

SCC Revised Constitution

Following is the proposed revised Southeastern SGA constitution which will be voted on in the general elections in May.

PREAMBLE

The students of Southeastern Community College do hereby establish the Southeastern Community College Student Government Association. The association shall provide the means whereby students may express an official voice in the programs of the college which affect their welfare; assist in the coordination and regulation of activities of students for the benefit of the educational community; participate in stimulating and improving

democratic living and self government, recognize the equal rights of all individuals and the value of their participation in the betterment of the student community; and promote the high ideals of the college community.

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Southeastern Community College.

ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP

All full-time students of Southeastern Community College are members of the Student Government Association and shall be subject to this constitution, its by-laws, and Student Senate Statutes.

ARTICLE III—STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The principal student governing body of Southeastern Community College shall be known as the Student Government Association and shall be composed of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches.

ARTICLE IV—EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Section I. All executive power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in an Executive Branch of the Student Government Association, composed of the following elected officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Executive Cabinet.

Section II. The President. The president must be a member of the

Student Government Association and carry a minimum work load of twelve (12) credit hours, or its equivalent, and be a student in good academic and social standing at Southeastern Community College. The President shall hold no position as an officer in clubs on campus while holding the office of President.

A. Duties and powers. The President shall have power:
(1) to administer and enforce the constitution, its by-laws and Student Senate Statutes.

(2) to create, with the consent of the Student Senate, such committees that are necessary to carry out the executive functions of the Student Government Association.

(3) to call and preside at meetings of the student body and Student Government Association.

(4) to serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of all standing committees and boards, except those on which he is specifically a voting member.

(5) to address the Student Senate from time to time, provided that he shall notify the Speaker of the Senate of his intentions in advance.

(6) to remove at his discretion, any person appointed by him, with a 2/3 majority approval of the Student Senate.

(7) to appoint the chairman of all standing committees and to appoint jointly with the aid of committee chairman all committee members, such appointment subject to Student Senate approval.

(8) to issue orders to the standing committees and require reports from them.

(9) to make recommendations for legislation to the Student Senate, through the speaker of the Senate, a written statement or a personal appearance.

(10) to have the power to veto or sign all acts of the Student Senate, provided he exercises such power within ten (10) school days after receipt of

same. An act becomes official in ten (10) school days if said President neither signs nor vetoes the act.

(11) to be the official representative of the Student Government Association and the student body of the college in all occasions, functions, and relations proper to his position, wherein participation is required or pertinent.

(12) to perform all such duties incident to the office of President.

(13) hold no position as an officer in clubs on campus.
B. Tenure of the President. The President shall hold office for one calendar year, beginning Summer Quarter and terminating at the end of the Spring Quarter. The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President if it shall become vacated.

Section III. The Vice-President. The qualification for the office of Vice-President shall be the same as those for the office of President.

A. Duties and powers. The Vice-President shall:

(1) in the case of illness or temporary incapacity of the President fulfill the duties of the office of the President.

(2) in the case of the President's resignation, removal or physical incapacity, assume the office of the President.

(3) be a voting member of all standing and special committees of the Senate.

(4) prepare the agenda for the Student Senate.

(5) serve as the chairman of the Board of Elections, and appoint jointly with the President the members to the Election Board, such appointments to be submitted to the approval of the Student Senate.

(6) aid and assist the President in fulfilling the executive functions of the Student Association.

(7) perform all such duties incident to the office of Vice-President.

B. Tenure of Vice-President. The Vice-President shall hold office for one calendar year. If the office of Vice-President shall be vacated, the Student Senate shall appoint a Vice-President, provided that he meets the qualification for vice-presidency. This appointment must have a three-fourths (¾) majority approval of the Student Senate.

Section IV. The Secretary. The qualifications for the office of Secretary shall be the same as those for the office of President:

A. Duties and powers. The Secretary shall:

(1) accurately record and preserve the minutes of all regular and special sessions of the Student Government.

(2) prepare and keep a codification of all by-laws, statutes, and resolutions of the Student Government.

(3) perform all other duties and functions incident to the office for one calendar year. If the office of Secretary shall be vacated, the Student Senate shall appoint a Secretary from the Student Government Association. This appointment must have a three-fourths (¾) majority approval of the Student Senate.

Section V. The Treasurer. The qualifications for the office of Treasurer shall be the same as those for the office of President:

A. Duties and powers. The Treasurer shall:

(1) prepare and submit to the Senate an annual budget.

(2) submit periodic reports on the financial conditions of the Student Government Association.

(3) serve as chairman of any committee concerned with appropriations or finance.

(4) perform all other duties and functions incident to the office of Treasurer.

B. Tenure of Treasurer. The Treasurer shall hold office for one calendar year. If the office of Treasurer shall be vacated, the Student Senate shall appoint a Treasurer from the Student Government Association. This appointment must have a three-fourths (¾) majority approval of the Student Senate.

Section VI. The Executive Cabinet. The Executive Cabinet shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Student Government Association, Student Government Association Advisers (faculty), Dean of Student Personnel Services, and such other officials as may be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Student Senate. The Executive Cabinet shall:

(1) make recommendations to the Southeastern Community College Administration on all matters submitted to it by either the President or the Student Senate.

(2) recommend legislative measures to the Student Senate.

(3) continuously review the organization and operation of the Student Government Association and student recommendations for the alteration of each to the President.

ARTICLE V—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Section I. Grant of Authority. As conferred by the Board of Trustees of the college, and as delegated through the President and subject to his approval, legislative power in the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Student Senate.

Section II. Composition of the Student Senate.
A. Representation in the Student Senate shall consist of six (6) Senators from the Freshman class, two Senators who are enrolled in the College Parallel Program, two Senators who are enrolled in the Technical

Program, and two Senators who are enrolled in the Vocational Program. Also, six Senators from the Sophomore class, two Senators enrolled in the Technical Program and four Senators who are enrolled in the College Parallel Program.

B. The Vice-President shall have a seat on the Student Senate.

C. Every member of the Student Senate shall be a student in good academic and social standing at Southeastern Community College.

D. The Speaker of the Student Senate shall be a Sophomore Senator and be elected by the members of the Student Senate.

(1) The Speaker of the Senate shall not hold any other elective office.

(2) Be the President of the Student Senate and preside over Student Senate meetings.

(3) Appoint a Parliamentarian and a Secretary of the Student Senate and be able to remove them at his discretion.

E. The Dean of Student Personnel Services and two faculty members, elected annually by the Senate, subject to by-laws provision, shall act as Senate Advisers.

F. A Student Senate meeting shall be held at least once a month during the school term.

G. If a Senate office becomes vacated, the Speaker of the Senate will appoint a Senator to occupy this vacancy. The Senator that is chosen will be the candidate who received the next highest vote in the previous senate election, or if the appointment is declined, any student in good standing at Southeastern may be appointed by the Speaker, provided he is confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.

H. Quorum. No less than half of the Senators must be present to constitute a quorum. A quorum is necessary for all official action transacted by the Senate.

Section III. Powers of Student Senate. The Student Senate shall have the power:

A. to serve as an official voice through which student opinion is expressed to officials and official bodies within the college.

B. to investigate student problems, make recommendations, and enact appropriate legislation.

C. to approve by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote all appointments made by the President of the Student Government Association, except in cases provided for in amendments within this constitution.

D. to act, upon the receipt of all petitions from students and organizations, in cooperation with the appropriate authorities relating to said petitions.

E. to recommend allocation of the student activity fee for activities and events which would be of general benefit to the entire student body.

F. to over-ride a presidential veto by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.
G. to aid in the election of Student Government officials.

H. to establish and publish all charges for impeachment. Then to submit such charges to the Student Court for examination and trial.

I. to establish its own rules of procedure.

J. to establish such subordinate officers and committees within the legislature as it may deem proper.

K. to propose amendments to this constitution.

ARTICLE VI—JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Section I. Grant of Authority. All judicial powers of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Student Court.

Section II. Composition.

A. Judges. The Student Court shall consist of one (1) chief justice, six (6) justices who have maintained a 2.0 average, and a clerk appointed by the Chief Justice, all with the concurrence of the Student Senate.

B. All justices shall be appointed by the President of the Student Government Association and shall serve one (1) academic year.

C. Each race on campus shall have at least one (1) member on the Student Court.

Section III. Powers and duties of the Student Court. The Student Court shall:

A. be vested with the power to interpret this constitution, its by-laws, and Student Senate Statutes, subject only to a referendum to the Student Government Association.

B. be vested with the power of interpretation of the Code of Conduct for students, and have original jurisdiction of infractions of the Code of Conduct of Students.

C. review the cases of impeached members of the Student Government Association with the trial procedures open to all students, faculty, and

administration officials.
D. have the right, at the discretion of the Chief Justice and the Dean of Student Personnel, publicize the disposition of student cases provided anonymity may be reasonably protected.

Section IV. Procedures of the Student Court.

A. The Chief Justice of the Student Court shall preside at Court hearings and shall vote only in case of a tie.

B. The concurrence of a simple majority of the Justices present, provided that a quorum of five judges shall be present, shall be required to render effective a decision of the Student Court.

C. Records of the Student Court shall be maintained by the clerk.

D. Upon conviction of a violation of the Code of Conduct for students, the Student Court shall recommend to the College Review Committee action to be taken against the student(s).

E. Any student(s) who is charged with a violation(s) of the Code of Conduct for Students may waive his right to a Student Court hearing by pleading guilty as charged in writing to the Dean of Student Personnel Services. This provision, as well as the invocation of sanctions as provided for by the Code of Conduct for Students, may be implemented in strict confidence, at the discretion of the Dean of Student Personnel Services.

F. Appeal of decisions of the Student Court may be made in writing to the College Review Committee, provided such appeal is made within five (5) class days after the defendant is notified of the Student Court decision.

G. The names of the nominees for the positions of Chief Justice and associate justices of the Student Court shall be submitted to the Student Senate for approval by the last meeting of the Student Government Association in the month of October. Upon approval of the nominees, there shall be a meeting of the Student Court with the President of the Student Government Association and the Speaker of the Senate, during the first quarter of that school year to discuss the procedures and functions of the Student Court.

H. The Student Court shall have the responsibility and the right to formulate procedures and rules of practice to be followed by the said Court.

ARTICLE VII—ELECTIONS

Section I. Elective Student Government officers shall be selected by a plurality of the students voting in two general elections, one in the spring term, for the Executive officers, and one in the fall term, for the Legislative officials. The Election Committee shall carry out the election codes and policies as established by the Student Senate in the form of by-laws to this Constitution.

Section II. Notice of all elections, general and special, shall be published through appropriate campus media, at least one week before the election.

Section III. No member of the Elections Committee shall be a candidate for, nor campaign on behalf of, nor endorse any candidate for any office in an upcoming election.

ARTICLE VIII—AMENDMENTS

Section I. Proposition. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate.

Section II. Publication. The text of the proposed amendments shall be published and accessible to all members of the Student Government Association at least one week prior to the election in which the proposed amendment(s) is to be considered.

Section III. Ratification. An amendment shall become part of this Constitution immediately upon receiving an affirmative vote of three-fourths (¾) of the voters voting on the issue in an all-campus general election.

ARTICLE IX—APPEALS AND REFERENDUM

Section I. Appeals.

A. Upon receipt of a petition concerning Student Government or some matter vital to the interests of students, signed by one-tenth (1/10) of the student body, the Student Senate shall refer the matter to a student vote.

B. To be valid, each signature on a petition must be accompanied by the name of the student's adviser, and each page of the petition must contain a statement of the purpose of said petition.

Section II. Referendum.

A. Such questions shall be placed on the ballot of the next general election unless they are of such a nature that postponement would render them void, in which case they should be put up for student vote, not less than fifteen (15) or more than thirty (30), school days from the filing of the petition with Student Senate, in a special

election.
B. If such questions receive majority vote of those voting on said question, the result of the referendum shall automatically become legislation upon approval by the particular office of the college administration concerned, where such approval is necessary.

ARTICLE X—PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Section I. Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall constitute the parliamentary authority on points not covered by this Constitution or by the Rules and Regulations of the Student Senate.

ARTICLE XI—RATIFICATION

This Constitution shall take effect upon receiving an affirmative vote of three-fourths (¾) of the voters voting on the issue in all-campus general election).

BY-LAW

Addition to Executive Cabinet AMENDMENT I

Section I. The President of the Student Government with the concurrence of the Dean of Student Personnel will choose a student who they deem competent to fulfill the office of Attorney General.

Section II. The Attorney General shall:

A. hold no position as an officer in any other organizations on campus during his term.

B. serve on the Election Committee in the executing of all Student Government elections.

C. act as investigator for the Executive Department when necessary.

D. promote an understanding of the Code of Conduct for students.

E. appoint no more than two (2) assistants when necessary for the completion of duties.

F. act as the prosecution council for the Student Government Association and the Student Body in the prosecution of individuals and organizations who are accused of misconduct or infractions of the Code of Conduct before the Student Supreme Court.