

The United Student Association of South Seattle College

Constitution

South Seattle College does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or sexual orientation.

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ARTICLE I: PREAMBLE

The officers of the United Student Association (USA) are committed to nurturing our community by fostering a comfortable and supportive environment. We advocate for the needs and interests of the diverse student body at South Seattle College. We strive to accomplish this commitment by promoting and encouraging self-development, community involvement, and cultural sensitivity.

ARTICLE II: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the South Seattle College United Student Association, hereafter referred to as the "USA".

ARTICLE III: OBJECTIVE

The objective of the USA shall be to provide opportunities for students' academic success, leadership activities, and to further the growth of student relations administration, faculty, staff, student population, and the community.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTIONS

1. All students applying must be enrolled at minimum five credits while maintaining a 2.5 or above cumulative GPA at the time of application and during the entire term of employment.
2. All USA members shall be elected in an at-large campus election during the spring quarter. The incoming President & Vice President, Treasurer and Officers alike will take office prior to Fall Quarter.
3. An Election Committee shall be assembled as described in the Bylaws. The Election Committee shall be responsible for administering the election process with the support of the Student Life Staff. The Dean of Student Life & USA Advisor shall be ultimately responsible for the elections and monitoring the ballot count.
4. The USA may appoint a new committee chairperson position at the request of said Committee, through the process laid out in Article VII.
5. An Election Handbook with procedures and application shall be produced by Election Committee and Student Government Advisor. Incomplete and/or late applications will not receive consideration.

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ARTICLE V: OFFICER COMPENSATION

Officers of the USA shall receive payment based on their duties and responsibilities, as defined in the Bylaws, while serving.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTED OFFICERS

1. The Student Body will elect all Officers annually in the spring as provided in Article VII, excepting provisions within subsection 2 of Article VI. The President and Vice President USA officers shall serve a terms of one year, not to exceed two consecutive terms.
2. The USA reserves the right to make any appointments governing mid-term Committee Chair vacancies, as stipulated in Articles IV and VII. Any such appointment shall be in full compliance with this Constitution and USA Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII: MID-TERM VACANCY

1. The USA shall determine if mid-term vacancies in officer positions will be filled. If so, the entire campus will be notified that a vacancy exists and that interested candidates may apply for the position.
2. In the case of vacancies, the USA reserves the right to appoint an officer in full compliance with this Constitution and USA Bylaws.
3. All applicants shall present themselves for an interview by the USA, or with a representative delegation of USA Officers following the application deadline. Applicants are expected to attend a mandatory informational meeting at which interview times and dates shall be provided. Interviews, with specific questions prepared in advance shall be conducted in an identical manner for each applicant
4. All new Officers will participate in an appropriate orientation by the President & Vice President, and Student Life staff as appropriate.
5. Any Officer resigning shall provide written notice of resignation to the President and the Dean of Student Life. Any vacancies must be announced to the USA no later than the next regularly scheduled USA meeting. Upon such notification, the USA both may immediately declare that position vacant and proceed to fill it by campus wide elections or through the process detailed in subsection 2 of this Article.

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ARTICLE VIII: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE AND OTHER SANCTIONS

1. Failure to maintain the qualifications of office, as stated in the USA Bylaws, or within this Constitution, shall constitute sufficient cause for an Officer to be removed from office. Any action on the part of the USA to impose sanctions or remove any Officer from their post will require a 2/3 majority in the USA.
2. However, if it is determined that an Officer no longer meets the minimum qualifications (including student status, grade point average, and/or good conduct standing), the decision to remove from office will be the sole responsibility and discretion of the Dean of Student Life with input from the USA Advisor.
3. The USA may place any member on probation, for any cause deemed to be in violation of officer good conduct standards as stipulated by this Constitution and the USA Bylaws, or after ten (10) days absence from duty. A written report of any probation will promptly be presented to the USA for further review.
4. Any officer placed on probation may undergo reduction and/or cessation of any payment. An overview of Officer violations (within federal privacy restrictions) must accompany any request for steps taken to bring said Officer into compliance. The USA, in reference to this Constitution and the USA Bylaws, shall conduct determination of any Officers duties. Any action by the USA to suspend, alter, or terminate any award or stipend must meet a 2/3 majority approval.
5. Before removal, a letter shall be mailed to the Officer at their current address. This letter shall state the alleged cause for removal, the date (not less than seven (7) calendar days after mailing) on which the matter will be brought to the Executive Committee for recommendation to the USA, as well as the date on which the USA will consider that recommendation. The officer shall be given a reasonable opportunity to respond before both the Executive Committee and the USA.
6. Officers of the USA removed from office are ineligible for appointment or candidacy to any S&A Fee funded position until the first day of the following academic year.

ARTICLE IX: USA

1. The USA, constituting the governing body of the SSC student body, shall be empowered to act for the student body in matters of the government, activities, and finances of the USA. As the governing body, the USA shall comply with the state open public meetings act to the extent required by RCW 42.30.200.
2. The USA shall consist of duly elected or appointed Officers, in full compliance with the USA Constitution and Bylaws. Every Officer shall have one vote. The Presiding Officer shall only vote to break a tie.

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ARTICLE X: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern all meetings to which they are applicable and consistent with this Constitution, the Bylaws, and any special rules of order that the USA may adopt.

ARTICLE XI: USA MEETINGS

1. The USA shall meet as stated in the Bylaws. A quorum of 51% of Officers must be present in order to conduct any meeting. USA actions may be taken only by a majority of the Officers present at a duly called meeting, excepting occasions requiring a 2/3 majority. There shall be no proxy votes.
2. Every Officer shall have one vote. The Presiding Officer shall only vote to break a tie.

ARTICLE XII: USA COMMITTEES

1. Standing Committees shall be as provided in the USA Bylaws.
2. The President may appoint any member of the USA to serve on an Ad-Hoc Committee. Ad-Hoc Committees shall be established at need. Ad-Hoc Committee Chairs shall serve at the recommendation of the President.
3. Officer Committee Membership responsibilities are provided in the USA Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII: BUDGET

1. The USA shall operate within the guidelines of the approved fiscal Budget.
2. The Budget Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer and shall be responsible for budget preparation and monitoring expenditures ensuring student funds are used in the manner most appropriate. The Treasurer may provide monthly expenditure and budget status reports.

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ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENTS

1. All amendments and revisions to this Constitution must be approved by the SSC Student Body in a campus referendum, Dean of Student Life, Vice President of Student Services, President, and by the Board of Trustees in accordance with District Policies and Procedures.

2. Past Amendments

- a 4/84
- b 1/88
- c 10/91
- d 3/94
- e 6/04
- f 5/05
- g 2/12 (proposed)
- h 4/13 (proposed)