

SGA Constitution

(Amended via referendum -Fall 2004)

We, the students of Valdosta State University, in order to form a democratic, efficient, and responsible student government; to represent, lead, and unify the student body, to decide and act responsibly for the students' interest, and to work with the Faculty and Administration of the university in the pursuit of our mutual interest, do hereby establish the Student Government Association of the Valdosta State University and adopt this constitution.

The Student Government Association applies only to the internal governance of the SGA. If any part of the SGA Constitution conflicts with Board of Regents and or university policies and procedures; then Regents and university policies and procedures will be adhered to.

ARTICLE I

Name, Membership and Structure

Section 1

The name of this organization shall be called the Student Government Association of Valdosta State University; hereinafter referred to as the "SGA."

Section 2

All students, by virtue of their registration at Valdosta State University, hereinafter referred to as "the university," shall be members of the student body and shall be subject to this constitution, the SGA By-Laws, the Student Body Statutes, and to the university Code of Ethics as it appears in the Valdosta State University Student Handbook.

Section 3

The right to vote in any student body election or referenda shall not be denied to any member of the student body.

Section 4

All students shall be subject to the rules of the court and the university, but these rules shall at no time and in no way abridge the students' rights as defined under the constitution of the United States of America or of the state of Georgia.

Section 5

The SGA, in order to effect and maintain student affairs, shall be divided into three main divisions: the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

ARTICLE II

Legislative Branch

Section 1

All legislative powers herein granted shall be invested in a senate. The senate shall formulate such policies, regulations, and recommendations that shall relate to the student body. The specific powers and responsibilities are as follows:

- a. The senate shall have the power to make recommendations on issues relevant to the general welfare of the student body including, but not limited to, student conduct regulations;
- b. The senate shall have the power to make statutes governing the operation of the SGA;

- c. The senate shall have the power to override a SGA Presidential veto on any statute or recommendation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the senate;
- d. The senate shall approve any of the SGA president's appointees by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate;
- e. The senate may, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire senate, bring charges of impeachment against any SGA executive officer, senator, or justice. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the entire senate is required to remove any SGA executive officer, senator, or justice after a charge of impeachment has been approved by the senate. The senate has no power of impeachment against executive cabinet directors. It is the sole power of the president of the SGA to remove his executive appointees after confirmation of the senate.
- f. The senate shall adopt, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate, such bylaws as rules and regulations for the SGA that shall not conflict with this constitution.

Section 2

Members of the senate may not be a member of the Student Judiciary, the manager or managing editor of any campus communication funded by the SGA, or hold any executive position in the SGA specifically described by this constitution. Every senator shall be required to take the oath of office as administered by the chief justice of the judicial branch, or any other appointed judiciary member approved by the senate.

- a. The voting membership in the senate shall be restricted as follows: ten senators to represent students in each class (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior,). There will be a total of 5 seats available to graduate students. These five seats will only be reserved for graduate students and will not be available to undergraduate students.
- b. The term of office shall run from one SGA election to the next corresponding election for that seat as prescribed in the elections code of Article VIII, Section 4 of this constitution.

Section 3

Any vacant seat in the senate to be filled shall be announced by the presiding officer of the senate within one week of its occurrence. It is the right of any Senator to suggest nominations from the floor to fill any senate vacancy. The matter shall be tabled for one week for consideration, before the winner is decided. All nominees to fill vacant seats must meet all requirements to hold office as proscribed in the elections code of Article VIII of this constitution as well as those of the SGA bylaws.

- a. No person may be nominated or elected to the Senate if that person has served on the Senate or Executive Board within the semester of nomination date.

Section 4

Officers of the senate shall be: president, president pro tempore, secretary, and parliamentarian. The president pro tempore and parliamentarian shall be elected from the senate membership by a majority vote of the voting senate at the opening meeting following the fall senate elections. The newly elected president pro tempore and parliamentarian must relinquish their position as senators to assume the duties of the offices to which they have been elected.

- a. The following duties and powers shall be invested in the Office of the president of the senate:
 - 1. Shall be the vice president of the SGA who shall preside over and conduct all meetings of the senate unless decided otherwise by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate, in concordance with this constitution, the SGA bylaws, and the rules adopted by the senate;
 - 2. Shall have the power to remove senators and fill vacancies in accordance with this constitution and the SGA bylaws;
 - 3. May, in case of a tie, vote on any measure before the senate;
 - 4. Shall appoint members to any senate Committee upon concurrence of a majority vote of the voting senate.

b. The following duties shall be vested in the Office of the president pro tempore of the senate:

1. Shall perform all the duties of the chair in the absence of the senate president;
2. Shall be responsible for maintaining order and decorum in the senate;
3. Shall serve as Chairperson of the Rules Committee, and shall perform any additional duties as defined by the SGA By-laws.
4. In regular session of the senate in which the president of the senate, or other chair as proscribed in Section 4a, is present, the president pro tempore shall be a voting member of the senate, with all rights and privileges thereof.

c. The following duties shall be invested in the Office of the secretary of the senate:

1. Shall be secretary of the SGA unless otherwise approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate;
2. Shall keep an accurate record of all senate meetings;
3. Shall be responsible for dispatching all such legislation requiring executive action to the president of the SGA;
4. Shall dispatch copies of the senate minutes to all members of the senate as well as to other persons as required;
5. Keep a roll of all senate members;
6. Shall dispatch all correspondence of the senate;
7. Shall be responsible for notifying all senators of senate meetings through the Office of Secretary of the SGA.

d. The following duties shall be vested in the Office of senate parliamentarian:

1. Shall act as an advisor to the presiding officer on matters of parliamentary procedure;
2. Shall hear all appeals on points of order.

Section 5

The senate shall assemble at least eight times a semester, except summer semester. During summer semester, the senate shall meet whenever necessary. A majority of the senate shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may convene from meeting to meeting.

Section 6

There shall be four standing committees of the senate; the Rules Committee, the Allocations Committee, the Public Relations Committee, and the Elections Committee. Each committee shall consist of five (5) members to include a chairperson. All final actions of any standing committee shall be subject to approval by the senate.

a. The duties of the Rules Committee shall be to review periodically the set of rules and regulations of conduct for the student body as found in the Valdosta State University Student Handbook as well as to periodically review the rules of procedure for the senate as found in the SGA By-laws. The Rules Committee shall be charged with the disciplinary violations of the SGA By-laws, rules, and regulations.

b. The duties of the Allocations Committee shall be the semester review all of the allocated SGA funds. Further, it shall be the responsibility of this committee to work in conjunction with the four executive Officers of the SGA to make proposals to the Student Activity Budget Committee. It shall be the right of the Allocations Committee to review the question of all expenditures of all SGA funded allocations. The Chairperson of the Allocations Committee must serve as a voting member of the Campus Communications Board as provided in Article VI Section 2 of this constitution.

c. The duties of the Public Relations Committee shall be:

1. Work in concert with other committees of the senate to increase the student body's awareness of the SGA, its purpose, agenda, and actions, to inform the student body of the events that take place in the senate, and to act as a liaison of the senate with the on-campus media.
- d. The duties of the Election Committee shall be:
 1. To yearly review the elections code of the SGA By-laws.
 2. To work in conjunction with the Executive Branch to conduct all regular and special elections of the SGA.

Section 7

The By-laws of the SGA shall be established by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate and reviewed periodically by the senate Rules Committee. Changes to the SGA By-laws are subject to the approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate. The By-laws shall be maintained by the secretary of the SGA.

Section 8

The Code of Ethics shall be established by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate and reviewed yearly by the Student Judiciary. Changes to the Code of Ethics are subject to approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate. The Code of Ethics shall be maintained by the secretary of the SGA.

Section 9

The By-laws of all Standing Boards established by this constitution shall be established by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate and will be reviewed yearly by each standing board. Changes to the By-laws of any standing board are subject to the approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate. The By-laws shall be maintained by the secretary of the SGA.

ARTICLE III

Executive Branch

Section 1

The executive Branch of the SGA, shall consist of the Offices of president, vice president, secretary, and Comptroller. The purpose of the executive Branch shall be to supervise and maintain such policies, regulations, and recommendations as are formulated by the legislative Branch in the interest, convenience and necessity of the student body. The executive Branch will initiate and maintain projects of interest of the students, which have been approved through the proper channels and shall recommend to the legislative Branch any legislation deemed necessary.

Section 2

The president, vice president, secretary, and Comptroller must each:

- a. Be an enrolled student in good standing at the university at the time of election and maintain that standing throughout the entire term of office.
- b. Hold office for the year and be elected by a majority of the voting student body as proscribed in the Election Code of Article VIII of this constitution as well as those of the SGA By-laws.
- c. Shall not be a member of any Student Judicial Committee, the Campus Activity Board, a manager or managing editor of any campus communications funded by the SGA.
- d. Shall not hold a position in the legislative Branch during the term of office unless otherwise specifically authorized by this constitution.

e. Each executive officer shall be required to take the oath of office as administered by the chief justice of the judicial branch, or any other appointed Judiciary member approved by the senate.

Section 3

The president of the SGA shall execute, supervise, and maintain all such policies, regulations, and recommendations as formulated by the legislative Branch. The following powers and duties shall be vested in the Office of president of the SGA:

a. The president shall represent the Students of Valdosta State University at official university functions. The president shall appoint, upon concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate, members to committees and councils of the university as requested by the Administration and Faculty, to fill vacancies in the executive Branch, and members of any advisory council as needed. If the president of the SGA fails to fill any vacancy in the executive Offices of vice president, secretary of the SGA, or Comptroller that passes senate confirmation within four (4) weeks after being vacated, a special election will be held to fill the position.

b. The president shall have the power to call a special session of the senate, shall be an ex officio member of all boards and committees of the SGA excluding those of the legislative Branch, and shall be responsible to see that all actions taken by the senate are executed;

c. The president shall in the spring semester call a joint meeting of all divisions of the SGA at which time the president shall report on the State of the Association;

d. The president may remove from office any Presidential appointee to the executive Cabinet.

e. The president may veto within one week of passage, any recommendation or statute of the senate, but may be over-ridden by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate. The power of vetoing any measure by the SGA senate before its passage before its acceptance by the Student Life Committee or student body, in part or as a whole, is solely invested in the Office of the president. Any bill passed by the senate must be approved by the president within ten (10) days of its passage. All bills that are approved by the senate and sanctioned by the president will be signed with the President's signature to signify acceptance of the bill. Any bill not approved by the president within the allotted ten (10) day period will be considered a failed bill.

f. The president may be a member of any standing committee or board other than those of the SGA, or may appoint a representative to serve in such capacity with the senate;

Section 4

The following duties shall be vested in the Office of vice president of the SGA:

a. The vice president of the SGA shall serve in any capacity that will assist the SGA president in the execution of all actions taken by the SGA senate. If the Presidency of the SGA is vacated for any reason, the duties and responsibilities of the president shall transfer to the vice president. The vice president shall relinquish the Office of vice president to assume the Office of president;

b. The vice president shall serve as the Chairperson of the Campus Communications Board, and will assume any other duties that may be delegated by the president;

c. The vice president shall be the official representative of the executive Branch to the senate at all senate meetings and shall be the presiding officer of the senate unless deemed otherwise by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate;

d. The vice president shall hold regularly scheduled meetings with the student-held seats on the university committees and boards and regularly report such meetings to the senate.

Section 5

The following powers and duties shall be vested in the Office of secretary of the SGA:

a. The secretary shall be the supervising officer for the secretarial staff of the SGA. The secretary shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining all records and files that pertain to the SGA;

b. The secretary shall have the responsibility of supervising all elections sponsored by for the Student Government Association, be responsible for the secretarial duties on the Campus Communication Board, have the power to call meetings of the paid secretarial assistants, and will assume any other duties delegated by the president;

c. The secretary shall be the recorder of the senate, unless deemed otherwise by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate, and will assume any other duties delegated by the presiding officer of the senate;

d. The secretary shall maintain the By-laws of the Campus Communications Board and will assume all duties of secretary of the Campus Communications Board as proscribed in Article VI Section 2 of this constitution.

Section 6

The following powers shall be invested in the Office of the Comptroller of the SGA:

a. The Comptroller shall supervise the proper expenditure of all monies of the SGA and shall monthly give a written report on these expenditures to the senate;

b. The Comptroller shall maintain records of all business transactions which involve funds of the Student Government Association; shall have the responsibility of informing the members of the SGA of all actions taken by the university that involve the use of funds derived from the members of the SGA; shall be responsible for the preparation of the budget for the SGA funds; and will assume any other duties delegated by the president.

Section 7

Succession of Executive Board Members

a. In a case where all executive board positions become vacant, the four standing SGA committee chairs shall fill the Executive Board with the respective positions to be determined by the Judicial Board in coordination with the Dean of Students office.

ARTICLE IV

Judicial Branch

Section 1

The Judicial Powers of the Student Body and the SGA shall be invested in the Student Judiciary through one prominent body, the Judicial Council, and such lesser councils as may from time to time be ordained. The Student Judiciary shall promote fairness, equality, and justice to all members of the student body. The Judicial Council shall be subject to this constitution and to the Code of Ethics.

Section 2

The Judicial Council shall be composed of eleven members appointed by the president of the SGA in conjunction with the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and with the advice and consent of two thirds (2/3) of the voting senate.

a. The Judicial Council will be presided over by a chief justice who shall yearly be elected from and by the eleven members of the Council. The chief justice, in conjunction with the Vice President for Student Affairs, shall have the power to set the time and place of meetings of all lesser councils as the need arises. Any Judicial member shall have the power to administer the oath of office, as written in the SGA Bylaws, to the members of the legislative and executive Branches as well as to all members of the Student Judicial Council, and such lesser councils as may from time to time be ordained.

b. The Judicial Council shall select one of its eleven members to serve as Clerk. The Clerk shall maintain a record of all proceedings.

c. The specific rules, procedures, and duties of the Student Judiciary shall be found in the Code of Ethics which is subject to approval by the senate as proscribed in this constitution. The Judicial Council shall be charged with the establishment of these rules, procedures, and duties, and shall yearly review the Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics shall be maintained by the secretary of the SGA.

d. All members of the Student Judiciary shall be an enrolled student in good standing at the university at the time of appointment to the Branch and must maintain that standing throughout the entire tenure of service. All members of the Judicial Council shall serve on the Council until such time as the member decides to resign, fails to maintain good standing at the university, or is removed from service by impeachment. No member shall serve as a member of the executive or legislative Branches, or be manager or managing editor of any campus communications funded by the SGA.

Section 3

The Judicial Council shall have jurisdiction and powers as described by the chief disciplinary officer of the university.

a. The constitutional and empowered jurisdiction shall include the following:

1. Violations of all rules, regulations, and policies governing individual student conduct and student organizations;
2. All sections of the executive Branch of the SGA;
3. Sole power of interpretation of the constitution, statutes, and Bylaws of the SGA;
4. All conflict which arises between officially registered student organizations;
5. Offenses against this constitution.

b. The Judicial Council, in conjunction with the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, may, at its discretion, review any case involving members of the SGA.

c. The Judicial Council shall have the right to summon any member of the student body, faculty, or administration of Valdosta State University to testify, either in behalf of or against, the accused at the request of the parties involved, before any council of the Judiciary.

d. The Judicial Council, in conjunction with the Office of the vice president for Student Affairs shall have the power to assign any and all cases to lesser councils. The powers of these lesser councils shall be set by the approval of three-fourths (3/4) vote of the voting senate and shall be contained in the bylaws of the Judiciary.

Section 4

A complete record of all actions on hearing thereof shall be made by the respective Clerks of the Council and/or other officials, designated by the Council. This record shall be made available to the student involved upon written request by the student. No record shall be made for Residence or Traffic Court hearings unless requested by the student involved before the hearing.

Section 5

The right to appeal any verdict by the Judiciary Committee shall not be denied to any student or student organization by this constitution. The Student Judiciary shall be the student body's highest appellate authority over all student organizations registered by the SGA.

Section 6

The right of counsel, either lay or professional, shall not be denied to any student or student organization by this constitution.

Section 7

Under no circumstance will a student who is tried by the Judiciary be under the threat of double jeopardy when cleared of charges by the Judiciary Council. Any charges brought up against a

student or student organization to the Judiciary by any other one group shall not be held against the student or student organization that has already been found innocent of those charges. Any student or student organization that has been found guilty of any charges shall not be denied the right to appeal that verdict. The ruling of the Judicial Council is the final authority on this constitution. All other rulings will be subject to the appeals process as found in the Valdosta State University Student Handbook.

ARTICLE V

Finances

The right of the SGA to control its financial resources and any disbursement is a right of the organization. It is the life of the SGA, and rightfully belongs to the Students in a representative and democratic government. No one shall have the authority to delegate away this right. Federal Law, the state of Georgia and its agencies, and the Board of Regents of the state of Georgia shall have the only recognized authority to restrain this right.

ARTICLE VI

Standing Boards

Section 1

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) shall have the following powers and duties:

a. The Campus Activities Board shall supervise the cultural, social, and recreational needs of the Student Body; maintain the Union Building; and provide other programs as provided in the CAB By-laws, which shall benefit the student body.

b. The members of the Campus Activities Board shall be enrolled students in good standing with the university and must maintain that standing during their membership in CAB. A Campus Activities Board member may not be a manager, editor or managing editor of any campus communications medium funded by the SGA.

c. The director of Student Activities, Program director and Program Advisor shall also be members of the Campus Activities Board.

d. The specific rules, procedures, and duties of the members of CAB shall be found in the by-laws of the Campus Activities Board and are subject to the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate. The By-laws of the Campus Activities Board shall be maintained by the secretary of the Student Government Association.

Section 2

The Campus Communications Board shall have the following powers and duties:

a. All actions of this Board shall be independent of the SGA.

b. The Campus Communication Board shall decide and act upon all policies concerning campus communication supported by student activity fees. The Board shall determine financial policies, select editors and station managers, and rules on matters concerning student communication which it governs. The Campus Communications Board is authorized by the vice president for Student Affairs and the president of the university as provided for by the Valdosta State University statutes and sanctioned by the Board of Regents of the university System of Georgia.

c. Voting members of the Campus Communications Board are the following:

1. One student member from the CAB to be appointed by the Chairperson of CAB;
2. Five members of the SGA senate, to include the Chairperson of the SGA Allocations Committee;
3. The chief officer of each campus communication as authorized by the SGA;

4. Three at-large faculty members. The SGA president will submit recommendations at the beginning of fall quarter for three at-large faculty members to the SGA senate. These three members will immediately take office upon approval of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate.
5. The vice president for Student Affairs;
6. The director of University Relations;
7. The director of Student Activities.

d. All faculty advisors of all official campus communications authorized by the SGA shall be non-voting ex officio members of the Campus Communications Board.

e. The Chairperson of the Campus Communications Board shall be the vice president of the SGA, who shall preside over all meetings of the Board and may vote only in case of a tie. The duties of the Chairperson shall be to call meetings and to represent the Board at any function where the Board's representation is required.

f. The secretary of the Campus Communications Board shall be the secretary of the SGA. The duties of the secretary shall be to record proceedings and to handle all Board correspondence. The secretary shall preside over meetings of the Board in the absence of the Chairperson, and appoint a temporary recorder for that meeting.

g. This Board shall meet at least once each month. Special meetings may be requested by any voting or ex officio member of the Board. Each voting member, or proxy, must be present at all meetings. When a voting member is unable to attend the meeting, the Chairperson of the Board shall be notified and a proxy shall be designated before the meeting. Questions shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the entire membership of the Board. Fifty percent of the membership constitutes a quorum.

h. The By-laws of the Campus Communications Board shall be amended by a simple majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Board, pending approval by the SGA senate by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting senate. The bylaws shall be maintained by the secretary of the SGA.

Section 3

The Student Parking Appeals Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. All actions of this board shall be independent of the SGA.
- b. The Student Parking Appeals Board shall be responsible for hearing all appeals on tickets issued to students by the department of Public Safety. The Board shall make recommendations to the SGA and the university administration regarding parking issues.
- c. The Chairperson of the Student Parking Appeals Board shall be the vice president of the SGA, who shall preside over all regular and special meetings of the Board, and may vote only in case of a tie. The Chairperson shall be responsible for calling meetings and representation for the Board when required.
- d. The secretary of the Student Appeals Board shall be a designated student assistant in the Office of Parking Services. The secretary shall be responsible for all clerical duties of the Board, and may not vote.
- e. The voting membership of the Board shall consist of five students in good standing with the university, to be appointed by the president of the SGA, and approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the voting senate.
- f. The Bylaws of the Student Parking Appeals Board shall be amended by the entire voting membership of the Board, pending approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the voting senate. These bylaws shall be maintained by the secretary of the SGA.

ARTICLE VII

Impeachment

Section 1

The senate shall have the sole power to hear all actions of impeachment against any official of the SGA. Any branch of the SGA may institute impeachment proceedings against any of its members. Furthermore, impeachment proceedings must be submitted to the senate, which has the sole powers of impeachment as provided for in Article II, Section 1e of this constitution. When sitting for the purpose of impeachment, the senate as a whole shall be under oath. No member shall be convicted on a charge of impeachment without three-fourths (3/4) concurrence of the whole senate. Judgment in the cases of impeachment shall extend to removal from office and disqualification to hold any office in the SGA until the next regular election.

Section 2

Any person convicted by the senate on a charge of impeachment may appeal this decision to the SGA Judicial Council. To reverse a conviction of impeachment, a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the entire Judicial Council voting for reversal of the decision is required. If the Judicial Council is unable to reach a decision, for whatever reason, the verdict of the senate shall stand. The decision of the Judicial Council is the final word in the conviction.

ARTICLE VIII

Election Code

Section 1

All candidates for the senate and executive offices shall be enrolled students in good standing with the university at the time of the election and must maintain that good standing throughout their term of office. The elections shall be conducted by the Elections Committee and publicized by the Public Relations Committee.

a. All candidates shall meet the qualifications for the particular office to which they aspire as expressed in this constitution and the SGA By-laws.

b. Each candidate shall file a statement of intent with the secretary of the SGA which shall be subject to review by the Elections Committee. This statement shall be affixed to a petition of nomination (available in the SGA office) with the affixed signatures of not less than 50 students who are currently enrolled at the university.

c. No person shall run for more than one office at a time. Once a petition has been submitted to the secretary of the SGA, the candidate cannot change the title of the office in which the candidate intends to run for.

d. Each candidate must pay a qualifying fee as proscribed in the Election Code of the SGA By-laws for the office which the candidate is running for. These fees shall be used to defray the costs of the election.

e. An individual shall be considered an official candidate only after the secretary of the SGA has received the candidate's qualifying fee, petition, statement of intent, and has verified the candidate's qualifications.

f. Qualifying for both the fall and spring semester elections shall begin thirteen (13) days prior to the day of election and the deadline for qualification shall be one week later at 5:00PM

Section 2

The form of the ballot shall be as follows:

a. The candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order under the office for which they have qualified, last name first, to be followed by the candidate's entire legal name with nicknames to be closed in parentheses as signed on their statement of intent followed by any party or group of affiliation as indicated on their statement of intent.

b. Blanks for write-in candidates shall be provided at the end of the list of qualifying candidates for each office, with the label "write-in candidates" placed before the blank.

Section 3

All candidates must follow the campaign rules and regulations as proscribed in the elections code of the SGA Bylaws.

Section 4

Election procedures are as follows:

a. All Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, and Graduate senators shall be elected by the Student Body during elections held no later than the fourth full week of the fall semester. These senators shall be installed at the first SGA meeting following their election to office.

b. The Executive Officers shall be elected by the student body during an election to be held no later than the third week of April in the spring semester. Installation shall take place no later than the last day of the spring semester.

c. Absentee ballots shall be available in the SGA office and must be voted therein between the hours of 9:00AM and 5:00PM during three regularly scheduled class days prior to the day of the elections.

d. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of votes cast in their race, a run-off election between the two candidates having the largest number of votes will be held on a date no later than ten (10) days after the original election. A simple majority (50 percent+1) will determine the winner. Any candidate may decide not to run in the run-off option with a statement of such to the secretary of the SGA and the Chairperson of the Elections Committee. In such case, the candidate with the next highest number of votes after the top two (2) vote-getters will assume the position in the run-off election.

e. Any Senator elected to any executive office must resign from the senate by seven (7) days prior to installation in the executive office.

Section 5

All voting procedures and regulations must be followed as proscribed in the Election Code of the SGA Bylaws.

Section 6

All complaints relating to violations of the above stated rules must be filed with the secretary of the SGA within nine (9) days of the election. The secretary of the SGA shall then present the complaints to the Chairperson of the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee must hear the complaint within five (5) class days of the complaint. A three-fifths (3/5) vote by the committee is required to initiate action on alleged violations. Violators may be disciplined by fines docked from their SGA salary to a maximum punishment of forfeiture of office. All actions of disciplinary nature against the offender shall be taken with the approval of such action by a majority vote of the voting senate. All admissible evidence shall be verified by at least two (2) senators and the secretary of the SGA as being valid. Any other evidence cannot be considered valid due to the possibility of fabrication. If all posters are not taken down, a per poster fine, as proscribed in the elections code of the SGA By-laws, will be charged to the candidate.

ARTICLE IX

Due Compensation

The members of the executive and legislative Branches of the SGA shall receive due compensation for their services, as proscribed in the SGA By-laws, which shall not increase or decrease during the term of office as recommended by the Student Activity Fee Budget Committee.

ARTICLE X

Amendments

Amendments or revisions of this constitution shall require approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire senate at two consecutive meetings plus ratification by the majority of those students voting.

ARTICLE XI

Effectation

This constitution shall take effect when approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the entire senate at two consecutive meetings provided for within this constitution.

ARTICLE XII

Board of Regents Approval

This constitution of the Student Body of Valdosta State University shall be considered binding on the Administration and Faculty of Valdosta State University. It shall be the responsibility of the president of the Student Government Association to present the constitution to the Board of Regents for approval. Once approved, this constitution shall be indestructible except by referendum or amendment as provided within this constitution.