

# The Liberty University Student Government Association Constitution

# **PREAMBLE**

We the students of Liberty University, by the authority vested in us by the Liberty University Administration, to secure equity, ensure representation, promote unity, and glorify God, do establish this Constitution for the Liberty University Student Government Association.

# **ARTICLE I: AUTHORITY**

1. This Constitution, the Liberty Way, all other relevant policies of the Administration, and other governing documents within the Student Government shall be the binding documents of the Student Government and its members.

# **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

# Section 1: Qualifications

- 2. Membership in the Student Government shall be open to all residential and commuter undergraduate students attending Liberty University who meet the following qualifications during their term of service:
  - a. All members shall maintain good academic standing according to the Academic Policy Handbook:
  - b. Per The Liberty Way, a student on disciplinary probation may not run for or hold a position in the Student Government Association until the student is no longer on disciplinary probation;
  - c. The Student Body President, Student Body Vice-President, and Court Justices shall maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 and shall be full-time undergraduate students at the University. Additionally, the Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President



- shall be at least Juniors by total semester credit hours according to the Academic Policy Handbook;
- d. Neither the Student Body President, Student Body Vice-President, Speaker of the House, Senate President, nor the Chief Justice shall be a Resident Assistant, and the Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President shall have served at least two semesters in the Student Government;
- e. The Speaker of the House and the Senate President shall have served at least one semester in the Representative branch prior to their term of service. The Chief Justice shall have served at least one semester within the Judicial branch prior to their term of service.

#### Section 2: Restrictions and Duties

- 1. No member may simultaneously hold two or more positions named in this Constitution, nor may they simultaneously serve in more than one branch, unless explicitly stated by this Constitution.
- 2. Only members who are a part of a body within the Student Government may vote on matters discussed within that body.

# ARTICLE III: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Section 1: Legislative Powers

- 1. Only the powers specifically enumerated within this Constitution shall be granted to the Legislative branch of the Student Government, which shall be comprised of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- 2. By resolution, the Legislative branch shall have the power to suggest courses of action to the Administration. These resolutions shall seek improvements to student life or suggest changes to the Administration's policies. Resolutions must be passed by a simple majority of both houses and signed by the Student Body President.
- 3. By bill, the Legislative branch shall have the power to alter or create governing documents and policies, except this Constitution and Administration policies. The vote count to pass a bill shall be determined by a simple majority or by whatever amount the governing document being altered deems necessary.
  - a. Bills affecting only one committee shall be passed by that committee.
  - b. Bills affecting only one chamber of the Legislative branch shall be passed by that chamber of the Legislative branch.
  - c. Bills affecting only the two chambers of the Legislative branch shall be passed by both chambers of the Legislative branch.
  - d. Bills affecting another branch of the Student Government and bills regarding any elections in the Student Government shall be passed by both chambers of the Legislative branch and signed by the Student Body President.
- 4. By constitutional amendment, the Legislative branch shall have the power to amend this Constitution according to Article VII of this Constitution.



# Section 2: House of Representatives

- 1. Members of the House of Representatives shall be called representatives, chairmen, Speaker, and speaker's staff, respectively. The representative membership of the House shall consist of residential representatives and commuter representatives.
  - a. The chairs of committees enumerated in the House bylaws may act as representatives when not presiding over their committees.
  - b. Certain positions on the Speaker's Staff, namely, the roles of chaplain, bailiff, legislative assistant, and parliamentarian, may be filled by representatives and chairmen. The clerk and secretary may not be a representative or committee chair. Members of the Speaker's Staff who are not chairmen or representatives shall not vote on matters discussed in the House.
- 2. Residential representatives shall represent their respective group of residence halls as enumerated in the Representative Apportionment Document. Each group of residential halls may be represented by up to one representative at a time, excepting the Speaker and the chairs of committees enumerated in the House bylaws. Each fall semester, students living on each group of residence halls shall elect their hall representative during a campus-wide election period, which shall take place before the date which is three weeks after the first day of classes. Eligible residential students may apply to run for their hall seat through a secure form sent to all residential students. Candidates shall be placed on their hall's ballot after the Department of Student Affairs confirms their qualifications as outlined in Article II of this Constitution.
  - a. According to Article III, Section 1, Clause 3, the Representative Apportionment Document may be amended by bill.
- 3. Commuter representatives shall represent commuter students. Commuter representative seats shall not exceed one-fourth of the total number of residence halls. Commuter representatives shall be elected to these at-large commuter seats during the aforementioned election period. Candidates shall be placed on the commuter ballot after the Department of Student Affairs confirms their qualifications as outlined in Article II of this Constitution.
- 4. These representative elections shall be governed by the Representative Election Rules, which may be altered by bill according to Article III Section 1 Clause 3(d) of this Constitution.
- 5. All representatives shall serve until the end of classes in the academic year of their term of service or their resignation. If a representative resigns during their term or there is a vacant seat, the Speaker shall contact the Resident Director of the apportioned area to seek a nomination for the open seat.
- 6. The House shall elect one of its members to the office of Speaker in the last meeting of each Spring semester. Each committee enumerated in the House Bylaws shall elect one of its members to the office of committee chair in the last meeting of each Spring semester. Upon their election to a leadership position, the Speaker and the chairs of committees enumerated in the House Bylaws do not need to run for reelection for a hall or commuter seat, and they will not be counted as filling their hall's representative seat.
  - a. The Speaker of the House shall direct meetings and operations of the House as prescribed in this Constitution, the Code of Ethics, the House Bylaws, and House Parliamentary Procedures. The Speaker of the House shall hold their office until the end of classes in the academic year of their term of office.



- b. The Speaker shall have no vote unless their vote would immediately, by count, alter the passage or rejection of the matter at hand. The Speaker shall remain impartial during all legislative sessions and may not step down from the chair to speak on legislation, excepting meetings of the Committee on Rules and Ethics. Impartiality is defined as not expressing personal opinions on legislation, nominations, or other matters of consideration, as well as not misusing the authority, influence, or other privileges of the office to improperly manipulate or alter the outcome of votes.
- c. The Speaker shall only have those powers enumerated to the position and those powers necessary and proper to the carrying out of the Speaker's enumerated powers.
- 7. The House shall be overseen by a committee on Rules and Ethics, which shall only have jurisdiction over bills and amendments originating in the House. The Committee shall also have jurisdiction to determine the agenda for each House meeting by a simple majority vote. The Committee shall only consist of the duly elected chairmen of committees enumerated in the House Bylaws. The Committee shall be chaired by the Speaker, who is also a voting member of the Committee.

#### Section 3: Senate

- 1. The membership of the Senate shall be composed of two Senators from each undergraduate school or college, appointed by the Dean thereof.
- 2. The Dean of each school or college shall appoint a new Senator to fill any vacancies in representation.
- 3. No person shall be appointed as a Senator of a school if they have not declared a major or minor within the school which they seek to represent. In the case of the Honors College, only students who are members of the Honors Scholars or Eagle Scholars programs may be appointed.
- 4. The enumeration of schools and colleges shall be as follows:
  - a. School of Aeronautics
  - b. College of Applied Studies and Academic Success
  - c. College of Arts and Sciences
  - d. School of Behavioral Sciences
  - e. School of Business
  - f. School of Communication and the Arts
  - g. Rawlings School of Divinity
  - h. School of Education
  - i. School of Engineering
  - j. Helms School of Government
  - k. School of Health Sciences
  - 1. School of Music
  - m. School of Nursing
- 5. The Senate shall elect one of its members to the office of Senate President. The Senate President shall direct meetings and operations of the Senate as prescribed in the Senate bylaws and this Constitution. The Senate President shall hold their office until the end of classes in the academic year of their term of office.
- 6. The Senate President shall have no vote unless their vote would immediately, by count, alter the passage or rejection of the matter at hand. The Senate President shall remain impartial during all



legislative sessions and may not step down from the chair to speak on legislation, excepting meetings of the Committee on Oversight, and to provide rationale on a tie-breaking vote. Impartiality is defined as not expressing personal opinions on legislation, nominations, or other matters of consideration, as well as not misusing the authority, influence, or other privileges of the office to improperly manipulate or alter the outcome of votes.

- 7. Senators shall serve until the end of classes in the academic year of their term of service or until resignation.
- 8. The Senate shall be overseen by a Committee on Oversight, which shall determine the agenda for that chamber.

#### Section 4: Business Procedure

- 1. The House of Representatives and Senate shall separately assemble at least twice in every month during the academic year as set forth by the Registrar's academic calendar. Any Joint Session shall be presided over by the Student Body Vice-President.
- 2. Neither house shall adjourn for more than ten days during the session of the academic year without the consent of the other house.
- 3. One-third of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business in that house.
- 4. Each house shall determine bylaws to govern its proceedings according to the duties of that house as established by this Constitution. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of that house and shall be made publicly available.
- 5. The following documents of the Legislative branch shall be its governing documents, listed by order of authority, and shall not change from year to year, except by amendments to said documents. In addition, the Director of Internal Affairs shall maintain a current copy of each of these documents to ensure their continuance from year to year.
  - a. The Constitution
  - b. The Chamber Leader Election Rules
  - c. The House Bylaws and Senate Bylaws
  - d. The House Parliamentary Procedure
  - e. Joint, House, and Senate Committee Bylaws
- 6. In all cases, the votes of both houses shall be determined by ayes and nays.
- 7. Each house shall keep detailed records of its proceedings and the passage of legislation.

## Section 5: Legislation

#### Subsection 1: Resolutions

1. Resolutions which have passed the House and the Senate shall be presented to the Director of Internal Affairs. The Director of Internal Affairs shall present all passed resolutions to the Student Body President within four business days of the resolutions' receipt. If the Student Body President approves of the resolution, the Student Body President shall sign the resolution and recommend it to the Administration. If the Student Body President disapproves of the resolution, the Student Body President shall veto the resolution and return it, with their written objections, to that house in which the resolution originated. The house of origination shall notify its members of the Student Body President's objections and immediately proceed to reconsider the resolution. Reconsideration of a resolution vetoed by the Student Body President shall constitute the house in



- which the resolution originated putting the resolution on the docket of the next meeting for consideration.
- 2. If, after reconsideration of a returned resolution, two-thirds of the resolution's originating house agree to pass the resolution, it shall be sent, together with the Student Body President's objections, to the other house, in which it shall likewise be considered. If a reconsidered resolution is approved by two-thirds of that house, the resolution shall be recommended to the Administration in like manner as if the Student Body President had signed it.
- 3. If any resolution has not been returned by the Student Body President within ten business days after it has been presented to them by the Director of Internal Affairs, the resolution shall be presented to the Administration in like manner as if the President had signed it.
- 4. If the Administration approves of a resolution recommended to it, it shall become a statute. If the Administration disapproves of a resolution, that resolution shall be returned, with the Administration's objections, to the house in which it originated, who shall notify its members of the objections. A resolution so returned shall not be reconsidered and shall not become a statute.
- 5. If a piece of legislation is not signed or rejected by the Student Body President or the Administration before the end of a Fall semester, that legislation's timeline for consideration (as detailed above) shall be paused and the legislation shall be considered "Pending" as of the Spring semester of that same academic year. At the beginning of the Spring semester, the timeline for consideration shall resume as prescribed.
- 6. If a piece of legislation is not signed or rejected by the Student Body President or the Administration before the adjournment of the whole Representative branch sine die at the end of a Spring semester, that legislation's timeline for consideration (as detailed above) shall be paused and the legislation shall be considered "Pending" as of the Fall semester of the following academic year. At the beginning of the Fall semester, the timeline for consideration shall restart with a new ten days and shall be presented to the new Student Body President or the administration, whoever was in the process of considering it the semester prior.
- 7. If a resolution has not been signed by the President or the Vice President of the University within one year of its signing by the Student Body President, then the Director of Internal affairs shall rule the resolution as vetoed by the according executive.

#### Subsection 2: Bills

- 1. Bills which have passed the House and the Senate shall be presented to the Director of Internal Affairs. The Director of Internal Affairs shall present all passed bills to the Student Body President within four days of their receipt. If the Student Body President approves of the bill, the Student Body President shall sign the bill and it shall be enacted. If the Student Body President disapproves of the bill, the Student Body President shall veto the bill and shall return it, with their written objections, to that house in which the bill originated. The house of origination shall notify its members of the objections and immediately proceed to reconsider it.
- 2. If, after reconsideration of a returned bill, the bill's originating house agree to pass the bill by a vote total of the overriding majority provided for in the governing document, or policy, being altered (two-thirds if none is provided), it shall be sent, along with the Student Body President's objections, to the other house, in which it shall likewise be reconsidered. If a reconsidered bill is approved by an overriding majority of that house as listed in the governing document, or policy, being altered (two-thirds if none is provided), the bill shall be enacted in like manner as if the Student Body President had signed it.

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3. If any bill has not been returned by the Student Body President within ten business days after the bill has been presented to the Student Body President by the Director of Internal Affairs, the bill shall take effect in like manner as if the Student Body President had signed it.

# Section 6: Legislative Standards

- 1. For the purpose of bicameral cooperation, discussion, and analysis between the House of Representatives and the Senate, all legislation, including both the title and contents, shall be written in the English language in a manner designed for all legislative members to plainly understand the nature and contents of the legislation.
- 2. In accordance with the Liberty Way, all legislation shall be strictly prohibited from including any foul language, vulgarity, swearing, innuendo, or positive references (direct or indirect) to illegal drug use within any elements of the document.
- 3. Legislation shall comply with any formatting standards that may be created by bill, or pursuant to the bylaws or parliamentary procedures of either chamber, including any standards that may be set pursuant to a chamber leader's discretionary authority.
- 4. All resolutions introduced to the House, the Senate, or any committee must not exceed five (5) pages in length, excluding any attachments or supporting materials. In cases where a resolution exceeds five (5) pages in length, the author(s) must provide a written justification for the additional length to a Review Committee, which shall consist of the House Clerk, the Senate Clerk, and the leader of the chamber of which the sponsor is a member. The Review Committee shall review the justification for approval and ensure the justification is included in the official legislative record. Supporting materials such as legal analyses, fiscal notes, and technical data may be submitted separately (i.e. footnotes and appendices) and are not subject to the page limit, but must be clearly referenced within the main document.
- 5. Should legislation violate these legislative standards, it shall not be considered by its committee or chamber of origin until the sections in question are rewritten to comply with the enumerated requirements.
- 6. Legislation shall be properly numbered and formatted according to the template of its chamber of origin before being sent to another chamber.

# ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BRANCH

#### Section 1: Executive Powers

- 1. Only the powers specifically enumerated within this Constitution shall be granted to the Executive branch of the Student Government. All non-enumerated powers are not implied unless specifically defined by an amendment to this Constitution.
- 2. The executive powers herein granted shall be vested in the Student Body President and the Student Body President and the Student Body Vice-President. The President and Vice-President shall hold their offices until resignation or until the inauguration in the academic year following their inauguration, whichever is sooner.
- 3. Elections for the Student Body President and Vice-President shall occur in March.
- 4. Upon election, the Student Body President-Elect and Vice-President-Elect shall be inaugurated no earlier than the third week in April.
- 5. The time between the Election and the Inauguration, henceforth known as the "State of Transition," shall serve as a training period for the Student Body President-Elect and Vice-President Elect.



- a. During the State of Transition, the President and Vice-President shall strive to finalize all matters of business for the current administration.
- b. In addition to fulfilling their final responsibilities, the President and Vice-President shall allow the President-Elect and Vice-President-Elect to observe their proceedings, where helpful and practicable, during the State of Transition to prepare them for their future roles.
- c. The current President and Vice-President shall offer guidance and advice to their successors during the State of Transition.
- d. The President-Elect and Vice-President-Elect shall appoint members to their Cabinet and develop a vision and agenda for their administration during the State of Transition.
- An oath of office shall be administered for the Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President by the Chief Justice at the beginning of the Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President's terms.
- 7. In the case of the removal of the President from office or their resignation, the Vice-President shall become President. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice-President, the President shall nominate a Vice-President, who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both houses of the Representative branch. In the event of vacancies in the offices of both the Student Body President and the Student Body Vice-President, the positions shall be filled in the following order, provided that all constitutional requirements are met: Speaker of the House, President of the Senate.

# Section 2: Appointments

- The President shall have the power to appoint Justices of the Student Court and all other officers
  of the Student Government whose appointments are not otherwise provided for in this
  Constitution.
- 2. The President shall not appoint officers in the Student Government if their respective offices were created by statute of the Representative branch.

#### Section 3: Cabinet

- 1. Subject to confirmation by the Senior Vice-President of Student Affairs and a contractual agreement affirming their oath of office, the President shall appoint a Chief of Staff, a Director of Communications, a Director of Clubs, a Director of Events, a Director of Internal Affairs, a Director of Student Outreach and Feedback, a Director of Technology, and a Student Body Treasurer, who shall serve as the President's Cabinet. The Student Body Vice-President shall also serve as a member of the Cabinet in an advisory role.
- 2. The President and each member of the Cabinet shall have the authority to appoint assistants for the proper execution of the duties of their office. These assistants shall be subject to the same requirements as other members of the Student Government.
- 3. The President may appoint a General Council if deemed necessary for incidents involving or related to the duties prescribed in Section 5 Subsection 8 of this Article or as otherwise needed.
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# Subsection 2: Department of Communications

1. The Director of Communications shall be responsible for directing an office that manages the communications with the student body and Liberty stakeholders. This will include, but is not



limited to, maintaining the organization's social media presence, marketing and promoting SGA events, and responding to relevant incoming communications to SGA. The Director may hire team members to assist in these duties.

## Subsection 3: Department of Clubs

1. The Director of Clubs shall be responsible for directing an office that serves as the liaison between university clubs and SGA. The Director is responsible for advising potential clubs, reviewing pending club applications, confirming and scheduling requested club events, and performing other administrative needs as necessary. The Director collaborates with the Treasurer on matters related to clubs funding and to disseminate information regarding SGA policies to clubs. The Director may hire team members to assist in these duties.

## Subsection 4: Department of Events

1. The Director of Events shall be responsible for directing an office that coordinates internal and external SGA events that foster collaboration within SGA and laterally with other university departments. To successfully plan and execute these events, the Director oversees budgeting, planning, day-of-event details, post-event procedures, and team management. The Director may hire team members to assist in these duties.

#### Subsection 5: Department of Internal Affairs

1. The Director of Internal Affairs shall be responsible for directing an office to observe the operations of all departments of the Student Government. The Director presents all relevant pieces of legislation to the Student Body President within four days of its receipt. The Director records, keeps, and publicizes a record and history of all legislation as it passes through the legislative process. The Director advises and guides the Legislative branch by planning developmental workshops, offering advice and resources to assist with the legislative drafting process, and building a positive culture between branches.

#### Subsection 6: Department of the Treasury

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing the allocation and distribution of the budget given to SGA, as chair of the Funding Board and director of the Department of the Treasury. The Treasurer builds and manages a team that enables them to accomplish these tasks. The Treasurer shall adhere to the budget approval process as outlined in this Constitution.

#### Subsection 7: General Counsel

- The General Counsel shall direct an office to be responsible for the legal representation of the Student Government and members of the Executive branch; to advise and represent individuals and clubs in legal matters arising under this Constitution; to advise officers in drafting new bylaws for the Executive departments; and to petition the Court for the enforcement of order under exigent circumstances;
  - a. The General Counsel may appoint an Assistant General Counsel to oversee such legal assistants as the office may appoint, and to perform such other duties as the General Counsel may designate.
  - b. The General Counsel may appoint a Solicitor General to advise and represent the members of the Student Government before the Student Court. The General Counsel may elect to act as the Solicitor General themselves.



c. Unless prescribed otherwise by these duties, in the event of an absence or vacancy in the position of the General Counsel, the President shall appoint another individual to act as General Counsel, provided they meet the qualifications for General Counsel.

## Subsection 8: Department of Student Outreach and Feedback

1. The Director of Student Outreach and Feedback shall be responsible for soliciting and sorting feedback from students. The Director shall manage the official sga@liberty.edu inbox.

## Subsection 9: The Department Of Technology

1. The Director of Technology shall be responsible for the implementation of data systems and technological solutions and shall drive the adoption of technologies to enhance efficiency and productivity.

## Section 6: Funding Board

- 1. In addition to the Treasury, there shall be a Joint Funding Board consisting of the Treasurer, the Vice-Treasurer, any other members of the Treasury Department, and the Director of Clubs. Additionally, the House of Representatives and the Senate shall have the right to appoint one additional member each, if desired.
  - a. The board shall be responsible for granting funding status, financially auditing, and crafting a budget for both Clubs and SGA entities the semester before that budget takes effect.
  - b. The Board shall approve the funding status and budget of these Clubs and SGA entities by a three-fourths majority vote. The budget will be presented to the Student Body President, who must approve or deny it within five days. If approved, the budget will come into effect; if vetoed, the Board may override this decision with a unanimous vote, sending a final budget and accompanying rationale to the Student Body President.
  - c. Non-Club spending shall not exceed 15 percent of the total SGA Budget for each semester.
- 2. The Funding Board shall be structured as follows:
  - a. The Board shall be managed by both the Treasurer and the Chairman of the Board
  - b. The Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer shall be responsible for all Funding Board-related contact with the Clubs and SGA entities.
  - c. All members of the Funding Board shall have access to all funding-relevant Club and SGA entity information, as determined by the Treasurer.
  - d. All Funding Board members shall adhere to and follow the protocol laid out in both the SGA Constitution and the Funding Board Bylaws.
  - e. All Funding Board members will have equal vote and voice in the Funding Board operations.
  - f. The Funding Board's operations will be governed by the Bylaws of the Funding Board.
  - g. The Funding Board may amend their Bylaws with a three-fourths majority vote and approval of the Student Body President, or with a three-fourths Funding Board majority vote and the passing of a bill through the House and Senate via standard means.
- 3. The rules regarding Funding Board membership are as follows:
  - a. The Treasurer, Vice-Treasurer, any other members of the Treasury Department, and the Director of Clubs shall serve on the board for the duration of their time in office.



- b. All House and Senate members are required to have been active for at least one semester in the Student Government Association. For the duration of their service on the Funding Board, these members may not hold a position of leadership in any SGA club.
- c. All House and Senate members must be nominated no later than the second legislative session of the semester in which they are to serve.
- d. The Speaker of the House and the Senate President shall have the right to nominate one member each from their respective body, if desired. The Treasury Department will be allowed two weeks to release an opinion letter on each member nominated to the Funding Board prior to each member's confirmation. The opinion letters will address the nominated member's competency and qualifications for Funding Board service and shall be read by the respective Chamber Leader to the House and the Senate.
- e. The Senate representative shall be confirmed by a simple majority of the Senate and shall serve until the end of the academic year in which they are confirmed, or until their resignation or removal from the Senate.
- f. The House representative shall be confirmed by a simple majority of the House and shall serve until the end of the academic year in which they are confirmed, or until their resignation or removal from the House.
- g. Confirmed nominees shall be approved by a three-fifths majority of the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, the Student Body President, the Student Body Vice-President, and the Chief Justice, and receive the approval of the Associate Director.
- h. The confirmed members shall be introduced to the other members of the Board and given access to the historical data, bylaws, and any other relevant information regarding the Funding Board and financial audit information.
- 4. Protocol for removing Board members shall be as follows:
  - a. Blatant violations of the Bylaws or three unreasonable absences are grounds for the Board to file a petition to the Student Court to remove that member.
  - b. Any Funding Board member who is removed from their SGA office shall also be removed from the Funding Board.
  - c. Unreasonable absences of the Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer from Funding Board activities shall be considered by the Student Court as reasonable grounds for their removal from SGA office.

# ARTICLE V: JUDICIAL BRANCH

#### Section 1: Judicial Powers

- 1. The judicial powers of the Student Government shall be vested in the Student Court.
- 2. When the Student Court issues a ruling, it shall be considered binding to all members of the Student Government.

#### Section 2: Justices

1. The Student Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices, who shall be nominated by the Student Body President and confirmed by a simple majority of both houses of the Legislative branch.



- 2. The Chief Justice shall hold their office until the end of their undergraduate studies or until their resignation. Each of the Associate Justices shall hold their office until the end of classes in the second academic year of their term of office or until their resignation.
- 3. Except as the bylaws of the Student Court shall prescribe, the Chief Justice shall preside over the Student Court.
- 4. The Chief Justice shall have the authority to appoint Judicial Assistants as necessary.

#### Section 3: Courts

The Student Court shall have jurisdiction in all violations of this Constitution, the Code of Ethics, club constitutions, and all statutes of the Student Government, and in all disputes and conflicts arising under the same. The Student Court shall have appellate jurisdiction on any matter delegated to the Court by the Office of Student Conduct, the Liberty University Police Department, or the Administration. The Court's ruling and opinions shall be decided by a majority vote.

## Section 4: Investigative Committee

- 1. Upon receipt of allegations raised against a member of the Student Government, the Student Court shall convene an Investigative Committee, which shall be comprised of two Representatives, two Senators, and one officer of the Executive branch, excluding the General Counsel, each selected according to the bylaws of the Student Court.
- 2. An Investigative Committee shall act as a grand jury to investigate allegations against a member of the Student Government to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to prosecute the individual before the Student Court.
- 3. An Investigative Committee shall have the power to subpoena individuals of the Student Government and may also request that individuals not in Student Government appear before the committee, giving reasonable consideration to the academic schedules of those required and requested to appear, and the committee shall not infringe on the individual's right to remain silent.
- 4. Within ten academic days of the receipt of allegations, the Investigative Committee shall report to the Chief Justice and to the General Counsel (if appointed by the President) whether it finds sufficient evidence for an indictment. If probable cause for the allegation is found, the Solicitor General shall bring the accused before the Student Court for adjudication.

#### Section 5: Elections

- 1. The times, places, and manner of holding all elections shall be prescribed by the Legislative branch of the Student Government, according to the process for passage of bills provided in this Constitution. The Legislative branch may delegate administrative tasks at its own discretion. After the date two weeks prior to Candidate Orientation, the Legislative branch shall not modify the election rules without the written petition of all candidates.
- 2. The President shall appoint an Election Commissioner who will be confirmed by a simple majority of both the House of Representatives and the Senate and sworn in by the Chief Justice at the meeting of whichever house votes second. They shall serve until the end of the academic year in which they were appointed. Upon the resignation of the Election Commissioner during their term, the President shall appoint a New Election Commissioner prior to the final Joint Session of the Legislative branch in that academic year.



3. The Election Commissioner shall preside over an Election Committee and an Election Board. The Election Commissioner may delegate their authority onto members of the Election Committee and Election Board as they see fit. All election vote totals shall be announced on the Student Government social media accounts no later than 24 hours following the election.

#### Subsection 1: Election Committee

- 1. The Election Committee shall consist of the Student Body President, Student Body Vice-President, Speaker of the House, Senate President, and Chief Justice.
- 2. The Committee shall serve as an advisory body to the Legislative branch in the creation and subsequent modification of the Election Rules, and to the Election Commissioner in the performance of his or her duties.
- 3. If any permanent member of the Election Committee runs for elected office, they will not be permitted to serve on the Committee during the election cycle of their candidacy. In addition, permanent members of the Committee must remain impartial and may not be involved in any campaigns, unless they step down from the Committee for the duration of the election cycle.

#### Subsection 2: Election Board

- 1. The Election Board shall consist of the Election Commissioner and four undergraduate students. All members of the Election Board shall be considered members of the Judicial Branch while Elections are ongoing.
- 2. The Student Body President, Student Body Vice-President, Speaker of the House, and Senate President shall each nominate one member to serve on the Election Board. These four additional nominees to the Election Board shall be confirmed by a simple majority of both the House and the Senate. Each board member shall serve until the end of the academic year in which they were appointed.
- 3. The Election Board shall oversee elections, subject to all provisions of this Constitution and the statutes of the Legislative branch, and shall be tasked with enforcing the Rules for the Election of the Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President.
- 4. If the Election Board, by majority vote, finds probable cause of a material violation of the election rules, the Election Commissioner may file a case before the Student Court. The Student Court shall conduct a hearing, and if clear and convincing evidence is presented that a candidate or his or her agent, acting within the scope of his or her role in the campaign in a way that reasonably should have been subject to the campaign's supervision, violated the duly passed election rules, shall determine the appropriate sanctions for the violation, subject to and consistent with all relevant provisions in the election rules and other statutes duly passed by bill of the Legislative branch.

# ARTICLE VI: DISCIPLINE

## Section 1: Legislative and Executive Impeachment

1. If any member or officer of the Legislative or Executive branches of the Student Government fails to properly and capably discharge their responsibilities under this Constitution, violates the Code of Ethics, or fails to meet the qualifications of their position, any individual may petition the Student Court to create an Investigative Committee as set forth in Article V Section 4.



- 2. If an Investigative Committee issues an indictment against a member or officer of the Legislative or Executive branches the President shall appoint a General Counsel to present the case before the Student Court and the defendant shall be entitled to a proper defense.
- 3. If a member or officer of the Legislative or Executive branches is tried and convicted by the Student Court, the Court shall determine appropriate discipline within the extent of the power of the Student Government. Such discipline shall not exceed removal from office; however, the Court may refer the matter to the Office of Student Conduct.

# Section 2: Judicial Impeachment

- 1. If any member of the Judicial branch fails to properly and capably discharge their responsibilities under this Constitution or violates the Code of Ethics, any individual may petition either the House Committee on Rules and Ethics or the Senate Committee on Oversight. Upon the vote of either of the two aforementioned committees, an Investigative Committee will be convened and shall act as a grand jury to investigate allegations of misconduct. The members of the Investigative Committee will be determined per the guidance of Article 5, Section 4, Point 1 of this Constitution. The powers of the Investigative Committee are determined per the guidance of Article 5, Section 4 of this Constitution.
- 2. If an Investigative Committee issues an indictment against a member of the Judicial branch, the President shall appoint a General Counsel to present the case before the Legislative branch in Joint Session.
- 3. If a member of the Judicial branch is tried and convicted by the Legislative branch, the Legislative branch shall determine appropriate discipline within the extent of the power of the Student Government. By a two-thirds majority vote of the Representative branch in Joint Session, that member may be removed from office. The Representative branch may refer the matter to the Office of Student Conduct.

# **ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENT**

- 1. Members of the Student Government may propose amendments to this Constitution. Amendments which have passed the House and the Senate by a two-thirds majority each shall be presented to the Director of Internal Affairs. The Director of Internal Affairs shall present all passed amendments to the Student Body President within four business days of the amendment's receipt. If the Student Body President approves of the amendment, then the Student Body President shall sign the amendment and recommend it to the Administration. If the Student Body President disapproves of the amendment, then the Student Body President shall veto the amendment and return it, with their written objections, to that house in which the amendment originated. The house of origination shall notify its members of the Student Body President's objections and immediately proceed to reconsider the amendment.
- 2. If, after reconsideration of a returned amendment, three-fourths of the amendment's originating house agree to pass the amendment, then it shall be sent, together with the Student Body President's objections, to the other house, in which it shall likewise be reconsidered. If a reconsidered amendment is approved by three-fourths of that house, then the amendment shall be recommended to the Administration in like manner as if the President had signed it.



- 3. If any amendment has not been returned by the Student Body President within ten business days after it has been presented to them by the Director of Internal Affairs, then the amendment shall be presented to the Administration in like manner as if the President had signed it.
- 4. If the Administration approves of an amendment recommended to it, the amendment shall become a part of this Constitution. If the Administration disapproves of an amendment, then that amendment shall be returned, with the Administration's objections, to the house in which it originated, and that house shall notify its members of the objections. An amendment so returned shall not be reconsidered and shall not become a part of this Constitution.
- 5. If an amendment is not signed or rejected by the Student Body President or the Administration before the end of a Fall semester, then that amendment's timeline for consideration (as detailed above) shall be paused and the amendment shall be considered "Pending" as of the Spring semester of that same academic year. At the beginning of the Spring semester, the timeline for consideration shall resume as prescribed.
- 6. If an amendment is not signed or rejected by the Student Body President or the Administration before the adjournment of the whole Legislative branch sine die at the end of a Spring semester, then that amendment shall be considered "Pocket Vetoed" and shall not be considered further. At any future time, it must begin the process again.
- 7. The enumeration of schools and colleges for the membership of the Senate may be updated by the Director of Internal Affairs according to the University's most recent academic catalog immediately upon relevant revisions to that document. No Senator's term shall be reduced or terminated by such revisions. The Director of Internal Affairs shall notify the Senate President whenever such revisions modify the membership of the Senate.



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