

# Constitution of the Marist College Student Government Association

Passed unanimously by the members of the Senate and published by the Marist College Student Government Association on April 08, 1993

## Amended

April 02, 2017; April 13, 2016; April 26, 2015; December 04, 2013; April 03, 2013; February 07, 2011; May 07, 2010; April 05, 2009; March 21, 2007; November 29, 2006; November 08, 2006; April 23, 2006; December 07, 2005; August 31, 2005; February 23, 2005; November 04, 1999; March 04, 1998; September 04, 1997; August 02, 1997; March 27, 1996; March 29, 1995

---

*We the Students of Marist College, in order to form a more perfect educational institution, establish academia, ensure campus involvement, provide for ethical leadership of the student body, promote the general welfare, and work toward the betterment of our college and community. To these ends, we do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the Marist College Student Government Association.*

## Article I

### The Student Government Association

- Section 1** The Marist College Student Government Association is the group responsible for advocating on behalf of the student body in decisions which transcend the jurisdiction of the students and have taken on extreme significance, or which involve serious issues with faculty, staff, or administration of the college.
- Section 2** The Student Government Association is responsible for the giving guidance to other student groups, clubs, and organizations. It further maintains the authority to charter campus clubs and organizations.
- Section 3** The Student Government Association is a conduit for information from the administration and faculty to students and student groups. It is also a conduit for information from students and student groups to the administration and faculty.
- Section 4** The Student Government Association shall consist of three branches: the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch.
- Section 5** Members of the Student Government Association will follow all guidelines and procedures regarding the conduct of business as outlined in the *Bylaws of the Marist College Student Government Association*.
- Section 6** The Student Government Association shall hold semi-annual elections for all electable positions as outlined in the *Bylaws of the Student Government Association*.

## Article II

### The Executive Branch

- Section 1** The members of the Executive Branch shall make up the President's Cabinet of the Student Body President. The Cabinet is responsible for advising the Student Body President on issues relevant to the operation of the Student Government Association.

## **Constitution of the Marist College Student Government Association**

### **Section 2 Student Body President**

- A. Shall serve as the chief administrator of the Student Government Association and act in accordance with the best interests of the student body at all times.
- B. Shall chair all meetings of the President's Cabinet, and convey the interests of the Cabinet before the Senate, when necessary.
- C. Shall be responsible for investigating problems and issues affecting students, and for hearing student complaints.
- D. Shall serve as the student representative on the Board of Trustees, and shall attend the Board of Trustees Student Life Committee meetings.
- E. Shall reserve the right to appoint student representatives to all college-wide administrative, faculty, and student committees.
- F. Shall be empowered to form Presidential ad-hoc committees and positions for the purpose of investigating issues concerning the student body.
- G. Shall have the exclusive power to veto legislation passed by the Senate.

### **Section 3 Executive Vice President**

- A. Shall serve as Chief of Staff, responsible for coordinating, organizing, and supervising all Student Government Association President's Cabinet members.
- B. Shall perform any duties delegated by the Student Body President.
- C. Shall attend weekly meetings with the Student Body and the Dean of Student Affairs.
- D. Shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie in the Senate.
- E. Should a permanent vacancy in the office of Student Body President arise, the Executive Vice President shall become the Student Body President until the next Spring Election. The President will then appoint a new Executive Vice President to be confirmed by the Senate.

### **Section 4 Chief Financial Officer**

- A. Shall, in conjunction with the Senate, be responsible for overseeing the fair and equitable allocation of Student Activity fee funds to chartered clubs and the branches of the Student Government Association.
- B. Shall provide regular updates on current balance of the Student Government Association account and cash flow statements.
- C. Shall assist members of the Student Government Association and other recognized clubs in properly attaining funding for events and projects.
- D. Shall serve as the chair of the Student Government Association Financial Board.

### **Section 5 Chief Information Officer**

- A. Shall act as the liaison between the Marist College Department of Information Technology and the Student Government Association.
- B. Shall be responsible for the maintenance of the Student Government Association website and related applications.
- C. Shall oversee that all clubs and organizations adhere fully to the club website rules and regulations of the Student Government Association, providing assistance when necessary.
- D. Shall serve as the chair of the Student Government Association Information Technology Council.

### **Section 6 Chief Communications Officer**

- A. Shall act as liaison for all communication efforts between the Student Government Association and the Marist College community.

## **Constitution of the Marist College Student Government Association**

- B. Shall inform students about current and upcoming Student Government Association meetings, projects, and events through the use of campus media.
- C. Shall be responsible for managing the published content of all outlets including press releases, emails, the Student Government Association website, and social media accounts.
- D. Shall serve as the chair of the Student Government Association Public Affairs Committee.

### **Section 7 Vice President of Club Affairs**

- A. Shall act as a liaison between club officers and the Student Government Association.
- B. Shall update and report the progress and operations of all councils and club activities.
- C. Shall ensure that all clubs and organizations adhere fully to the rules and regulations of the Student Government Association.
- D. Shall oversee and regulate the chartering of new clubs, as well as the removal of club charters.
- E. Shall procure and maintain club records, including but not limited to as attendance, club activities, disciplinary sanctions, etc.
- F. Shall organize all council of clubs conferences, activities fairs, and leadership conferences.
- G. Shall maintain and upgrade the Student Government Association Club Guide.
- H. Shall serve as the chair of the Student Government Association Club Affairs Board.

### **Section 8 Vice President of Student Life**

- A. Shall act as a liaison between the Marist College Department of Student Affairs and the Student Government Association.
- B. Shall provide feedback to administration on policy matters pertaining to student affairs, which includes Housing and Residential Life, Dining Services, Student Activities, Accommodations and Accessibility.
- C. Shall facilitate open discussions and create special projects/events which align with student demands and interests pertaining to student affairs.
- D. Shall serve as the chair of the Student Government Association Student Life Council.

### **Section 9 Vice President of Academic Affairs**

- A. Shall be the student representative on the Marist College Academic Affairs Committee, and serve as the liaison between faculty and the Student Government Association
- B. Shall research and develop solutions to the academic concerns of students from all class levels and majors.
- C. Shall also devote attention to issues which may arise pertaining to course registration, student-faculty relations, academic integrity, and the like.
- D. Shall serve as the chair of the Student Government Association Student Academic Council.

### **Section 10 Vice President of Athletic Affairs**

- A. Shall be the student representative on the Marist College Standing Committee on Athletics and serve as the liaison between the Marist College Department of Athletics and the Student Government Association.
- B. Shall represent the needs of all student athletes, and advocate for their interests both within their respective teams and the greater college community.
- C. Shall work closely with the intramural program and club sports to ensure high levels of student engagement and participation.
- D. Shall serve as the chair of the Student Government Association Athletic Affairs Committee.

## **Constitution of the Marist College Student Government Association**

### **Section 11 Vice President of Safety and Security**

- A. Shall act as a liaison between the Marist College Office of Safety and Security and the Student Government Association.
- B. Shall update and report the progress regarding general safety and security initiatives and other pertinent details at Student Government Association meetings.
- C. Shall be responsible for additional oversight in the areas of Health and Wellness, Buildings and Grounds, and Title IX policy.
- D. Shall serve as the chair of the Student Government Association Safety and Security Committee.

### **Section 12 Director of Elections Commission**

- A. Shall be responsible for overseeing two annual Student Government Association elections (1) during the Fall Semester for freshman class officers, and (2) during the Spring Semester for all elected positions within this organization.
- B. Shall be empowered to determine the rules, regulations, and sanctioning procedures for each campaign cycle, upon consent of the Senate.
- C. Shall act as the chair of the Student Government Association Elections Commission.

### **Section 13 Student Body Historian**

- A. Shall serve as the archivist of the Marist College Student Government Association, gathering and recording the present to preserve records for the future.
- B. Shall undertake creative campaigns to showcase all Student Government Association events and initiatives.
- C. Shall act as the chair of the Council of Historians, which will be comprised of Class Historians from each of the four respective class boards.

### **Section 14 Parliamentarian**

- A. Shall ensure that the proper procedures are adhered to as enumerated in this Constitution and the *Bylaws of the Marist College Student Government Association*.
- B. Shall ensure that all Student Government Association meetings are run according to proper parliamentary procedure according to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, unless otherwise suspended.
- C. Shall not be a candidate for membership or an active member on any Student Government Association standing or ad-hoc committees.

### **Section 15 Executive Assistant**

- A. Shall serve as the chief Student Government Association Office Assistant.
- B. Shall work closely with the Student Body President to ensure the smooth operation of the Student Government Association and a productive office environment.
- C. Shall assist with the Student Body President and Speaker of the Senate in preparing the agenda for all meetings.
- D. Shall be responsible for recording accurate minutes at all meetings, whether open or closed, of the Cabinet and Senate, and shall prepare executive summaries so that they may be approved at the next scheduled meeting of each branch.
- E. Shall keep accurate roll and attendance records at all meetings.

# Constitution of the Marist College Student Government Association

## Article III The Legislative Branch

- Section 1** The Legislative Branch shall also be referred to as the Senate. The Senate is responsible for making decisions that may affect campus issues and Student Government Association operations. All decisions of the Senate will be in the best interests of the student body and will be the representation of student opinion on important issues.
- Section 2** The Senate is the voting body of the Student Government Association, consisting of eleven (11) voting members. Although any Marist College student may propose legislation to the Student Government Association, all bills must be sponsored or co-sponsored by a Senator if they are to be voted upon by the Senate.
- Section 3** All bills and resolutions voted in favor of by a majority of the Senate shall become the official policy of the Student Government Association once signed by the Student Body President, unless otherwise stipulated by the Constitution or Bylaws. The Senate may override a Presidential veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, and decisions of the Senate are subject to review by the Judicial Board.
- Section 4** **Speaker of the Senate**
- Shall be elected by the Senate, by secret ballot vote.
  - Shall chair all meetings of the Senate, and convey the interests of the Senate before the President's Cabinet, when necessary.
  - Shall be responsible for the administration and organization of all Senate committees.
  - Shall meet weekly with the Student Body President and Chief Justice to discuss Student Government Association matters.
  - Should a permanent vacancy in the offices of the Student Body President and Executive Vice President arise, the Speaker of the Senate shall become the Student Body President until the next Spring Election.
  - Should a permanent vacancy occur in the office of the Speaker of the Senate, the election of a new Speaker shall be held at the next regularly-scheduled Senate meeting.
- Section 5** **Senate Speaker Pro Tempore**
- Each time a new Speaker of the Senate is elected, a Senate Speaker Pro Tempore will be elected to serve as the chair of Senate meetings in the temporary absence of the Speaker of the Senate.
  - The Senate Speaker Pro Tempore acquires no additional senatorial privileges or duties as a result of his or her election, unless otherwise delegated by the Speaker and agreed upon by the Speaker Pro Tempore.
- Section 6** **Resident Senators**
- Five (5) legislative seats shall be granted to five (5) full-time undergraduate resident students upon qualified campus-wide election.
  - Shall propose legislation to the Student Government Association Senate at their discretion.
  - Shall vote on any legislation brought forward to the Senate by other Senators, members of the President's Cabinet, or the general student body.
  - Shall represent the concerns and advocate for the needs of all resident students, bringing their grievances to light in the form of resolutions.
  - Shall chair and/or serve as a sitting member of standing or select senatorial committees which address constituency concerns in a certain issue area.

## **Constitution of the Marist College Student Government Association**

### **Section 7 Commuter Senators**

- A. Two (2) legislative seats shall be granted to two (2) full-time undergraduate traditional or non-traditional commuter students upon qualified campus-wide election.
- B. Shall propose legislation to the Student Government Association Senate at their discretion.
- C. Shall vote on any legislation brought forward to the Senate by other Senators, members of the President's Cabinet, or the general student body.
- D. Shall represent the concerns and advocate for the needs of all traditional and non-traditional commuter students, bringing their grievances to light in the form of resolutions.
- E. Shall chair and/or serve as a sitting member of standing or select senatorial committees which address constituency concerns in a certain issue area.

### **Section 8 Class Presidents**

- A. Four (4) legislative seats shall be granted to four (4) Class Presidents, upon qualified election by their respective classes.
- B. Shall propose legislation to the Student Government Association Senate at his/her discretion.
- C. Shall vote on any legislation brought forward to the Senate by other Senators, members of the President's Cabinet, or the general student body.
- D. Shall represent the concerns and advocate for the needs of their class, bringing their grievances to light in the form of resolutions.
- E. Shall chair all meetings of their Class Board, which consists of an elected class Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Historian.
- F. Shall be responsible for planning and hosting at least two (2) unique events for their class each semester. These events shall focus on specific topics affecting members of their class.
- G. Shall host at least one (1) community service event and one (1) diversity-oriented event during the course of an administrative term. These shall count as part of the two event requirement.
- H. The President of the Senior Class shall remain a member of the Senate following transition of the Student Government Association during the spring semester until the commencement ceremony of the college.

## **Article IV The Judicial Branch**

**Section 1** The Judicial Branch shall also be referred to as the Judicial Board. The Judicial Board is responsible for administering all hearings concerning and pertaining to equity and equality of all Student Government Association business and club affairs.

**Section 2** The Judicial Board reserves the power to interpret the *Constitution of the Marist College Student Government Association*, the *Bylaws for the Marist College Student Government Association*, the bylaws for student organizations, and established Marist College rules and regulations.

**Section 3** The Judicial Board has jurisdiction over cases involving student governance, such as removal of certain student officers, determination of Student Government Association and club election validity, and other student governance issues, and reserves the right to review the decisions of the Student Government Association.

**Section 4** The Judicial Board shall have jurisdiction over appeals of any parking violations issued to students by the Marist College Office of Safety and Security.

## **Constitution of the Marist College Student Government Association**

**Section 5** The Judicial Board shall make recommendations to the Student Government Association on college norms and procedures as found in the student handbook.

**Section 6** **Chief Justice**

- A. Shall organize, conduct, and chair all Judicial Board meetings and appeal hearings.
- A. Shall decide which appeals cases will be heard by the Judicial Board based on the nature of the complaint and the evidence presented.
- B. Shall keep all matters confidential and securely archive all documents, reports, and statements that are used in any appeal process. This includes the electronic recordings of all hearings.
- C. Shall vote only in the case of a tie within the Judicial Board.
- D. Should a conflict of interest arise that prevents the Chief Justice from voting, his/her vote shall be cast by the Vice President of Student Affairs or his/her designee.
- E. Shall render and communicate in writing all decisions and official statements to the appropriate parties involved an appeal.
- F. In the absence of a Chief Justice, appeals shall be referred to the Vice President of Student Affairs or his/her designee for final decision.
- G. Shall preside over all impeachment proceedings, except his/her own.
- H. Shall meet weekly with the Student Body President, Speaker of the Senate, and Judicial Board Advisor to update them on Judicial Board matters and to discuss all pending and current Student Government Association policies, procedures, and legislation.
- I. Shall not be required to attend Executive Board, Senate, or Joint meetings unless issues arise that such attendance would be in the best interest of the Judicial Board, or upon invitation by the Student Body President or Speaker of the Senate.
- J. Shall remain in the position while enrolled as a full-time, undergraduate student at Marist College, or until resignation or impeachment and removal by the Senate.
- K. Shall swear in the Student Body President and all other members of the Student Government Association at the annual Transition Ceremony.

**Section 7** **Associate Justices**

- A. Four (4) Associate Justice Seats shall be granted to four (4) full-time undergraduate students.
- B. Shall attend all meetings of the Judicial Board and keep matters confidential.
- C. Shall cast one (1) vote in rendering Judicial Board decisions.
- D. Shall abstain from voting in the event of a conflict of interest.
- E. A designated Associate Justice shall take the official minutes of the Judicial Branch, chosen by majority vote within the Judicial Board.
- F. Shall not be eligible for membership on any Student Government Association committee.

### **Article V**

#### **Administrative and Faculty Advisors**

**Section 1** The Marist College Student Government Association shall have three (3) Advisors who are either members of the college administration or full-time faculty. Two (2) Advisors shall be assigned to the President's Cabinet and Senate, collectively, and one (1) shall be assigned to the Judicial Board.

**Section 2** All Student Government Association Advisors shall be chosen by Marist College Administration and serve in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *Faculty Handbook*.

## **Constitution of the Marist College Student Government Association**

- Section 3** The President's Cabinet and Senate Advisors shall meet weekly with the Student Body President, Executive Vice President, and Speaker of the Senate to discuss the status of projects and conflicts either within or between the branches. At this time, the agenda(s) for the next week's meeting(s) may also be created.
- Section 4** President's Cabinet and Senate Advisors may also be present at Student Government Association meetings to offer advice and counsel to members, but shall not have final say over meeting structure, order of business, or decisions reached.
- Section 5** The Judicial Board advisor shall only handle matters pertaining to the Judicial Branch. This advisor shall remain informed about the affairs of the other two branches, and offer a neutral perspective on Judicial Board proceedings when consulted.

### **Article VI Ratification and Amendment**

- Section 1** The *Constitution of the Marist College Student Government Association* shall become operative upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate.
- Section 2** Amendments to this Constitution shall be enacted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate, or by a majority of students voting in a referendum.
- Section 3** This Constitution is the highest law for the Marist College Student Government Association and all other student organizations.
- Section 4** All clubs and organizations presently chartered by the Student Government Association, and all clubs and organizations to be chartered in the future, are mandated to revise and update their Bylaws, contingent to any pertinent changes made in this document.