

THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
PURDUE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

We, the students of Purdue University, in order to maintain our position as active partners in the university community, facilitate the advancement of Learning, Discovery, and Engagement, to express our views and represent ourselves before other groups whose decisions affect us, and to fairly and accountably allocate resources granted to us as a whole, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Purdue Student Government.

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Purdue Student Government.

Article II. Membership

Section 2.01. Membership:

Part A. All persons registered by the Purdue University Registrar as a student seeking an undergraduate and/or a professional degree from Purdue University, West Lafayette Campus, in any capacity, shall be members of the Purdue Student Government. Registration shall be as determined by the University Registrar. The decision of the Registrar is final. All of the members of the Purdue Student Government shall be known, collectively, as the Student Body.

Part B. The Purdue Student Government may not deny or abridge the rights enjoyed by members under the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Indiana or under the Purdue University policies and regulations affecting Students.

Section 2.02. Statement of Non-Discrimination:

Membership and participation are free from discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a military veteran.

Article III. Officers

Section 3.01. Officers:

Part A. Any member of Purdue Student Government shall be eligible to serve as an officer in accordance with Purdue University regulations pertaining to officer requirements and any other constitutional provisions contained herein.

Part B. The governing body of the Purdue Student Government shall be, collectively, the Officers of the Purdue Student Government. The Officers, individually or collectively, shall coordinate the activities and act on behalf of the Purdue Student Government according to their position.

Part C. No Student Council President or President of the Purdue Graduate Student Government may be appointed to or elected to an Officer's position in the Purdue Student Government.

Part D. No member of Purdue Student Government that is not in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University Registrar and Office of the Dean of Students may be appointed or elected to an Officer's position in the Purdue Student Government.

Section 3.02. Terms of Office:

Part A. The term of office for elected Officers shall be from the first meeting of Senate following the Student Body Election announcements until the first meeting of Senate following the Election Announcements the following year.

Part B. The term of office for appointed Officers, excluding Justices, shall be from the date of their appointments until the following first day of May, or until replaced. Officers shall be those elected by the Student Body and those appointed by these said Officers.

Part C. The term of office for Justices shall be from the date of their appointment until they are no longer members of the Purdue Student Government or until removed by an act of Purdue Student Government.

Section 3.03. Executive Officers:

The Executive Officers are listed below in order of seniority unless otherwise noted.

Part A. Student Body President: The Student Body President shall be the Chief Executive Officer, head, and official spokesperson and representative of the Purdue Student Government. The Student Body President shall not be a graduate student of Purdue University. The Student Body President shall have, among others, the following duties, powers, and authority as described herein:

- a. Powers of internal appointment;
- b. Powers of removal of appointed positions, excluding Justices;
- c. Convening emergency meetings of the Student Senate;
- d. Veto power of any legislation passed by the Student Senate;
- e. Serving as the Undergraduate Student Senator on the University Senate;
- f. Representing the Student Body to the Purdue University Board of Trustees, and reporting to the Purdue Student Government of the actions currently being considered by the Trustees;

Part B. Student Body Vice-President: The Student Body Vice-President shall be the President of the Student Senate, and shall perform the duties of the Student Body President in the event the Student Body President is disabled or is no longer a member of the Purdue Student Government. The Student Body Vice-President shall convene the Student

Senate. The Student Body Vice-President shall perform those duties assigned by the Student Body President or as contained herein.

Part C. President Pro-Tempore: The Student Senate shall elect the President Pro-Tempore from the regular membership of the Student Senate. The President Pro-Tempore shall be the spokesperson for the Student Senate and shall communicate the concerns of the Student Senate to the Purdue Student Government. The President Pro-Tempore shall also assist the Student Body Vice-President in the administration of the Student Senate.

Part D. Chief of Staff: The Student Body President, with consent of the Student Senate, shall appoint the Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Purdue Student Government and, subject to direction of the Student Body President, shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Purdue Student Government.

Part E. Student Body Treasurer: The Student Body President, with consent of the Student Senate, shall appoint the Student Body Treasurer. The Student Body Treasurer shall keep the accounts, deposit the organization's funds, and make expenditures in a manner approved by the Business Office for Student Organizations. The Student Body Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Purdue Student Government and shall be responsible for finances and expenditures of all actions and activities of the Purdue Student Government. The Student Body Treasurer shall be the authority on all budgetary matters and expenditures previously allocated by Student Senate that are not specifically reserved to the jurisdiction of the Student Senate.

Part F. Student Body Secretary: The Student Body President, with consent of the Student Senate, shall appoint the Student Body Secretary. The Student Body Secretary shall be the Chief Records and Operations Officer of the Purdue Student Government. The Student Body Secretary shall also be responsible for the maintenance of Student Government's physical assets and other such duties as the Student Body President may direct.

Part G. Chief Justice: The Student Body President, with consent of the Student Senate, shall appoint the Chief Justice from then current the Justices of the Court. The Chief Justice shall be responsible for the administration of the Court, and shall be the spokesperson for the Court.

Part H. Standing Senate Committee Chairs: Each standing Senate Committee shall nominate and elect a chairperson of that Committee. The chairperson shall retain this position from the date of their election until the first Senate meeting following the election announcement or until resignation or removal. The seniority of Standing Committee Chairs will be in the order of terms served in the Student Senate, followed by semester classification, followed by cumulative GPA.

Part I. Executive Director of Governmental Relations: The Student Body President, with the consent of the Student Senate, shall appoint the Executive Director of Governmental Relations. The Executive Director of Governmental Relations shall supervise the communication between Purdue Student Government and federal, state, and local governments and officials. This Director is also responsible for supervising the voting and voter registration efforts of Purdue Student Government and creating a more politically knowledgeable Student Body. This Director will also work closely with the Governmental Affairs Committee Chair to aid their efforts to gather and research governmental issues.

Part J. Executive Director of Programming: The Student Body President, with consent of the Student Senate, shall appoint the Executive Director of Programming. The Executive Director of Programming, subject to the direction of the Student Body President, shall be responsible for all programming endeavors of the Purdue Student Government.

Part K. Executive Director of Campus Relations: The Student Body President, with the consent of the Student Senate, shall appoint the Executive Director of Campus Relations. The Executive Director of Campus Relations, subject to the discretion of the Student Body President, shall facilitate communication with all other organizations on the Purdue campus. This Director shall also oversee the creation and facilitation of any Purdue Student Government scholarships or financial resource information on behalf of the Student Body.

Part L. Executive Director of Community Relations: The Student Body President, with the consent of the Student Senate, shall appoint the Executive Director of Community Relations. The Executive Director of Community Relations, subject to the discretion of the Student Body President, shall serve as a liaison between the Purdue Student Government and non-governmental community organizations, as well as local businesses and other universities. He or she shall also facilitate communication with Purdue Student Government alumni.

Part M. Executive Director of Communications: The Executive Director of Communications shall serve as the lead media and public relations consultant for Purdue Student Government. The Executive Director of Communications will oversee internal communication of Purdue Student Government, and will be in charge of all student public relations and marketing efforts subject to the discretion of the Purdue Student Body President.

Article IV. Advisors

The Purdue University administration shall assign at least one advisor to the Purdue Student Government. Advisors shall be responsible for safeguarding the well being of the organization and advising its Officers in their responsibilities. An Advisor may serve as the advisor to a particular Committee or Body of the Organization, provided that at least one of the Advisors is responsible for advising all Officers. The Executive Officers of the Purdue Student Government can, by majority vote, retain more advisors. The term of non-university appointed advisor shall be from the date of appointment until the first of May.

Article V. Cabinet

Section 5.01. Composition:

The Cabinet shall be chaired by the Student Body President and consist of all the Executive Officers.

Section 5.02. Function:

The Cabinet shall be the administrative body of the Purdue Student Government. When the Student Senate is not in session, the Cabinet may make decisions relating to the operation, conduct, and procedures of the Purdue Student Government, which are not contrary to any previous action of the Student Senate. Any Senator or Officer may appeal the decision of the Cabinet to the Student Senate at the next regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting. Upon appeal, the Student Senate may ratify or reject any action, except any action of the Cabinet that creates an obligation of the Purdue Student Government to third parties. These third party obligations shall nullified by the action of the Student Senate. The Cabinet shall assist the Student Body President in representing the organization, being responsible for the day-to-day affairs of the organization, and shall serving in an advisory role and as a sounding board to the Student Senate and the Student Body President.

Article VI. Student Senate

Section 6.01. Composition:

There shall be two Senators representing each of the following Schools/Colleges: the College of Agriculture; the College of Consumer and Family Sciences; the College of Education; the College of Engineering; the College of Liberal Arts; the School of Management; the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences; the College of Science; the College of Technology; the School of Veterinary Medicine; and Undergraduate Studies Program. In addition there shall be two Senators for Underrepresented Students, one Senator from the Purdue Graduate Student Government, and one Faculty Senator. Both the Senator from the Purdue Graduate Student Government and the Faculty Senator shall not be considered as voting members of the Student Senate. All Executive Officers shall be ex-officio members of the Student Senate.

Section 6.02. Function:

All legislative powers of the Purdue Student Government shall be vested in the Student Senate. The Student Senate shall be responsible for the establishment of the policies and procedures, consistent with this Constitution, of the Purdue Student Government. The Student Senate shall be the forum for debate on issues affecting the general welfare of the Student Body. Unless debate is terminated by two-thirds vote of the members present, each Senator shall have a right to speak to any issue properly before the Student Senate at least twice.

Section 6.03. Responsibilities:

With assistance and advice from the Student Body President and Cabinet, the responsibilities of the Student Senate shall include the following:

- a. The identification of issues affecting the Student Body;
- b. The research of these issues in order to present a response beneficial to the Student Body and Purdue University;
- c. The enacting of policies and procedures necessary for operation and duties of the Student Senate and as otherwise authorized by this Constitution;
- d. The recommendation of specific action to the proper authorities on specific issues;
- e. The allocation of Student Government funds and approval of the budget for the Purdue Student Government; and
- f. The confirmation, by majority vote, of Executive Officers.

Section 6.04. Acts of Student Senate:

All acts of the Student Senate shall be effective ten days after submitting said act in writing to the Student Body President unless it is vetoed by the Student Body President. Upon approval, an act becomes effective at the time of approval. The Student Body President may veto any policy or procedure enacted by the Student Senate within ten days of the policy or procedure being submitted to the Student Body President. The Veto shall be in writing. Upon an act being vetoed, it shall return to the Student Senate for further action. Upon approval of the Student Senate by two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the Student Senate, the act shall become effective. If the act fails to obtain approval of the Student Senate by two-thirds vote of the entire membership, it shall not be effective.

Section 6.05. Committees:

Part A. Standing Committees: The Student Senate shall maintain four, and only four, Standing Committees for addressing Academic Affairs, Governmental Affairs, Internal and Financial Affairs, and Student Affairs.

Part B. Ad-Hoc Committees: The Student Senate, the Student Body Vice President, or Senate President Pro Tempore, may create Senate Ad-Hoc Committees. Such Committees shall be restricted to issues as designated upon their creation, or as amended by the convener and shall report to the Student Senate on a regular basis or as directed. Unless terminated by the convener or extended by the incoming Student Senate, Student Body Vice President, or Senate President Pro Tempore, Ad-Hoc Committees shall be disbanded on the first of May.

Part C. Purdue Student and Graduate Student Government Joint Committee: The Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and one of their designees will comprise, with the President and Vice President of Purdue Graduate

Student Government and one of their designees, a standing Purdue Joint Student Government Committee to address issues that affect the constituencies of both Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government.

Part D. Membership and Duties: Regular voting members of any Committee shall be members of the Student Senate. Membership and duties of the Standing Committees shall be determined by the By-laws of the Purdue Student Government. The convener of a Senate Ad-Hoc Committee shall either appoint the members and duties of the Senate Ad-Hoc Committee or establish a procedure for determining and appointing the members and duties of the Senate Ad-Hoc Committee at the time the Committee is created. Such appointments, duties and procedures may be amended by the convener.

Article VII. Court

Section 7.01. Composition:

The Purdue Student Government Court shall be comprised of eleven Justices with one Justice serving as Chief Justice. The Student Body President shall appoint Justices when vacancies arise, subject to the confirmation of the Student Senate. Nine of the justices must be undergraduates. The two remaining Justice positions shall be filled by the appointees of Purdue Graduate Student Government.

Section 7.02. Function:

All judicial powers of the Purdue Student Government shall be vested in the Court. The Court shall be responsible for the review, upon petition of any member of the Purdue Student Government, of the Constitutionality of any document or action of the Student Government. The Court shall also be responsible for resolving disputes between any member of the Purdue Student Government and other parties, which may include other Purdue Student Government members, relating to this Constitution and the procedures and policies of the Purdue Student Government. Court will retain the right to modify or overturn its previous rulings or officially issued opinions. Decisions made by the court may be overturned or modified by an Amendment of this Constitution. Other decisions may be overturned or modified by the Court, the body, or the Officer responsible for the enacting of such policy or procedure. Matters involving exclusively undergraduate students and/or issues will be adjudicated by the nine Justices appointed by the Student Body President. All other matters shall be brought before the full court of eleven Justices.

Section 7.03. Procedures:

Subject to the Constitution and By-laws of the Purdue Student Government, the Court shall be responsible for the creation and amendment of the Purdue Student Supreme Court Standing Rules. These Standing Rules shall be published and available to all members of the Purdue Student Government. All actions before the Court shall be by written petition filed with the Student Body Secretary with a statement indicating that a copy of the petition was served upon all parties to the dispute. The Court shall use judicial process with the preservation of the right of notice and the right to respond and defend any allegation. All decisions of the Court shall be in writing and available to any member of the Purdue Student Government.

Article VIII. Board of Directors

Section 8.01. Composition:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Director of Programming, the Executive Director of Community Relations, the Executive Director of Campus Relations, the Executive Director of Governmental Relations, the Executive Director of Communications, the Student Body Secretary, and all Directors whose positions are described by the By-laws of the Purdue Student Government. The Executive Directors and Student Body Secretary shall be the co-chairpersons of the Board of Directors as further described in the By-laws.

Section 8.02. Function:

The Board of Directors shall implement programming, facilitate external communications, and provide for the operations of the Purdue Student Government. All programming power shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

Article IX. Subordinate Bodies

Section 9.01. 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 9.02. Campus Health and Safety Task Force:

The Campus Health and Safety Task Force 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 9.03. Multi-Cultural Council:

The Multi-Cultural Council shall be defined in a subordinate document to this Constitution, called the Multi-Cultural Council Charter, which shall define the rights and functions of the Multi-Cultural Council. The Underrepresented Senators shall be the co-chairpersons of the Multi-Cultural Council.

Article X. Student Body Election

Section 10.01. The Student Body Election:

The Student Body Election shall be held the second Tuesday, and following Wednesday and Thursday, upon the return of the Student Body to regular classes following the spring break of each year.

Section 10.02. Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President:

The Student Body shall elect the Student Body President and Vice-President. The Student Body President and Vice-President shall run for office as a single non-splitting ticket, and the members of the Purdue Student Government shall have the right to each cast one vote for a single ticket during the Student Body Election.

Section 10.03. Student Senate:

Part A. School Senators: The School Senators shall be elected from and by the members of their respective Schools or Colleges during the Student Body Election. Membership of the School or College shall be as defined by the Purdue University Registrar.

Part B. Underrepresented Senators: The Underrepresented Senators shall be elected or appointed in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Multi-Cultural Council. If the Multi-Cultural Council fails to provide Senators by the start of the fall semester, the Underrepresented Senators will be selected by the Student Body Vice President and confirmed by the Student Senate.

Part C. Graduate Senators: The Graduate Senator shall be elected or appointed in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Purdue Graduate Student Government.

Part D. Faculty Senator: The Faculty Senator shall be elected or appointed in accordance with the policies and procedures of Purdue University.

Section 10.04. Election Rules:

The procedures for the Election shall be further defined in the Purdue Student Government Election Rules, as adopted by 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 members of the Student Senate and ratified by the Student Body President.

Article XI. Removal, Termination, Succession, and Replacement

Section 11.01. Removal:

Part A. Elected Officers and Justices: Elected Officers and Justices of the Purdue Student Government may only be removed for cause. Removal shall be only by vote of three-fourths of all the members of the Student Senate upon the filing of a Petition for Removal with the President Pro-Tempore of the Student Senate in a closed hearing. The Petition for Removal, signed by at least ten percent of the Student Senate, must state, with specific allegations, the reason for removal. The President Pro-Tempore shall serve a copy of the Petition upon the Elected Officer or Justice by certified mail at such address as is current with the Purdue University Registrar's Office. During the regular school term, not including the summer term, service shall be deemed complete seven days after mailing. At all other times, service shall be deemed complete fourteen days after mailing. In not less than seven days nor more than forty days after service, the Student Body President, except where the removal of the Student Body President is being sought, shall convene and preside over the Student Senate for the sole purpose of conducting a hearing on the Petition for Removal. If and only if the removal of the Student Body President is being sought, the President Pro-Tempore shall convene and preside over the Student Senate for the sole purpose of conducting the hearing. During the hearing for Removal, the Elected Officer or Justice shall have the right to participate in the hearing, including the right to cross-examine any person testifying, to testify, to produce witnesses and to give or have others give argument. Failure to obtain a vote of three-fourths of all of the members of the Student Senate within the time provided shall act as an acquittal of the Petition.

Part B. Appointed Officers: The Student Body President may remove any appointed Officer, other than a Justice, or Chief Justice, with or without cause. Removal shall be effective upon written notice of removal being filed with the Student Body Vice-President, as President of the Student Senate, by the President.

Section 11.02. Termination:

Except as otherwise provided herein, a person who holds a position as an Officer of the Purdue Student Government shall be automatically terminated from that position upon the following:

- a. Resignation submitted in writing to the Student Body President, except the resignation of the Student Body President which shall be submitted to the Student Body Vice-President;
- b. Death or permanent mental incapacity;
- c. Failure to remain registered by the Purdue University Registrar as a student of Purdue University in any capacity, unless this occurs during the summer term or in a temporary failure to remain registered for economic causes;
- d. Failure to remain in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University Registrar and Office of the Dean of Students.

Section 11.03. Succession:

Upon vacancy of the position of Student Body President, the order of succession shall be, the Student Body Vice-President, followed by the President Pro Tempore. In the event that the positions of Student Body President, Student

Body Vice-President, and President Pro Tempore of the Student Senate become vacant, the Student Senate shall convene on the next possible Wednesday for the sole purpose of electing a new Student Body President, whose term shall end on the next first of May. The new Student Body President shall then appoint the new Student Body Vice-President.

Section 11.04. Replacement:

Upon vacancy of any Student Senate seat belonging to a School/College, the Student Council of that School/College shall appoint a replacement Senator to the Student Senate. If the Student Council is unable or unwilling to fill the vacant Student Senate seat within thirty days, the Student Body Vice-President may petition the Dean of the respective School for a replacement. Upon the vacancy of any Graduate Seat of the Student Senate, the Purdue Graduate Student Government shall appoint a replacement Senator. Upon vacancy of the underrepresented seat of the Student Senate, the Underrepresented Students Roundtable shall appoint a replacement Senator. If the Underrepresented Students Roundtable fails to appoint a replacement Senator, the replacement Senator will be chosen through an application process overseen by the Student Body Vice President. The term for replacement Senators shall be from the date of appointment until the next first of May.

Article XII. By-laws

Further specifications and laws of the Purdue Student Government shall be specified in a subordinate document to this Constitution, the By-laws of the Purdue Student Government. The By-laws shall be enacted and modified upon by a majority vote of the Student Senate and the approval of the Student Body President after notice is submitted at the prior regular meeting of the Student Senate.

Article XIII. Referenda

Any member of the Purdue Student Government, subject to the procedures herein, may submit referenda to determine a nonbinding opinion of the Student Body. 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 one-fiftieth of the Student Body, as determined by the Purdue University Registrar. Once verified by the Dean of Students' Office as being authentic and in accordance with University Regulation, the referenda shall be added to the ballot of the Student Body Election.

Article XIV. Amendments

Section 14.01. Amendment by Senate:

Part A. Authority: The Student Senate may amend this Constitution in compliance with the terms herein.

Part B. Introduction: The Amendment must be introduced to the Student Senate in the form of a bill at least one regularly scheduled meeting prior to the first ballot.

Part B. First Reading: Each Amendment must pass a first ballot by a two-thirds vote of the regular membership of the Student Senate.

Part C. Second Reading: After passing the first ballot, an Amendment must also pass a second ballot under the same conditions and procedures as in the first ballot. This second ballot must not be on the same calendar day or during the same meeting as the first ballot.

Part D. Student Body President: After passing two ballots, each Amendment shall be presented to the Student Body President, who must either sign or veto each Amendment. If the Student Body President signs the Amendment, it shall continue in the process. If the Student Body President vetoes the Amendment, it shall be submitted to one additional reading before the Student Senate, in which the Student Body President may state his or her objections verbally or in writing. If the Amendment passes a third ballot by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the Student Senate, it shall continue in the process.

Part E. Office of the Dean of Students: Once signed by the President, or approved by a three-fourths vote of the Student Senate in response to a Presidential veto, the Amendments shall be submitted to the Office of the Dean of Students. All Constitutional Amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Office of the Dean of Students. Upon approval of the Office of the Dean of Students, the Amendments shall become immediately effective.

Section 14.02. Amendment by Referenda:

Part A. Authority: The Student Body, in a fairly conducted Student Body Election shall be the final arbiters and legitimizers of any actions done in their name. The Officers, employees or representatives of the Purdue Student Government may not deny or interfere with the rights of the Student Body to petition, recall officials, or initiate referenda, legislation, or Amendments to the Purdue Student Government Constitution.

Part B. Amendment by Referenda: Any member of the Purdue Student Government, by procedure herein, may submit referenda to amend this constitution. It shall be placed upon 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 one twenty-fifth of the Student Body, as determined by the University Registrar. Once verified by the Dean of Students office to be authentic and in accordance with University Regulation, the referenda shall be added to the ballot of the Student Body Election.

Part C. Office of the Dean of Students: Any Referenda, of a Constitutional Amendment, that receives a plurality of votes and has the signatures of at least one twenty-fifth of the Student Body shall be submitted to the Office of the Dean of Students. Upon approval of the Office of the Dean of Students, the referenda shall become immediately effective and binding.