

The Constitution of the Student Government Association of Northern Kentucky University



**STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION**

Board of Regents Approval: June 11, 2025

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**STUDENT GOVERNMENT
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Preamble

We the students of Northern Kentucky University, in recognizing our rights as members of the University; to promote collegial governance and relations between the Board of Regents, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and the Student Body; and to form a legitimate body to serve as the voice of the students for the betterment of Northern Kentucky University; do hereby establish the Student Government Association of Northern Kentucky University.



**STUDENT GOVERNMENT
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Article I: Legislative Branch

Section 1: Structure

- A. The Student Senate shall consist of a maximum of thirty Senators with three Senators serving as Senate Committee Chairs and one Senator serving as the Speaker of the Senate
- B. Each of the following colleges shall have three senators to represent them, for a total of fifteen College Senators:
 - a. The College of Arts and Sciences, The Haile College of Business, The College of Education, The College of Health and Human Services, and The College of Informatics
- C. The remaining fifteen Senators shall be considered “At Large”
 - a. At Large Senators shall represent the student body as a whole with no assignment to a particular college
 - b. Ten At Large Senators shall be elected in the Spring
 - c. Five At Large Senate seats shall be reserved for students in their first semester at Northern Kentucky University (NKU) following completion of high school or after earning their General Education Diploma and shall be elected during the fall semester

Section 2: Senate Qualifications, Terms of Office, Powers, and Duties

- A. Qualifications for the Student Senate:
 - a. Must be an enrolled student at NKU and in good standing as defined by the University
 - b. Must receive a cumulative college GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale at the time of their election or appointment and maintain a semester GPA of 2.0 and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 for the duration of their term
- B. Terms of Office
 - a. Student Senators elected in the Spring Elections shall be obligated to serve a one-year term ending at the conclusion of the following Spring Election
 - b. Student Senators who are appointed throughout the academic year or elected in the Fall Election shall be obligated to serve until the conclusion of the next Spring Election
- C. Powers
 - a. The Student Senate shall have the power to draft, discuss, and pass legislation
 - b. Senators shall have the power to serve on University Committees at the appointment of the President
- D. Duties of the Student Senate

- a. Shall attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Student Government Association
- b. Shall serve on an SGA Student Senate Committee as recommended by the Vice President to the President, and a University standing committee at the additional recommendation of the President
- c. Shall be obligated to serve one office hour per week at the discretion of the President

Section 3: Meetings

- A. Meetings of the Student Government Association will occur every week of the academic year when Fall or Spring full-term classes are in session
 - a. Regularly scheduled meetings disrupted by University closures are not required to be rescheduled
- B. The Meetings shall comprise two stages with first stage being the General Body Session and the second stage being the Legislative Session
- C. Upon the conclusion of the General Body Session, a motion shall be made to start the Legislative Session
- D. All meetings of the Student Government shall be subject to the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order wherein the President shall serve as the chair of the General Body Session and the Speaker shall serve as the chair of the Legislative Session
- E. The primary purpose of the General Body Session shall be the communication of relevant information within the Student Government Association
- F. The primary purpose of the Legislative Session shall be the presentation, review, and passage of legislation for the benefit of the Student Body of Northern Kentucky University
 - a. All members of the Student Senate shall be eligible to vote on all legislation or other business presented to the body
 - b. In the event of a tie, the legislation will be tabled until the following meeting
- G. All meetings of the Student Government shall be subject to follow the Order of Meeting as laid out in the weekly Agenda distributed by the Secretary of Administration or their designee
- H. The Executive Branch, Chief Justice and Committee Chairs shall be obligated to give reports to the Body on their current tasks, projects, or other Student Government business
- I. Senators may also give reports on their legislation or research if acknowledged by the Chair
- J. Quorum must be met in order to pass legislation at a Legislative Session
 - a. A minimum number of members of the Student Senate is not necessary to pass legislation, only Quorum must be met

- b. Quorum is defined as one half of the current number of Student Senate members plus one
- K. The Student Senate shall be considered on recess when either Fall or Spring full term classes are not in session

Section 4: Senate Committees

- A. All Senate Committees shall be responsible for addressing concerns of the student body relevant to their area of focus
- B. Standing Committees shall be permanently established and shall be subject to review of their relevance to Student Senate operations at the discretion of the President
 - a. Student Advocacy
 - b. University Improvements
 - c. Academic Excellence
- C. Additional, temporary, Senate committees may be established to address emergent concerns of the Student Body, and shall be disbanded at the conclusion of the current academic year or at the discretion of the Committee Chair and the President
- D. Each Student Senate Committee, both standing and temporary, shall receive an appointed Chair to serve as a head of committee operations
- E. Senators shall be assigned to Committees at the discretion of the Vice President and the confirmation of the President
 - a. Senators shall be subject to committee reassignment at the discretion of the Vice President and the confirmation of the President

Section 5: Speaker of the Senate

- A. Shall serve as the Chair for Legislative Sessions
- B. Shall be elected by the Senate from the current pool of Senators once the Senate reaches ten Senators
 - a. Shall serve a term that will expire upon the conclusion of the semester they were elected in
 - b. Speakers may be reelected upon the conclusion of their term
 - c. The President shall serve as the chair of legislative sessions until a Speaker is elected
- C. Shall coordinate with Vice President to format completed legislation in an appropriate manner
- D. Shall receive a stipend per semester

Section 6: Committee Chairs

- A. Shall be recommended for appointment from the Vice President to the President, and shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate
- B. Shall be responsible for overseeing all actions of the committee including the drafting and passage of legislation

- C. Shall be responsible for ensuring the productivity of the committee
- D. Shall serve as a liaison to the General Body and the Executive Board to report on Committee Activity
 - a. Shall not be considered a member of the Executive Cabinet in any decision-making capacity, and shall retain all duties and powers of a Senator
- E. Shall be obligated to host one event per semester relevant to the operation of their committee
- F. Shall receive a stipend per semester

Section 7: Legislative Process

A. Legislation Definitions

- a. A Resolution is a piece of legislation from the Student Senate to the University Administration that contains a call to action
 - i. Approvals of University Policy may take the form of a Resolution, following a modified legislative process
- b. An Honorary Resolution is a piece of legislation drafted by the Student Senate to recognize an individual or organization for their actions
- c. A Proclamation is drafted by a Senator with the intention of requesting action or a use of powers by a member of the Executive Cabinet
 - i. The member of the Cabinet called upon is not obligated to act under the language of the Proclamation

B. Legislative Process

- a. A Senator may start the Legislative Process based on any idea they deem necessary for a Resolution or an Honorary Resolution
 - i. Any legislation shall be subject to review and approval by the Chair of that Senator's respective Committee
- b. If the legislation is approved in committee, the piece of legislation shall be officially listed as "business" and the sponsoring senator shall begin drafting the legislation
- c. The legislation shall be discussed and drafted in committee
- d. The completed legislation must be given to the Vice President and Speaker of the Senate for grammatical review, then to the Secretary of Administration to be placed on the Agenda for a first reading at the next meeting of the Student Government Association
- e. Following the first reading the legislation shall be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Student Government Association for a second reading
- f. Following the second reading, a vote may be called for by any member of the Student Senate

- i. To pass, legislation must receive a majority vote of the Student Senate, upon a tie, the Chair may vote to break the tie
 - g. Following the passage the Speaker and Sponsoring Senator must sign and send the legislation to the President
- C. Presidential Review
 - a. Upon the passage of legislation, the President may sign or veto the legislation. When a veto occurs the Senate may override the veto by a supermajority vote
 - i. A supermajority vote is a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate
 - b. When the legislation is signed by the President it is then considered enacted and the Legislative Process completed
 - c. Following the completion of the Legislative Process, the legislation shall be distributed to the necessary University stakeholders for implementation
- D. Legislative Process Exemptions
 - a. Proclamations do not require Committee Approval to begin the Legislative Process and may be presented at any time during the meeting with acknowledgment from the Chair
 - b. Approving University Policy
 - i. University Policy proposals submitted to the SGA may be reviewed by the appropriate committee, and commented upon by the general body
 - ii. Any suggestions or revisions to the proposed policy may be communicated back to the appropriate University stakeholders
 - iii. A final approval of the University Policy shall be made in the form of a Resolution and voted on by the Student Senate

Section 8: Vacancies in the Legislative Branch

A. Senator Vacancies

- a. If a vacancy occurs in the Senate, the President may appoint an eligible student to fill the position, or applications may be accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled
 - i. All applicants may be subject to an interview and subsequent appointment by the President
- b. All appointees shall be subject to a confirmation vote of the Student Senate before assuming office
- c. All vacancies shall be filled as they occur, until the conclusion of the week of Spring midterms, at which time the President may continue to fill vacancies at their discretion, but is not required to do so
 - i. Following the Conclusion of the Spring Election, should any vacancies be present in the seats reserved for the Colleges, those seats may be filled with:

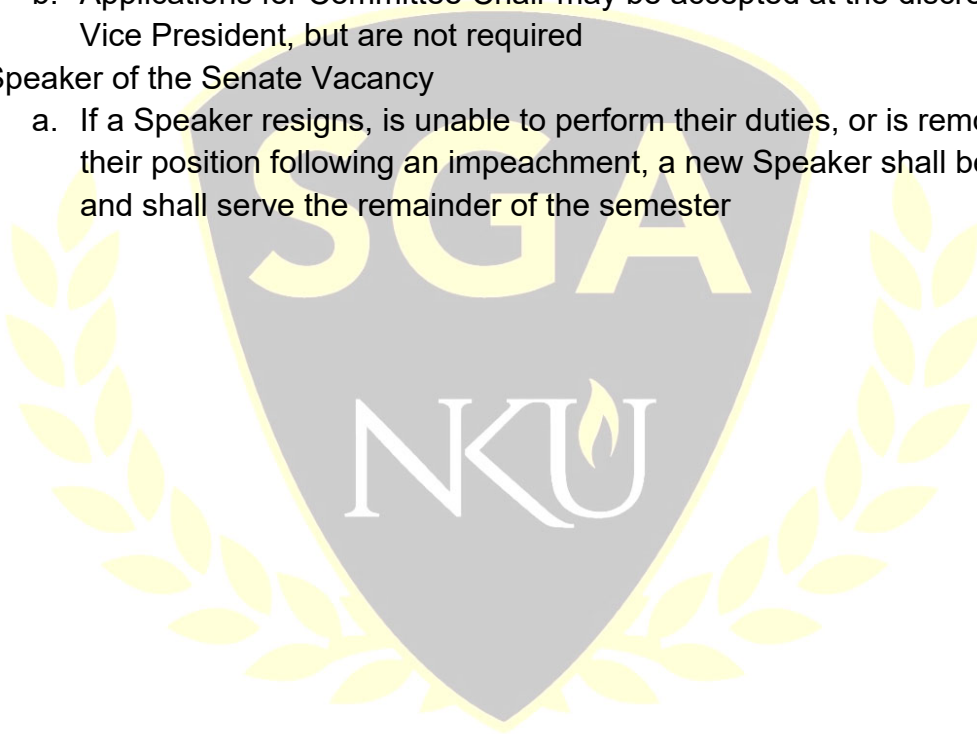
1. Current At Large Senators who are a member of that college, and will no longer be considered At Large upon a Senate confirmation vote
2. Applicants who are a member of that college and who are confirmed by the Senate through the Vacancy Process

B. Committee Chair Vacancies

- a. If a Committee Chair resigns, is unable to perform their duties, or is removed from their position following an impeachment, a new Committee Chair shall be appointed
- b. Applications for Committee Chair may be accepted at the discretion of the Vice President, but are not required

C. Speaker of the Senate Vacancy

- a. If a Speaker resigns, is unable to perform their duties, or is removed from their position following an impeachment, a new Speaker shall be elected and shall serve the remainder of the semester



STUDENT GOVERNMENT
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Article II: Executive Branch

Section 1: Structure

- A. The Executive Branch shall consist of the President and the Executive Cabinet
- B. The Executive Cabinet shall consist of the Vice President, Secretary of Administration, Secretary of Public Relations, and Secretary of Campus Involvement

Section 2: Executive Qualifications and Terms of Office

- A. Qualifications for the President:
 - a. Must be enrolled as a full-time student in good standing as defined by the University and must maintain a cumulative 2.75 GPA and a semester GPA of 2.0 throughout their term of office
 - b. Must fulfill the requirements to serve as a Student Regent
- B. Qualifications for the Executive Cabinet:
 - a. Must be a full-time student at NKU, as defined by the University, during the term of office
 - b. Must have completed thirty credit hours by the beginning of the fall semester following their election, receive a cumulative GPA of at least 0.25 above the Student Senate GPA requirement and maintain a semester GPA of 2.0
- C. Terms of Office
 - a. The President and Vice President shall serve a term that shall begin upon their swearing of the Oath of Office and concludes following the swearing in of the new President and Vice President
 - b. Secretaries shall serve a term that begins upon their confirmation vote from the Senate and ends upon the swearing in of the new President unless they are removed by the current President or are no longer eligible or able to serve

Section 3: President

- A. Shall preside as Chair over General Body Sessions as well as all meetings of the Executive Cabinet
- B. Shall recommend, request, and organize any liaisons that may be deemed necessary or beneficial to the operations of the Student Government Meetings
- C. May communicate ideas, projects, or goals to the Student Senate for potential legislation
- D. May form ad-hoc committees to address specific tasks or goals
 - a. The Senate must confirm ad-hoc committees and its members by majority vote

- E. Shall recommend students for appointment to University standing committees through the SGA Advisors
 - F. Shall review all legislation adopted by the Student Senate, and may veto or approve legislation, as deemed necessary
 - a. Legislation approved by the President shall be verified by their signature. Failure to sign legislation within ten official school days of passage by the Student Senate constitutes a veto
 - b. Legislation vetoed by the President shall be returned to the Student Senate, accompanied by the veto message. A veto may be overridden by a supermajority of the Student Senate at the next Student Senate meeting
 - c. Following the signing, it shall be the duty of the President to communicate to and work toward implementation with the appropriate University stakeholders
 - G. Shall create and retain up-to-date contacts with comparison institutions
 - H. Shall represent the student body on the Board of Regents, pursuant to KRS 164.321
 - I. Shall represent NKU on the Board of Student Body Presidents (BSBP)
 - J. Shall coordinate efforts with administration and necessary offices on issues facing Higher Education and the Student Body and shall manage advocacy efforts with the city of Highland Heights, Campbell County, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky
 - K. Shall enter into agreements with agencies and organizations inside and outside the University community. This shall be done on behalf of SGA subject to a majority approval of the Student Senate. If the Student Senate is in recess, a majority approval of the Executive Cabinet shall be used
 - L. Shall review the performance of the duties of the Secretaries and may request resignation or request the drafting of articles of impeachment if they are not fulfilling all obligations and duties of their office
 - M. May sign Executive Orders which shall be a written notice of the President enacting and internal policy for the duration of their term
 - a. No Executive Order shall violate or contradict this Constitution or its Bylaws
 - N. Shall be obligated to serve no more than twenty office hours per week during the academic year
 - O. Shall be offered on-campus housing and a meal-plan for the entirety of their term, not to be paid via the SGA budget and shall be compensated for each of their mandatory hours
- Section 4: Vice President
- A. Shall act in place of the President when they are absent, or at the request of the President

- B. Shall assume the duties of any Secretary should a vacancy occur
- C. Shall recommend Student Senate Committee Chairs to the President for appointment and approval by a majority of the Student Senate
- D. Shall recommend Student Senate members' committee assignment to the President
- E. Shall review completed legislation format, grammar, and organization
- F. Shall serve as the SGA representative at Faculty Senate and Staff Congress meetings. If unable to fulfill this duty, the Vice President may select a designee to serve in this capacity
- G. Shall coordinate both a fall and spring semester SGA retreat in conjunction with the Advisors. Shall also coordinate the SGA banquet, to be held at the conclusion of the spring semester
- H. Shall be responsible for the maintenance of the SGA Office and tracking and coordinating the implementation of passed resolutions
- I. Shall be obligated to serve no more than fifteen office hours per week during the academic year
- J. Shall be compensated for each of their mandatory hours

Section 5: Secretary of Administration

- A. Shall be appointed by the President-Elect following the Spring Election
- B. Shall provide Student Government Meeting agendas, coordinate office hours, and oversee the application process for all SGA appointments
- C. Shall compile, maintain, and archive, appropriate records of minutes, agendas, attendance, and voting
 - a. Shall ensure that the minutes of the previous meeting are received at least seventy-two hours prior to the next SGA meeting. All records shall be kept with the SGA Office
- D. Shall discuss and distribute the attendance policies for all SGA members, consult with the Advisors on academic status of SGA members, and maintain the SGA budget in collaboration with the Office of the Dean of Students
- E. Shall receive a stipend per semester

Section 6: Secretary of Public Relations

- A. Shall be appointed by the President-Elect following the Spring Election
- B. The Secretary of Public Relations shall prepare and coordinate all external SGA publicity and related media, public relations efforts of all Student Senate committees, and assist in publication of election notices and materials
- C. Shall receive a stipend per semester

Section 7: Secretary of Campus Involvement

- A. Shall be appointed by the President-Elect following the Spring Election

- B. Shall coordinate and facilitate communication with registered student organizations (RSOs) and serve as the official liaison with the Office of Student Engagement
- C. Shall chair and attend regularly scheduled meetings of the Travel Fund Committee and Programming Activities Grant Committee
- D. Shall meet with student representatives from areas of Campus Engagement
- E. Shall receive a stipend per semester

Section 8: Executive Cabinet Meetings

- A. The President shall meet with the Executive Cabinet on a regular basis and preside over the meeting
- B. Executive Cabinet Members shall give reports based on their area of focus
- C. The Chief Justice, Speaker of the Senate, and Committee Chairs may attend, serve as non-voting meeting members, and give reports

Section 9: Vacancies in the Executive Branch

- A. Board of Regents Vacancy:
 - a. If the President does not maintain their position as SGA President, a special election to select a full-time student member of the Board of Regents shall occur, pursuant to KRS 164.321(8)(a)
 - b. This special election shall be held no later than twenty official school days after said vacancy
 - c. The student elected shall fulfill the remainder of the Student Regent term of office but shall not assume the duties of the President of SGA unless the elected person is the current Vice President
- B. Vacancy of President
 - a. If a vacancy occurs in the Presidency, the Vice President shall assume the office of the President and appoint a Vice President, at their discretion
 - b. A written letter of vacancy by the outgoing President should be provided
 - c. If a letter cannot be provided, the Dean of Students may confirm the vacancy
- C. Vacancy of both President and Vice President
 - a. If both President and Vice President do not maintain their position within SGA, the Secretary of Administration shall serve as the chairperson of the Student Senate until such a time as a special election can be held for the office of President and Vice President
 - i. This special election shall not be later than twenty official school days after resignation or removal
 - ii. The candidate selected from the special election shall immediately assume the duties of the President

- iii. Any candidate already holding a position running for a vacant position shall maintain their position if they do not win the special election

D. Vacancy in the Executive Cabinet

- a. If a vacancy other than the Presidency occurs in the Executive Cabinet, the President shall appoint an eligible student to fill the position
- b. The appointee/s shall appear before the Student Senate for a confirmation vote and receive a supermajority vote of the Student Senate to confirm their appointment
- c. Fully confirmed members shall serve the remainder of the term until the next Spring Election

Section 10: Line of Succession

- A. Following a vacancy of the President and Vice President the Line of Succession for Chair of the General Body Session shall be as follows:
 - a. Secretary of Administration
 - b. Secretary of Campus Involvement
 - c. Secretary of Public Relations
 - d. Chair of Academic Excellence
 - e. Chair of Student Rights and Advocacy
 - f. Chair of University Improvements
 - g. Longest Serving Student Senator

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Article III: Judicial Branch

Section 1: Structure

- A. The Judicial Council shall consist of Five Justices with one serving as Chief Justice and the others as Associate Justices

Section 2: Judicial Qualifications and Terms

- A. All Justices shall serve a term that begins upon their taking the oath of office and that ends upon their graduation, departure from Northern Kentucky University, resignation, or removal from office
- B. Shall maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA and a 2.0 semester GPA throughout their term

Section 3: Appointment of the Chief Justice

- A. The Chief Justice shall be appointed by the President from the current pool of justices and must be confirmed by majority vote of the Justices and by majority vote of the Student Senate
- B. Shall serve as Chief Justice for the duration of the academic year that will expire at the conclusion of the Spring Election

Section 4: Judicial Council Powers and Duties

- A. Shall ensure the constitutionality of government actions. Those actions may include: Resolutions, Honorary Resolutions, Executive Orders, or other official government actions. This may take the form of Judicial Council Opinions
- B. Shall review the Constitution and Bylaws on a regular basis and may propose recommendations to the Student Senate for amendments
- C. Associate Justices shall attend meetings of the SGA unless a class conflict occurs
- D. Shall manage all elections of the SGA
 - a. This shall include any election grievances that take place
- E. When questions of the constitution arise, the Judicial Council shall have the power to answer those questions with a Judicial Council Opinions
- F. Shall preside over the impeachment hearings of Non-Judicial Council members

Section 5: Chief Justice Powers and Duties

- A. Shall preside over the Judicial Council
- B. Shall be responsible for overseeing all actions of the Judicial Council including Constitutional Review and Judicial Council Opinions
- C. Shall attend, enforce, and uphold rules and parliamentary procedure during Student Government Meetings
- D. Shall receive a stipend per semester

Section 6: Jurisdiction

- A. The Judicial Council's jurisdiction shall be matters in regard to the SGA and its reach. The Judicial Council shall not act as a body to resolve conflicts involving other Registered Student Organizations or students

Section 7: Judicial Council Opinions

- A. A Judicial Council Opinion is an official document drafted by the Judicial Council that provides interpretation and explanation of the Constitution and sets binding precedent
- B. Judicial Council Opinions shall begin when a question is raised by a member of government in writing to the Judicial Council
- C. The Judicial Council shall decide whether to write a full opinion by majority vote
 - a. Questions of the Constitution may also be answered informally if not deemed to require a full Opinion
 - b. The decision whether to write an opinion must be given within three official school days
- D. The Judicial Council may override past rulings
- E. If any party is aggrieved with a decision of the Judicial Council they may write an appeal to the Dean of Students within five official school days

Section 8: Constitutional Review Hearings

- A. If a student concludes that an action of the SGA is unconstitutional, they may appeal in writing to the Judicial Council through the Office of the Dean of Students no more than ten official school days following the SGA action
 - a. The Judicial Council must conduct a hearing and render a decision on such an appeal within five official school days after the appeal is submitted unless an extension is necessary or reasonable due to the circumstances of the case
 - b. The Chief Justice shall preside over the hearing with all Associate Justices being present and shall ask questions to both parties as they see fit
 - i. The petitioner, the aggrieved party, shall have an opening argument
 - ii. The respondent, the party under review, shall give a rebuttal and argument
 - iii. The hearing shall conclude with the petitioner's rebuttal
 - iv. The amount of time that both parties have to speak shall be of equal length determined by the Chief Justice
 - c. The decision of the Judicial Council shall come in the form of a Judicial Council Opinion with the content of the hearing serving as the question
 - d. If the Judicial Council decides that the action is unconstitutional, the SGA must revoke the action and nullify any actions or legislation taken pursuant to the revoked action unless an appeal is filed with five official school days with the Office of the Dean of Students

- e. If the student is aggrieved by the Judicial Council interpretation, they may appeal to the Office of the Dean of Students within five official school days for a final determination



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Article IV: Elections

Section 1: Election Eligibility

- A. Any student enrolled at Northern Kentucky University who is in good standing as defined by the University and has a 2.5 cumulative GPA shall be eligible to run for election

Section 2: Election Schedules

A. Election of Executives

- a. The President and Vice President shall be elected in the Spring Election
- b. The President and Vice President shall run as a slate
- c. Candidates for President must fulfill the requirements to serve as a Student Regent

B. Election of the Legislature

- a. The Spring Election may have no more than twenty-five Senators elected
 - i. Senators shall run for the College Representative Seat that their major corresponds to
 - ii. If a student is undecided or has an interdisciplinary major/path they may run for an At-Large Seat
- b. Five Senators shall be elected in the Fall Election who are in their first semester enrolled at Northern Kentucky University after graduating high school or receiving a GED

C. Election Timelines

- a. The spring election shall take place on the first Wednesday and Thursday of April, with election applications being made available during the first week of March
- b. The fall election shall take place during the 4th week of the academic year on the Wednesday and Thursday of that week, with election applications being made available during the first week of the school year

Section 3: Election Rules and Guidelines

A. General Election Rules and Guidelines

- a. Acknowledgment of the Election Rules and Guidelines are due five official school days prior to the beginning of the fall and spring elections
- b. Any other relevant documentation that the Judicial Council deems necessary shall be additionally submitted
- c. Use of university listservs and phone rosters is strictly prohibited
- d. No type of campaign material may be libelous in nature
- e. Any dispute involving election rules and guidelines must be submitted in writing to the Dean of Students

- f. All materials and posting of materials must follow established University policies
- B. Fall Elections
 - a. The previous spring election rules and guidelines shall be enforced during the following fall election
- C. Spring Elections
 - a. Spring election rules and guidelines must be drafted and confirmed by the Judicial Council by February 15th. If the rules and guidelines are not drafted and confirmed by this date, the most recently enacted guidelines shall be enforced
 - b. The Judicial Council must provide approved election rules and guidelines and election applications by March 1st

Section 4: Managing Elections

- A. The Judicial Council shall be responsible for:
 - a. Drafting, approving, and distributing election rules and guidelines
 - b. Resolving questions or concerns regarding how elections are to be held
 - c. Enforcing election rules
 - d. Creating election ballots
- B. The Chief Justice or their designee and the Dean of Students or their designee shall certify the election and publish all election results

Section 5: Election Regulation and Grievance Procedures

- A. The Judicial Council shall have original jurisdiction in cases involving alleged infractions of the election rules and guidelines
- B. Any election grievance must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Dean of Students within three official school days following the election
 - a. Within three official school days following the date on which the grievance was filed, the Judicial Council must conduct a hearing on said grievance
- C. The Chief Justice shall preside over the hearing with all Associate Justices being present and shall ask questions to both parties as they see fit
 - a. The petitioner, the aggrieved party, shall have an opening argument
 - b. The respondent, the party under review, shall give a rebuttal and argument
 - c. The hearing shall conclude with the petitioner's rebuttal
 - d. The amount of time that both parties have to speak shall be of equal length determined by the Chief Justice
- D. The decision of the Judicial Council shall come in the form of a Judicial Council Opinion
 - a. A decision on the matter must be decided within three official school days of the hearing

- E. The Judicial Council may declare a candidate disqualified or an election void if there is evidence of violations of standing election rules and guidelines, fraud, corrupt practice in the voting, the miscounting of votes, significant campaign violations, or ineligibility regarding a candidate's qualifications
 - a. If a party is aggrieved by a decision of the Judicial Council, that party may further appeal for final determination of the matter to the Office of the Dean of Students within three official school days of the Judicial Council's decision
- F. If an election is voided, the election will be conducted again the following week
 - a. No candidate would be required to resubmit documentation unless a rule or regulation were to be struck down from the voided election by the Judicial Council
 - b. No new candidates shall be added after an election is voided



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Article V: Impeachment and Removal

Section 1: Call for Impeachment

- A. Articles of impeachment may be brought before the Senate during a regularly scheduled meeting by any Senator
 - a. The articles of impeachment must contain the grounds of impeachment and then will be subject to discussion prior to a final vote
- B. If a supermajority of the Senate confirms the Articles of Impeachment, then it shall constitute an official impeachment

Section 2: Grounds for Impeachment

- A. Dereliction of duty, accruing three or more unexcused absences in a semester, falling below required GPA, failure to regularly complete office hours, or failing to complete the duties of office
- B. Engaging in conduct that brings discredit to the student body or is unbecoming of a member of the Student Government Association or violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

Section 3: Internal Grievance Meeting

- A. An Internal Grievance Meeting may occur when any member of government determines that another member of government is neglecting their duties.
- B. They may then file a complaint with the President who shall call a meeting with the Chief Justice, Speaker of the Senate, and other relevant parties present
- C. The President shall preside over the meeting where the complaints shall be reviewed and discussed
- D. If it is determined that the member of government is neglecting their duty, a sanction shall be delivered to the party to either improve the performance of duty or otherwise correct conduct
- E. After fifteen official school days the sanctioned party shall meet with the President to determine if performance is improved or conduct is corrected
 - a. If no progress is determined, the Senate shall be informed

Section 4: Removal Hearing for Non-Judicial Council Members

- A. Following the presentation of Articles for Impeachment of a Non-Judicial Council Member, the Judicial Council will conduct a hearing
- B. The hearing shall take place within five official school days following the filing of the Articles wherein the Chief Justice shall preside over the hearing with all Associate Justices being present and shall ask questions to both parties as they see fit
 - a. The petitioner, the member of government bringing the petition, shall have an opening argument

- b. The respondent, the member of government under review, shall give a rebuttal and argument
- c. The hearing shall conclude with the petitioner's rebuttal
- d. The amount of time that both parties have to speak shall be of equal length determined by the Chief Justice
- C. The decision shall come in the form of a Judicial Council Opinion within three official school days with the hearing serving as the question
- D. If the Judicial Council determines that the respondent is in violation of the grounds of which they are accused, they may call for their removal
- E. If the respondent is aggrieved by the decision of the Judicial Council, they may appeal in writing to the Office of the Dean of Students for final determination within three official school days

Section 5: Removal Hearing of Judicial Council Members

- A. Following the impeachment of a Judicial Council Member, a hearing will be conducted
- B. The SGA Advisors shall conduct a hearing within five official school days following the filing of the Articles for Impeachment
 - a. The petitioner, the member of government bringing the petition, shall have an opening argument
 - b. The respondent, the member of government under review, shall give a rebuttal and argument
 - c. The hearing shall conclude with the petitioner's rebuttal
 - d. The amount of time that both parties have to speak shall be of equal length determined by the SGA Advisors
- C. The decision shall be given within three official school days to the General Body
- D. If it is determined that the respondent is in violation of the grounds of which they are accused, their removal may be called for
- E. If the respondent is aggrieved by the decision, they may appeal in writing to the Office of the Dean of Students for final determination within three official school days

Section 6: Removal Process

- A. Following the determination of the guilt, that member of government will be removed from their office
- B. Depending on the severity of their offenses, penalties may range from barring return for a set amount of time or as great as barring affiliation with the Student Government Association for the remainder of their tenure as a student of NKU
 - a. The penalty shall come from the group that conducted original hearing

Article VI: Advisors and University Administration

Section 1: Role of the Advisors

- A. Advisors to the Student Government, along with the Dean of Students, shall act as the official liaison between the Student Government Association and NKU administration
- B. Advisors shall provide counsel to SGA toward its goals and in meeting its objectives

Section 2: Powers and Duties of the Advisors

- A. Shall serve as a resource to SGA regarding university policies, regulations, and parliamentary procedures
- B. Shall oversee the efforts of the Secretary of Administration regarding financial matters and shall review and approve all SGA expenditures
- C. Shall ensure that university regulations, institutional policies, federal, state laws, and the SGA Constitution and By-Laws are upheld and adhered to by the SGA
- D. Shall review and approve all contracts and external agreements to be entered into by SGA
- E. Shall be their duty to attend SGA meetings unless it interferes with their other University duties
- F. Shall assist the Judicial Council with elections

Section 3: Appointment of Advisors

- A. Advisors shall be appointed by the Chief Student Affairs officer

Section 4: Appealing Actions of the Advisors

- A. Wherein a member of Student Government feels that an act of an Advisor is in violation of their role, power, or duty they may write an appeal to the Chief Student Affairs officer
 - a. Wherein an Advisor is the Chief Student Affairs officer the appeal will be written to their supervisor
- B. Following the written appeal, the Chief Student Affairs officer shall conduct a hearing where both parties will have an equal opportunity to present their case
- C. The Chief Student Affairs officer may take any intermediary action they see fit to resolve the appeal

Article VII: Bylaws

Section 1: Purpose and Scope

- A. The bylaws of the Student Government Association shall serve as the operational and procedural rules that govern its internal functioning
- B. These bylaws shall act as complementary to the provisions outlined in this Constitution and are designed to provide clarity and structure to the day-to-day operations, ensuring that the organization adheres to its mission, values, and obligations

Section 2: Adherence

- A. No provisions within the bylaws may contradict this constitution

Section 3: Amendment to the Bylaws

- A. Any amendments to the Bylaws must follow the legislative process with an exception
 - a. A Senator must motion to start the amendment process, however, the proposed amendment does not need to go to committee but instead the Senator shall send their amendment to the Secretary of Administration and Speaker of the Senate following their motion
- B. Following the passage of an amendment to the bylaws, the document will be updated to reflect the change

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Article VIII: Amendments

Section 1: Proposition

- A. Proposals for Constitutional Amendments will be accepted for consideration and possible ratification from:
 - a. The Student Senate following a majority vote, or
 - b. A student petition signed by three percent of the student body, or
 - c. The Board of Regents

Section 2: Ratification

- A. Ratification of Constitutional Amendments must:
 - a. Be reviewed by the Chief Student Affairs Officer and the President of the University with their recommendations submitted to the Senate,
 - b. Receive a supermajority vote from the Student Senate,
 - c. A majority vote in one of the Special Student Body Elections pertaining only to Constitutional Amendments which shall begin at 8:00 am on the first Wednesday, in which the University is open, of the months of November and March and shall end at 10:00 pm the next day,
 - d. And must be approved by the Board of Regents (KRS 164.350)

Section 3: Documentation

- A. All amendments shall be listed as they are ratified in a separate list following
- B. The first amendment shall be titled "Amendment 1" and all future amendments shall be listed in the order in which they were proposed before ratification
- C. Each amendment, as they are ratified, shall have a subtitle that shall simply be the academic year in which they are ratified

Section 4: Supremacy

- A. All amendments, as they are ratified, shall supersede the sections of the Constitution they reference or conflict with

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Article IX: Limitations

Section 1: Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed in such a manner as to be in conflict with laws (federal and state), University policy, or the bylaws and regulations of the Board of Regents of NKU

- A. Any legislation that conflicts with the laws of the nation or state, University regulations or policies, or within this Constitution or its bylaws, and if such proposed legislation is adopted, it is null and void
- B. The NKU Board of Regents may amend or repeal any portion of the Constitution or action of SGA when, in the judgment of the Board, the interests of the university may require it



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