



Student Body Constitution of George Mason University

We, the students of George Mason University, in order to promote the general student welfare, do hereby establish this Constitution to govern and delegate rights and responsibilities of those parties stated herein.

ARTICLE I: MISSION STATEMENT

The name of this organization shall be the Undergraduate Representative Body (URB) of George Mason University. The Undergraduate Representative Body is a permanent standing entity which receives its legitimacy and authority as representatives of the entire student body. The Undergraduate Representative Body of George Mason University advocates the interests of the student body, educates the University community with regard to the state of the institution, and represents the interests of each student. The Undergraduate Representative Body of George Mason University will serve as a liaison to the administration, faculty, staff, and University community.

ARTICLE II: THE UNDERGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE BODY

Section 1. Establishment

1.1 All Statutory powers are herein granted and shall be vested in the Undergraduate Representative Body of George Mason University.

Section 2. Composition, Qualifications, and Term

2.1 The Undergraduate Representative Body of George Mason University shall be composed of students, chosen by the students; and each representative shall have one vote. Any person may be elected to the URB, who, at the time of the election does not possess a cumulative GPA any lower than 2.5, has been confirmed to be in good academic and University standing, and is a registered student at George Mason University, with the exclusion of the Law School.

2.2 The terms of the Representatives shall expire in the time frame of 4:30pm two Thursdays

before Spring final examinations commence.

2.3 Each member shall be a representative of the Student Body of George Mason University, with the exception of the Law School.

Section 3. Officers

3.1 The student body shall elect the Undergraduate Student Body President who shall preside and an Executive Vice President.

3.2 The members of the URB shall choose the Chairman(s) of the standing committee(s).

Section 4. Duties & Powers

4.1 The URB shall assemble every Thursday of the month, unless otherwise deemed unnecessary by university recognized holiday or statue.

4.2 The URB shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, and the yeas and nays of the members on any questions hall, at the desire of a majority of those present, be entered into the journal.

4.3 The URB shall establish uniform rules of Student Governance.

4.4 The URB shall have the sole power to impeach a member of the Undergraduate Representative Body.

Section 5. Member Restrictions

5.1 No representative, while holding office, shall be appointed to the Election & Disputes Commission; and no person holding office under the Elections & Disputes Commission shall be a member of the URB.

5.2 No candidate for elected office may run for more than one position in the URB at the same time.

Section 6. Bills and Statutes

6.1 Every bill which shall have passed the Undergraduate Representative Body, shall, before it become a statute, be presented to the Undergraduate Student Body President of George Mason University; if the President approves, the bill shall be signed, but if not, the bill shall be returned with any objections to the URB which shall enter the objections at large in their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two thirds of the body shall agree to pass the bill, it shall become a statute. But in all such cases the votes of the URB shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the person voting for and against the bill shall be entered into the journal.

Section 7. Limitation of Power

7.1 No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto statute shall be passed.

7.2 No money shall be drawn from the budget, but as a consequence of the appropriations made by statute; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

ARTICLE III: PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Section 1. Establishment, Qualifications, and Terms

1.1 The power shall be vested in a Student Body President and Executive Vice President of George Mason University, who shall be chosen by the undergraduate registered students at George Mason University for the same term.

1.2 The Undergraduate Student Body President of George Mason University shall be an undergraduate registered student, chosen by the student body. Any undergraduate student may be elected to the Presidency, who at the time of the election does not possess a cumulative GPA any lower than 2.5, has been confirmed to be in good academic and university standing, has been an enrolled student at George Mason University, for one completed semester, and who is no younger than eighteen years of age.

1.3 No person constitutionally ineligible to serve as Undergraduate Student Body President shall be eligible to that of the Undergraduate Student Body Executive Vice President of George Mason University.

1.4 The terms of the Undergraduate Student Body President and the Undergraduate Student

Body Vice President shall commence two Thursdays before Spring final examinations commence, next succeeding the election, and ending immediately upon the inauguration of their successors.

Section 2. Elections

2.1 All persons seeking the position of Undergraduate Student Body President shall designate a nominee for Undergraduate Student Body Executive Vice President, and the names of said nominees shall appear jointly on one ballot, and each registered student shall cast a single vote applicable to both offices.

2.2 All ballots shall be tabulated and transmitted to the Chairperson of the Election and Disputes Commission who shall, in the presence of the Election and Disputes Commission, open all certificates and affirm the results. The persons having the greatest number of votes for Student Body President and Student Body Vice President shall be elected to said offices.

Section 3. Disability, Vacancy, Succession

3.1 In case of the removal of the President from office, or, in the case of death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of said office, the Executive Vice President shall assume the powers, duties, and title of said office. In case of the removal of both the President and Executive Vice President from office, or in case of death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers of said offices, the officer of the Undergraduate Representative Body who is highest on the following list shall become the Acting Undergraduate Student Body President—upon resignation from their previous office—and shall uphold the powers, duties, and title of the Office of the President: Vice President for Membership Development and Training, Vice President for Outreach, then to the Chairman in order of the longest to the newest standing committees as laid out in the Code of Student Governance.

3.2 Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Student Body Executive Vice President, the President shall nominate an Executive Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a two-thirds vote of the URB.

Section 4. Responsibilities and Powers

4.1 The Undergraduate Student Body President is the Chief Officer of the Undergraduate Representative Body and shall be elected at large from the undergraduate student body, serving a one-year term as previously defined.

4.2 The Undergraduate Student Body President has veto power over all URB bills. This veto must be exercised before the next URB meeting and must be submitted in writing to the Executive Vice President.

4.3 The Undergraduate Student Body President shall be the official representative of the URB to the administration, faculty, and university committees, with the ability to appoint individuals as proxies

4.4 The Undergraduate Student Body President shall have the power to appoint a Vice President for Member Development and Training, Vice President for Outreach, and Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations confirmed by the URB.

The Undergraduate Student Body President or Leadership Council Designee shall make an Executive Report to the URB at all regularly scheduled full representative body meetings.

ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS & DISPUTES COMMISSION

Section 1. Establishment, Qualifications, and Terms

1.1 The Elections & Disputes Commission shall have sole power over holding official elections of the Student Government of George Mason University and preside as an independent adjudicator when and should disputes arise between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch. The Elections & Disputes Commission is established as an independent body from the Student Government of George Mason University, and except for elections, can be summoned by either chamber of Student Government if there is ever a dispute between the Legislative and the Executive Branches.

1.2 The Commissioners shall be registered students of George Mason University and shall hold their offices so long as they do not possess a cumulative GPA any lower than 2.5 and have been confirmed to be in good academic and University Standing. Commissioners shall hold their office until the date of their respective graduation, resignation, or removal from office.

Section 2. Composition

2.1 That the Elections & Disputes Commissioners shall be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a two thirds majority vote of Senators Present. The Commission shall be comprised of no fewer than three Commissioners, of which there will be a Chief Commissioner, and at least two Associate Commissioners.

2.2 The Election & Disputes Commission shall elect of its own members, in a manner of their own choosing, a chairman who shall run meetings, render rulings, and represent the Elections and Disputes Commission generally, Once elected chair, said individual will remain chair for the remained of their tenure on the Elections & Disputes Commission.

Section 3. Responsibilities

3.1 The Elections & Disputes Commission shall conduct two regularly scheduled elections each year.

3.2 The EDC shall conduct an election within the Spring Semester, which determines the President and Executive Vice President and thirty seats for the URB.

3.3 The Elections & Disputes Commission shall conduct any emergency elections as conditions may dictate. The EDC shall hold an emergency election to fill the URB if membership drops below 31 members.

3.4 The Elections & Disputes Commission shall provide oversight of elections to ensure compliance with election rules and procedures.

3.5 The Elections & Disputes Commission shall have the power to settle disputes between the Leadership Council and the Undergraduate Representative Body.

Section 4. Limitations

4.1 Members of the Election and Disputes Commission may not aid in the execution or planning of any Student Government function or event not directly related to the responsibilities stated in this article. This section explicitly does not prohibit commissioners from attending Student Government sponsored functions or events.

4.2 No member of the Elections & Disputes Commission may simultaneously hold any other office within Student Government. Upon resignation or removal from office, former Election and Disputes Commission members are not eligible to hold another office within Student Government for a period of one calendar year.

Section 5. Procedure

5.1 The Elections and Disputes Commission shall be responsible for setting up its own procedure and schedule.

ARTICLE V. OATH OF OFFICE

Section 1. Presidential Oath

1.1 Before entering on the execution of the Office of Student Body President, the following Oath or Affirmation shall be taken: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of Undergraduate Student Body President of George Mason University, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Student Body Constitution of George Mason University.”

Section 2. Constitutional Oath

2.1 The Representatives, Election & Disputes Commissioners, and all other officers of Student Government, shall be bound by the following Oath or Affirmation: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Student Body Constitution of George Mason University; and that I will faithfully and honorably discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as an officer of the students to the best of my ability.”

ARTICLE VI. IMPEACHMENT

Any elected or appointed official under the Student Government of George Mason University can be impeached upon accusations hereby defined as alleged malfeasance, alleged corruption, alleged negligence, dereliction of duty, or alleged misconduct.

Section 1. Articles of Impeachment

1.1 A resolution of impeachment, after being passed by a two-thirds majority of Representatives present, is to be submitted in writing to the Elections & Disputes Commission in accordance with the rules and regulations and is considered binding.

Section 2. Penalties and Punishment

2.1 Should the Elections and Disputes Commission find the accused Officer responsible for the offense(s), the Elections and Disputes Commission shall impose any punishment not exceeding removal from office and exclusion from the Student Government of George Mason University.

ARTICLE VII. SUFFRAGE

Section 1. Source of Power

1.1 All power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the students, who all have the right of suffrage.

Section 2. Qualifications

2.1 In elections by the people, each qualified elector shall be an undergraduate student of George Mason University.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Right of Reform

1.1 The Undergraduate Student Body and the Student Government shall share the power to amend this Constitution.

Section 2. Student Government

2.1 Any member of the Student Government may submit a bill to amend this Constitution.

2.2 After a bill is composed to amend this Constitution, the Undergraduate Representative Body (URB) must hold at least one open public hearing in which students will be given adequate time to speak and give input into the proposed changes. This public hearing must be publicized, through appropriate media sources, at least two consecutive weeks before the hearing is held. The URB shall have the power to establish procedures for the open hearing. After holding the public hearing, the bill may be submitted for first reading to the URB.

2.3 Two-thirds of the URB must be present in order to vote on the proposed amendment(s), and four-fifths of those present must approve in order to pass the bill.

2.4 Upon signature of the Undergraduate Student Body President, or Legislative Override, the bill shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Elections & Dispute Commission. The Commissioner shall place the proposed amendment on the referendum at the next appropriate election.

2.5 A majority of the undergraduate students voting on the proposed amendment shall be required to amend the Constitution.

Section 3. Undergraduate Student Body

3.1 Five percent of the Undergraduate Student Body of George Mason University must

transmit a signed petition complete with school identification numbers, to amend this Constitution to the Commissioner of the Elections & Disputes Commission.

3.2 Once the petition is received, and the requisite number of petitioners is confirmed as registered undergraduate students at George Mason University, the Commissioner of the Elections & Disputes Commission shall vote to determine if the issue merits a special election or if the issue is to be decided at the next election.

ARTICLE IX. INSTITUTIONAL SUPREMACY

The powers and provisions contained herein shall serve as the primary source of George Mason University Student Government authority, and any further documents regarding statutes of Student Governance shall be viewed as inferior to this Constitution.