

# The Constitution of the Purdue Student Government

Last Revised: October 18, 2017

## Preamble

We, the undergraduate students of Purdue University, in order to maintain our position as active partners in the university community, promote and facilitate learning, discovery, and engagement, represent student interests and concerns to the university, and fairly and accountably allocate resources granted to us, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the Purdue Student Government.

## Diversity and Inclusion Statement

Purdue Student Government is committed to cultivating an inclusive environment where diversity is valued, respected and celebrated. We strive to embrace all individuals in their identities, beliefs, and backgrounds. We strive to establish a supportive and safe atmosphere that promotes community, personal growth, and self-expression. therefore, we strive to hold one another accountable in order to embody this mission throughout our daily lives and in our service to all students of Purdue University. In addition, membership and participation in Purdue Student Government shall be free from discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.

## Mission Statement

Serving as the primary representative organization of the undergraduate student body, Purdue Student Government seeks to act as a liaison between the Purdue University administration, governmental authorities, and the student body in order to serve the needs of Purdue students and to enhance the student experience at Purdue University.

In support of this mission, Purdue Student Government is dedicated to:

- Conducting all business with the utmost professionalism and consideration, and
- Encouraging initiatives that address the concerns of the student body and future prosperity of Purdue University and Purdue Student Government, and
- Defending the rights, interests, and voices of the student body.

## Article I. Name and Membership

### Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be Purdue Student Government, hereafter referred to as "PSG".

## **Section 2. Membership**

### **Part A. Definition of Membership**

All persons registered by the Purdue University Registrar as a student seeking one, or more, of the following degrees on the Purdue University – West Lafayette campus are members of PSG and shall collectively be known as the “Student Body”:

- A Bachelors of Science or Bachelors of Arts degree
- A professional degree from the College of Pharmacy
- A professional degree from the College of Veterinary Medicine
- Current enrollment within the College of Exploratory Studies

No Student Council President may hold an officer position within PSG.

### **Part B. Officers**

1. Any member of PSG who is elected or appointed to a position within the organization shall be considered an officer.
2. A member of PSG that is not in good standing with the University Registrar and the Student Activities and Organizations office may not hold an officer position in PSG.

## **Article II. Legislative Branch**

### **Section I. The Student Senate**

#### **Part A. Function**

1. All legislative powers of PSG shall be vested in the Student Senate
2. The Student Senate shall be the forum for debate on issues affecting the general welfare of the Student Body.
3. The Student Senate shall have the power to enact bills and resolutions by majority vote, unless otherwise specified.
4. Responsibilities of the Student Senate shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - (a) The approval of the annual organization budget;
  - (b) The confirmation, by majority vote, of all appointed cabinet members, executive directors, and justices;
  - (c) The creation and maintenance of the Purdue Student Senate Standing rules.

#### **Part B. Composition**

The Student Senate shall be made up of members elected annually by their respective constituencies to serve as Senators. There shall be three senators representing each college which enrolls undergraduates on Purdue University’s West Lafayette campus.

#### **Part C. Selection and Terms of Office**

The term of office for Senators shall be from the first meeting of the Student Senate following the Student Body Election results announcement until the next Student Body Election, or until resignation or removal from office.

#### **Part D. Removal and Vacancies of Senators**

**Removal** Any Senator may be removed from their seat by a three-fourths vote of their fellow Senators. Senators may not vote in their own impeachment proceedings.

**Vacancy** Upon vacancy of any Student Senate seat, the Student Council of the respective college shall appoint a member to fill the vacancy. If, after two regularly scheduled meetings of the Student Senate, the Student Council has not filled the vacancy, the Student Body Vice President may petition the Dean of the respective College for a replacement.

#### **Part E. Meetings**

1. The Student Senate shall convene for regular meetings at least every other academic week during the Fall and Spring semesters. Meeting times shall be at the discretion of the Student Body Vice President.
2. The Student Body Vice President or the President Pro-Tempore may call a special meeting of the Student Senate for the purpose of discussing time-sensitive issues.
3. The Student Body Vice President shall chair all meetings of the Student Senate, or designate a Senator to serve as chair;
4. The first meeting following the results of the Student Body Election shall begin with the swearing in of new Senators by the outgoing Chief Justice of the Purdue Student Supreme Court.
5. Quorum during Student Senate meetings shall be defined as two-thirds of the active membership of the student senate.
6. Quorum during Student Senate Standing Committee meetings shall be defined as one-half of the active membership of that committee.

#### **Part F. Duties of Senators**

All Senators in the Student Senate shall be required to:

1. Attend all meetings of the Student Senate or send a suitable proxy.
2. Host at least one outreach event with their constituency focused solely on PSG initiatives;
3. Write and distribute a constituent letter at least once per semester;
4. Serve on and attend all meetings of at least one Standing Committee of the Purdue Student Senate;
5. Serve on and attend all meetings of at least one University Senate or other University Committee;
6. Attend at least one meeting of their respective Student Council each month;
7. Hold at least one meeting with the Dean of their respective college;
8. Hold weekly office hours, requirements for which are set by the President Pro-Tempore;
9. Attend at least one Board of Directors meeting and one meeting of the Student Supreme Court per semester.

## **Part G. Acts of the Student Senate**

1. All acts passed by the Student Senate shall be certified as passed by the signature of person who served as chair when the act passed. If a chair refuses to certify a vote, the President Pro-Tempore may submit the bill to the Student Body President if the bill is accompanied by the signatures of a number of Senators that would render the act passed.
2. All acts certified by a chair shall be submitted to the Student Body President, who then must either approve or veto said act within ten days. If the Student Body President does not explicitly approve and affix their signature unto an act within the given ten days, the act shall be considered immediately effective. Any veto of a piece of legislation of the Student Senate must be in writing. Upon the veto a piece of legislation, the President Pro-Tempore of the Student Senate shall be notified by the Student Body President within 72 hours.
3. In the event an act is vetoed, it may return to the Student Senate for another vote at the discretion of the author(s). The veto shall be overridden and the act considered effective if the act is passed by a two-thirds vote. If the act fails to obtain the approval of two-thirds of the Student Senate, the veto shall hold and the act will not be effective.

## **Section II. Senate Committees**

### **Part A. Authority**

The Purdue Student Senate shall have the authority to create and dissolve Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. All Standing Committees roles' shall be defined in the Bylaws of the Purdue Student Government. The Student Senate may create or dissolve Senate Ad Hoc Committees by a two-thirds vote of the present membership of the Student Senate.

## **Section III. Senate Leadership**

### **Part A. Function**

To serve as a steering committee for the Purdue Student Senate.

### **Part B. Composition**

Senate Leadership shall be composed of the Student Body Vice President, the President Pro-Tempore of the Student Senate, and each of the chairs of the Senate Standing Committees. The President Pro-Tempore shall be the chair of Senate Leadership.

## **Section IV. Senate Associate Members**

### **Part A. Function**

To assist Senators in fulfilling their duties as a student representative.

### **Part B. Selection**

1. Senate Associate Members must be any student enrolled in a Senator's college of constituency.
2. Senators have complete autonomy in appointing their own Senate Associate Members.
3. Each Senator may appoint up to two (2) Senate Associate Members.

4. If there is more than three (3) Senate Associate Members per College or School, then at least **one** (1) Senate Associate Member must be in their first or second semester studying at the Purdue University West Lafayette campus.

## **Article III. Judicial Branch**

### **Section I. The Student Supreme Court**

#### **Part A. Function**

All judicial powers of PSG shall be vested in the Student Supreme Court.

1. The Student Supreme Court shall be responsible for the review, upon petition of any member of PSG, of the constitutionality of any document or action of the Purdue Student Government.
2. The Student Supreme Court shall also be responsible for resolving disputes between any member of PSG and other parties, which may include other PSG members, relating to this Constitution and the procedures and policies of PSG.
3. The Student Supreme Court shall be responsible for resolving conflicts of interest as defined in Article I. Section II. in the Bylaws of the Purdue Student Government.
4. The Student Supreme Court will retain the right to modify or overturn its previous rulings or officially issued opinions.
5. Subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of PSG, the Student Supreme Court shall be responsible for the creation and amendment of the Purdue Student Supreme Court Standing Rules by majority vote of the current active Justices of the Student Supreme Court. These Standing Rules shall be separately published and made available to all members of PSG.

#### **Part B. Composition**

The Student Supreme Court shall be comprised of nine justices with one Justice serving as Chief Justice and other members of Purdue Student Government serving as Clerks.

1. Members of the Student Supreme Court may not hold any other officer position in PSG.
2. Justices shall be appointed by the Student Body President, through a nomination process where the Chief Justice shall submit two to three names to be considered by the Student Body President, and confirmed by the Student Senate.
3. Clerks shall be appointed by the Chief Justice to prepare individuals for the role of Justice at a later date.
4. Justices and Clerks shall serve from confirmation until resignation, removal, or until they are no longer a member of the Student Body.
5. Only Justices may vote in Student Supreme Court proceedings.

#### **Part C. Removal of Justices**

Justices may be removed from the Purdue Student Supreme Court by a majority vote of the Justices of the Student Supreme Court.

## Article IV. Executive Branch

### Section I. Cabinet

#### Part A. Function

The Cabinet shall be the executive administrative body of PSG. Its role shall be to direct all executive aspects of the organization.

1. The Cabinet is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day affairs of PSG
2. The Cabinet shall serve in an advisory role to the Student Senate and the Student Supreme Court, with the main purpose of assisting the Student Body President.
3. When the Student Senate is not in session, the Cabinet may, by majority vote, make decisions relating to the operation, conduct, and procedures of PSG that are not contrary to any previous action of the Student Senate. Any decision of the Cabinet may be subject to review by the Student Senate.

#### Part B. Composition

The Cabinet shall consist of the following officers, listed in order of authority:

1. Student Body President
  - (a) The Student Body President shall be the Chief Executive Officer, head, and official spokesperson and representative of the Student Body.
  - (b) The Student Body President shall have, among others, the following duties and powers:
    - i. The power to make internal and external appointments, as required of them;
    - ii. The power to remove appointed officers, excluding appointed Senators and Justices;
    - iii. The power to veto any legislation passed by the Student Senate;
    - iv. The power to enact standing rules of the Cabinet to govern affairs of the Cabinet;
    - v. The power to enact standing rules of the Board of Directors to govern affairs of the Board of Directors;
    - vi. The responsibility of serving as the Undergraduate Student Senator on the University Senate;
    - vii. The duty to represent the Student Body to the Purdue University Board of Trustees and report the actions currently being considered by the Trustees to PSG;
2. Student Body Vice President
  - (a) The Student Body Vice President shall be the President of the Student Senate.
  - (b) The Student Body Vice President shall be required to:
    - i. Convene and preside over the meetings of the Student Senate;
    - ii. Together with the President Pro-Tempore, be charged with the administrative business of the Student Senate;
3. President Pro-Tempore
  - (a) The President Pro-Tempore shall be the spokesperson for the Student Senate and shall communicate the concerns of the Student Senate to the Cabinet and the rest of PSG.
  - (b) Upon vacancy of the office of President Pro-Tempore, the President Pro-Tempore shall be a Senator elected at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the current Student Senate by a plurality vote of Senators. The slate for election shall consist of all Senators receiving a nomination and a second.
  - (c) The President Pro-Tempore shall be required to:

- i. Assist the Student Body Vice President in the administration of the Student Senate;
- ii. Gather legislation and set the agenda for the Student Senate meetings;
- iii. Assign each Senator to serve on one Student Senate Standing Committee;
- iv. Convene meetings of the Senate Standing Committee Chairs on a regular basis.

#### 4. Chief of Staff

- (a) The Chief of Staff shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of PSG.
- (b) The Chief of Staff shall be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Student Senate.
- (c) The Chief of Staff shall report directly to the Student Body President.
- (d) The Chief of Staff shall Chair the Board of Directors.

#### 5. Student Body Treasurer

- (a) The Student Body Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of PSG and shall be responsible for the management of all finances and expenditures of PSG.
- (b) The Student Body Treasurer shall be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Student Senate.
- (c) The Student Body Treasurer shall report directly to the Student Body President.
- (d) The Student Body Treasurer shall be required to:
  - i. Keep accounts, deposit the organization's funds, and make expenditures in a manner approved by the Business Office for Student Organizations;
  - ii. Serve as a non-voting member on any relevant committee tasked with the oversight of financial affairs.
  - iii. Oversee Financial Directors to assist with the Duties of the office of Student Body Treasurer;
  - iv. Release funds only in accordance with the budget as passed by the Student Senate;
  - v. All actions of the Student Body Treasurer are subject to review by the Student Senate, which has authority over the final interpretation of the budget.

#### 6. Student Body Secretary

- (a) The Student Body Secretary shall be the Chief Records and Operations Officer of PSG.
- (b) The Student Body Secretary shall be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Student Senate.
- (c) The Student Body Secretary shall report directly to the Student Body President.
- (d) The Student Body Secretary shall be required to:
  - i. Produce official minutes, either personally or through a proxy, for all Board of Directors meetings, Cabinet meetings, Senate meetings, and any other meeting the Student Body President deems necessary;
  - ii. Maintain updated versions of all legislation and governing documents, including amendments, when applicable;
  - iii. Direct passed legislation to the Student Body Vice President and Student Body President certification and approval;
  - iv. Maintain the physical assets of PSG.

#### 7. Senior Policy Advisor

- (a) The Senior Policy Advisor shall work directly with the Cabinet and Executive Directors to advise the Student Body President on issues of policy and operations, as well as the strategic plan of PSG.

- (b) The Senior Policy Advisor shall be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Student Senate.
- (c) The Senior Policy Advisor shall report directly to the Student Body President.

8. Student Body Press Secretary

- (a) The Student Body Press Secretary shall be the primary representative of Purdue Student Government to all external press affiliates and organizations.
- (b) The Student Body Press Secretary shall be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Student Senate.
- (c) The Student Body Press Secretary shall report directly to the Student Body President.
- (d) The Student Body Press Secretary shall be required to:
  - i. Work directly with all Cabinet-level officers and Executive directors on a regular basis to communicate the interests, opinions, and actions of all three branches of the Purdue Student Government;
  - ii. Advise the Student Body President, the President Pro-Tempore, and all other PSG officers on issues of public relations.
  - iii. Oversee a committee of Staff Writers to assist with carrying out their duties as Student Body Press Secretary.

9. Chief Justice

- (a) The Chief Justice shall be responsible for the administration of the Student Supreme Court and shall be the spokesperson for the Student Supreme Court.
- (b) The Chief Justice shall be chosen from current Justices, appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Student Senate.

**Part C. Removal and Vacancies of Members of Cabinet**

1. The line of succession to the office of Student Body President, in the case that the Student Body President becomes incapacitated, dies, resigns, or is removed from office, shall be as follows:
  - (a) Student Body Vice President
  - (b) President Pro-Tempore of the Student Senate
  - (c) A Senator elected by a vote of plurality to be the new Student Body President in a special meeting of the Student Senate. If the Student Senate does not reach a plurality, the Student Senate shall be considered hung and shall not function in any other capacity until a plurality is reached.
2. In the event that the office of Student Body Vice President becomes vacant, the Student Body President may appoint a new Student Body Vice President to take office before the next meeting of the Student Senate. This individual must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Senate at the next regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting.
3. In the event that the office of President Pro-Tempore becomes vacant, a new President Pro-Tempore shall be elected from among Senators at the beginning of the next regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting by a vote of plurality.
4. The Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, or President Pro-Tempore may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate;
5. Upon vacancy of any appointed Cabinet seat, the Student Body President may appoint someone to fill the position, with majority consent of the Student Senate.



## **Section II. Board of Directors**

### **Part A. Function**

The Board of Directors shall serve to assist the Student Body President with the operations of PSG.

### **Part B. Composition**

1. The Board of Directors shall be chaired by the Chief of Staff.
2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Chief of Staff and the following committees, each to be chaired by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Senate:
  - (a) Communications
  - (b) Diversity and Inclusion
  - (c) Engagement
  - (d) Governmental Relations
  - (e) Programming
  - (f) Strategic Planning and Assessment
  - (g) Sustainability
3. The Student Body President shall appoint Directors to assist the Executive Directors and members of Cabinet.

### **Part C. Selection and Terms of Office**

Executive Directors shall serve from the time of confirmation until the next Student Body President takes office, resignation, or removal by the Student Body President. Directors shall serve from appointment until the next Student Body President takes office, resignation, or removal by the Student Body President.

## **Article V. Advisors**

The Purdue University administration shall assign at least one advisor to PSG. Advisors shall be responsible for safeguarding the wellbeing of the organization and advising officers in their responsibilities. An advisor may serve as the advisor to a particular committee or branch of the organization, provided that at least one of the advisors is responsible for advising all officers.

## **Article VI. Subordinate Bodies**

### **Section I. The Presidents' Roundtable**

The Presidents' Roundtable shall be defined in a subordinate document to this Constitution, called the Constitution of the Presidents' Roundtable, which shall define the rights and function of the Presidents' Roundtable. The Student Body President shall be the chairperson of the Presidents' Roundtable.

### **Section II. The Campus Health and Safety Taskforce**

The Campus Health and Safety Taskforce shall be a subordinate body for the purpose of promoting health and safety issues on campus, as well as addressing health and safety risks. The Student Body Vice President shall be the chairperson of the Campus Health and Safety Task Force.

### **Section III. Student Fee Advisory Board**

The Student Fee Advisory Board (SFAB) shall be permanent, stand-alone committee that reports to the Purdue Student Government Senate. The mission and purpose of the SFAB shall be defined in a subordinate document to this Constitution, called the Constitution of the Student Fee Advisory Board, which shall define the rights and functions of SFAB.

### **Section IV. The Purdue Student Green Fund Board**

The Purdue Student Green Fund (PGF) Board provides support to student organizations for the installation of sustainable infrastructure projects in and around the Purdue University (West Lafayette) campus. The PGF Board was created to ensure the ability of student organizations to constantly advance and improve the University in a sustainable way.

## **Article VII. Student Body Election**

### **Section I. Timing of the Student Body Election**

The Student Body Election shall be held the third Sunday, and following Monday and Tuesday, upon the return of the Student Body to regular classes following the Spring Break of each year.

### **Section II. Elections Rules**

The procedures for the Student Body Election shall be further defined in the PSG Election Rules, as adopted with majority consent of the Student Senate. No modification or alteration of the Election Rules shall take effect until the first day after the next Student Body Election, unless the modification or alteration is adopted by a unanimous vote of the active membership of the Student Senate and approved by the Student Body President.

### **Section III. Elections Director and Committee**

The appointment of the Elections Director by the Student Body President shall be brought before the Senate for majority consent by the second regularly scheduled meeting of the Student Senate in the Fall semester of the calendar year preceding the election. Once confirmed, the Elections Director shall report directly to the Chief Justice of the Purdue Student Supreme Court, and shall be responsible for coordinating the Student Body Election. Specifically, the Elections Director shall be required to:

1. Choose a committee of three members to assist in the elections process. Members of the Elections Committee may be dismissed at the discretion of the Chief Justice of the Purdue Student Supreme Court;
2. Interpret the Election Rules of the Purdue Student Government, assure a fair Student Body Election, and guarantee confidentiality throughout the process;
3. Promote the Student Body Election by hosting call-outs and information sessions, and advertise the elections to voters, in order to encourage participation from both candidates and voters;
4. Host polling locations around campus, which shall be widely promoted.

## **Article VIII. Bylaws**

Further specifications and laws of PSG shall be codified in a subordinate document to this Constitution, the Bylaws of the Purdue Student Government. These bylaws shall be originally enacted by a majority vote and modified upon by the procedures outlined within the Bylaws of the Purdue Student Government.

## **Article IX. Parliamentary Authority**

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern meetings in which actions will be deliberated.

## **Article X. Amendments**

### **Section I. Amendments by the Student Senate**

#### **Part A. Authority**

The Student Senate may amend this Constitution in compliance with the terms herein.

#### **Part B. Amending Process**

1. **First Reading:** Any proposed amendment shall be introduced to the Student Senate at a regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting in the form of a bill. The amendment must pass a first reading by a two-thirds vote of the present membership of the Student Senate.
2. **Committee:** The President Pro-Tempore of the Student Senate shall assign any amendment that passes the first reading to a Student Senate Standing Committee for review before the next regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting.
3. **Second Reading:** Following committee review, the amendment must pass a second reading by a two-thirds vote of the active membership of the Student Senate. The second reading shall not occur during the same meeting as the first reading, even if that requires the amendment be read in multiple Student Senate sessions.
4. **Student Body President:** The Student Body President must either approve or veto the amendment. Veto procedures shall be follows as outlined in Article II. Section I. Part G.
5. **Student Activities and Organizations Office:** Once signed by the Student Body President, or approved by a three-fourths vote of the active membership of the Student Senate in response to a presidential veto, amendments shall be submitted to the Student Activities and Organizations Office. Only upon approval of the Student Activities and Organizations Office, shall amendments become effective and binding within the Constitution of the Purdue Student Government.

### **Section II. Amendment by Referendum**


#### **Part A. Authority**

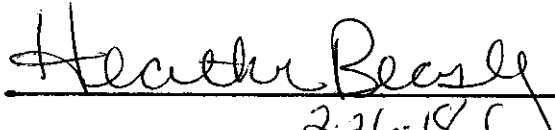
The Student Body, in a fairly conducted Student Body Election, shall be the final arbiter of any actions done in its name. The officers, employees, advisors, or representatives of PSG may not deny or interfere with the right of the Student Body to petition or initiate referenda on amendments to the PSG Constitution.

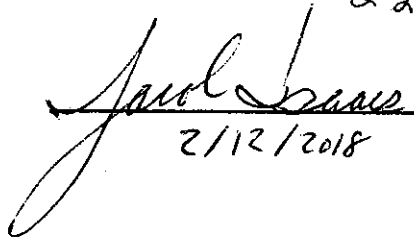
#### **Part B. Amending Process**

1. **Amendment by Referendum:** Any member of PSG, by the procedure herein, may amend this Constitution by submitting referenda to be placed on the ballot in the Student Body Election. Referenda must be submitted to the Student Body Secretary at least thirty days before the start of the Student Body Election and must be accompanied by the signatures of no less than one twenty-fifth of the Student Body, as determined by the University Registrar.
2. **Student Activities and Organizations Office:** Any constitutional amendment by referendum that receives a majority vote of those participating in the Student Body Election shall be submitted to the Student

Activities and Organizations Office. Upon approval, the amendment shall become immediately effective and binding within the Constitution of the Purdue Student Government.

  
2/26/16 - Student Body President

  
2.26.18

  
2/12/2018 - Student Activities & Organizations