

# **Constitution of the Student Government Association**

**(Ratified June 7, 2011)**

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

**Section 1:** The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association (SGA).

## **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

**Section 1:** It shall be the responsibility of SGA to initiate, fund and administer programs and activities of benefit to the students of Lehman College and the community at large.

**Section 2:** It shall be the responsibility of SGA to cooperate fully with any individuals or organizations in the advancement of the legitimate interests of the Lehman College community.

**Section 3:** It shall be the responsibility of SGA to ensure that the interests of students are protected in the development and operation of the physical plant and the supporting facilities of Lehman College.

**Section 4:** SGA shall have the power to develop policies and initiatives that serve the interest of the Lehman College students.

**Section 5:** SGA will cooperate, promote and facilitate the College's growth and expansion in academic affairs.

## **ARTICLE III: POWERS**

**Section 1:** SGA shall have the power to initiate, fund and administer programs and activities and to allocate the funds formerly held by the Campus Association for Student Activities.

**Section 2:** SGA shall have the power to make recommendations on policy and matters concerning the physical plant and supporting facilities and shall use and allocate club rooms in the Student Life Building.

**Section 3:** The Senators of the Student Legislative Assembly of SGA shall serve in the Lehman College Senate in accordance with the Bylaws of the Lehman College Senate.

## **ARTICLE IV: PROSCRIBED POWERS**

**Section 1:** SGA shall not have the power to establish policy on matters of academic policy, that power being reserved for the mandated legislative body.

**Section 2:** SGA shall not have the power to establish policy on matters of non-academic power, except in areas concerning the physical plant and supporting facilities, that power being reserved for the mandated legislative body.

**Section 3:** SGA shall not fund or administer any program or activity in conflict with policy directives issued by the mandated legislative organization.

## **ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1:** The membership of SGA shall consist of the Executive Board and the Student Legislative Assembly.

**Section 2:** During the spring of each year, the members, including the Executive Board and the Officers of the Student Legislative Assembly shall be chosen in general elections.

**Section 3:** In accordance with the Governance Structure of Lehman College, graduate students shall receive at least one guaranteed seat in the Student Legislative Assembly.

**Section 4:** The term of office of members of SGA shall be from June 1 of their year of election until to the following May 31.

**Section 5:** Policy 7.15 in Article VII of the CUNY Manual of General Policy contains the minimum eligibility requirements for SGA and the University Student Senate.

**Section 6:** There shall be a Parliamentarian and a Secretary for the Executive Board and Committee for Co-Curricular Development, who shall be non-voting members and do not count towards quorum; and a Secretary for the Student Legislative Assembly, who shall be elected from amongst the student Senators by the Student Legislative Assembly.

## **ARTICLE VI: GOVERNANCE**

**Section 1:** The provisions in the Constitution of SGA shall supersede any inconsistent provisions in the Bylaws of the Executive Board and the Bylaws of the Student Legislative Assembly.

**Section 2:** The internal powers, rules and procedures of both the Executive Board and the Student Legislative Assembly shall be delineated in their respective Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1:** The Executive Board of SGA shall consist of the Officers of SGA, the Vice-Chair of the Student Legislative Assembly and four other Senators, two University Student Senate Representatives, the Chairperson of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC), and the Parliamentarian and the Secretary for the Executive Committee and Committee for Co-Curricular Development, who shall be non-voting members and do not count towards quorum.

**Section 2:** Each year, the Student Legislative Assembly shall elect four Senators to the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS**

**Section 1:** The Officers of SGA shall be the President, the Executive Vice-President, the Board Vice-President, the Vice-President of Academic Affairs, the Campus Facilities Officer, the Communications Officer, the Community Activities Programmer, the Events Coordinator, the Financial Planner, the Research Planner, the Outreach Coordinator and the Student Services Programmer.

## **ARTICLE IX: STUDENT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Section 1:** The powers of the Student Legislative Assembly are enumerated in its Bylaws, which, when not inconsistent with the Constitution of SGA or the Bylaws of the Executive Board, shall be the primary governing document of the Student Legislative Assembly.

**Section 2:** Members of the Student Legislative Assembly shall be the Senators of the SGA and shall serve as the student representatives in the Lehman College Senate.

## **ARTICLE X: CABINET**

**Section 1:** The Cabinet of SGA shall be composed of the President, the Executive Vice-President, the Board Vice-President and the Vice-President of Academic Affairs.

**Section 2:** The purpose of the Cabinet shall be delineated in the Bylaws of the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE XI: LEGISLATIVE STEERING COUNCIL**

**Section 1:** The Legislative Steering Council of the Student Legislative Assembly shall be composed of the Vice-President of Academic Affairs, who is the Chair of the Student Legislative Assembly, the Vice-Chair and the Legislative Coordinator.

**Section 2:** The members of the Legislative Steering Council shall be the Officers of the Student Legislative Assembly.

**Section 3:** The purpose of the Legislative Steering Council shall be delineated in the Bylaws of the Student Legislative Assembly.

## **ARTICLE XII: QUORUM**

**Section 1:** A simple majority of SGA shall be sufficient to transact business.

**Section 2:** A simple majority of the Executive Board shall be sufficient to transact business.

**Section 3:** A simple majority of the Student Legislative Assembly shall be sufficient to transact business.

## **ARTICLE XIII: REFERENDUM**

**Section 1:** Upon the delivery to the office of the Vice-President for Student Affairs of a petition within 5 days of an Executive Board action, signed by at least 10% of the student body, any action by the Executive Board shall be suspended and put to the students in a referendum. Such referendum shall be held within 3 weeks of presentation of the petition.

**Section 2:** It shall take 2/3 of those students voting in referendum to nullify the action of the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE XIV: VACANCIES**

### **Section 1: Resignation**

1. To resign from SGA, a member must submit a written resignation stating the reason for departure to the President of SGA, and the Director of Campus Life. In the event that the President wishes to resign, the President must submit a written resignation to the Executive Vice-President of SGA and the Director of Campus Life.
2. If a Senator resigns or is assumed to have resigned, because the Senator has been absent for two consecutive meetings of the Lehman College Senate or two consecutive meetings of the Student Legislative Assembly, then that Senator shall have automatically resigned from the SGA.
3. If an Officer of SGA resigns, except for the Vice-President of Academic Affairs, with at least three weeks left in the fall academic semester, an election to fill the position shall be held within three weeks of the submission of the resignation or in the first three weeks of the following semester.
4. If an Officer of SGA resigns, except for the Vice-President of Academic Affairs, with less than three weeks left in the fall academic semester or anytime thereafter, the Executive Board shall elect a suitable successor.
5. If a member of the Student Legislative Assembly resigns, including the Vice-President of Academic Affairs, and there are no eligible and willing candidates from the prior election, an election to fill the position shall be held within five weeks of the submission of the resignation. If a resignation occurs within five weeks of the end of the fall semester, an election may be held within the first three weeks of the spring semester.
6. If a member of the Student Legislative Assembly resigns from the Executive Board, except for the Vice-President of Academic Affairs or the Vice-Chair of the Student Legislative Assembly, the Student Legislative Assembly shall elect a suitable successor, from within their body, to the Executive Board.
7. If the Chairperson of SAAC vacates office, then it shall be up to SAAC to make arrangements to fill its seat on the Executive Board.

### **Section 2: Recall**

1. Upon petition of at least 15% of the student body, any Officer of SGA or the Student Legislative Assembly shall be recalled.
2. An election shall be held within three weeks of the recall petition presentation to the student body. The Member in question may seek reelection.

### **Section 3: Impeachment**

1. The grounds for impeachment and removal shall be: improper handling of funds, culpable violation of this Constitution, gross incompetence or infringement of the rights of any member of the Lehman College community.
2. By written request of at least 12 members of the Executive Board (including the reasons for it), any member of SGA will be impeached.
3. The decision to convict shall be made by the Student Legislative Assembly, requiring a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the Student Legislative Assembly for conviction.
4. If the Student Legislative Assembly convicts an Officer or a Senator, an election shall be held within three weeks of that order. If a conviction occurs within four weeks of the end of the fall semester, an election may be held within the first three weeks of the spring semester.

**Section 4:** In the event that no one is elected in the general elections to one of the Officer positions of SGA or the Student Legislative Assembly, special elections shall be held in May. If there are still vacancies from the Student Legislative Assembly after it elects members to the Executive Board, then the Executive Board holds the right to elect student Senators to fill the vacancies of the Student Legislative Assembly on the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE XV: TRANSITION**

**Section 1:** The Officers of the Campus Association for Student Activities shall become the Officers of SGA. The positions that Officers occupy within the Campus Association for Student Activities shall become the same positions that Officers occupy within SGA, save that the Entertainment Programmer of the Campus Association for Student Activities shall become the Events Coordinator of SGA and that the SGS Student Activities Coordinator of the Campus Association for Student Activities shall become the Outreach Coordinator of SGA.

**Section 2:** The Chair of Student Conference shall become the Vice-President of Academic Affairs of the SGA.

**Section 3:** This Constitution must be ratified by a 2/3rd vote of those voting in referendum. Once ratified, this Constitution shall replace the Constitution of the Campus Association for Student Activities and the Bylaws of the Student Conference.

## **ARTICLE XVI: AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1:** Upon a written request of at least 10 members of the Executive Board or 1/2 of the entire membership of the Student Legislative Assembly proposed amendments to this Constitution will be heard at a meeting of the Executive Board. The written request must be submitted to both the President and the Executive Vice-President and the proposed amendments must be sent to each member of the Executive Board at least a week before the meeting in which the proposed amendments are to be heard.

**Section 2:** At the meeting in which they are heard, the Executive Board can approve the proposed amendments to this Constitution by a 14/20 vote of the Executive Board.

**Section 3:** If the Executive Board approves proposed amendments to this Constitution, said proposed amendments would be put to the Student Legislative Assembly for adoption. A 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the Student Legislative Assembly shall be necessary to adopt amendments to this Constitution.

**Section 4:** By petition of 10% of the student body, SGA shall place proposed amendments to this Constitution before the student body for their approval.

**Section 5:** It will require 2/3 of those students voting in referendum to adopt proposed amendments to this Constitution.