

The University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board

# Constitution



University of Pittsburgh  
Student Government Board

## Article I. Definitions

**Section 1.01** Student: Any undergraduate student at the University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh Campus not solely enrolled in the College of General Studies.

**Section 1.02** Student Government Board member: the President and all Board Members, Committee Chairs, Committee Members, all members of the Office of the President, and appointed members of Ad-hoc Committees and Task Forces.

**Section 1.03** Student body: the group of all students as defined in the most recent available version of the University Factbook.

**Section 1.04** Quorum: The number of Student Government Board members required for the conduct of official business.

**Section 1.05** GPA: The cumulative grade point average as issued by the University of Pittsburgh Registrar.

## Article II. Purpose

**Section 2.01** The purpose of the Student Government Board is to promote the concerns, interests, needs, and welfare of the student body of the Pittsburgh Campus by:

- (a) Initiating, developing, and maintaining programs and services that meet the academic, socioeconomic, and personal needs and interests of the student body.
- (b) Stimulating and facilitating communication and interaction between the members of the student body and University Community, and representing the student body in the shared governance process.
- (c) Allocating the Student Activities Fee in a fair and equitable manner and utilizing these funds in order to fulfill the above functions.

**Section 2.02** The Student Government Board shall adhere to the University of Pittsburgh non-discrimination policy in all activities, and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, disability, or status as a veteran.

## Article III. Supremacy

**Section 3.01** All actions of the Student Government Board shall be governed by the following order of precedence: this Constitution, the Governing Code, and the most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order.

**Section 3.02** The Governing Code serves as the Student Government Board bylaws. Amendments to the Governing Code shall be approved through a bill requiring a majority vote of total membership of the Board, and:

- (a) Bills amending any title defining a Standing Committee shall also be approved by a majority of total membership of the respective committee.
- (b) Bills amending internal procedures of the Allocations Committee shall be approved by a majority of total membership of the Allocations Committee and shall not require Board approval.

## **Article IV. Requirements for Office**

**Section 4.01** All members of the Board, Office of the President, Committee Chairs, and Standing Committee Members must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 in order to take office.

**Section 4.02** All Student Government Board members must be full-time students in good academic standing and not under a Judicial Hold.

**Section 4.03** The President and each Board Member must have at least one academic year remaining during which they expect to be a student from the day on which they take office, unless appointed to fill a vacancy.

## **Article V. The Board**

**Section 5.01** The Board shall consist of a President and eight Board Members, all of whom shall be students not serving on any Standing Committee. The President and Board members shall be elected in a general election according to the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code.

**Section 5.02** The Board shall function as the executive and legislative branch of the Student Government Board. The members of the Board shall be the official representatives of the student body to the University community and outside organizations.

**Section 5.03** The Board shall have the authority to establish, direct, and terminate all Student Government Board operations except as otherwise provided in this Constitution.

**Section 5.04** No member of the Board shall under any circumstances sit in on the hearings and deliberations of the Allocations, Elections, or Judicial Committees, or otherwise attempt to exert any undue influence on the business of the Standing Committees.

**Section 5.05** Public Meetings of the Board shall be held at least once every two weeks during the fall and spring semesters. Minutes shall be taken of all Public Meetings of the Board and posted in a public forum.

**Section 5.06** A quorum of five Board Members shall be required for any business of the Board, whether public or private. The President does not count towards quorum. When quorum cannot be established due to vacancies or recusals, quorum shall be defined as the number of remaining Board Members.

**Section 5.07** The President shall serve as the spokesperson of the Board in all matters relating to

official business. Additionally, the President shall coordinate the activities of the individual Board Members and shall exercise the power and responsibilities of Chair in conducting the business of the Board.

**Section 5.08** The Vice President for Operations shall be a Board Member nominated by the President and approved by a simple majority of the total membership of the Board. The Vice President for Operations shall be responsible for supervising the work of all Standing Committees on behalf of the Board, shall serve as the business manager for the Student Government Board and administrate its operating budget, and shall coordinate any student services authorized by the Board. The Vice President for Operations shall assume the responsibilities of the President in their temporary absence.

**Section 5.09** The Vice President for Initiatives shall be a Board Member nominated by the President and approved by a simple majority of the total membership of the Board. The Vice President for Initiatives shall be responsible for supervising the work of all Conditional Committees, shall lead a meeting of all Conditional Committee Chairs at least once every two weeks during the fall and spring semesters, and shall oversee all special programs presented by the Student Government Board. The Vice President for Initiatives shall assume the responsibilities of the President in the temporary absence of the President and the Vice President for Operations.

**Section 5.10** The Vice President for Governance shall be a Board Member nominated by the President and approved by a simple majority of the total membership of the Board. The Vice President for Governance shall be responsible for supervising the work of all Task Forces and Ad-hoc Committees organized by the Board, shall serve as Speaker of the Assembly, and shall appoint and supervise all Student Government Board representatives to shared governance committees. The Vice President for Governance shall assume the responsibilities of the President in the temporary absence of the President, the Vice President for Operations, and the Vice President for Initiatives.

**Section 5.11** In the event that the President is no longer able or willing to fulfill their responsibilities, the Vice President for Operations shall assume the office of President.

**Section 5.12** All Board Members not serving as Vice Presidents shall be appointed by the President as Board Member for one or more Conditional Committees. The Board Member for a Conditional Committee shall be the liaison for the Student Government Board for all inquiries related to that committee, and shall work with the Chair of the committee to ensure the completion of the goals established for the committee by the Board. The Board Member receiving the most votes in the most recent election shall assume the responsibilities of the President in the temporary absence of the President and all Vice Presidents.

## **Article VI. Committees**

**Section 6.01** Standing Committees are executive bodies organized with a purpose of carrying out essential functions of the Student Government Board. The Standing Committees are the Allocations, Elections, and Judicial Committees.

**Section 6.02** Conditional Committees are executive bodies organized at the discretion of the Board

with a purpose of carrying out critical functions of the Student Government Board. Each Conditional Committee shall have bylaws set forth in the Governing Code.

**Section 6.03** Ad-hoc Committees are executive bodies organized under the Board to carry out an ancillary function. The Board must approve a written charter for each Ad-hoc Committee defining the membership, mission, and timeline of the committee. The charter must extend no longer than the term of the current President and Board Members.

**Section 6.04** Task Forces are executive bodies organized under the Board for the purpose of fulfilling a specific objective with some foreseeable end. The Board must approve a written charter for each Task Force defining the membership, mission, goals, and timeline of the Task Force. The charter must extend no longer than the term of the current President and Board Members.

## **Article VII. Office of the President**

**Section 7.01** The Office of the President shall include the Chief of Staff, the Communications Director, and other positions created by the President. Individuals shall be appointed to these positions according to the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code.

## **Article VIII. The Assembly**

**Section 8.01** The Assembly shall function as a representative advisory body to the Board. The function and operations of the Assembly shall be carried according to the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code.

## **Article IX. The Elections Process**

**Section 9.01** The Elections Committee shall be composed of a Chair and eight members, all of whom shall be students not serving on the Board or any other Standing Committee.

**Section 9.02** Any election or referendum of the Student Government Board shall be regulated and supervised by the Elections Committee according to the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code.

**Section 9.03** The President and the Board Members shall be elected through an at-large election conducted each year during the month of February or March. The voting population shall be restricted to students, and each eligible voter shall be restricted to one vote for the President and three votes for Board Members.

**Section 9.04** The President shall be the candidate receiving the highest number of votes for the position of President. The Board shall be composed of those eight candidates receiving the highest number of votes for the position of Board Member.

**Section 9.05** The term of the President and each Board Member shall begin on the last day of the

spring semester following the election and shall continue until the following President and Board take office.

**Section 9.06** The period between the certification of election results by the Elections Committee and the beginning of the terms of the President and Board Members shall be defined as the transition period. During this period, the President-elect and Board Members-elect shall have rights and responsibilities according to the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code.

## **Article X. The Allocations Process**

**Section 10.01** The Allocations Committee shall be composed of a Chair and twelve members, all of whom shall be students not serving on the Board or any other Standing Committee.

**Section 10.02** The Allocations process shall be regulated according to the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code.

**Section 10.03** The Allocations Committee shall be solely responsible for supervising the expenditure of approved funds on behalf of the Student Government Board, and may impose sanctions on organizations and officers according to the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code.

## **Article XI. The Judicial Process**

**Section 11.01** The Judicial Committee shall be composed of a Chair and eight members, all of whom shall be students not serving on the Board or any other Standing Committee. All Judicial Committee hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code.

**Section 11.02** The Judicial Committee shall investigate and adjudicate any case where an act by a member of the Student Government Board violates this Constitution or another governing document. The Judicial Committee shall also adjudicate any case where a governing document is inconsistent with this Constitution. The verdict shall be decided by a simple majority vote of total membership of the Judicial Committee. Rulings of the Judicial Committee are binding on all Student Government Board members unless vacated by the Dean of Students or their designee.

**Section 11.03** The Judicial Committee shall serve as the appellate court in the instance of any dispute during an election or referendum of the Student Government Board, and shall review appeals of disciplinary actions by any Student Government Board body, according to the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code.

**Section 11.04** Student organizations, or any members thereof, may choose as a means of recourse to appeal to the Judicial Committee cases involving alleged violations of their organizations' constitution or bylaws. The Judicial Chair shall determine whether a hearing is warranted, after which the Judicial Committee shall, by a simple majority vote of total membership, adjudicate the claims and make a recommendation to the Division of Student Affairs.

**Section 11.05** The Judicial Committee shall be responsible for the maintenance of this Constitution and the Governing Code, and shall ensure that the documents are kept up to date and publicly accessible.

## **Article XII. The Dismissal and Vacancy Process**

**Section 12.01** Any Student Government Board member may be dismissed from their position in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code.

**Section 12.04** Any vacancy in a Student Government Board position caused by dismissal or other reason shall be filled in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code. Public interviews shall be conducted prior to the filling of any vacant Board Member position.

## **Article XIII. Amendments**

**Section 13.01** Amendments to this Constitution may be initiated by either a petition signed by five percent of the student body or by a Constitutional Review Task Force appointed by a simple majority of the total membership of the Board.

**Section 13.02** The Elections Committee shall conduct any referendum on proposed amendments to this Constitution according to the policies and procedures set forth in the Governing Code.

**Section 13.03** All proposed amendments shall be approved by a simple majority vote of students participating in the referendum, with a minimum participation of three percent of the student body.

The logo features a shield with a blue border and a yellow inner border. Inside the shield is a blue silhouette of a building with a central tower. Below the shield, the text "University of Pittsburgh" is written in a light blue font, and "Student Government Board" is written in a darker blue font below it.

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