



## Student Government Association

# STUDENT BODY CONSTITUTION OF WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

(revision effective May 2023)

*We the members of the Student Body of Western University of Health Sciences in order to establish the representative association of the Student Body, provide for student governance, promote and protect student interests, articulate student concerns, and nurture the efforts of students in achieving goals of service, scholarship, and health do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution.*

## 1 ARTICLE I

### 1.1 Name of Organization

- 1.1.1 The governing organization of the Student Body shall be known as the Student Government Association of Western University of Health Sciences (herein referred to as the SGA). It shall be recognized as the representative organization of the Student Body and shall be the sole initiator of student legislation, executive process and judicial review.

### 1.2 Composition

- 1.2.1 Any reference to the SGA shall include the following individuals: Student Body Officers, the Student Body President's Cabinet, Student Senate pro-tempore, the Western University of Health Sciences Student Organization Coordinator and all voting Student Senators.

### 1.3 Membership

- 1.3.1 All students by virtue of their registration at Western University of Health Sciences shall be members of the Student Body, and by payment of fees shall be entitled to vote in student body elections and to hold office in the SGA. All students shall be subject to this Constitution and its Bylaws.

## 2 ARTICLE II

### 2.1 The objectives of this organization shall be to:

- 2.1.1 Provide an effective means of communicating student needs to the university administration and community.
- 2.1.2 Provide a government whereby the rights of the Student Body are upheld for the betterment of student life, Western University of Health Sciences and the community.
- 2.1.3 Coordinate and regulate activities for the benefit of the entire Student Body.
- 2.1.4 Uphold the academic standards, academic freedom and academic rights of the Student Body.

## 3 ARTICLE III

### 3.1 Authority

- 3.1.1 This Constitution and its Bylaws shall at no time or in any way abridge the students' rights or obligations as set forth in the Student Handbook, the university catalog, the Constitution of the State of California, or the Constitution of the United States of America.

## 4 ARTICLE IV

### 4.1 Legislative Powers

- 4.1.1 The legislative powers of the Student Body shall be vested in the Student Senate of the SGA.

### 4.2 Composition

- 4.2.1 The Student Senate shall be composed of:

- 4.2.1.1 The Student Senate President, who shall be the Student Body Vice-President.
- 4.2.1.2 An elected body of students who shall be known as Senators.
- 4.2.1.3 A Senator who shall be appointed by the Student Body Vice-President to the position of student senate President pro-tempore.

### 4.3 Duties and Powers of the Student Senate

- 4.3.1 The Student Senate shall have the power to:

- 4.3.1.1 Enact or amend, by two-thirds vote, the Student Body Bylaws.
- 4.3.1.2 Propose, by two-thirds vote, constitutional amendments.
- 4.3.1.3 Enact, by majority vote, legislation on behalf of the Student Body.
- 4.3.1.4 Override a Student Body Presidential veto with a two-thirds vote of the entire Student Senate.
- 4.3.1.5 Confirm, by two-thirds vote of the entire Student Senate, temporary appointments by the Student Body President to fill vacated elective offices, and by majority vote for other appointments.
- 4.3.1.6 Impeach, by two-thirds vote of the entire Student Senate, SGA members for due cause.
- 4.3.1.7 Convict any SGA member for due cause, by two-thirds vote of the entire Student Senate.
- 4.3.1.8 Take final action on the proposed student activity fee budget.

- 4.3.2 The Student Senate shall:

- 4.3.2.1 Be required to attend all senate meetings. A Senator who acquires three excused absences or two unexcused absences per semester may be removed as outlined above. The member in question may defend him or herself before the vote. The member in question forfeits the right to vote on this particular issue.
- 4.3.2.2 Derive all other powers and responsibilities not specified in this Constitution from the Student Body Bylaws.

### 4.3.3 Duties of Class President

- 4.3.3.1 The President's main responsibility is to be available to listen to the concerns and accolades of classmates, and address the class with issues that affect the entire class.
- 4.3.3.2 The President serves as the central point of communication for all class officers; conducting class officer meetings and making sure class officers are effectively and efficiently fulfilling their roles.

- 4.3.3.3 The President utilizes all information, and will bring forth class sentiment (not personal opinions or agendas) to the attention of the SGA and conversely, s/he must inform the students about university and SGA issues and activities.
- 4.3.3.4 The President will give a weekly report of class activities at the SGA meeting and obtain answers and information when asked for by the SGA Executive Council or any other Senator.
- 4.3.3.5 The President will also report important information to his or her respective class, or delegate such responsibility to an officer.
- 4.3.3.6 The Class President is a member of the Constitution/Bylaws Committee (SGA).
  
- 4.3.4 Duties of Class Vice President
  - 4.3.4.1 The Vice President must assist the Class President in any way possible to assist with class duties, mainly listening to classmate's suggestions and funneling the information to the Class President and the SGA.
  - 4.3.4.2 The Vice President assists the Class President with the guidelines set forth in the Student Body Bylaws and Constitution, the Vice President should understand both documents in their entirety.
  - 4.3.4.3 The Vice President may represent the President in his or her absence.
  - 4.3.4.4 The Vice President is a member of the Academic Committee (SGA).
  
- 4.3.5 Duties of Class Treasurer
  - 4.3.5.1 The Treasurer will distribute class funds and keep a running ledger of the class account.
  - 4.3.5.2 The Treasurer must post all expenditures in the classroom as a matter of public record.
  - 4.3.5.3 The Treasurer should be familiar with the financial aspects of the Student Body Bylaws and Constitution.
  - 4.3.5.4 The Treasurer is responsible for signing reimbursement forms meeting the requirements for approval of the expenditure
  - 4.3.5.5 The Treasurer is a member of the Finance Committee (SGA)
  
- 4.3.6 Duties of Class Secretary
  - 4.3.6.1 The Secretary disseminates information to the class and responds to all correspondence directed to the class.
  - 4.3.6.2 The Secretary will take minutes any time the class or class officers meet and provide this information to all class officers.
  - 4.3.6.3 The Class Secretary will write thank you cards to all visiting clinicians for their time.
  - 4.3.6.4 The Secretary is a member of the Student Relations Committee and is responsible for bringing all grievances from classmates to this committee.
  
- 4.3.7 Duties of Class Library/Audio-Visual Representative
  - 4.3.7.1 The Class Library/Audio-Visual Representative is responsible for all general class announcements.
  - 4.3.7.2 The Library/Audio-Visual Representative will maintain all bulletin boards in the classroom and learn how to work the classroom media equipment

equipment should they need it.

#### 4.3.8 Duties of Class Alumni Representative

- 4.3.8.1 The Alumni Representative is responsible for attending the monthly Alumni Committee meetings.
- 4.3.8.2 The Alumni Representative assists in establishing alumni contacts or mentors for students.
- 4.3.8.3 The Alumni Representative promotes the transition of students to active alumni.
- 4.3.8.4 This Alumni Representative must assist other class officers with their duties and listen to classmates' suggestions.

#### 4.3.9 Duties of Class Recreation Leader

- 4.3.9.1 The Class Recreation Leader coordinates social events within their class and across classes/programs.

#### 4.3.10 Curriculum Representative/Academic Liaison

- 4.3.10.1 The Curriculum Representative/Academic Liaison is the direct link between the students and the faculty
- 4.3.10.2 The Curriculum Representative will address issues such as test return, handouts and general concerns about the curriculum.
- 4.3.10.3 The Curriculum Representative/Academic Liaison obtains student opinion about the curriculum (problems, solutions, tests, quizzes and remediation). They then attempt to initiate changes in curriculum policy in response to student concerns when they attend curriculum meetings.

#### 4.3.11 CAPA Contact Representative (Physician Assistant Program Only)

- 4.3.11.1 The CAPA Contact Representative will communicate information concerning seminars, meetings and general activities of the organization to fellow classmates as well as convey concerns and ideas from the students to the professional organization.

#### 4.3.12 APTA Contact Representative (Physical Therapy Program Only)

- 4.3.12.1 The APTA Contact Representative will communicate information concerning seminars, meetings and general activities of the organization to fellow classmates as well as convey concerns and ideas from the students to the professional organization.

### 4.4 Limitation of Powers

#### 4.4.1 Legislation of the Student Senate shall be subject to limitations:

- 4.4.1.1 Only by the President of the University, or by such officials authorized to do so by the policies of Western University of Health Sciences.
- 4.4.1.2 Only when it directly concerns student functions under university jurisdiction, namely: health, safety, public policy, maintenance of university property, academic policy, public relations and in other areas specifically denoted in the Student Handbook or university catalog.

- 4.4.2 Any Senator (i.e., SGA executive officer or class officer) who is an officer in the student organization that is requesting funds will then forfeit their right to vote on that given request.

## 5 ARTICLE V

### 5.1 Executive Powers

- 5.1.1 All executive powers of the Student Body shall be vested in the Student Body President.
- 5.1.2 The Student Body President shall be assisted by the Student Body Vice-President and such administrative officers as the Student Body President shall appoint in accordance with this article.

### 5.2 Election of Executive Officers

- 5.2.1 The Student Body President and the Student Body Vice-President shall be elected by a majority vote of the Student Senate.

### 5.3 Duties and Powers of the Student Body President

- 5.3.1 The Student Body President shall have the power to:
  - 5.3.1.1 Appoint or remove cabinet members as specified in the Student Body Bylaws.
  - 5.3.1.2 Veto or sign legislation and amendments to this Constitution proposed by the Student Senate provided that s/he exercise such power within six school days of passage by the Student Senate, or said legislation becomes law.
  - 5.3.1.3 Schedule and preside over meetings of the Student Body and the President's Cabinet.
  - 5.3.1.4 Make recommendations for legislation to the Student Senate.
  - 5.3.1.5 Set required minimum office hours for executive committee members.
  - 5.3.1.6 Call for a referendum with concurrence of a majority vote of the Student Senate.
  - 5.3.1.7 Appoint students to university committees with concurrence of a majority vote of the Student Senate and delegate university committee meetings to various members of the President's Cabinet.
- 5.3.2 The student body President shall:
  - 5.3.2.1 Administer and uphold this Constitution, all associated Student Senate Bylaws and Student Senate legislation.
  - 5.3.2.2 Represent all on- and off-campus students within the SGA's jurisdiction.
  - 5.3.2.3 Address the Student Senate at the beginning of each semester and at other times as deemed necessary.
  - 5.3.2.4 Derive from the Student Body Bylaws all other powers not specified in this Constitution.
  - 5.3.2.5 Attend quarterly Board of Trustees' meetings (August, December, March, May).
  - 5.3.2.6 Schedule a meeting bi-annually with the Vice President of the University.
  - 5.3.2.7 Attend university meetings and /or conferences that requires a student voice or representation.
  - 5.3.2.8 Chair Bylaws and Constitution Committee

### 5.4 Duties of the Student Body Vice-President

- 5.4.1 The Student Body Vice-President shall:

- 5.4.1.1 Preside over the Student Senate by creating the agenda and scheduling the meetings, including purchasing lunch. Ensuring minutes from the Student Senate meeting are turned in to the Director for University Student Affairs by Friday of that week.
- 5.4.1.2 Assume duties of the Student Body President as delegated.
- 5.4.1.3 Coordinate the efforts of the executive committee as they relate to Senate meetings.
- 5.4.1.4 Make available all passed senate legislation to the Student Body President by the close of the next school day.
- 5.4.1.5 Have a vote in the Student Senate only in the case of a tie.
- 5.4.1.6 Derive from the Student Body Bylaws all other powers and duties not specified in this Constitution.
- 5.4.1.7 Chair and run class officer elections organized by the second-year class vice presidents.
- 5.4.1.8 Chair Elections Committee

#### 5.5 Student Body President's Cabinet

- 5.5.1 Will comprise a Cabinet of all Class Presidents. Will meet monthly to discuss college and student issues.

#### 5.6 Limitation of Powers

- 5.6.1 Policies adopted by officers and committees of the SGA's executive branch shall be subject to review by the Student Senate.

#### 5.7 Executive Committee

- 5.7.1 The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Student Body President, the Student Body Vice-president, the Student Senate President pro-tempore, the Student Body President's Cabinet, and the Chairs of each Senate standing committee. The committee shall be chaired by the Student Body Vice-president.

### 6 ARTICLE VI

#### 6.1 Judicial Power

- 6.1.1 Matters concerning violations of this Constitution or its Bylaws shall be scrutinized by the Student Senate and necessary action taken.

### 7 ARTICLE VII

#### 7.1 Elections

- 7.1.1 Student body officer elections shall take place annually as outlined in the Student Body Bylaws.
- 7.1.2 Second-year class officer elections shall take place annually as outlined in the Student Body Bylaws.

#### 7.2 Restrictions on Candidacy

- 7.2.1 All candidates for SGA office, whether elected or appointed, must be in good standing in accordance with the Student Handbook.
- 7.2.2 No student shall hold two elected offices in the SGA concurrently. A student may however, maintain a Senate position and an Executive Officer-elect position

shall be relinquished.

- 7.2.4 Election procedures not specified in this Constitution will be set forth by the Student Body Bylaws.

### 7.3 Procedure for Establishing Candidacy

- 7.3.1 Any qualified student may be placed on the official ballot by filing a statement of candidacy with the Student Body Vice-president, and adhering to election procedures according to the Student Body Bylaws.

### 7.4 Term of Office

- 7.4.1 Elected members of the SGA shall take office at the time of installation, and serve the respective term of that position as provided by the Student Body Bylaws.

### 7.5 Vacancies

- 7.5.1 Vacancies occurring in the following student body offices shall be filled as follows:
  - 7.5.1.1 The Student Body President shall be succeeded by the Student Body Vice-president.
  - 7.5.1.2 The Student Body Vice-president shall be succeeded by a member of the Student Senate, selected by a majority of the Student Senate, and shall hold office until a Student Body election can be held.
- 7.5.2 All other vacancies of elective student government positions shall be filled by special election within ten school days of the vacancy.

## 8 ARTICLE VIII

### 8.1 Referenda

- 8.1.1 The Student Body may call for a referendum with a properly signed petition of at least five percent of the entire Student Body.
- 8.1.2 Depending on the results of the referendum, said results shall serve as a mandate for the SGA, provided that ten percent of the entire Student Body shall have voted, and shall become a part of the SGA Constitution or Bylaws as appropriate.

## 9 ARTICLE IX

### 9.1 Constitutional Amendments

- 9.1.1 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate, or by petition of five percent of the entire Student Body.
- 9.1.2 Amendments shall become part of this Constitution upon ratification by the a Student Body referendum held in conjunction with any election as long as the election is open to the entire Student Body. Provided that the proposed amendments have been published in their entirety in a recognized Student Body publication at least one week prior to the vote of the Student Body.

## 10 ARTICLE X

### 10.1 Method of Recall

- 10.1.1 Every elected official of the SGA is subject to recall by the legal voters of the Student Body.
- 10.1.2 The method of recalling an officer shall follow the guidelines outlined in Article 4, Election Code, of the Student Body Bylaws.