

Constitution Of The Oklahoma Student Government Association

Preamble: We the students of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education in order to provide a stable, uniform network of communication among the institutions of higher education in the State of Oklahoma, support dialogue between the institutions, recommend change that will benefit all students of higher education, and promote civic engagement, do ordain and hereby establish this Constitution for the Oklahoma Student Government Association.

Article I. Membership

Section 1. The membership of the Oklahoma Student Government Association, hereafter OSGA, shall be all Oklahoma students of institutions of higher education and shall be represented by appropriate representatives from the proper student governments. All members shall be subject to this Constitution and the By-Laws.

Section 2. Annual membership dues shall be submitted by each institution as set by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors. All dues are due per student government association, annually by October 1st.

Article II. Legislative Branch

Section 1. Legislative powers shall be vested in the Oklahoma Student Government Association Congress.

Section 2. The OSGA Congress shall be composed of delegates from each member institution of higher education. Each institution shall not be limited in the number of Delegates, but only two (2) delegates shall be Voting Delegates per institution.

Section 3. A General Conference, open to all members, shall meet at least once annually during the spring semester.

Section 4. The powers and duties of the OSGA Congress shall be as follows:

- A. To act upon legislation of the congressional committees.
- B. All Delegates shall have the power to author, introduce and speak on legislation and amendments thereof, but only Voting Delegates may vote on the final passage of the main motion or the final passage of an amendment to a main motion.
- C. The institutions in attendance shall operate provided a quorum of fifty-one (51%) percent of the schools in good standing with OSGA are present.
- D. The appointed committee chairpersons and officers shall be accorded speaking privileges, but shall not vote, unless they are members of a school's Voting Delegation or there is a tie vote in committees.

Article III

Executive Branch

Section 1. The Oklahoma Student Government Association shall have the following offices: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Public Relations Director, and five (5) regional directors. Student Body Presidents from respective student governments can be present at the Board of Directors meetings with speaking privileges during the meeting.

Section 2. All transactions, affairs and official paperwork must be transferred to the newly elected officers after the induction ceremony and within 30 days.

Section 3. The President of the OSGA shall be elected at the Spring Conference.

- A. The President shall preside over all Board of Directors meetings.
- B. The President may vote only in *the event* of a tie.
- C. The President of OSGA shall be responsible for reviewing and approving the official dissemination of all information pertinent to higher education to the state legislature, the State Regents, national education groups, state and federal agencies, and other publications or communications of higher education.
- D. The President shall be responsible for issuing official statements from the Board of Directors through the Public Relations Director.
- E. The President shall be directly accountable to the Board of Directors in all actions, statements, and publications pertaining to the business of OSGA.
- F. The President shall be responsible for distributing final approved copies of legislation passed by the OSGA Congress.
- G. The President shall represent OSGA and Oklahoma students at the state Capitol.
- H. The President shall make reports to the OSGA at each of the regularly scheduled meetings.
- I. The President shall notify the OSGA Board of Directors as to state legislation that will affect the education process in the State of Oklahoma.

Section 4. OSGA Vice-President

- A. The Vice-President shall be responsible for relaying to the President and Chairman of the Student Advisory Board all information pertinent to higher education from the various OSGA bodies, the state legislature, the State Regents, national education groups, state and federal agencies, and other publications or communications concerning higher education.
- B. The Vice- President shall be consultant to and the liaison between the Board of Directors, OSGA Congress, and the Student Advisory Board in such a manner as to ensure the growth, consistency, and continuity of OSGA.
- C. The Vice-President shall call regular meetings of the Board of Directors with the approval of at least three (3) other Board members. He/She shall be compelled to call a regular meeting with the written request of four (4) Board members. Special meetings may be called with the approval or request of five (5) board members. Agendas shall be formulated by the Vice-President and shall be sent to each Board Member.
- D. The Vice-President shall oversee the activity of the Regional Directors as it relates to communications within the OSGA.

- E. The Vice-President shall work closely in assisting the Board of Directors, the Congress, the Student Advisory Board, and the chairman thereof, as needed.
- F. The Vice-President shall assist the Host School in the planning and coordination of conferences and other OSGA activities.
- G. The Vice-President shall be responsible for distributing position statements passed by the Board of Directors.
- H. The Vice-President shall be directly accountable to the Board of Directors of the OSGA in all actions, statements, and publications pertaining to the business of the OSGA.
- I. The Vice-President shall perform any additional duties, as assigned by the President.

Section 5. OSGA Secretary

- A. The Secretary of the Oklahoma Student Government Association shall be responsible for taking minutes at each Board of Directors meeting and provide copies of previous minutes at future meetings.
- B. The Secretary shall be responsible for presenting a final report of the Board of Directors meeting minutes to the OSGA Congress at the Spring Conference.
- C. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining a current directory of the Board of Directors members, to be updated as needed.
- D. The Secretary shall be responsible for compiling the Host Bid Forms for OSGA events.
- E. The Secretary shall accept applications for OSGA Office during the spring conference.
- F. The Secretary shall be responsible for taking roll at all meetings of the Board of Directors.
- G. The Secretary shall perform any additional duties, as assigned by the President.

Section 6. OSGA Treasurer

- A. The Treasurer shall maintain a current record of financial transactions on a monthly basis.
- B. The Treasurer shall submit a Treasurer's Report at all OSGA Board of Directors meetings.
- C. The Treasurer shall submit a written budget report of all OSGA Board of Directors meeting upon request of Directors.
- D. All checks shall be signed by the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- E. In the absence of the Treasurer, the President shall sign the checks; in the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall sign the checks with approval of the Board.
- F. The Treasurer shall perform any additional duties, as assigned by the President.

Section 7. OSGA Public Relations Director

- A. The Public Relations Director of the Oklahoma Student Government Association shall be responsible for assisting the President when official statements are issued.
- B. The Public Relations Director shall be responsible for contacting the media for press releases, news articles, news conferences, or any other news worthy issues for OSGA through any mass media outlets.
- C. The Public Relations Director shall act as the Webmaster or appoint an assistant Webmaster with the approval of the Board of Directors and shall be responsible for maintaining OSGA's official website, www.osga.org. There shall be a thirty (30) day grace period from the date the Public Relations Director assumes office.

- D. The Public Relations Director shall be responsible for publishing a newsletter to be released to all member institutions in good standing with the OSGA. It shall be released once every six (6) weeks.
- E. The Public Relation's Director shall perform any additional duties, as assigned by the President.

Section 8. OSGA Regional Directors

- A. The State shall be divided into five (5) regions: Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest.
- B. The Regional Directors shall be responsible for being in contact on a minimum of a monthly basis with the institution's student government in their region on concerns or ideas that need to be expressed on a state-wide basis. This information will be relayed to the OSGA Board of Directors meetings and then back to the individual student governments.

Section 9. OSGA Board of Directors

- A. The Board of Directors shall have the power to develop policies consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws.
- B. The Board of Directors shall have the power to act upon legislation of the OSGA Congress and congressional committees.
- C. The Board of Directors shall have the power to discuss matters of concern to the community of higher education and to issue statements of student opinion on these matters.
- D. The Board of Directors shall be used as a forum for the exchange of ideas and general information helpful to the operation of a college or university student government.
- E. The Board of Directors shall have no veto power.
- F. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of twice each semester.
- G. In a Board of Directors' meeting, each member of the Board of Directors shall cast a vote for the office that he/she represents. Under no circumstance shall a member of the Board of Directors cast more than one (1) vote. The president shall only cast a vote in the event of a tie.
- H. The Board of Directors shall select the site of each OSGA conference from the applications submitted by the Oklahoma colleges and universities.
- I. The Board of Directors shall evaluate and make recommendations concerning each OSGA Conference.
- J. The Board of Directors shall direct the actions of OSGA with the exception of power vested on the Congress or in the Congress or in other individuals or groups in the governing documents of the OSGA.
- K. Quorum for the Board of Directors shall be those in attendance provided that each OSGA officer and Regional Director was notified (by agenda) of all meetings two weeks prior to the meeting. Regional Directors are responsible for contacting their regions student governments about the meeting/special meeting no later than one week prior to the meeting.
- L. The Board of Directors shall have the power to adopt minor procedures not inconsistent with this Constitution by a majority vote.
- M. All expenditures in excess of one student government association's dues shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 10. Voting

- A. The Board of Directors and two (2) Voting Delegates from each member student government association shall participate in the election of the President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Director, and five (5) Regional Directors. The Board of Directors shall each carry one vote during the OSGA Congress in legislative purposes.

**Article IV
Student Advisory Board**

Section 1. The Board of Directors and two (2) Voting Delegates from each member student government association shall select the Student Advisory Board as follows:

- A. Each applicant shall be endorsed by the student government association for that applicant's institution.
- B. Only one (1) application may be submitted per institution.
- C. Applications shall be turned into the OSGA Secretary during the OSGA Spring Conference.
- D. An institution may only vote for candidates within their own tier. Tiers shall be defined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
- E. Each Student Advisory Board member shall be selected by a majority vote of all members present for the applicant's tier.

Section 2. When vacancies occur in the membership of the Student Advisory Board, the OSGA Vice-President will recommend a replacement to the President of the OSGA and shall then call a special meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall fill the vacancy by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present.

**Article V
Amendments**

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed as legislation to the OSGA Congress. If the legislation is passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the OSGA Congress, it shall then be a proposed amendment.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be ratified by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the student governments that are in good standing with OSGA by submitting the proper signatures within sixty (60) days of the conclusion of the OSGA Congress.

Section 3. The By-Laws shall be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Voting Delegates present and voting at any OSGA Congressional Session, provided a quorum is present.

**Article VI
Supremacy**

Section 1. This Constitution shall go into effect with a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Voting Delegates of student governments in good standing with the OSGA.

Section 2. All member institutions shall ratify the Constitution within their respective bodies.

Section 3. All legislation passed prior to the adoption of this Constitution and not in conflict with any of its provisions shall continue in effect, unless rescinded by the OSGA Congress. This Constitution shall supersede all previous Constitutions.

Passed as amended in committee. February, 27, 2004.

Passed as amended by the OSGA Congress on a vote of 32-0-2. February 28, 2004.

Verified by the President of the OSGA, 2003-2004: _____

Amanda Wrede, OSGA President