

STONEHILL COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the student body of Stonehill College, in order to establish a means from which the student body's voices can be heard and interests met, do ordain this constitution, and through it, establish the Student Government Association of Stonehill College.

ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE, AND COMPOSITION

- Section 1. The organization hereby constituted shall be known as the Stonehill College Student Government Association, also referred to as SGA.
- Section 2. The purpose of the Student Government Association shall be to join with the faculty, staff and administration of Stonehill College in order to enhance the Stonehill Community. The SGA membership shall represent the views of the student body to the faculty and administration of the College, while maintaining a channel of communication between these groups.
- Section 3. The secondary function of SGA shall be to provide the community with quality programming as a means of enhancing life at Stonehill.
- Section 4. The Student Government Association of Stonehill College shall consist of five (5) branches: the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, the Programming Branch, the Diversity Branch, and the Disciplinary Branch.
- Section 5. Membership in the Student Government Association will be limited to current Stonehill College students. Membership shall not be based on race, gender, religion, color, sexual orientation, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, or veteran status.
- Section 6. An SGA member shall be defined as any Stonehill student who is a member, whether elected or not, of an SGA Committee, Subcommittee, or officially recognized SGA Club or Organizations.
- Section 7. An SGA elected member is a student that has been elected to an SGA position by a vote open to the entire student body, specific Class or student population.
- Section 8. All members of the Student Government Association are expected to hold themselves to high standards. They must remain in good academic and disciplinary standing, act in a responsible manner when attending any SGA or college sponsored event, and adhere to the principles and guidelines in this document.

ARTICLE II – EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Section 1. The officers of the Student Government Association (SGA) shall consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Finance Chair, Programming Chair, and Diversity Chair. These officers shall constitute the Student Government Association Executive Board (E-Board).
- Section 2. The above-mentioned officers shall be elected annually by the direct vote of the student body in accordance with the Student Government Association Elections Code.

Section 3. In the case that the President or Vice President of the Student Government Association is removed from office or relinquishes his/her office, the line of succession shall be the officers of SGA as mentioned in order in Section 1 of this Article.

ARTICLE III – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1. The SGA Senate shall be the legislative branch of the SGA. It is a forum that serves as the liaison between students and administration. Its chief role is to deliberate, approve, and set policies that are pertinent to the student body and SGA.

Section 2. Representatives to the SGA Senate will be elected annually by a direct vote of the student body in accordance with the Student Government Association Election Code.

Section 3. Representation within the SGA Senate shall be distributed in a manner determined by the SGA Senate.

Section 4. The College shall provide professional staff to serve in an advisory manner to the SGA Senate.

Section 5. Any member of the Stonehill community may attend a SGA Senate meeting and shall have the privilege of the floor upon recognition by the presiding officer. Only an official member of the SGA Senate may introduce a motion. The SGA Senate has the ability to hold closed sessions as outlined in the SGA Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV – PROGRAMMING BRANCH

Section 1. The SGA Programming Committee shall oversee the programming function of the Student Government Association.

Section 2. The SGA Programming Committee exists to provide quality, safe programming to the Stonehill community. The Committee shall be responsible for overseeing events and evaluating past events, while bringing new and innovative ideas to programming and implementing these ideas appropriately.

Section 3. The SGA Programming Committee shall further be responsible for determining and organizing a proper programming subcommittee structure which effectively sponsors a variety of events and programs to meet the needs of the student body.

Section 4. The Office of Student Activities shall provide professional staff to serve in an advisory manner to the SGA Programming Committee and its subcommittee.

ARTICLE V – DIVERSITY BRANCH

Section 1. The diversity function of the Student Government Association is the responsibility of all branches of SGA, but is overseen by the SGA Diversity Committee.

Section 2. The SGA Diversity Committee exists to provide quality, safe, culturally diverse programming to the Stonehill community. The Committee shall be responsible for overseeing events and evaluating past events, while bringing new and innovative ideas to programming and implementing these ideas appropriately.

- Section 3. The SGA Diversity Committee also works with the College to promote awareness and activism around diversity and intercultural related issues to ensure and promote an inclusive, welcoming and safe environment for all students, faculty, administration and staff.
- Section 4. The SGA Diversity Committee will collaboratively work with those recognized student clubs and organizations whose missions are to achieve a better understanding and appreciation of the diverse backgrounds represented within the campus community.
- Section 5. The Office of Student Activities and the Office of Intercultural Affairs shall provide professional staff to serve in an advisory manner to the SGA Diversity Committee.

ARTICLE VI – DISCIPLINARY BRANCH

- Section 1. The SGA Hearing Committee shall be the primary committee for discipline and sanctioning, with the possible removal of SGA elected members.
- Section 2. It shall hear all cases concerning individual misconduct that may damage the public image of SGA as well as actions that violate the SGA Constitution and/or Bylaws.
- Section 3. The SGA Hearing Committee may act in an appellate manner after a decision is made by another SGA committee.
- Section 4. The SGA Hearing Committee may make any sanction it feels necessary. The sanction may range from a formal warning to removal from SGA.
- Section 5. Any SGA Hearing Committee decision resulting in a sanction may be appealed to the SGA Executive Board. The appeal shall be heard if there has been a lack of due process or insufficient/improper evidence presented to justify a decision. The highest-ranking member of the SGA Executive Board, not in question, shall act as the Chairperson of the Board during an appeal.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS AND RATIFICATION

This Constitution shall be amended when these lines are proven insufficient. Amendments shall be kept in the spirit of this Constitution and shall address the needs of the student body. Interpretation of this Constitution will be referred to the Associative Vice President of Student Affairs or their designee.

- Section 1. Any SGA student member may propose an amendment to this document. The proposed amendment shall be presented in the SGA Senate by a member of the Senate.
- Section 2. The proposed amendment must pass the SGA Senate by a 3/4 majority in which 2/3 of the voting members must be present.
- Section 3. Following the approval of the SGA Senate, the amendment must receive final approval from the SGA Executive Board. Following these steps, the amendment shall then be ratified.
- Section 4. Amendments should be attached to the end of this document. In cases where the powers given by this document are amended, the original text may be changed.
- Section 5. This document shall be reviewed annually by the SGA Executive Board before the beginning of the academic year.