

**Salisbury University Student Government Association
Constitution – April 2023**



Preamble

We, the students of Salisbury University, to advocate for issues regarding students' rights, concerns, and well-being, to foster student involvement both on campus and in the community, to promote and preserve a close and inclusive atmosphere for discussion and self-expression, and to promote the ideals of the University, do hereby establish the Student Government Association of Salisbury University.

Article I. General Organization

Section 1. Membership Eligibility.

All degree seeking undergraduate students, full time and part time, enrolled at Salisbury University are eligible to participate in the SGA provided that the student maintains a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Section 2. Organization.

- A. Executive Branch.** The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chief of Staff, and Director positions as provided in Article I of the Bylaws.
- B. Legislative Branch.** The Legislative Branch shall consist of the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker Pro Tempore, and the Senate.
- C. Judicial Branch.** The Judicial Branch shall consist of the Chief Justice and Associate Justices.
- D. Executive Board.** The Executive Board shall consist of all members of the Executive Branch, the Speaker of the Senate, and the Chief Justice.

Section 3. Discrimination Policy.

The SGA may not restrict membership or discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, personal appearance, age, national origin, political affiliation, veteran status, physical or mental disability, citizenship status or socioeconomic status.

Article II. Election Policies

Section 1. Election Policies.

All Executive Board Positions—with the exception of the Speaker of the Senate which is elected by the outgoing Senate—shall be elected by the Students of Salisbury University. Elections shall be held on the final week of March. During this week, campaigning may begin on Monday and end on Friday. Voting shall occur between Wednesday at 8:00 AM and Friday at 5:00 PM. Voting shall be held electronically through a secret ballot.

Section 2. Election Commission.

The Election Commission shall oversee the election process. The Election Commission shall consist of SGA members and students. No member seeking an elected position is permitted to serve on the Election Commission. The Chief of Staff shall open applications for interested students. The Executive Board shall then review the applications and nominate no fewer than seven members to serve on the Election Commission with at least one member being a current SGA member. The Senate shall, by a majority vote, confirm these nominations. The Election Commission must be confirmed no later than the third week of February. The Election Commission shall:

1. as the first order of business, elect by a majority vote the Elections Commission Chair;
2. following the election of the Elections Commissions Chair, adopt a calendar of events and any additional election rules and procedures by a two-thirds vote;
3. communicate to the students the calendar of events, candidacy eligibility requirements, and election rules and procedures;
4. hold no fewer than three interest meetings for candidates and one rules meeting to be held after the interest meetings;
5. remove a candidate from the ballot for violation of election policies by a two-thirds vote;
6. impose restrictions on the amount candidates are permitted to spend on campaign materials; and
7. observe the final tabulation of votes.

Section 3. Executive Board Eligibility Requirements.

In order to run for a position within the Executive Board, each candidate must:

1. maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale;
2. attend at least one interest meeting;
3. submit to the Election Commission a completed nominating petition containing fifty signatures and Code of Honor form;
4. attend at least one rules meeting;
5. any candidate running for the President position must have served previously on the Executive Board for at least one semester.

**Article III.
Executive Branch**

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of the Executive Branch shall be to serve as the official representatives of all undergraduate students of Salisbury University.

Section 2. Powers and Duties.

- A. Power and Authority.** The Executive Branch shall have full power and authority over the implementation of all legislation of SGA.
- B. Duties.** The duties of each Executive Branch member shall be as provided in Article I of the Bylaws.

**Article IV.
Legislative Branch**

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of the Legislative Branch shall be to perform all legislative functions of the SGA through the establishment of a Student Senate.

Section 2. Powers and Duties.

- A. Power and Authority.** The Legislative Branch shall have full power and authority to draft and adopt all legislation necessary to promote the general welfare of the student body.
- B. Duties.** The duties of each Legislative Branch member shall be as provided in Article II of the Bylaws.

**Article V.
Judicial Branch**

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of the Judicial Branch shall be to ensure the smooth internal functioning of the SGA and to ensure the SGA is upholding the rules and regulations set forth by the Constitution and the Bylaws.

Section 2. Powers and Duties.

- A. Power and Authority.** The Judicial Branch shall preside over cases regarding misconduct by members of the SGA or in cases arising from disagreements amongst the members of the SGA.
- B. Duties.** The duties of each Judicial Branch member shall be as provided in Article III of the Bylaws.

**Article VI.
Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall consist of all members of the Executive Branch, the Speaker of the Senate, and the Chief Justice representing the interests of all three branches of the SGA. The members provide leadership and strategic planning for the SGA. They exercise general supervision of the affairs of the SGA, collaborate on ideas, and form the Branch between the SGA and Salisbury University administration.

**Article VII.
Advisors**

The SGA shall have three official Advisors. The first SGA Advisor shall be a designated representative from the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership or another division of the Student Affairs department. The second SGA Advisor will act as the liaison between the SGA and Salisbury University's President's Office. The third Advisor shall be a Graduate Assistant employed from the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership. All advisors shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the SGA Executive Board and shall serve until their successors are elected.

**Article VIII.
Amendment of the Constitution**

The Constitution may be amended at any Forum session by a two-thirds vote provided that the amendment has been presented in writing at the previous Forum session and that the Judicial Branch has been notified of the amendment.

Amended 4/2/2023