



**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
ARCADIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION**

We, the undergraduate students of Arcadia University, in order to:

- Promote the general welfare of the student body;
- Stimulate student participation in a Democratic student government and provide leadership experience for its members;
- Promote engagement, in all aspects of student life;
- Constitute a medium for expressing student opinion on matters of general interest;
- Charter, regulate, and manage university student organizations;
- Apportion the allocation of the student activity fee required of each student and make recommendations concerning the amount of the fee;
- Facilitate student representation on University-wide committees, boards, commissions, or workgroups;
- Advocate for the adoption of new university policy and express our opinion on changes to existing university policy;
- Communicate our views to the faculty, staff, University Administration, the Board of Trustees, Faculty Senate, Staff Council, students, alumni, members of the campus community, and the public;
- Encourage communication among the entire college community; and
- Take an active role in carrying out the goals and mission of the University;

Do ordain and establish this Constitution of the Student Government Organization pursuant to Resolution by the Board of Trustees: May 3, 1963.

ARTICLE I—MEMBERSHIP

All undergraduate students actively enrolled in courses are members of the Arcadia University Student Government Organization.

ARTICLE II—GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE

SECTION 1: All legislative, executive, and judicial power herein granted is vested in the Student Congress, which consists of a Senate and House of Representatives.

SECTION 2: The Student Government Organization membership shall elect annually the President of the Student Government Organization, the Vice-President of the Student Government Organization, and the Treasurer of the Student Government Organization to exercise the enumerated powers granted the respective office in this Constitution and any other power the Senate of the Student Congress may grant the respective office.

ARTICLE III—THE SENATE OF THE STUDENT CONGRESS

SECTION 1: Senate membership consists of no more than 25 senators elected as follows:

- a minimum of 4 and no more than 9 at-large senators elected by the Student Government Organization membership without consideration to credits completed or class level;
- 4 senators elected by the House of Representatives from its membership;
- 4 senators elected by the Arcadia University Student-Athlete Advisory Committee who are current Arcadia NCAA student athletes; and
- the president and vice-president of the first-year class, the sophomore class, the junior class, and the senior class provided: (1) the Senate of the Student Congress formally recognizes the first-year class, sophomore class, junior class, and senior class as Arcadia University student organizations, (2) the respective classes maintain active status from year-to-year, and (3) the President and Vice President are elected by the students of the respective class.

SECTION 2: If immediately after an election or anytime during the academic year, a senator vacancy exists, the President of the Student Government Organization—in consultation with the Executive Board and upon majority consent of the Senate—shall appoint a student to fill the vacancy pursuant to the restrictions of Article III, Section 1.

SECTION 3: A senator must maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average while serving in the Senate.

SECTION 4: No more than 4 senators may serve both as a senator and a member of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 5: The term of a senator is for one academic year—Fall/Spring.

SECTION 6: In addition to the Article III, Section 1 Membership, the President of the Student Government Organization, the Vice President of the Student Government Organization, and the

Treasurer of the Student Government Organization are full voting members of the Senate.

SECTION 7: The President of the Student Government Organization is the chairperson of the Senate. The President may only vote in the event of a tie vote of the Senate membership.

SECTION 8: The Senate may pass a rule concerning the quorum necessary for business meetings. If no rule is passed, quorum is 50% of the currently serving Article III, Section 1 and Section 5 Senate membership.

SECTION 9: The Senate possesses the power and authority to:

- [1] Fully legislate on all matters within the purview of the Student Government Organization;
- [2] Adopt public and administrative resolutions on any matter. *Public resolutions express the opinion of the Student Government Association to those outside the Student Government Association. Administrative resolutions direct the officers or executive board to action or express the will of the Senate to the Student Government Association or its officers;*
- [3] Control its own organization, appoint and dissolve committees within the Senate and the Student Government Organization, appoint a parliamentarian if necessary, and establish its own rules for determining its procedures, subject to the limitations specified in this Constitution;
- [4] Establish legislation, rules, and policies for the recognition and regulation of clubs and organizations;
- [5] Apportion the activities fee required of each student and to make recommendations concerning the amount of the fee;
- [6] Establish legislation, rules, and policies for the apportionment of the activities fee;
- [7] Review and resolve an appeal filed resulting from an action taken by the House of Representatives;
- [8] Recommend or direct comment on any new policy or policy changes to the Board of Trustees, University Administration, or any campus entity charged with policy creation;
- [9] Hold student referendums on matters within the purview of the Student Government Organization or to determine the opinion of the student body on any matter.
- [10] Communicate the views and opinions of the Student Government Organization or the student body to the faculty, staff, University Administration, the Board of Trustees, Faculty Senate, Staff Council, students, alumni, members of the campus community, and the public;
- [11] Hold hearings, meetings, or presentations on any matter of interest to the Student Government Organization;
- [12] Enact rules and policies for nominating and electing the President of the Student Government Organization, the Vice President of the Student Government Organization, the Treasurer of the Student Government Organization, and Senators subject to the qualifications and

requirements specified in this Constitution;

- [13] Take any action that is necessary and proper to carry into execution the foregoing powers and the Preamble to this Constitution provided that such action is consistent with the Enabling Resolution by the Board of Trustees dated May 3, 1963.

SECTION 9: All legislation and resolutions enacted by the Senate are effective immediately, unless otherwise specified in the legislation or resolution.

SECTION 10: Meetings where the Senate is voting on any item must be open to the membership.

SECTION 11: If a question arises as to whether or not any subject is within the jurisdiction of the Student Government Organization, it shall be referred to the University President or designee who shall refer it to the appropriate committee of the Faculty and Trustees for resolution. *See*, Resolution by the Board of Trustees dated May 3, 1963.

ARTICLE IV—THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STUDENT CONGRESS

SECTION 1: House of Representatives membership consists of one representative from each active student club or organization and the Vice President of the Student Government Organization. The Treasurer of the Student Government Organization is a nonvoting *ex officio* member of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 2: The Vice President of the Student Government Organization is the Speaker of the House and serves as chairperson of the House of Representatives. The Vice President may only vote in the event of a tie vote of the House of Representatives membership.

SECTION 3: The House of Representatives is hereby granted the power and duty to:

- [1] Conduct an initial review of any application for recognition of a club or organization subject to the legislation, rules, regulations, and policies of the Senate of the Student Congress.
- [2] Adopt a resolution directed to the Senate of the Student Congress, concerning whether the House of Representatives supports the recognition or rejection of a proposed club or organization;
- [3] Establish a procedure to review whether a club or organization is maintaining active club status;
- [4] Revoke, suspend, or deactivate any club or organization deemed not active pursuant to the rules and regulations established by the Senate of the Student Congress;
- [5] Adopt a resolution directed to the Senate of the Student Congress concerning any matter of interest to clubs and organizations;
- [6] Recommend to the Senate of the Student Congress the adoption, amendment, or elimination of legislation, rules, regulations, or policies of the Student Government Organization.
- [7] Recommend to the Senate of the Student Congress the adoption of a

resolution on any matter of general interest.

- [8] Adjudicate an appeal filed by a club or organization challenging the decision of the Treasurer of the Student Government Organization or the Budget Committee.
- [9] Organize and host presentations, meetings, or other activities on matters directly related to student organizations and clubs;
- [10] Control its own internal organization through the appointment and dissolution of committees within the House of Representatives and establish its own rules for determining House of Representative procedures, subject to limitations specified in this Constitution or enacted by the Senate of the Student Congress;

SECTION 4: The House of Representatives possesses no inherent power. Its powers and duties are limited to those enumerated in Article IV or granted the House of Representatives by the Senate of the Student Congress.

SECTION 5: If a question arises as to whether or not any subject or action is within the power and authority of the House of Representatives, it shall be referred to the President of the Student Government Organization. If the issue requires an immediate decision, the President shall refer the matter to the Executive Board for resolution and present the Executive Board's resolution to the Senate of the Student Congress at its next scheduled meeting. If the issue does not require an immediate decision, the President shall refer the matter to the Senate of the Student Congress for resolution.

ARTICLE V—PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1: The President is hereby granted the power and duty to:

- [1] Officially represent the Student Government Organization and the student body to all members of the university community;
- [2] Manage all activities and responsibilities of the Student Government Organization to ensure compliance with this Constitution, the Resolution of the Board of Trustees dated May 3, 1963, and all legislation, resolutions, rules, regulations, and policies enacted by the Senate of the Student Congress;
- [3] Represent the student body at all University events, programs, meetings, etc.;
- [4] Serve as the chairperson of the Senate of the Student Congress;
- [5] Require a two-thirds vote on any matter the Senate of the Student Congress is considering provided the president announces the two-thirds voting requirement before the Senate of the Student Congress begins to vote on the matter;
- [6] Serve as an *ex-officio* member of all Student Government Organization and Senate of the Student Congress committees. The President may not exercise *ex-officio* membership on committees created by the House of Representatives of the Student Congress;

- [7] Appoint cabinet level Secretaries with the advice and consent of the Senate of the Student Congress
- [8] Create cabinet level Secretary positions with the advice and consent of the Senate of the Student Congress;
- [9] Create standing and *ad hoc* committees with the advice and consent of the Senate of the Student Congress;
- [10] Provide all committees with charge and purpose;
- [11] Eliminate cabinet level Secretary positions not established in this Constitution;
- [12] Remove cabinet level Secretaries for good cause shown;
- [13] Serve as Liaison to the Faculty Senate;
- [14] Appoint students to University-wide committees, boards, commissions, or workgroups with the advice and consent of the Senate of the Student Congress;
- [15] Schedule regular meetings of the Senate of the Student Congress;
- [16] Call emergency meetings of the Senate of the Student Congress;
- [17] Set the agenda for meetings of the Senate of the Student Congress, which must include an opportunity for Senators to raise new business and propose Senate action;
- [18] Schedule regular meetings of the Executive Board;
- [19] Set the agenda for Executive Board meetings, which must include an opportunity for Executive Board members to raise new business;
- [20] Organize regular meetings between the Executive Board and the University President and Vice Presidents;
- [21] Deliver a State of the Student Government Organization address to a joint session of the Student Congress;
- [22] Propose legislation, resolutions, rules, policies, regulations, or referendums to the Senate of the Student Congress for consider;
- [23] Transmit and publicly deliver any resolution passed by the Senate of the Student Congress;
- [24] Appoint the student members of the Judicial Board with the advice and consent of the Senate;
- [25] Schedule regular “meet and discuss” sessions with the Student Government Organization advisor;
- [26] Ensure elections are timely conducted pursuant to the rules and regulation of the Senate of the Student Congress; and
- [27] Exercise any other power or duty granted the President by the Senate of the Student Congress.

SECTION 2: The President may not manage the activities of the House of Representatives of the Student Congress nor attend any meeting of the House of Representatives or its committees without an express invitation.

SECTION 3: The President may not study abroad while in office because of the responsibilities and expectations associated with the office.

SECTION 4: The President must possess and maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.

ARTICLE VI—VICE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1: The Vice President is hereby granted the power and duty to:

- [1] Serve as the Speaker of the House of Representative and chair all meetings of the House of the Representatives;
- [2] Assume the power and duty of the President of the Student Government Organization if the President is temporarily or permanently unavailable;
- [3] Manage the club and organization recognition process pursuant to the rules and regulations established by the Senate of the Student Congress;
- [4] Manage a review process to ensure all recognized clubs and organizations remain active pursuant to the rules and regulations established by the Senate of the Student Congress;
- [5] Inform the Senate of the Student Congress if the House of Representative's deactivated, suspended, or terminated any recognized club or organization;
- [6] Manage all appeals from decisions of the Treasurer of the Student Government Organization or the Budget committee and ensure the House of Representatives decides the appeal timely;
- [7] Appoint a House of Representatives recording secretary and assign the secretary appropriate duties as needed.
- [8] Create or eliminate House of Representatives committees with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives;
- [9] Appoint committee chairpersons with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives;
- [10] Remove a committee chairperson for good cause shown;
- [11] Propose resolutions to the House of Representatives on any matter within the jurisdiction of the House of Representatives;
- [12] Propose resolutions to the Senate of the Student Congress on any matter of interest;
- [13] Schedule regular House of Representative meetings;
- [14] Schedule emergency House of Representative meetings;
- [28] Set the agenda for House of Representative meetings, which must include an opportunity for members to raise new business;
- [15] Invite guests to address the House of Representatives;
- [16] Create and assemble a Speaker of the House advisory committee to assist the Speaker in managing the House of Representatives business.

- [17] Exercise any other power or duty granted the Vice President by the Senate of the Student Congress.

SECTION 2: The Vice President may not study abroad while in office because of the responsibilities and expectations associated with the office.

SECTION 3: The Vice President must possess and maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.

ARTICLE VII—TREASURER OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1: The Treasurer is hereby granted the power and duty to:

- [1] Create the Student Government Organization budget allocating and apportioning the student activities fee in consultation with the President of the Student Government Organization and the Budget Committee;
- [2] Serve as chairperson of the Budget Committee;
- [3] Schedule regular meetings of the Budget Committee;
- [4] Attend all meetings of House of Representatives of the Student Congress unless the House of Representatives or the Speaker of the House directs otherwise;
- [5] Manage the budgeted expenditures of clubs and organizations;
- [6] Appoint an assistant treasurer;
- [7] Serve as the Student Government Organization's point-of-contact for any university entity tasked with managing the student activities fee, organization budgets and any associated expenditures;
- [8] Recommend the Senate of the Student Congress adopt rules and regulations concerning the allocation of the student activities fee;
- [9] In the Fall semester of an odd year, conduct a review of all the rules and regulations concerning the allocation of the activities fee and draft proposed changes;
- [10] In the Spring semester of an even year, transmit the proposed changes to the Senate of the Student Congress for consideration or request the Senate reauthorize the rules and regulations as then existing;
- [11] Exercise any other power or duty granted the Treasurer by the Senate of the Student Congress.

SECTION 2: The Treasurer may not study abroad while in office because of the responsibilities and expectations associated with the office.

SECTION 3: The Treasurer must possess and maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.

ARTICLE VIII—SENATORS

SECTION 1: Each Article III Section 1 Senator shall:

- [1] Attend all meetings of the Senate of the Student Congress and any joint meetings of the Student Congress;
- [2] Serve on at least one standing or *ad hoc* committee of the Senate;
- [3] Serve on at least one university-wide committee, board, commission, or work group as requested by the President of the Student Organization;
- [4] Attend all Student Government Organization retreats;
- [5] Comply with all attendance policies established by the Senate of the Student Congress; and
- [6] Perform other duties assigned by the President of the Student Government Organization or the Senate of the Student Congress.

ARTICLE IX—EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1: An Executive Board is comprised of the following:

- [1] President of the Student Government Organization;
- [2] Vice President of the Student Government Organization;
- [3] Treasurer of the Student Government Organization;
- [4] Secretary of the Archives;
- [5] Secretary of Academic Affairs;
- [6] Secretary of Student Affairs;
- [7] Secretary of University Administration & Finance

SECTION 2: The purpose of the Executive Board is to allow the officers and cabinet-level secretaries to discuss issues concerning the Student Government Organization; prepare for meetings of the Senate of the Student Congress or House of Representatives; assist the individual members of the executive board in carrying out the powers and duties assigned the respective office; and to promote cooperation among the Student Government Organization leaders.

SECTION 3: The Executive Board possesses no inherent power. The Executive Board may act only to the extent the power exercised is granted by this Constitution or the Senate of the Student Congress.

ARTICLE X—SECRETARY OF THE ARCHIVES

SECTION 1: The Secretary of the Archives is hereby granted the power and duty to:

- [1] Record senator attendance and minutes at all Senate of the Student Congress meetings;
- [2] Archive all Student Congress documents including, but not limited to, the Board of Trustees Resolution dated May 3, 1963, the Student Government

Organization Constitution; Minutes of both houses of the Student Congress; any action of the Student Congress resulting in a resolution, rule, regulation, or legislation;

- [3] Provide members access to all archived documents;
- [4] Serve as chairperson of the Archives committee and schedule regular meetings;
- [5] Maintain and organize a social media and marketing presence on campus;
- [6] Receive all official correspondence and archive as necessary;
- [7] Appoint an assistant secretary if necessary; and
- [8] Perform other duties assigned by the President of the Student Government Organization or the Senate of the Student Congress.

SECTION 2: The Secretary of the Archives may not study abroad while in office because of the responsibilities and expectations associated with the office.

SECTION 3: The Secretary of the Archives must possess and maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.

ARTICLE XI—SECRETARY OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SECTION 1: The Secretary of Academic Affairs is hereby granted the power and duty to:

- [1] In conjunction with the President of the Student Government Organization, serve as the Student Government Organization liaison to the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and all units within Academic Affairs;
- [2] Serve as chairperson of the Academic Affairs committee and schedule regular meetings;
- [3] Identify, discuss, and attempt to resolve issues of student interest within Academic Affairs;
- [4] Request the Senate of the Student Congress to enact resolutions concerning issues of Academic Affairs;
- [5] Create an agenda for all Academic Affairs committee meetings;
- [6] Present the President of the Student Government Organization the semester goals or initiatives of the Academic Affairs committee.
- [7] Perform other duties assigned by the President of the Student Government Organization or the Senate of the Student Congress.

SECTION 2: The Secretary of Academic Affairs may not study abroad while in office because of the responsibilities and expectations associated with the office.

SECTION 3: The Secretary of Academic Affairs must possess and maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.

ARTICLE XII—SECRETARY OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

SECTION 1: The Secretary of Student Affairs is hereby granted the power and duty to:

- [1] In conjunction with the President of the Student Government Organization, serve as the Student Government Organization liaison to the Vice President for Campus Life and Dean of Students and all units within Campus Life;
- [2] Serve as chairperson of the Student Affairs committee and schedule regular meetings;
- [3] Identify, discuss, and attempt to resolve issues of student interest within Campus Life;
- [4] Request the Senate of the Student Congress to enact resolutions concerning issues of Campus Life;
- [5] Create an agenda for all Student Affairs committee meetings;
- [6] Present the President of the Student Government Organization the semester goals or initiatives of the Student Affairs committee.
- [7] Perform other duties assigned by the President of the Student Government Organization or the Senate of the Student Congress.

SECTION 2: The Secretary of Student Affairs may not study abroad while in office because of the responsibilities and expectations associated with the office.

SECTION 3: The Secretary of Student Affairs must possess and maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.

ARTICLE XIII—SECRETARY OF UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

SECTION 1: The Secretary of University Administration & Finance is hereby granted the power and duty to:

- [1] In conjunction with the President of the Student Government Organization, serve as the Student Government Organization liaison to the Vice President for University Administration & Finance and all units within University Administration & Finance;
- [2] Serve as chairperson of the University Administration & Finance committee and schedule regular meetings;
- [3] Identify, discuss, and attempt to resolve issues of student interest within University Administration & Finance;
- [4] Request the Senate of the Student Congress to enact resolutions concerning issues of University Administration & Finance;
- [5] Create an agenda for all University Administration & Finance committee meetings;
- [6] Present the President of the Student Government Organization the semester goals or initiatives of the University Administration & Finance committee.

[7] Perform other duties assigned by the President of the Student Government Organization or the Senate of the Student Congress.

SECTION 2: The Secretary of University Administration & Finance may not study abroad while in office because of the responsibilities and expectations associated with the office.

SECTION 3: The Secretary of University Administration & Finance must possess and maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.

ARTICLE XIV—STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: The standing committees of the Student Government Organization are: (1) Budget Committee, (2) Academic Affairs Committee, (3) Student Affairs Committee, (4) University Administration & Finance Committee, and (5) Archives Committee.

ARTICLE XV—LINE OF SUCCESSION

SECTION 1: In the event the President of the Student Government Organization or the acting President is permanently unavailable, no longer a student at the university, away from campus for more than three business days other than during breaks in the academic calendar, or declares themselves absent/unavailable the line of succession is the Vice President then the Treasurer.

SECTION 2: If the entire line of succession has been exhausted, the remaining members of the Executive Board shall jointly execute the powers of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer until the Senate of the Student Congress elects a President, Vice President, and Treasurer to complete the remaining terms of the vacant offices.

ARTICLE XVI—IMPEACHMENT

SECTION 1: Any officer, cabinet-level secretary, or senator may be impeached for:

- [1] Violating provisions of this Constitution;
- [2] Dereliction of assigned powers, duties, and responsibilities;
- [3] Being found liable for violating the Student Code of Conduct; or
- [4] Being found guilty of violating any criminal law or ordinance of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Cheltenham Township, or Montgomery County.

SECTION 2: An impeachment proceeding begins after the Senate of the Student Congress receives a petition articulating an alleged violation of Article XVI—Section 1 that is signed by three-fourths of the Article III Section 1 senators or 10% the membership, or upon receipt of a letter from the University President or designee requesting an impeachment proceeding for an alleged violation of Article XVI—Section 1.

SECTION 3: The Senate of the Student Congress shall meet within two weeks of receiving the petition or request to discuss and vote on the impeachment allegations.

SECTION 4: If the President of the Student Government Organization is the subject of the impeachment proceeding, the Vice President shall serve as chairperson of the Senate of the Student Congress during the impeachment proceeding.

ARTICLE XVII—AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: A Senator may propose an amendment to this Constitution at an open meeting of the Senate of the Student Congress. If the motion to amend is seconded, the Senator must provide a written copy of the amendment to the Secretary of the Archives who will distribute it to all Senators.

SECTION 2: At the next meeting of the Senate of the Student Congress following the proposed amendment, the Senate will consider the proposed amendment.

SECTION 3: An amendment to this Constitution is made when the Senate of the Student Congress passes the motion by a two-thirds majority vote. Once passed, the Secretary of the Archives shall publish the Amendment to the membership.

SECTION 4: Within 10 days, the membership may submit a petition with 50 members signatures indicating their opposition to the amendment.

SECTION 5: Once receiving a petition in opposition, the Student Government Organization shall schedule a referendum of the membership within two weeks of receiving the petition.

SECTION 6: If a simple majority of the membership opposes the amendment, the amendment is rejected.

SECTION 7: An amendment rejected by the membership cannot be considered again for one calendar year.

ARTICLE XVIII—ADOPTION PROVISIONS

SECTION 1: Upon adopting of this Constitution, the previous Student Government Organization constitution and all Student Government Organization bylaws existing at the time of adoption are revoked and considered null-and-void.

SECTION 2: All senators serving at the time this Constitution is adopted automatically become Article III—Section 1 at-large Senators even if the number of at-large senators exceeds the 9 at-large senator limitation stated in Article III. The at-large senator term will expire at the end of the 2023-2024 academic year.

SECTION 3: The President of the Student Government Organization, the Vice President of the Student Government Organization, and the Treasurer of the Student Government Organization

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serving at the time this Constitution is adopted automatically assume the respective office pursuant to this Constitution with a term-of-office expiring at the end of the 2023-2024 academic year.

ARTICLE XIX—CONSTITUTIONAL INTERPRETATION

SECTION 1: All words not specifically defined in this Constitution are to be read consistent with a commonly accepted college-level dictionary.

SECTION 2: To the extent a dispute arises concerning the meaning or applicability of any provision of this Constitution, the Senate of the Student Congress possesses the judicial power to determine the meaning and applicability of any provision of this Constitution.