hold the title of Residential Affairs Senator, enabling him or her to vote in the SGA Senate. The VPRA will also hold the following duties.

- a. Chair the RSAC
- b. Complete special projects to help advance students' residential environment.
- c. Report current topics in debate in the RSAC to the SGA public meetings.
- d. Meet regularly with Residence Education staff.

**Article X.**  
**FINANCES**

*Section 1.*

Funding of the SGA shall be a fee levied on all full-time and three-fourths (3/4) undergraduate students.

*Section 2.*

This shall be collected by the university in fall and winter semesters.

*Section 3.*

The dollar amount taxed to students shall be at the discretion of the University of Dayton administration.

**Article XI.**  
**MEETINGS**

*Section 1.*

A plenary meeting of the SGA, open to the University public, must be held at least once every academic week.

*Section 2.*

The Excom shall meet at least twice a month in either open or closed Sessions.

*Section 3.*

RSAC shall meet at least twice a month in either open or closed sessions.

*Section 4.*

Special meetings may be called by the President, Executive Vice President, VPAA or VPRA.

*Section 5.*

Meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised Edition.

**Article XII.**  
**EXCLUSION OF OFFICE**

*Section 1.*

Officers of SGA shall not be employees of any campus office whose employment would interfere with the ability to judge impartially and speak freely the student opinion.

*Section 2.*

Members of the Student Senate and the four executive officers of SGA shall not be employed by Residence Education as an apparent conflict of interest may arise from their differing roles as employee of said department and student advocate:

- a. Resident Assistants specifically do not represent the majority of the younger residents in their residential constituency, Residence Education staff must adhere to policy set forth by the University; this is developed with consultation from SGA, therefore, a conflict may occur in the student's differing role of representing the student voice and administering current policy.

**Article XIII.**  
**VIOLATIONS**

*Section 1.*

Violation of any regulations of the constitution or its related By-Laws shall be subject to penalties established by the SGA.

*Section 2.*

Any dispute growing out of the violation of SGA rules and regulations shall be adjudicated through arbitration.

**Article XIV.**

**BY-LAWS**

Further specifications of the SGA components shall be defined and established in the University of Dayton Student Government Association By-Laws.

**Article XV.**

**AMENDMENTS**

An amendment to this Constitution must be approved by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the full-time and three-fourths (3/4) time undergraduates voting in a referendum. Constitutional amendments properly passed will be considered a permanent alteration of the Constitution.

Last revised on March 10, 2005.