

**The Constitution
of the
Student Government Association
of
Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Enacted April 30, 1974 - Amended through April 28, 1986
Amended - February 6, 2007
Amended- January 26, 2016
Amended- January 12, 2017

In the belief that we, the students, have the right, as well as the responsibility, to play a significant role in guiding our University, and in our mutual belief that a democratic student government is the best means by which this role may be played, we, the students of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, do hereby create this Student Government Association.

Deriving its authority from the regularly enrolled Student Body, and its existence being recognized by the faculty and Administration of this University, this Student Government Association will implement programs for the improvement and enrichment of the University community, as well as express the opinions of the students on any and all matters that are of concern to the general welfare of the population.

This Student Government Association openly acknowledges that responsibilities are necessary compliments to rights and authority. It is in this spirit that each student, and student organization, will be bound to respect the rights of other members of the University community, to use the proper channels in exercising his rights as a student, and must seek to preserve, protect, and defend the academic and civic integrity of this institution.

Article I. Supremacy Clause

This Constitution and the Laws of the Southern University Student Government Association which shall be made in pursuance thereof shall be the Supreme authority in operating this Student Government Association, and all elected and appointed officers, and regularly enrolled undergraduate students of this University shall be bound hereby to abide by every edict herein, and anything contrary to this constitution does not stand.

Article II. Organization, Purpose, and Responsibilities of the Student Government Association of Southern University A&M College

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Section 2. The Student Government Association shall be organized into three branches:

- a. Executive
- b. Legislative
- c. Judicial

Section 3. There shall be a Class President and Vice-President for each undergraduate class: freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior. Each respective president shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee and shall be elected by the majority vote of their respective class.

Section 4. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the general welfare of the Student Body and the University as a whole, and to provide both general and specific policies for the perfection of the overall function of the system.

Section 5. The duty of the Student Government Association is to provide a central entity through which students may voice their opinion on any and all matters that are of concern to them and to administer programs geared toward University perfection.

Article III. Membership of the Southern University Student Government Association

Section 1. All full-time (twelve course hours and above) enrolled undergraduate students of the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes of the University shall be members of the Student Government Association, and therefore, eligible to vote in all Student Government Association elections.

Section 2. Each regularly enrolled student pursuing work for college credit, at the time of their registration, shall pay the following non-refundable student assessed fees: 20 for 20, Athletic, Cheerleaders, Gold'N' Bluez Dance Team, Human Jukebox, Intramural Complex, Intramural Sports, Jaguar Ambassadors, Lyceum, Men's Federation, Association for Women Students, Royal Court, Special Events, Student Government Association, Student Life, Student Media, Student Organization Support, Student Programs, Gospel Choir and Jaguar Lanes.

Section 3. The respective amounts of these fees shall be voted on by the Student Body and approved by the Southern University Board of Supervisors.

Article IV. Executive Branch

The Executive Branch consist of: SGA President, Class Presidents, Class Vice Presidents, and Executive Cabinet.

Section I. The duties of the SGA President shall be to:

- a) The Executive power of the Student Government Association of Southern University A&M College shall be vested in a President of the Student Government Association.
- b) The Student Government Association President shall serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Student Government.
- c) The Student Government Association President shall have the authority to call special meetings of the General Student Body.
- d) The Student Government Association President shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees appointed by him/her.
- e) The Student Government Association President shall execute all enacted legislation of the Student Senate and shall report the status of all enacted legislation to the Senate.
- f) The Student Government Association President shall serve on and/or nominate and/or appoint representatives of the Student Body to University committees affecting the activities and the lives of the students, with such service and/or nominations and/or appointments made upon the request of the proper University officials with the approval of the Senate.
- g) The Student Government Association President shall veto or sign all legislation passed by the Student Senate, provided that such action is taken within five (5) business days after passage of the legislation in question (not counting recognized University holidays).
- h) The President shall assume office upon formal administration of the Oath of Office by the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, thus terminating the previous Executive Term of Office.
- i) The Student Government Association President shall have the obligation to:
 1. Support and uphold this Constitution.
 2. Execute the legislation of the Senate.
 3. Uphold the decisions of the Judicial Branch.
- j.) Appoint all other Executive Departments, committees, councils, commissions, boards, agencies, and other offices of the Student Government Association as time and circumstances demand. These appointments shall be valid until the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting. It is at this time that the appointee will be brought up for confirmation before the Senate. If the nominee is not confirmed by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate, then that position shall remain vacant until such time that it is properly filled.

k.) Make all other appointments that are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by an Act of the Senate, provided that the President may be vested by the Senate to make certain appointments alone.

l.) Attend senate meetings upon the request of the senate.

m.) Deliver and publish a State of the Student Government Association Address each semester that he/she is in office.

n.) Present a report of past summer expenditures at the first fall meeting of the Senate.

o.) Approve all expenditures of the Student Government Association.

p.) Regularly attend all meetings of the Council of Student Body Presidents, being absent from no more than two meetings.

q.) The Student Government Association President shall also have the power to appoint:

1. Chief of Staff
2. Deputy Chief of Staff
3. Finance Director
4. Activities Coordinator (2)
5. Director of Public Relations
6. Business Manager (2)
7. Elections Commissioner
8. Deputy Elections Commissioner

The above officers will serve on the Executive Cabinet and must be appointed by the SGA President, and approved by the Senate, by the last official day of class for the Spring semester in which the President is elected, if he/she so chooses to fill such positions. The Student Senate may allow the Student Government Association President to fill such positions in the Fall Semester by a majority vote.

r.) The Student Government Association President shall have the power to recommend that the Student Senate create or abolish any appointed position.

s.) The Student Government Association President shall have the power to bring before the Judicial Branch, charges against any chartered organization for any violation of the provisions governing such organization.

t.) The President shall further have the power to call the Senate into special session, investigate specified matters as current situations demand, and act in other such areas not provided herein that the Senate may establish.

u.) The Student Government Association President shall convene an Executive Committee, which together with the President and Vice-President shall consist of: the class Presidents, the Presidents of Men's Federation and Association for Women Students. The Executive Committee shall act to advise and assist the President in all matters that may be necessary and appropriate in the fulfillment of the President's duties and of this Constitution, and shall act in any such matter that the President may so delegate.

- v.) The Student Government Association President shall preside over general body meetings to be held once a month including all branches of government, and appointed and elected officials and volunteers.
- w.) The Student Government Association President shall also have the authority to requisition any document that was created for or in, or that falls under the authority of the Student Government Association. This shall be done through an Executive Order which must be approved by a majority vote of the Student Senate.
- x.) The Student Government Association President shall receive a scholarship equal to the sum of the tuition for the Fall and Spring semesters of a full time, in-state student.

Section 2. The duties of the SGA Vice President shall be to:

- a.) Assist the Student Government Association President in such Executive matters as the Student Government Association President sees fit.
- b.) execute the duties and powers of the President in his/her absence.
- c.) Serve as President of the Senate.
- d.) Be present at all meetings of the Student Senate
- e.) To serve as an ex-officio member of all committees of the Student Senate.
- f.) Attend, the Council of Student Body Presidents meetings in the absence of the Student Government Association President.
- g.) Serve as the Student Representative to the various boards, councils, and the committees of the University, both standing and special, established by any element of the University Administration to perform functions of governance over the affairs of Southern University.
- h.) Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to Louisiana State University and Baton Rouge Community College.
- i.) Fulfill any duty imposed upon him/her by majority vote of the Student Senate.
- j.) The Vice-President of the Student Government Association and Administrative Cabinet shall assist the President in his/her duties. He/she shall appoint members to this Cabinet in accordance with this Constitution and the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.
- k.) The Vice-President shall assume office upon formal administration of the Oath of Office by the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, thus terminating the previous Executive Term of Office.
- l.) The Student Government Association President shall receive a scholarship equal to the sum of the tuition for the Fall and Spring semesters of a full time, in-state student.

Section 3. The Duties of the SGA Class Presidents shall be

- a.) Must do at minimum of 4 programs a semester.
- b.) Act as official spokesperson for respective class
- c.) Promote the general welfare of the class
- d.) Attend all student body meetings as the official representative of the class

- e.) Call special meetings of the class as needed
- f.) Supervise and coordinate all action of the class cabinet
- g.) Endorse all official class documents
- h.) Submit a plan of action to the SGA President by August 1st of the ensuing school year via email or hard copy
- i.) Must serve on the SGA President executive committee
- j.) Class presidents must hold class meetings at a minimum of 1 per semester class meeting with their respective class.

Section 4. The Duties of the AWS President shall:

- a.) be the Chief Executive Officer of The AWS
- b.) call and preside over all meetings of AWS and the Executive Cabinet
- c.) appoint an executive cabinet within 30 days of being elected
- d.) appoint all members and chairpersons of the committees
- e.) call special meetings of the AWS and the executive cabinet when necessary
- f.) attend all meetings of AWS
- g.) deliver and publish a “State of the AWS” message each semester
- h.) required to present the AWS budget to the SGA Senate within 15 days of the beginning of the Fall Semester.
- i.) present a financial report to the Women’s Council on a monthly basis.
- j.) to serve as the Chief Administrator of the women students
- k.) serve on the Executive committee of the SGA and as an ex-officio member of the Student Senate and Women’s Council.
- l.) spend at least five (5) hours per week in the AWS office helping female students with any questions and/or concerns they may have about AWS and Preparing for any upcoming events.
- m.) to uphold all rules and regulations outlined in the AWS constitution.

Section 5. Duties of the AWS Vice President shall be:

- a.) execute the duties and powers of the AWS President in her absence
- b.) to assist in the appointment of members to the Executive Cabinet
- c.) to serve as chair of the Women’s Council
- d.) preside over all meetings of the Women’s Council, and cast a vote only in case of a tie
- e.) to perform any other such duties as the AWS President may assign
- f.) spend at least five (5) hours per week in the AWS office helping female students with any questions and/or concerns they may have about AWS and Preparing for any upcoming events.
- g.) to uphold all rules and regulations outlined in the AWS constitution.

Section 6. The Duties of the Men’s Federation President shall be:

- a.) be the Chief Executive Officer of The Men’s Federation
- b.) call and preside over all meetings of Men’s Fed and the Executive Cabinet
- c.) appoint an executive cabinet within 30 days of being elected
- d.) appoint all members and chairpersons of the committees

- e.) call special meetings of the Men's Fed and the executive cabinet when necessary
- f.) attend all meetings of Men's Fed
- g.) deliver and publish a "State of the Men's Fed" message each semester
- h.) required to present the Men's Fed budget to the SGA Senate within 15 days of the beginning of the Fall Semester.
- i.) present a financial report to the Men's Council on a monthly basis.
- j.) to serve as the Chief Administrator of the male students
- k.) serve on the Executive committee of the SGA and as an ex-officio member of the Student Senate and Men's Council.
- l.) spend at least five (5) hours per week in the Men's Fed office helping female students with any questions and/or concerns they may have about Men's Fed and Preparing for any upcoming events.
- m.) to uphold all rules and regulations outlined in the Men's Federation constitution.

Section 7. The Duties of the Men's Federation Vice President shall be:

- a.) execute the duties and powers of the Men's Federation President in her absence
- b.) to assist in the appointment of members to the Executive Cabinet
- c.) to serve as chair of the Men's Fed Council
- d.) preside over all meetings of the Men's Council, and cast a vote only in case of a tie
- e.) to perform any other such duties as the Men's Fed President may assign
- f.) spend at least five (5) hours per week in the Men's Fed office helping male students with any questions and/or concerns they may have about Men's Fed and Preparing for any upcoming events.
- g.) to uphold all rules and regulations outlined in the Men's Federation constitution.

Section 8. The Duties of Miss Southern University and A&M College

- a.) Miss Southern University must come up with her own community initiative that raises money for a non-profit organization.
- b.) Miss Southern University must commit to 2 off campus community service events per semester
- c.) Miss Southern University must be active in the Greater Baton Rouge community. Participating in events like charity events, Baton Rouge area school functions and recruitments, etc.
- d.) Miss Southern University and her queens are a face of the university and asset. You must display class, dignity, and the best decency at all time. The Miss Southern University rules and guidelines indicate all that must be upheld.

Article V. Legislative Branch

Section 1. All legislative powers herein shall be vested in a Student Senate of the Student Government Association of Southern University and the duties of this Student Government Association shall be administered by the Student Senate.

Section 2. The Senate shall consist of twelve (12) Senators, with each undergraduate class electing three (3) to serve as representatives. One International Senator shall serve in the Senate and shall be appointed by the Office of International Education with the approval of the Senate by the end of the Spring Semester. In the event that no representative is appointed by the office of International Education, the Student Senate shall be considered complete with a membership of twelve (12).

Section 3. The undergraduate Senators shall be chosen for a one year term by a plurality vote in the General Election to be held in the Spring semester.

Section 4. The Freshman Class Senators shall be elected in the Freshman Election during the Fall semester.

Section 5. Each Senator is entitled to only one (1) vote.

Section 6. The Senate shall have the power to create or abolish any position appointed by the Student Government Association President by majority vote.

Section 7. The President of the Senate shall preside over all Senate meetings. The President of the Senate shall have, but is not limited to, the following powers and responsibilities:

- a. To cast a vote only in case of a tie.
- b. To appoint and/or remove the membership and chairman of all Student Senate Committees.
- c. To present all Legislation passed by the Student Senate to the Student Government Association President within forty-eight (48) hours of passage.
- d. To appoint a chairman from within the Senate to assemble and convene any committee that is created by him/herself or was deemed necessary and proper by majority vote.
- e. To appoint legislative assistant(s) with the approval of the Senate

Section 8. The Senate, by majority vote, shall also have the authority to choose a President Pro-Tempore of the Senate by secret ballot, and both the President and President Pro-Tempore of the Senate shall exercise all the duties and privileges of their respective positions.

Section 9. The Senate shall also have the authority to choose, by majority vote and secret ballot, a Secretary of the Senate, who will transcribe all actions taken by the Senate, and a reasonable number of Sergeants at Arms to maintain order.

Section 10. The Student Senate, and the committees established therein, shall also have the authority to requisition any document that was created for or in, or that falls under the authority of the Student Government Association, the Senate shall have the authority to compel any member of the Student Government Association to appear before it in any case or controversy arising under this Constitution, Elections Codes, or Bylaws.

Section 11. The Senate shall have the authority to set the salaries of all officers of the Student Government Association prior to Spring Elections by majority vote. The following officers whose salaries shall be set prior to Spring Elections are, but is not limited to:

- a.) Student Government Association President
- b.) Student Government Association Vice-President
- c.) Student Government Association Chief Justice

No elected or appointed official shall receive more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per month in salary. Executive staff and cabinet members may receive a monthly stipend at the discretion of the Student Government Association President with the approval of a majority vote of the Senate.

Section 12. The Senate shall have the authority to recommend the hiring or removal of the Student Government Association Faculty/Staff advisor(s) through the form of a Senate Resolution passed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senators present.

Section 13. The Senate shall have the authority to allocate funds to any duly constituted campus organization requesting funds from the Student Government Association for any purpose. The organization must submit its request thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date needed for approval of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senators present. The Student Senate's funds that are reserved for allocation to registered student organizations shall not be budgeted at less than six-thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,000.00). The Student Senate shall also have the authority to allocate money out of this fund for any other purpose by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senators present. Organizations that receive a student assessed fee are not eligible to receive funding.

Section 14. The Senate, by three fourths (3/4) majority of the Senators present, may censure any elected official from the benefits of office for major offense in behavior not positively reflecting on the University, or the abandonment or negligence of duty, and/or procedure, as stated in this Constitution or Bylaws, or for infractions of the Student Code of Conduct after just reason and a sufficient defense from the accused has been provided to the Senate. An elected official can be censured for no less than two (2) days and no more than fourteen (14) business days. An elected official may only be censured once. After this, he shall immediately be impeached.

Section 15. Parliamentary procedure for the Student Senate shall be the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order; however, Roberts Rules of Order are subordinate to and do not supersede this Constitution, the Bylaws of the Student Government Association, and the Student Senate Rules of Order.

Section 16. The Senate, by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Senators present, may suspend the Senate's Rules of Order.

Section 17. By two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senators present and voting at any duly constituted Senate meeting, the Senate may:

- a.) Approve Judicial Branch nominations
- b.) Approve nominations to the Student Senate
- c.) Impeach any officer of the Student Government Association
- d.) Amend the Senate Rules of Order

- e.) Amend the Bylaws. (The Bylaws of this organization shall only affect the policies of this organization)
- f.) Amend the Election Code

Section 18. By a simple majority vote of the Senators present and voting at any duly constituted Student Senate meeting, the Senate may:

- a.) Recommend action and express opinion on behalf of the Student Body in all areas of student life.
- b.) Revise and/or approve, or reject the Student Government Association Budget.
- c.) Approve any appointments other than those to the Judicial Branch made by the Student Government Association President.

Section 19. A majority of the Senate shall constitute a quorum to do business, if no less than one (1) Senator from each undergraduate class be present. If there are vacancies in various seats during the organizational session(s) immediately following spring elections, a simple majority of the newly elected Senators will constitute a quorum.

Section 20. All Acts of the Senate shall be passed by majority vote of the Senators in attendance.

Section 21. The President of the Senate and/or a simple majority vote of the Senators shall determine the dates, places, and times of meetings to be held, but shall meet no less than twice per month.

Section 22. In order for the Senate to conduct business in a meeting aside from its regularly scheduled time (set by majority vote of the Senate or by the President of the Senate), at least twenty-four hours notice of the date, time, and place that the meeting will be held, must be given to the President of the Student Government Association, every member of the Senate, as well as to the advisor(s) of the Student Government Association.

Section 23. Each member of the Senate shall assume office upon formal seating into the full Senate and the administration of the Oath of Office by the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, thus terminating the previous Legislative Term of Office.

Section 24. If a vacancy occurs on the Student Senate, the Senate President will have the right to nominate a sufficient replacement (one who has fulfilled all requirements for holding office) within one (1) calendar week of the vacancy. The replacement must be confirmed by simple majority vote of the Senate in order to serve and will serve until the next regularly scheduled campus wide spring election.

Section 25. The Student Senate and the Committees established therein shall have the full power to:

- a.) Secure the protection of student's rights, interests, and free expression.
- b.) Promote the preservation of academic freedom and responsibility.
- c.) Establish finance and administer an Organizational fund.
- d.) Regulate and finance student activities and organizations.
- e.) Charter independent enterprises as deemed appropriate under University policy.

- f.) Enter into agreements with other University organizations that promote the fulfillment of the provisions of this Constitution.
- g.) Establish all councils, commissions, boards, and agencies of the Student Government Association as time and circumstances demand. If the Student Government Association President does not veto the establishment of a council, commission, board, and/or agency within five (5) days, then the council, commission, board, and/or agency shall be established.
- h.) Provide for the establishment of the Executive Departments and elements thereof.
- i.) Investigate and act in any matter which affects the general welfare of the Student Body of Southern University A&M College or elements thereof.
- j.) Bring before the Judicial Branch, charges against any chartered organization for any violation of the provisions governing such organization.
- k.) Act upon any other area and/or to make any Act, and/or take any other action, legislative or otherwise, which shall be necessary and proper for executing the foregoing powers, as well as all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Student Government Association of Southern University A&M College.

Section 26. Every Act, which shall have been adopted by the Senate, shall be presented to the Student Government Association President, within forty-eight (48) hours of its passage, bearing the signatures of the President of the Senate, the author of the legislation, and the chairman of the committee from whence the legislation came, and shall thus enter into full force and effect upon the added signature of the President of the Student Government Association. (If the President chooses not to sign the Bill, he/she must submit a memorandum to the President of the Senate and the members of the Senate within ten (10) days of his/her decision, clearly and explicitly giving reasoning for such action. However, a two-thirds vote of the Senate shall allow the Bill to enter into force without the President's signature after the Bill has been vetoed.)

Section 27. Any exercise of these stated powers or any action of the Student Senate may be reviewed, altered, or repealed by a majority vote of the voting Student Body voting in a General Election.

Article VI. Judicial Branch

The Judicial authority of the Student Government Association of Southern University shall be vested in the Judicial Branch, composed of eight (8) Justices, two (2) representing each undergraduate class, one (1) Clerk of Court, and one (1) Chief Justice. Judicial Officers and their duties are as follows:

Section 1. Chief Justice

- a.) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for the setting of meeting times and locations of the Judiciary Branch.
- b.) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for the creation of an agenda at meetings.
- c.) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for notifying all parties involved with regards to meetings and hearings.

- d.) The Chief Justice shall select a Clerk of Court to assist the Judicial Branch in its operational duties.
- e.) The Chief Justice shall have the authority to convene the Judicial Branch and order an interpretation of any document, legal instrument or law within Student Government.
- f.) The Chief Justice shall have the authority to dismiss a complaint or interpretation request if the Judicial Branch has no jurisdiction over the subject matter or if the complaint or interpretation request was not filed properly.
- g.) The Chief Justice shall have the authority to recall the Judicial Branch to review a previous case if new information is presented after a hearing that may have affected the decision, only upon approval from the Dean of Students.
- h.) The Chief Justice shall have the authority to assign duties to other members of the Judicial Branch that are necessary to meet its objectives.
- i.) The Chief Justice shall write the Court's Opinion after each hearing.
- j.) The Chief Justice shall have the authority to enforce any judicial ruling upon the Student Government Association and its members.
- k.) The Chief Justice shall have the authority to order another member of the Judicial Branch to take the minutes if the Clerk of Court is not present.
- l.) The Chief Justice shall uphold and enforce any precedent set by the Judicial Branch previously. If a hearing is requested to overturn precedent set by the Judicial Branch, the Chief Justice shall have the authority to dismiss such a request.

Section 2. Justice

- a.) A Justice shall vote on all matters placed before the Judicial Branch.
- b.) A Justice shall have the right to express the way he or she voted during a hearing by writing a Dissenting opinion or Majority Opinion. Such opinions will not be made on behalf of the Judicial Branch but may be made to show the thoughts of the Justices on a particular matter.
- c.) A Justice must fulfill all requirements for holding office in accordance to the Student Government Association Constitution.

Section 3. Clerk of Court

- a. The Clerk of Court shall take the minutes for all judicial meetings and hearings, and maintain records of the Judicial Branch.
- b. The Clerk of Court may be given additional duties not provided for in these rules and procedures by the Chief Justice.
- c. The Clerk of Court is a non-voting member of the Judicial Branch.
- d. The Clerk of Court's term shall expire if he or she resigns or is removed from office by the Chief Justice.

Section 4. The Chief Justice of the Judicial Branch shall preside over all sessions of the Judicial Branch and shall be a duly elected member of the Judiciary from one (1) of the four (4) undergraduate classes. He shall be elected by a majority vote of the Student Body during the General Spring Elections.

Section 5. The Justices shall be chosen for a term of one year by majority vote in the General Election held in the Spring and the Freshmen Justices shall be elected in the Fall semester.

Section 6. If a vacancy occurs in the Judicial Branch, the Chief Justice will have the right to nominate a sufficient replacement (one who has fulfilled all requirements for holding office) within one (1) calendar week. The replacement must be confirmed by simple majority vote of the Senate in order to serve.

Section 7. The Judicial Branch shall have the authority and responsibility to:

- a.) Recommend to the Student Senate such changes to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Election Code as it deems necessary.
- b.) Hear all cases and petitions requested by the Student Government Association President, Vice-President, Student Senate, and/or the University.
- c.) Serve as the arbitrator and mediator to resolve disputes between the several branches of government, and to issue binding judgments in such situations.
- d.) Have the authority to interpret and to give meaning to any Constitutional provision, Bylaw, Election Code, or legislative instrument.
- e.) Hear and render appellate judgments upon all cases and controversies arising under the Student Government Election Code and all elections held by the Elections Commission.
- f.) Issue injunctions and to compel any member of the Student Government Association to appear before it in any case or controversy arising under this Constitution, Election Code, or Bylaws.
- g.) Requisition any Student Government Association document by submitting a Judicial Resolution approved by majority vote of the Court.
- h.) Render, within in one calendar week, upon request of the Student Government Association President, Vice-President, or majority vote of the Student Senate or a committee established therein, a written interpretation of any portion of the Constitution or Bylaws.
- i.) Hear and adjudge decisions in all cases of removal in the event that the Impeachment process was initiated by the Student Senate.
- j.) Elect at the first meeting from the ranks of the Judiciary, a clerk who will be responsible for keeping a file in the Student Government Office. The clerk shall be notified by the Chief Justice and responsible for gathering and presenting to the Student Government Association Judiciary all pertinent information in all cases heard by the Judiciary.
- k.) Have appellate jurisdiction in cases involving infractions of election laws by a candidate once such infraction has been heard and ruled on by the Election Committee.

- l.) Rule on misallocation of funds within any campus organization recognized by the Office of Student Affairs and to recommend action on such a misallocation to the appropriate body only after an investigation has taken place by the Student Senate or a committee established therein or thereby.
- m.) Recommend constructive change in the area of Judicial Reform in the Student Government Association of Southern University.

Section 8. All nine (9) members of the Judiciary (two duly elected (or appointed) and sworn representatives from each class and the Chief Justice) must be present at any Judicial hearing and/or deliberation of the Judiciary. On every issue and in order for any action to be taken by the Judiciary, the majority vote of the three-fourths (3/4) of the nine (9) members of the Judiciary, voting in favor of such an action, must be secured. All hearings of the Judiciary shall be open to the public.

Section 9. Any ruling, injunction, or any other type of action of the Student Government Association Judiciary may be appealed to the University Judiciary. However, the following are exempted from appeal:

- a.) The charging of reasons for impeachment by the Student Government Association Judiciary
- b.) The removal of an officer by the Student Government Association Judiciary
- c.) The interpretations of the provisions of the Election Code

Once a ruling of the Student Government Association Judiciary has been issued, any party in the dispute may appeal the ruling in writing to the University Judiciary within one (1) week of the Student Government Judiciary's ruling. Within one (1) week after requesting an appeal, written briefs, for or against an action of the Student Government Association Judiciary, are due to the University Judiciary. A brief must be submitted by the party requesting an appeal, and the other involved party, any other any student, student organization, or any other entity of the Student Government shall also have the right to submit a brief in order to aid the University Judiciary in its deliberations.

Section 10. In the event that the Office of the Chief Justice becomes vacant during a term, the Student Government Association President shall have the authority to appoint a replacement who has met all the qualifications for serving in office. Such a replacement is subject to confirmation by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate.

Section 11. Each member of the Judiciary shall assume office upon formal seating into the Judiciary and the administration of the Oath of Office by the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs or the Chief Justice of the Court, thus terminating the previous Judicial Term of Office.

Article VII. Finance

Section 1. The Southern University and A&M College Student Government Association shall operate on a fiscal year beginning at 12:01 AM on the first day of July of one calendar year, and ending at midnight on the last day of June on the following calendar year.

Section 2. The Student Government Association President-Elect for the upcoming school year, immediately after being certified as the winner, shall be allowed to access the Executive Office and any files and/or Student Government Association document therein for the purposes of developing the Student Government Association Budgets for the upcoming fiscal year.

Section 3. The process for submitting, revising, and/or approving, or rejecting the Student Government Association Budget shall be as follows:

a. Summer Budget:

i. The President-Elect, after being certified as the winner of the General Election, must submit a proposed budget for the upcoming Summer Term to the newly elected and appointed members of the Summer Budget Committee, for their revision and/or approval, or rejection. The membership of this committee shall be as follows:

- 1) The incoming Student Government Association President
- 2) The incoming Student Government Association Vice-President
- 3) The incoming Student Government Association Faculty/Staff Advisor

Once revised, and/or approved by the Summer Budget Committee, the President must submit the Budget to the newly elected members of the Senate for revision and/or approval, or rejection, at least forty-eight (48) hours before the Senate's last meeting at the end of the Spring semester.

ii. After Senate revision, and/or approval, the version of the budget that is passed by the Senate, and signed by the President, shall be in effect. If the budget is rejected by the Senate, or if the Budget is subsequently vetoed by the President, then the Budget for the previous year's Summer Term will be temporarily used until the first meeting of the Senate in the Fall semester.

b. Fall and Spring Budget:

i. The President must submit a proposed budget for the upcoming Fall and Spring Terms to the elected and appointed members of the Fall and Spring Budget Committee, for their revision and/or approval, or rejection. The membership of this committee shall be as follows:

- 1) Student Government Association President
- 2) Student Government Association Vice-President
- 3) Student Government Association Finance Director
- 4) Student Government Association President Pro-Tempore of the Senate
- 5) Student Government Association Faculty/Staff Advisor

Once revised, and/or approved by the Fall and Spring Budget Committee, the President must submit the Budget to the newly elected members of the Senate for

- revision and/or approval, or rejection, at least forty-eight (48) hours before the Senate's first meeting in the Fall semester.
- ii. After Senate revision, and/or approval, the version of the budget that is passed by the Senate, and signed by the President, shall be in effect. If the budget is rejected by the Senate, or if the Budget is subsequently vetoed by the President, then the Budget for the previous fiscal year (Spring and Fall terms) will be temporarily used. It is at this time that the President can consider changing his/her budget and submit another budget under this process, still requiring that the full membership of the Senate receive a copy of the Budget forty-eight (48) hours before their second Fall regularly scheduled session.
 - iii. If neither Budget is approved by the Senate or are subsequently vetoed by the President at the first or second meeting of the Senate in the Fall semester, the temporary Budget for the Fall and Spring terms from the previous fiscal year shall become permanent for the current fiscal year. If there are excess funds remaining by using the previous fiscal year's budget, the balance of the funds shall immediately revert to the line item that is under the authority of the Student Senate for allocation to registered campus organizations.
 - c. At all times, the Senate reserves the right to induce and, or lift a moratorium on any expenditures of any entity or organization under the authority of the Student Government Association, including the Student Government Association itself, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate membership.
 - d. Should the Student Government Association budget allocations be exceeded, unbalanced, or begin to run a deficit in part or in whole, or if, at any time, modifications need to be made to the Budget, the Senate shall then immediately meet to amend the budget, remove the deficit, or make any other such changes that are deemed necessary.
 - e. The Student Government Association Budget shall be considered in the same manner as any other item of legislation.

Section 4. The Presidents of each undergraduate class, Association for Women Students, Men's Federation, and Miss Southern shall be required to submit their respective budgets to the Senate for review at the same time as the Student Government Association President. In addition to the Student Government Association budget, the President of the Student Government Association must submit the concert budget. The Concert Budget shall be subject to the manner of Senatorial review as expressed when conducting the Student Government Association Budget.

Article VIII. Elections and Qualifications

Section 1. All elected and appointed officials or nominees to an appointed or vacant office must have a minimum of two point seven-five (2.75) accumulative grade point average. No person can qualify with a grade point average that has been rounded to meet the qualification and all appointed nominees must be confirmed by the majority vote of the Student Senate after completing all other requirements and before receiving the Oath of Office.

Section 2. The official record of the Southern University and A&M College Office of the Registrar shall be the final authority in all questions of scholastic eligibility.

Section 3. All candidates for office must submit an application to the Election Committee certifying the candidates qualifying and agreeing to abide by and fulfill all duties and regulations set forth in this Constitution.

Section 4. All candidates for elected office and potential cabinet members must pay a ten dollar (\$10.00) qualifying, non-refundable fee.

Section 5. All candidates for elected office and nominees to an appointed or vacant office must take a written examination on the Student Government Association Constitution, Bylaws, and Election Code. The exam shall consist of exactly forty (40) multiple choice questions, two-thirds (twenty-seven (27) questions) of which must pertain to the Student Government Association Constitution. A potential candidate must score a minimum of eighty percent (80%) - thirty-two (32) of forty (40) questions answered correctly) on the test; this test will be administered by the Elections Committee. Once the test has been drafted and approved by the Elections Committee, and after the test has been administered and graded, for no reason shall any question(s) be added, deleted, removed, or thrown out.

Section 6. All qualified candidates must attend a Mandatory Training Workshop unless extenuating circumstances prevent them from attending. In this case, proper notification and arrangements must be made at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance to the Election Committee and Advisor(s). Any person who is absent from the Mandatory Training Workshop without a valid excuse, submitted to the Election Committee and advisors, will be dismissed from the election.

Section 7. The winner of a given election (Spring, Fall, or Special Election if needed) will be determined by a majority vote on Election Day. In the event of a tie, a runoff election will take place on the next university business day.

Section 8. All elected and appoint SGA officials must complete a full term (Fall and Spring semester of the ensuing year) unless impeached or do not meet the qualifications to hold office.

Section 9. The Election Commission

The Election Committee shall have the power to control all Student Government Elections and a list of eligible candidates for positions shall be posted at least ten (10) days before an election. It shall be the responsibility of the Election Committee to see that this list is posted.

- a.) The Election Committee shall have the responsibility for the selection of the following student representatives of the Student Government Association:
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice-President
 - iii. Miss Southern
 - iv. Chief Justice
 - v. Four (4) Class Queens
 - vi. Four (4) Class Presidents
 - vii. Four (4) Class Vice-Presidents
 - viii. Twelve (12) Class Senators, three (3) from each undergraduate class
 - ix. Eight (8) Class Justices, two (2) from each undergraduate class
 - x. President of Men's Federation
 - xi. Vice-President of Men's Federation
 - xii. President of the Association for Women Students
 - xiii. Vice-President of the Association of Women Student
- b.) The general requirements for holding a particular elected office are as follows:
 - a. President of the Student Government Association
 - i. Accumulative grade point average of at least two point seven-five (2.75) by the last day of the filing period.
 - ii. At the time of election, must be at least a sophomore, but must have acquired sixty (60) credit hours by the last day of the spring semester.
 - iii. Candidate must have completed one (1) full year in the Student Government Association in an elected or appointed position prior to running for office.
 - b. Vice-President of the Student Government Association
 - i. Accumulative grade point average of at least two point seven-five (2.75) by the last day of the spring semester
 - ii. At the time of election, must be at least a sophomore, but must have acquired sixty (60) credit hours by the last day of the spring semester.
 - iii. Candidate must have completed one (1) full year in the Student Government Association in an elected or appointed position prior to running for office.

- c. Chief Justice
 - i. Accumulative grade point average of at least two point seven-five (2.75) by the last day of the spring semester
 - ii. At the time of election, must be at least a sophomore, but must have acquired sixty (60) credit hours by the last day of the spring semester.
 - iii. Candidate must have completed one(1) full year in the Student Government Association in an elected or appointed position prior to running for office.
- d. Miss Southern
 - i. Accumulative grade point average of at least two point seven-five (2.75) by the last day of the spring semester
 - ii. At the time of election, must be at least a sophomore, but must have acquired sixty (60) credit hours by the last day of the spring semester.
 - iii. Candidate must have completed one (1) full year in the Student Government Association in an elected or appointed position prior to running for office.
 - iv. If Miss Southern is unable to fulfill any portion of her term, succession shall proceed as follows:
 - 1) First Runner Up
 - 2) Miss Senior
 - 3) Miss Junior
 - 4) Special election must take place
 - v. Miss Southern shall present a budget of her projected expenditures for her term at the first Senate meeting of the Fall semester.
 - vi. Miss Southern shall be required to complete one university wide community service project for each semester during her reign.
 - vii. Miss Southern shall have an Executive Board for each community service project that she sponsors. The Board shall be selected by an application process.
- e. President of Men's Federation
 - i. Accumulative grade point average of at least two point five (2.75) by the last day of the spring semester
 - ii. At the time of election, must be at least a sophomore, but must have acquired sixty (60) credit hours by the last day of the spring semester.
- f. President of the Association for Women Students
 - i. Accumulative grade point average of at least two point seven- five (2.75) by the last day of the spring semester
 - ii. At the time of election, must be at least a sophomore, but must have acquired sixty (60) credit hours by the last day of the spring semester.

g. Class Presidents

- i. Accumulative grade point average of at least two point seven-five (2.75) by the last day of the spring semester
- ii. A member of the class which precedes the presidency for which he wishes to run (Example: If a person wishes to run for President of the Junior Class, he must be at least a sophomore at the time of the election.)

h. Class Vice-Presidents

- i. Accumulative grade point average of at least two point seven-five (2.75) by the last day of the spring semester
- ii. A member of the class which precedes the vice-presidency for which he wishes to run. (Example: If a person wishes to run for Vice-President of the Junior Class, he must be at least a sophomore at the time of the election.)

i. Class Queens

- i. Accumulative grade point average of at least two point seven-five (2.75) the last day of the spring semester
- ii. A member of the class which precedes the class for which she wishes to run. (Example: If a person wishes to run for Miss Junior, she must be at least a sophomore at the time of the election.)
- iii. Shall represent Miss Southern at events which Miss Southern is unable to attend.
- iv. Assist Ms. Southern in her administration of her community service projects.
- v. If a class queen is unable to fulfill any portion of her term, succession shall proceed as follows:
 - 1) First Runner Up

j. Class Senators

- i. Accumulative grade point average of at least two point seven-five (2.75) by the last day of the spring semester
- ii. A member of the class which precedes the class seat for which he wishes to run. (Example: If a person wishes to run for Senator of the Junior Class, he must be at least a sophomore at the time of the election.)

k. Class Justices

- i. Accumulative grade point average of at least two point seven-five (2.75) by the last day of the spring semester
- ii. A member of the class which precedes the presidency for which he wishes to run. (Example: If a person wishes to run for Justice of the Junior Class, he must be at least a sophomore at the time of the election.)

Article IX. Impeachment and Removal

Section 1. The grounds for impeachment of any elected official shall be as follows (Impeachment means the charging of an elected official with misconduct while in office):

- a. Any elected or appointed Student Government Association officer, who knowingly evades his/her duties, as set down by this Constitution, or commits such act which is determined to be detrimental to the welfare of the Student Body, or commits any major offense in behavior not positively reflecting on the University, or for violating the Student Code of Conduct, or for negligence in Constitutional procedure, is subject to impeachment.
- b. No elected or appointed Student Government Association officer may be brought up under the same charges twice.

Section 2. The impeachment process shall be as follows:

Impeachment proceedings may be initiated by three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Judicial Branch or two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate membership present at a meeting. (Initiation is defined as the act of bringing the officer in question up for review.)

- a.) Impeachment by way of the Judicial Branch:
 - i. After bringing an officer before the Judiciary on charges of Impeachment, a majority vote of the Justices of the Judicial Branch may recommend the removal of an officer to the Senate for the Senate's consideration. Once received by the Student Senate, the recommendation shall then be tabled to the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting where the Senate shall vote as to whether or not to remove the officer. If the Senate disagrees with the Judicial Branch's recommendation, then the proceedings shall immediately cease and the accused officer shall be exonerated of all wrong doing. If the Senate agrees with the Judicial Branch's recommendation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, the officer shall be removed from office.
- b.) Impeachment by way of the Senate:
 - ii. A Bill of Impeachment, outlining the reasons for an officer's impeachment, shall not be accepted by the Senate without at least a total of one (1) author and two (2) co-authors. When a Bill of Impeachment is introduced in Regular Session of the Student Senate, it shall be numbered and deemed to have been classified as New Business for the next regularly scheduled session. A Bill of Impeachment shall not be considered by any committee.
 - iii. Upon review of the officer in question, the impeachment issue shall be tabled until the following Senate meeting, where a vote shall be taken as to whether or not to continue and move to removal proceedings. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate membership present at the meeting will be required to continue to removal proceedings.
 - iv. Accused officers must abstain from all impeachment votes taken.
 - v. If the motion to continue to removal proceedings carries, removal proceedings shall begin immediately. The officer charged, must be notified of the Senate's decision within forty-eight (48) hours, in writing by the President of the Senate, and approved by majority vote of the Senate or the charges must be dropped.

- vi. Also, a brief, thoroughly explaining the Senate's reasoning as to why the officer in question should be removed from office, shall be drafted by the President of the Senate and approved by majority vote of the Senate and shall be presented to the Chief Justice of the Judicial Branch within forty-eight (48) hours of the Senate's decision to begin with the removal process or the impeachment charges must be dropped.
- c.) The process for the removal of an officer after Impeachment has been initiated in the Student Senate shall be as follows:
- i. The Chief Justice of the Judicial Branch shall preside over all removal hearings. In the event that the Chief Justice is accused, the Student Government Association President shall act as presiding officer.
 - ii. Both the Executive Cabinet and full membership of the Senate shall be present.
 - iii. A motion to review the evidence against the impeached officer shall be made by the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate. A review shall include all evidence relevant to the case. This motion must be properly seconded by a member of the Senate and voted on by the members present. If the motion carries, the removal proceedings will continue. If the motion fails, then the accused officer will be exonerated.
 - iv. The officer in question shall be given the opportunity to speak in his/her defense and offer evidence as he deems necessary. At any time, the President of the Senate may appoint a member of the Senate to express the views of the Senate.
 - v. Following full discussion, a member of the Judiciary shall move to send the proceedings into executive session of the Judicial Branch, clearing the room of all persons except the Judiciary, with the Judicial Branch having no more than two (2) hours to deliberate, each justice to cast a vote, and draft a decision. After such time, the proceedings shall reconvene and the Chief Justice shall read the decision of the Judicial Branch. Contingent upon the majority vote of the Judiciary, the officer in question shall then be either terminated from office or absolved of all wrong doing. By no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the rendering of the decision, copies of the ruling shall be published to all officers of every branch of the Student Government Association and the University's newspaper.

Article X. Order of Succession

In the event that the Student Government Association President is removed, incapacitated, suspended from serving in office, or censured, the Student Government Association Vice-President shall serve as President, and the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate shall serve as Student Government Association Vice-President, with the Senators electing a new President Pro-tempore. Depending on the class in which the new vacant seat falls, the respective class President shall have the authority to appoint another Senator who will be subject to Senate confirmation. The new attainment of these offices shall be either temporary or permanent depending upon the impeachment and/or removal decision, duration of incapacitation, duration of suspension, or duration of censure. In order to serve in these capacities, the persons who are elevated to a new office must meet the Constitutional requirements for holding such office. In the event that the Student Government Association President and/or Vice-President are removed, incapacitated, suspended from serving in office, or censured, and the if the next eligible officer in line refuses the opportunity or does not qualify to serve in a higher office, then succession shall ensue from that point to fill such office(s).

Section 1. In the event that the Student Government Association President is undergoing impeachment proceedings, removed, incapacitated, or suspended from office, or censured, the order of succession shall be as follows:

- a. Student Government Association Vice-President
- b. Student Senate President Pro-Tempore
- c. Senior Class President
- d. Junior Class President
- e. Special Election must take place

Section 2. In the event that a Class President undergoing impeachment proceedings, removed, incapacitated, or suspended from office, or censured, the order of succession shall be as follows:

- a. Vice President
- b. Chief of Staff
- c. Special Election must take place

Section 3. In the event that Miss Southern undergoing impeachment proceedings, removed, incapacitated, or suspended from office, or censured, the order of succession shall be as follows:

- a. 1st Runner Up
- b. Miss Senior
- c. Miss Junior
- d. Special Election must take place

Section 4. In the event that a Class Queen undergoing impeachment proceedings, removed, incapacitated, or suspended from office, or censured, the order of succession shall be as follows:

- a. 1st Runner Up
- b. Special Election must take place

Article XI. Interpretation

Section 1. Words and phrases in the Student Government Association Constitution, Bylaws, or any other Student Government Association document shall be read within their context and shall be construed to the common and approved usage of the language; technical words and phrases, and such others as may have acquired a peculiar and appropriate meaning in the law, shall be construed and understood according to such peculiar appropriate meaning; unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws and interpreted by the Judicial Branch.

Section 2. Clerical and typographical errors shall be disregarded when the meaning is clear

Article XII. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by one of two methods:

Section 1. The unanimous vote of the full membership of the Student Senate and approval of the University Administration, or Two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting Student Body in a given election and approval of the Administration. The process shall be as follows:

- a.) If the amendment(s) fail to secure the necessary votes in the Student Senate, or fails to gain the approval of the Administration, the author of the amendment(s) may question the faults found in his/her proposal and take it directly to the Student Body to gain support for adoption. The amendment(s) shall be placed on the ballot for the Spring Election.
- b.) If the amendment(s) is/are approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting Student Body in the General Election, and subsequently approved by the Administration, a revised copy of the Constitution, incorporating the approved amendment, shall be sent in writing to the Presidents of the respective undergraduate classes for distribution to the entire student population. It shall also be sent to the newspaper staff to be publicized.
- c.) All amendments must be presented during the spring semester of each academic year.