

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT BODY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

We, the students of the University of Central Florida, in order that we may maintain the benefits of constitutional liberty and may create a representative association through which the individual student can participate actively in this University and which promotes cooperation among the Student Body, Faculty, and Administration, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the Student Body of the University of Central Florida.

## Article I The Student Body

### Section 1: **Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Student Body of the University of Central Florida. The governmental agency of this organization shall be the University of Central Florida Student Government, hereinafter referred to as the Student Government Association.

### Section 2: **Jurisdiction**

All students by virtue of their registration in the University of Central Florida shall be members of the Student Body and shall be subject to this Constitution.

### Section 3: **Franchise**

All students enrolled at the University of Central Florida shall be entitled to vote in the special and general elections of the Student Body.

### Section 4: **Referendum Elections**

The Student Body has the right to call for a referendum election, provided that a petition signed by a number of students equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the number of votes cast for Student Body President in the previous Spring Election is submitted as specified by Statute.

### Section 5: **Definitions**

The current edition of Black's Law Dictionary, unless otherwise stated in the Constitution, Statutes of the Student Body, or Senate Rules and Procedures, shall be used in understanding the terms contained within the Student Government Association, Statutes, and Senate Rules and Procedures.

## Article II The Legislature

### Section 1: **Legislative Authority**

The legislative authority of the Student Body shall be vested in the Student Senate hereinafter referred to as the Senate.

### Section 2: **Composition**

The Senate shall be comprised of

- A. A number of students who shall be known as Senators.
- B. A Senate President who shall be the Speaker of the Senate.
- C. A Senate President Pro Tempore elected from the Senate.
- D. A number of officers elected or appointed as stated in the Senate Rules and Procedures.

**Section 3: Senate Session**

The Senate session shall begin and end after each Fall semester election.

**Section 4: Apportionment and Election of the Student Senate**

The Senate shall be apportioned as established by Statutes. The Senate shall be elected by majority vote.

**Section 5: Powers, Duties, and Limitations**

The Student Senate shall

- A. Enact, by majority vote, constitutional bylaws to be known as Student Body Statutes, with the exception of bylaws concerning elections, which shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
- B. Express the will and/or sentiments of the Student Senate in Resolution form.
- C. Propose and act on Constitutional Amendments.
- D. Provide for the compilation and publication of legislation.
- E. Advise and consent, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, appointments made by the Student Body President.
- F. Impeach Student Body officers, both elected and appointed, according to procedures described in Statute.
- G. Approve and allocate the fiscal budget of the Student Government Association, as provided by Statute.
- H. Allocate all student funds, as provided by Statute.
- I. Establish its own meeting times, rules, and procedures.
- J. Establish means through which the Student Body can actively participate in the formulation of policies affecting the students of the University of Central Florida.
- K. Override a veto by the Student Body President by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
- L. Request a review of a veto by a Senior Student Affairs Officer designee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate.
- M. Override a veto by the Senior Student Affairs Officer by two-thirds (2/3) vote and refer the legislation to the President of the University for ultimate review and decision. The President of the University shall have fifteen (15) weeks from the time the Office of the President of the University receives the legislation to veto or sign measures passed by the Student Body Senate.
- N. Enact, by a majority vote, special acts requiring action by individuals or groups responsible to the Student Government Association.
- O. Issue subpoenas by a majority vote of the Senate or by majority vote of a Senate committee.
- P. Assemble in open meetings at frequent intervals for the deliberation of

legislation and the business of the Student Body.

- Q. Call for a referendum of the Student Body through a two-thirds vote on a resolution.

Section 6: **Definition of Quorum**

- A. For the Senate, a quorum to do business shall be defined as fifty percent of currently filled Senate seats.
- B. For standing committees of the Senate, a quorum to do business shall be defined as fifty percent of committee membership.

**Article III The Executive**

Section 1: **Executive Authority**

All executive powers and those powers not specifically granted herein to other branches of Student Government shall be vested in the Student Body President, assisted by the Student Body Vice President, and such other administrative officers as the President shall appoint to effectively carry out the business of the Student Government Association.

Section 2: **Election of Executive Officers**

The President and Vice President, by a majority vote of the Student Body, shall be elected according to Statute and shall serve a one-year term of office following each election.

Section 3: **Duties and Powers of the President**

The President shall

- A. Administer and enforce all laws of the Student Body.
- B. Appoint administrative and executive officers, with concurrence of the Senate.
- C. Appoint qualified students to vacant Student Government Association offices, with concurrence of the Senate.
- D. Sign or veto all measures passed by the Senate within five (5) business days of passage by the Senate. No action by the Student Body President in five (5) business days shall constitute approval of the measure by the Student Body President.
- E. Call and preside over meetings of the Student Body and student assemblies when appropriate.
- F. Address the Senate at least once each academic term and on other occasions, upon the invitation or subpoena of the Senate. The President must provide a report to the Senate outlining the business of any committees of which the President or their designee is a member.
- G. Initiate budget proceedings for the fiscal year and provide for the effective expenditure of student funds.
- H. Call for a referendum of the Student Body when appropriate, subject to the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
- I. Remove, at the President's discretion, any appointed officer, with the

exception of appointments made to vacant elected offices, Justices appointed to the Judicial Council, the Comptroller without a two-thirds (2/3) vote of concurrence from the Senate, and the Attorney General without a two-thirds (2/3) vote of concurrence from the Senate. Should the Senate fail to concur with the removal of the Comptroller or Attorney General, the matter will be sent to the Judicial Council for a final decision within two (2) weeks of the matter failing in the Senate.

- J. Grant, withhold, or withdraw registration of any organization under the jurisdiction of the Student Body.

#### Section 4: **Duties of the Vice President**

- A. The Vice President shall assume the powers of the President upon the President's request or removal.
- B. The Vice President shall be able to break a tie vote of the Senate.
- C. The Vice President shall address the Senate at least once each academic term, and upon the invitation or subpoena of the Senate. The Vice President must provide a report to the Senate outlining the business of any committees of which the Vice President or their designee is a member.

#### Section 5: **Order of Succession**

- A. In the event that the President resigns or is unable to perform the powers and duties of office:
  - 1. The Vice President shall become the President.
  - 2. In the event that there is a vacancy in both the Office of the President and the Vice President, the Speaker of the Senate shall assume the Office of the President for the remainder of the Presidential term, followed by the Senate President Pro Tempore in the event the Speaker of the Senate cannot assume that office.
  - 3. In the event that the order of the succession becomes exhausted, the Student Senate shall meet to elect a President prior to the next scheduled Senate meeting. A Special Session of the Senate, as provided for in Senate Rules and Procedures, will be held for this purpose. The office to be elected must be confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate and shall serve until the next general campus election. Should the next scheduled general campus election be the fall elections, there shall be a special election for the Office of the President.
- B. A vacancy in the office of the Vice President shall be filled by the following procedure:
  - 1. The President shall recommend a Vice Presidential candidate.
  - 2. At the next regularly scheduled meeting the Student Senate must confirm the candidate by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
  - 3. If the Student Senate rejects the candidate, the President shall recommend a new candidate.

### **Article IV    The Judiciary**

**Section 1: Judicial Power**

The judicial power of the Student Body shall be vested in a Judicial Council and such other judicial boards as the Senate may occasionally deem appropriate to establish.

**Section 2: Purpose**

It is ordained that the student judiciary protects the rights of the Student Body by insuring the rights of the individual and through the interpretation of the Constitution.

**Section 3: Judicial Authority**

The judicial authority of the Student Body shall include:

- A. The protection of student rights.
- B. Judicial Review, the power to examine legislative and executive acts. Acts brought to the attention of the council may be declared to be unconstitutional by majority concurrence.
- C. The hearing of cases involving student disputes or violation of University regulations, the Constitution of the Student Body of the University of Central Florida, Student Body Statutes, and acts.
- D. The provision of appellate procedures as defined by Statute.

**Section 4: Administration: Practice and Procedure**

- A. The Chief Justice of the Judicial Council shall serve as the chief administrative officer of the judiciary and shall be vested with, and shall exercise in accordance with rules adopted by the court, the authority to:
  1. Assign duties among the Justices of the Council.
  2. Supervise the administration of the Council and certain judicial boards, as established by judicial policy.
  3. Conduct and preside over Council proceedings.
  4. Rule on procedural questions that arise during the course of the judicial proceedings.
  5. Rule on the pertinence of evidence presented before the Council, as established in The Golden Rule: A Handbook for Students.
  6. Report, orally and in writing, to the accused, the recommendation of the Judicial Council.
  7. Be responsible for administering, or appointing a justice to administer, the "Oath of Office" to all eligible Student Government Agents. In the event that there is no Justice present to administer the Oath of Office to the Chief Justice, the Senior Student Affairs Officer or designee may administer the Oath of Office.
  8. Inform the Senate of the condition of the judiciary and recommend measures for the improvement of the administration of Justices.
  9. Report to the Senate such defects in the laws as may have been brought to the attention of the Council and suggest such amendments or additional legislation, which is deemed necessary.
- B. The Judicial Council shall establish its own meeting times, rules, and procedures. All rules and procedures of the Council are subject to approval

by the Senior Student Affairs officer.

- C. The Council shall conduct closed hearings on matters concerning individual violations of University regulations, which may require disciplinary recommendations. The Council may conduct open hearings for all other cases.

**Section 5: Composition of the Judicial Council**

- A. The Judicial Council shall be composed of Fourteen (14) Justices appointed on staggered presidential terms.
- B. Justice terms shall be two years in length.
- C. Seven (7) Justices shall be appointed each year. If a vacancy occurs, the president may appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.
- D. A Chief Justice shall be appointed yearly from within the Council by the President. The term of office shall be concurrent with that of the President who made the appointment.
- E. Other officers that the Council deems necessary shall be chosen according to Judicial Procedures.

**Section 6: Procedures of the Council**

- A. Quorum for a Judicial Hearing or official meeting of the Judicial Council shall consist of a minimum of four Justices and the Chief Justice for a student hearing. Quorum for Student Government Association hearings shall be set at fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the current membership.
- B. In the absence of the Chief Justice, an interim Chief Justice shall be designated according to Judicial Procedures.
- C. The Judicial Procedures shall provide for the removal of members of the Council from office for absences.

**Article V Senior Student Affairs Officer**

**Section 1: Senior Student Affairs Officer Designation**

The Senior Student Affairs Officer shall be a staff member designated as the administrative head of the division of student affairs at the University of Central Florida.

**Section 2: Signatory Duties**

The Senior Student Affairs Officer:

- A. Shall have ten (10) business days from the time the Office of the Senior Student Affairs Officer receives the legislation to veto or sign measures passed by the Senate. No action in ten (10) business days shall constitute approval of the measure by the Senior Student Affairs Officer.
- B. May assign a designee to veto or sign measures passed by the Senate in cases where the Senior Student Affairs Officer is unable to fulfill the prescribed signatory duties.
  - 1. The Senior Student Affairs Officer shall send a memorandum to the Student Body President and the Senate President which includes the

designee, the reason for the assignment, and the time period for which the designee shall have approval and veto powers.

2. The Senate may request a review of any measure vetoed by an assigned designee by the Senior Student Affairs Officer upon completion of the designated time period. The Senior Student Affairs Officer shall then have ten (10) business days from the end of the designated time to review said measure. No action in ten (10) business days shall constitute approval of the measure by the Senior Student Affairs Officer.
3. In the event of a veto by the Senior Student Affairs Officer, all Constitutional powers concerning veto override policies by the Student Senate shall still be in effect.

## **Article VI Amending Process**

### **Section 1: Proposal of Amendments**

- A. An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed by:
  1. A vote by a two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate, or
  2. A written petition, presented to the Chief Election Commissioner, bearing a number of student signatures equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the number of votes cast for Student Body President in the previous Spring Election.
- B. The proposed amendment shall be published in the major student publication and otherwise made available to the Student Body for two (2) consecutive weeks prior to the vote by the Student Body. The vote on the proposed Constitutional Amendment(s) shall be held during the next regular Student Government Association election.

### **Section 2: Ratification**

The proposed amendment shall become part of the Constitution upon:

- A. Ratification by a majority of the votes cast in an election open to the Student Body, and
- B. The Senior Student Affairs officer shall have thirty calendar days from the date the results are posted to sign or veto the constitutional amendment. If no action is taken in thirty days, the amendment shall be considered approved.

### **HISTORY (Bill/Constitutional Amendment):**

02-17 (04/17/70) 02-20 (04/28/70) 03-06 (11/17/70) 03-57 (03/30/71) 04-08 (10/21/71) 04-71 (02/10/72)  
04-102 (03/09/72) 04-121 (03/30/72) 04-134 (05/18/72) 05-19 (05/12/73) 06-07 (11/15/73) 06-08 (11/15/73)  
06-21 (02/08/74) 06-35 (03/07/74) 06-38 (03/07/74) 06-60 (05/09/74) 07-88 (10/09/75) 08-02 (01/22/76)

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10-01 (01/30/78) 11-01 (No Date) 12-01 (04/01/80) 16-19 (04/03/85) 16-20 (04/03/85) 20-01 (04/13/88)  
23-01 (09/17/91) 30-08 (10/30/98) 31-01 (10/06/99) 31-02 (10/06/99) 31-05 (10/06/99) 38-68 (09/28/06)  
38-69 (09/28/06) 39-01 (06/14/07) 39-03 (08/30/07) 41-01 (10/23/09) 41-03 (10/23/09) 42-01 (03/11/10)  
42-02 (03/11/10) 42-03 (10/06/10) 42-05 (10/06/10) 42-06 (10/06/10) 43-01(04/08/11) 43-02(04/08/11)