

# Article I The Student Body

## **Section 1 NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Student Body of the Florida State University Republic of Panama Campus, hereinafter referred to as the Student Body. The governing entity of the Student Body shall be the Student Government Association of Panama, hereinafter referred to as SGAP.

## **Section 2 JURISDICTION**

SGAP derives its authority from the Florida State Legislature under Florida Statutes 1004.26 and 1009.24.

## **Section 3 MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of SGAP is to provide FSU Republic of Panama students with representation, services and advocacy within the university structure. SGAP provides quality leadership for, and accountability to its constituency by recognizing that strength arises from diversity, engagement, and dialogue.

## **Section 4 FRANCHISE**

All students by virtue of their registration in the Florida State University Republic of Panama campus, hereinafter referred to as the University, shall be members of the Student Body, shall be entitled to vote in the student body elections, and shall be subject to this Constitution and to all University Rules and Regulations.

## **Section 5 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. To ensure the greatest participation by students in the immediate governance of and policy development for the Florida State University at all levels.
2. To organize events for students.
3. To receive complaints from students, investigate the problems of students and participate in academic policy making decisions concerning students.
4. To take action on behalf of the student body in general, and to specifically work for:
  - a. The expansion of student power in all aspects of student and university governance.
  - b. The recognitions of access to education as a basic human right.
  - c. The enforcement of civil rights guarantees in all aspects of university life and policy.
  - d. The ability of students, staff, and faculty to function without undue financial stress.
  - e. The protection of public education.
  - f. The defense of the right of faculty, students and campus workers to organize in their interest.

- g. The protection of full student autonomy over student life, services, and interests.
- 5. To provide an official voice through which the opinions of the student body may be expressed.
- 6. To develop SGA policies in a fair and open manner.
- 7. To inform all students of SGA activities and encourage participation in them.

**Section 6 STUDENT RIGHTS**

Each student shall be subject to the rules of the courts and the University, but these rules shall at no time and in no way abridge the student's rights as citizens or residents of the Republic of Panama.

## **Article II The Council**

### **Section 1 POWERS AND DUTIES**

The Student Body Council shall:

1. Propose, by majority vote, Constitutional amendments.
2. Draft proposals for SGAP initiatives and activities.
3. Consider appointments by majority vote to fill vacated elected offices, and by a majority vote for other appointments.
4. Attend meetings related to their position and present suggestions from the Student Body to the Council.
5. Impeach Officers, both elected and appointed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
6. Issue subpoenas upon majority vote of a standing committee.

### **Section 2 LIMITATIONS OF POWERS**

Proposals drafted by the Council shall be subject to review by the Director of Student Affairs.

## **Article III The Executive**

### **Section 1 EXECUTIVE POWERS**

All executive powers of the Student Body shall be vested in a President of the Student Body, assisted by the Student Body Vice President, and Student Body Treasurer. The Student Body President shall hereinafter be referred to as the President, the Student Body Vice President as the Vice President, and the Student Body Treasurer as the Treasurer.

### **Section 2 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE POWERS**

1. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall be elected as a group by a plurality of those voting in the Student Body elections.
2. The Vice President and Treasurer shall be the President's running mates.

### **Section 3 DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President shall:

1. Enforce all Conduct Codes of the Student Body.
2. Appoint Officers to fill vacancies. Such appointments shall require a majority vote of the Council to be approved.
3. Have the power to veto or approve Proposals of the Council, provided that they exercise such power within five (5) school days of presentation to the President. A veto may be overridden by a majority vote of not less than a quorum of the Council.
4. Call and preside over meetings of the Student Body.
5. Make policy recommendations to the Council.
6. Address the Council on a weekly basis and at other times upon invitation by the Council.
7. Instruct and require reports from Officers and approve all policies made by them.
8. Remove, at their discretion, any Ambassador to whom they have appointed.
9. Have the power to call for a referendum subject to majority Council concurrence.

### **Section 4 DUTIES OF OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

1. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in their absence or upon their request.
2. The Vice President shall coordinate the efforts of the Council and shall serve as coordinator for the formulation and completion of Council projects.
3. The Vice President shall direct grievances and ideas to the proper functionary and see that they are acted upon.
4. The Student Body Treasurer shall have all the appropriate powers and duties granted to them.

## **Article IV The Ambassadors**

### **Section 1 COMPOSITION**

1. There shall be an appointed group of four (4) Ambassadors.
2. The following four Ambassadors are required positions within the Council: Ambassador for the Athletic Program, Ambassador for Public Relations, Ambassador for the International Program, and Ambassador for Student Organizations.
3. If any of the four Ambassador positions are not filled or an Ambassador resigns, the President of the Executive Board may appoint someone to a position. Such appointments shall require a majority vote of the Council to be approved.
4. The exact number of Ambassadors shall be determined by the Executive Board, but at no time shall this number exceed 7 (7) or fall short of the four (4) required Ambassadors.

### **Section 2 APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADORS**

1. The Ambassador for the Athletic Program, Ambassador for Public Relations, Ambassador for the International Program, and Ambassador for Student Organizations shall be selected individually and require a majority vote of the Executive Board to be appointed.

### **Section 3 POWERS AND DUTIES**

Ambassadors shall:

1. Carry out tasks related to their position.
2. Attend meetings related to their position and present suggestions from the Student Body to the Council.

# Article V Elections

## **Section 1 TIME OF ELECTION**

1. Elections for the Executive Board will be held in the Fall academic term.
2. Recall elections will be held as provided in the Student Body Constitution and by Statute.

## **Section 2 ELECTION CONFLICTS**

In the case of a holiday, campus closure, or school function conflict with any of the above dates in the regular session, the Supervisor of Elections shall designate another date.

## **Section 3 ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS**

All students holding a major Student Government office as defined in the Student Body shall be in good academic standing and maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA).

## **Section 4 RESTRICTIONS ON CANDIDACY**

1. No student shall hold two major offices of the Student Government concurrently. The list of major offices shall always include the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and Student Body Treasurer.
2. No candidate for offices shall exceed campaign expenses limits.
3. Any student found guilty of any violation of the Student Conduct Code, Organizational Conduct Code, Academic Honor Code, or who has been dismissed from university housing for violating the Housing Agreement, will not hold any office in the Florida State University SGAP.

## **Section 5 PROCEDURE FOR ESTABLISHING CANDIDACY**

Any qualified student may be placed on the Official Ballot by submitting a declaration of candidacy.

## **Section 6 TERM OF OFFICE**

All officers of the Student Body shall take office at the time of installation. Their term shall cease upon the installation of their successors.

## **Section 7 VACANCIES**

1. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the President, the Vice President shall assume that office for the remainder of the Presidential term. If the office of Vice President should happen to be vacant at the same time as that of the President, the Treasurer shall assume the Office of the President for the remainder of the Presidential term. The individual, who has become acting President for the remainder of the Presidential term, shall then appoint a new Vice President from within the ranks of the Student Body. This appointment shall be subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the Council. If there is a vacancy in the Office of the Student Body

Treasurer, then the President shall have the power to appoint a new Student Body Treasurer for the remainder of the Presidential term, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the Council.

2. All other vacancies created in elected Student Body offices shall be filled by appointment by the Student Body President, with confirmation by a majority vote of the Council, provided all succeeding officers have the same constitutional qualifications as the originally elected officers. Vacancies in the above listed offices shall be filled as provided for in the Student Body **Statutes**, except that if no pertinent **statute** exists then the Student Body President shall have the power of appointment by default.
3. Offices vacated pursuant to a leave of absence shall be filled for the duration of the absence in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

# ARTICLE VI AMENDMENT PROCESS AND REFERENDUM ELECTIONS

## **Section 1 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by majority vote of the Council, or by petition of 50 members of the Student Body, and shall become part of this Constitution upon ratification by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast in an election of the Student Body.
  1. Statutes shall adopt procedures by which notice is given when a constitutional amendment is introduced in the Senate for consideration and at least one week prior to the election where the amendment is to be voted on.
  2. Each amendment shall be accompanied by a Statement of Intent, as shall be further defined by statute, that explains the text of the amendment.
  3. If an amendment is proposed by the Council, the President shall deliver the amendment unto the Supervisor of Elections within forty-eight (48) hours of the proposal of the amendment, who shall then place the amendment on the ballot and ensure the amendment's compliance with the requirements of this article. Failure of either officer to carry out such duties constitutes nonfeasance.
  4. The Council may, by statute, provide the form for petitions to amend this Constitution.
  5. Procedures for timely review of proposed constitutional amendments may be made by statute, provided that such review may not invalidate a proposed amendment unless there is a finding that the proposed amendment violates local law.
  6. Except as provided for in this Article, no further requirements may be placed on the amending process by statute.

## **Section 2 REFERENDUM**

The Student Body may demand a referendum election upon the properly signed petition of at least fifty (50) students. The result of the election shall serve as a mandate for SGAP provided that ten percent (10%) of the Student Body shall have participated in the election. At no time shall a referendum election demand any result that would violate the provisions of the Student Body Constitution or any result contrary to local or university law.

## **Section 3 GENDER NEUTRALITY**

Amendments to this Constitution, either through the Student Council or petition, must use gender neutral language.

1. Gender neutral language shall be defined as the pronouns “they, them, and their(s).”



## **ARTICLE VII RECALL OF STUDENT BODY OFFICERS**

### **Section 1 METHOD OF RECALL**

Every elected and appointed officer of the Florida State University Republic of Panama Student Body is subject, as herein provided, to recall by the legal voters of the Florida State University Republic of Panama Student Body. The person or persons demanding recall shall set forth in a petition the reasons for the demand of recall. If the elected officer in question offers their resignation it shall be accepted and take effect on the day it is offered, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided by law. If they do not resign within thirty days an election will be held to determine whether the people will recall the officer. On the sample ballot at the election shall be printed in not more than two hundred (200) words the reasons for demanding recall and in not more than two hundred (200) words the officer's justification of their course in office. They shall continue to perform the duties of their office until the results of their official election shall be officially declared. The recall petition shall be filed with the officer with whom the petition for nomination to such office should be filed, and the same officer shall order the special election when it is required. No such petition shall be circulated against any officer until they have actually held office for three months. After one such petition and special election, no further recall shall be filed against the same officer during the term for which they were elected.

### **Section 2 NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR A PETITION OF RECALL**

1. Pertaining to the recall of campus-wide elected officers (Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Student Body Treasurer) ten percent (10%) of all students or fifty 50 signatures, whichever is greater.
2. Pertaining to the recall of Ambassadors, ten percent (10%) of all students or 50 signatures, whichever is greater.

### **Section 3 IMPEACHMENT**

Any elected or appointed officer of the Council may be impeached by other members of the Council, as provided by **Statute**, on charges of malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance.

### **Section 4 REMOVAL**

Any elected or appointed officer of the Council or any officer appointed may be removed from office.