

**Francis Marion University
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION**

PREAMBLE

In order to form a more effective student body government; encourage a code of good citizenship in our student body and the assumption of responsibility by the student body in areas affecting the general welfare of the student populace; and to support, coordinate, and expedite policies, projects, and programs of interest and purpose to the student body; and to protect and defend the equal rights of all students of this institution and of the university community. THEREFORE, WE, THE STUDENTS OF FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY do hereby establish and ordain this Constitution for the STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION of FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY, in Florence, which is in the State of South Carolina of the United States of America.

ARTICLE I: DESCRIPTION

SECTION 1: FRANCHISE

The Student Government Association, hereafter referred to as the SGA, shall represent the student body of Francis Marion University in all areas of student government. Upon enrollment at Francis Marion University, all students registered at the University who have paid all necessary financial fees so designated by the Administration of the University shall become members of the SGA and shall be entitled to vote in all special and general SGA elections, and any other special or general student body election held on the campus of the University.

SECTION 2: JURISDICTION

All registered student organizations of the University, as ratified through the SGA, shall be subject to this Constitution and to any and all legislation, rules, and regulations passed in accordance with this Constitution by the Legislative Branch of the SGA.

SECTION 3: RESPONSIBILITIES

The SGA shall represent and be the governing agency within the student body of the University and shall assume the responsibility of supporting, coordinating, and expediting programs, projects, and policies necessary and proper for the welfare of the student body of the university as so designated by the Constitution.

SECTION 4: GOVERNMENT BRANCHES

The SGA shall be composed of three (3) interacting governmental branches, which shall check and balance the powers of the other: a Legislative, an Executive, and a Judicial.

ARTICLE II: LEGISLATIVE

SECTION 1: AUTHORITY, MEMBERSHIP, OFFICERS, VACANCIES

- A. All legislative authority of the SGA shall be posted in a SENATE, which shall be composed of twenty-five (25), Twenty (20) Senate seats shall be reserved for upperclassmen to be elected in the Spring of each academic year by the total student

body. The remaining five (5) Senate seats shall be reserved for students from the incoming freshman class to be elected by the total student body during the Fall semester of each year. The Vice President of the SGA shall be President of the Senate and shall have no vote unless the membership of the Senate is equally divided on a vote of the body.

- B. The SGA Senate shall elect, by majority vote, a President Pro-Tempore from its membership to president over the Senate in the absence of the President of the SGA Senate.
- C. The Secretary of the SGA shall be the Clerk of the Senate and shall have no vote. He/she shall keep and record all proceedings of the Senate. In the event that the Secretary of the SGA is unable to act in this capacity, the President of the Senate shall appoint a Recording Clerk of the Senate to fulfill such obligation.
- D. Other officers of the Senate shall be a Parliamentarian, a Sergeant-At-Arms, a Historian, and a Chaplain of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate and approved by a majority vote of the Senate. Such officers may be elected members of the Senate. All candidates must be reviewed by the SGA Selection commission before being confirmed by the SGA Senate.
- E. In the event that a Senate seat shall be vacated between regular Fall and Spring SGA Elections, the membership of the Senate shall vote to confirm appointments made to the SGA Senate by the President of the SGA. Appointments made after the SGA Spring Elections shall be filled the following Spring Elections. Appointments made following Fall elections shall be filled the following Fall election. Students may petition for an SGA Senate seat by expressing formal interest, via a letter of interest, to the SGA President.

SECTION 2: DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE SENATE

- A. The term of office for SGA senators shall be one year beginning on the day of swearing-in, and ending on the day of the next swearing-in, one year later. If a Senator is elected in the Fall, his/her term shall last until the next Fall — ending with the swearing-in of the new Fall elected Senators.
- B. The Senate shall pass and adopt any and all legislation, rules, and regulations necessary and proper for the fulfillment of the responsibilities of the SGA, with the approval of the President of the University's signature or University designee.
- C. The Senate shall approve or reject, by a vote of a majority of its membership, the annual Budget of the SGA as proposed by the President of the SGA each academic year. The Senate shall also approve or reject, by a majority vote, any disbursements of SGA funds as proposed by any act of legislation. Any governmental branch, institution, committee, or official of the SGA shall not exceed their established monetary amounts. These amounts shall be determined by a standard adopted by the Senate.
- D. The Senate shall be able to override the veto of the President of the SGA by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of its membership on any legislation which the President may deem unfavorable.
- E. The Senate shall establish standing committees and approve or reject, by a majority vote, any appointments to these as made by the President of the Senate.
- F. The Senate shall approve arrangements for conducting any and all SGA elections and for holding referenda on significant issues by the student body of the University. The

organization, operation, and ballot counting for all elections and referenda shall be carried out by the Election Commissioners and overseen by the Executive Branch. Election results shall be made official by the signature of the SGA Attorney General and the SGA President. The Election Commission shall be two (2) members of the Senate and/or members of SGA agencies appointed by the President of the Senate and approved by the Senate. Election commissioners shall not be candidates for office in any election while they are members of the commission. The Senate, by a majority vote, must also confirm the results of all SGA elections.

- G. The Senate shall approve arrangements for conducting any screening and selection process of members and officers of agencies of SGA and of the Judicial Branch of SGA, which shall be carried out by the Selection Commission. This commission shall be Presided by the Chairman of the Powers, Oversight, and Rules Committee and its membership shall be composed of all Committee Chairs of the SGA. The selection commission shall also approve all appointments made to the SGA Senate, as nominated by the President of the SGA or President of the Senate, before confirmation of the full Senate. The results of the selection commission shall be presented to the President of SGA or the President of the Senate, who shall then present his/her nominations to the full Senate for confirmation.
- H. The Senate shall be able to vote to establish, and update, the standard of procedures for the operations of the SGA, which shall be entitled The SGA Code of Laws. This code shall be updated by the Secretary of the SGA in conjunction with the adoptions of all legislation during his/her term of office.

SECTION 3: IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- A. Any and all elected and appointed officials and officers of the SGA, and any agency thereof, may be impeached and thereby removed from any such office or position of honor, trust, or responsibility if found guilty of negligence in the performance of duties, blatant misconduct, any action which subject him/her to disciplinary action by the University or any agency thereof, bribery, fraud, or conviction of any misdemeanor or felony against any local, state, or federal law.
- B. The Senate shall have the sole power of trial and impeachment of any official or officer, elected or appointed, of the SGA and any agency thereof.
- C. A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the Senate shall be required to hear a trial after a proper investigation has been conducted by the Attorney General and Judiciary Committee, into charges levied against an SGA official or officer.
- D. The President of the SGA shall preside over the trial. When the President of SGA is on trial, the Attorney General shall preside, and a member of the Judiciary committee shall act as the Attorney General during the trial.
- E. No elected or appointed official or officer of the SGA or any agency thereof shall be convicted without the concurrence of a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the Senate membership.
- F. Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from the office and disqualification to hold any office, elective or appointive, within the SGA. However, the convicted party shall nevertheless be liable and subject to any and all regulations of the University, and to all local, state, and federal laws.

- G. Any and all officials and officers of the SGA of either governmental branch or agency shall automatically have their offices and positions vacated for failure to maintain the required grade point average of that office or position, as so determined by the procedures for the operations of the SGA. Officers or officials shall also be removed from offices and positions for failure to comply with SGA attendance and participation policies.
- H. If an elected or appointed member of the SGA, or of any SGA Agency, is removed from office due to unsatisfactory performance in SGA, student conduct issues, or by violating University or SGA policies may not be eligible for another office within the SGA.

SECTION 4: MEETINGS

- A. All members of the SGA are expected to attend all meetings of the SGA. The Senate shall meet at least twice each of the academic year in regular session. The President of the SGA may call the Senate into a special session whenever he/she may deem such action appropriate and necessary. At such time, the President of the Senate shall retain the right to preside over such sessions. The President of the SGA shall notify the membership of the Senate in writing at least twelve (12) hours prior to the convening of such a session, stating the reach for such a special session of the Senate.
- B. The Senate may procure speakers to appear before the body from time to time as so determined by a majority vote of the body.
- C. All meetings of the Senate shall be open to the student body, faculty, and administration of the University, unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate or at the discretion of the President of the Senate with a majority vote of approval from the membership of the Senate.

SECTION 5: PROHIBITION UPON SENATORS / SENATOR ACCOUNTABILITY

- A. Each senator is **allowed a maximum 5 absences (excused and unexcused)** total for both Senate Sessions and Committee Meetings. An Absence is defined as the following:
 - Missing a session or meeting
 - Absentee Forms shall be submitted at least 2 days in advance
 - In the case of a family emergency, death, illness, or other truly unexpected event, a senator's absence will be excused.
 - 3 Consecutive Tardies to a Session or Meeting
 - When a senator has been tardy 2 consecutive times or has been marked absent 3 times, a meeting will be held with the Vice President.
 - A senator shall be considered tardy if he/she arrives late to a meeting or session and/or if he/she leaves a meeting or session before it adjourns.
 - A senator shall automatically receive one unexcused absence if he/she shall be tardy to two (2) sessions and/or meetings of the Senate. After two unexcused absences, a senator shall be dismissed from the senate at the discretion of the Vice President of SGA.
- B. A Senator shall be removed from his/her seat if he/she should miss more than two (2) unexcused sessions of the Senate per semester or more than two (2) committee meetings,

without proper approval as determined by the President of the Senate, or if he/she shall fail to maintain the required grade point average of that office as so determined by a standard for the operations of the SGA, as adopted by the Senate.

- C. The President of the SGA shall be able to dismiss Senators with probable cause and reasoning. The President of the SGA Senate shall be responsible for enforcing the attendance policy. The Clerk of the Senate shall be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all attendance records.
- D. A Senator shall hold no other elected or appointed office or position within the Executive or Judicial branches of the SGA, excluding appointments to special committees within and of the SGA, which may at times be created for defined purposes for a specific, limited time.
- E. A Senator shall be a student of the University.

SECTION 6: ORGANIZATION AND RULES OF THE SENATE

- A. The Senate shall establish, for the whole SGA, a standard of procedures for the operations of the SGA in **The SGA Code of Laws**.
- B. The Senate shall establish for itself all rules and regulations of the body which shall determine the rule of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior or misconduct, expel a member from the body with the concurrence of a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, establish a quorum for meetings, and shall keep a record of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Senate.

SECTION 7: OATH OF OFFICE

- A. Before he/she may assume office and the duties, powers, and privileges of membership in and of the Senate, a newly elected Senator shall receive the following affirmation within thirty (30) days of his/her election: "I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will faithfully uphold the duties and office of membership into the Senate of the Student Government Association of Francis Marion University to which I have been entrusted by my fellow students. In all my actions as a member of this body, I shall uphold the constitution of the Student Government Association and represent my constituency with fairness and concern during my tenure in the Senate."
- B. Oaths of Office to newly elected members of the Senate shall be administered by the President of the Senate.

ARTICLE III: EXECUTIVE

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY AND TERM

- A. The Executive Authority of the SGA and of the student body shall be vested in an Executive Council, which shall consist of the **Student Body President, Student Body Vice-President, Student Body Treasurer, and Student Body Secretary**. These "Executive Officers of the SGA" shall hold office for the term of one (1) year. This year shall consist of the period beginning with the date and time of swearing in and shall end on the last day of final examinations of the following year. An Executive Officer of the SGA may be re-elected to his/her office, but may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

SECTION 2: QUALIFICATIONS

- A. The Executive Officers of the SGA shall meet the regulations and qualifications for office as determined for the operations of the SGA as adopted by the Senate. They must meet these qualifications as a candidate for their respective offices and continue to meet these qualifications throughout their terms of office. The Executive Officers are further prohibited from holding any other SGA position in the Judicial or Legislative Branch. The Executive Officers are prohibited from seeking or holding their offices if under academic disciplinary penalty, as imposed by the University.
- B. Should an Executive Officer fail to meet at least one qualification for office, he/she shall be removed from office and the office shall be declared vacant. Should the President be removed, the Vice President at said time shall become Acting president of the SGA, until such time as the Senate shall confirm his/her assumption of the duties and powers of the President and declare him/her President. He/she shall then nominate a new Vice President of the SGA, who shall take office upon a majority vote of approval by the Senate. The Vice President nominee shall be a current member of the SGA Executive Board or an elected member of the SGA Senate.

SECTION 3: THE PRESIDENT OF THE SGA / STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

A. DUTIES, POWERS, AND OATH OF OFFICE

1. The President shall act as the presiding officer of the SGA.
2. The President shall act as the official representative of the Executive Council, the FMU student body and Chief Executive Officer of the SGA.
3. The President shall preside over meetings of the Executive Council and all student government events and assemblies.
4. The President may propose legislation to the Senate for debate and action.
5. The President may veto any Senate legislation no later than Reading Day of the Spring Semester, which he/she may deem unfavorable.
6. The President shall submit to the Judiciary Committee cases of individual or collective misconduct and/or conflict between SGA institutions, agencies or within SGA governmental branches. Matters pertaining to campus organizations shall be handled through the Dean of Students Office.
7. The President shall propose to the Senate, for adoption for the operation of the SGA, a budget for the SGA for the academic year.
8. The President shall nominate students, for approval by the Senate and confirmation by the President of the University, to serve on student-faculty committees.
9. The President shall nominate students, for approval by the SGA Senate, for a vacant SGA Senate seat or to the SGA President's Cabinet.
10. The President shall serve as the President of the FMU President's Council.
11. The President shall form standing and temporary committees and commissions with approval of the Senate.
12. The President shall address the legislative and Judicial branches of the SGA in joint session during the first session of the Senate each given semester to deliver a State of the SGA report.

13. The President shall direct SGA standing committees and appoint standing committee Chairmans with the confirmation of the SGA Senate.
14. The President shall give a State of the Student Body address to reflect on the academic year and state of the Student Government Association.
15. The President may call the Senate into special, emergency session should he/she deem such action as necessary and appropriate to take specific action on a certain issue, or issues incumbent upon the SGA or the student body, provided that proper notice has been issued to the membership of the Senate.
16. The President shall see to the overall administration and organization of the SGA.
17. The President shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of all SGA Committees.
18. The President shall have the authority to issue executive orders to manage operations of the Student Government Association.
19. The President shall oversee and maintain the membership of the SGA President's Cabinet
20. The President shall uphold the SGA constitution, code of laws, and all University policies and regulations.

The SGA President's Cabinet

1. The President's Cabinet shall act as an advisory board to the SGA President and shall be composed of no more than 20 students who are all at least part-time and in good standing with the university. Students seeking a seat with the President's cabinet shall have at least a 2.1 GPA and shall maintain this GPA during his/her term.
2. Members of the President's Cabinet shall be known as an SGA Representative. Representatives shall advise the SGA President on student matters, concerns, SGA operations, and shall represent the SGA in specific areas of the FMU student community.
3. The SGA President's Cabinet shall have the power to vote and make formal legislative recommendations to the SGA Senate.
4. The SGA President's cabinet shall elect, from its membership, a cabinet Speaker who shall assist the SGA President with the organization of the cabinet.
5. The President's Cabinet shall meet at least once per month.
Representatives from the SGA President's Cabinet shall represent the FMU student community within the following areas:
 - a. Each School/College
 - b. Each Greek Governing Body
 - c. Residential and Commuting Students
 - d. Graduate Students
 - e. International students
 - f. Student Athletes
 - g. One member from each classification (to exclude Graduate Students)
 - h. Any other area the SGA President may be in need of student representation

SGA Representatives shall be appointed by the SGA President and shall be confirmed by the Senate to a term of one academic semester. Representatives seeking a term of more than a semester may be reappointed at the discretion of the SGA President.

Applications of interests shall be made available to students in correlation with SGA Senate elections.

B. SUCCESSION TO THE PRESIDENCY

1. In case of the removal of the President of the SGA from office, or of his/her resignation, death, or inability to discharge the duties and powers of the office; the Vice President of the SGA shall become Acting President and shall officially assume the duties and powers of the President upon confirmation by the Senate, who shall declare him/her President. He/she shall then nominate a new Vice President of the SGA who shall take his/her office upon approval by the Senate. In the case of the removal, resignation, death, or inability of the President and Vice President of the SGA, the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate shall become Acting President and shall adhere to the aforementioned, prescribed procedure. Special elections by the student body for the Executive offices vacated shall be called by the Senate in a majority vote should the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate be unable to exercise the prescribed duties.
2. In the event that prior to his/her entering into office, the President Elect is unable for any reason to be installed as President; the Vice President Elect shall become President Elect and shall be sworn in as President of the SGA on the designated installation date and time. After he/she shall enter into the office of President in such manner, he/she shall nominate a new Vice President of the SGA who shall take office upon confirmation approval by the Senate. In the event that both the President Elect and Vice President Elect, prior to entering into office, are unable for any reason to be installed as President and Vice President of the SGA; new elections by the student body for these offices shall be conducted immediately as determined by the Senate, and the new President Elect and Vice President Elect of the SGA shall take their respective offices upon confirmation of the election results by the Senate.

C. PRESIDENTIAL OATH OF OFFICE

Before he/she may enter on the execution of the office of President of the SGA, he/she shall take the following oath as administered by the Chief Justice of the SGA, or a fellow Associate Justice: "I, (name), do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the Student Government Association of Francis Marion University and that I shall uphold, protect, and defend to the best of my ability the Constitution of the Student Government Association, and that I shall exercise the duties and powers of the Office of the President with utmost integrity and equity."

SECTION 4: THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SGA

A. DUTIES, POWERS, AND OATH OF OFFICE

1. The Vice President of the SGA shall assume the duties of the President, in the absence of the President or in the case of his/her inability to perform the duties of President as determined by a four-fifths ($\frac{4}{5}$) vote of the Senate.
2. The Vice President's primary duties shall be to serve as President of the Senate.
3. The Vice President shall appoint the membership of Senate committees with the approval of the Senate.

4. The Vice President may form temporary committees and appoint the membership and chairpersons thereof for initiatives undertaken by the Vice President upon approval of the SGA Senate.
5. The Vice President shall appoint all officers of the Senate. To include a Recording Clerk, Historian, Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chaplain.
6. The Vice President shall see to the general administration of the SGA Senate.
7. The Vice President shall assist the SGA President with general operations of the SGA.
8. The Vice President shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Campus and Community Affairs Committee.
9. The Vice-President shall only have a Senate vote in the case of a tie.
10. The Vice President shall uphold the SGA constitution, code of laws, and all University policies and regulations.
11. Before he/she may enter on the execution of the office as Vice President of the SGA, he/she shall take the following oath as administered by a Justice of the Judicial Council of SGA: "I, (name), solemnly swear that I will execute the Office of Vice President of the Student Government Association of Francis Marion University to the utmost of my ability, and that I shall act in the best interests of the students of this institution, and shall uphold the Constitution of the Student Government Association.

SECTION 5: THE SECRETARY OF THE SGA

A. DUTIES, POWERS AND OATH OF OFFICE

1. The Secretary of the SGA shall be responsible for recording, documenting, and maintaining all minutes, reports, and records of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial government branches of the SGA, any and all committees, commissions, and agencies thereof.
2. The Secretary shall serve as the Public Relations Coordinator of the SGA and ensure that the actions and initiatives of the SGA are publicized
3. The Secretary of SGA shall maintain updated copies of the SGA Constitution and Code of Laws, updating both so that any new legislation shall be included and repealed legislation removed.
4. The Secretary shall serve as the Clerk of the Senate and shall assist the Vice President with the general administration and record keeping of the SGA Senate.
5. The Secretary shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Facility Affairs committee.
6. The Secretary shall see to the general organization of the SGA Clothing Closet.
7. Before he/she may enter on the execution of the office as Secretary of the SGA, he/she shall take the following oath as administered by a Justice of the Judicial Council of the SGA: "I, (name), do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and accurately perform the duties of my office as Secretary of the Student Government Association to the best of my ability."

SECTION 6: THE TREASURER OF THE SGA

A. Duties, Powers and Oath of Office

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining records of all SGA financial transactions, recording all receipts, expenditures, and appropriations of monies from the SGA and all SGA agencies. These records shall be made publicly available.
2. The Treasurer shall, in cooperation with the President of the SGA, prepare the annual budget of the SGA.
3. The Treasurer shall serve as the Committee Chair for the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee.
4. The Treasurer shall receive all requests for funds from the SGA by registered student organizations and shall present such requests to the Executive Council and Appropriations and Finance committee for review. After review, the Treasurer shall present such proposal to the Senate, as revised, for review and approval at the pleasure of the SGA Senate.
5. The Treasurer shall enforce SGA regulations to groups requesting SGA rewards and allocations.
6. The Treasurer shall assist with the general organization of the Patriot Food Pantry.
7. Before he/she may enter on the execution of the office as Treasurer of the SGA, he/she shall take the following oath as administered by a Justice of the Judicial Council of the SGA: "I, (name), do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and accurately perform the duties of my office as Treasurer of the Student Government Association to the best of my ability."

SECTION 7: PROHIBITION UPON EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- A. An Executive Officer shall automatically have his/her office vacated if he/she should miss more than two (2) sessions of the Senate per semester, without proper approval as determined by the SGA advisor(s), or if he/she shall fail to maintain the required grade point average of that office as so determined by a standard for the operations of the SGA, as adopted by the Senate.

ARTICLE IV: JUDICIAL

SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP AND TENURE

- A. The Judicial Branch of the SGA shall consist of the Judiciary Committee to be led by an Attorney General of the SGA.
- B. The Honor Council, while not a formal branch of the SGA, shall be considered a part of the Judicial system of the University.
- C. The Judiciary Committee shall be composed of the Attorney General and five (5) members of the FMU student body, who are all nominated by the President of the SGA, with the counsel of the Attorney General, and approved by a majority vote of the SGA Senate.
- D. The Attorney General shall serve a term of one (1) year from the date and time they shall enter into office and shall, before appointment and during their term, maintain a grade point average of at least a 2.5.

SECTION 2: THE SGA ATTORNEY GENERAL

- A. The Attorney General shall be nominated by the President of the SGA, with counsel of the SGA Executive Board, and confirmed by the SGA Senate.
- B. The Attorney General shall, when solicited, provide opinions on questions of constitutionality.
- C. The Attorney General shall represent SGA during impeachment proceedings and constitutional challenges.
- D. In the event that impeachment proceedings are brought against the SGA President, The Attorney General shall preside over the impeachment proceedings. In this event, the Attorney shall nominate a member of the judiciary committee to serve as the prosecuting attorney.
- E. The Attorney General shall assist the Election Commission with the administration of SGA elections.
- F. With the Attorney's signature, SGA election results shall be made official and public.
- G. The Attorney General shall not be a member of the SGA Senate.
- H. An Assistant Attorney General shall be a member of the SGA Senate and shall only execute the office of Attorney General when the Attorney General is absent.

SECTION 3: SGA Judiciary Committee

- A. Members shall hear all complaints against SGA officials and members of SGA Agencies and shall have full investigative power, in cooperation with the SGA Attorney General.
- B. Serve as the committee who shall hear all inquiries leading to the impeachment of any SGA member, officer, or official.
- C. Members shall not be a voting member of the Senate, but shall assist the Attorney General in preparing and presenting information on behalf of the SGA.
- D. This committee shall only convene when necessary and its members shall be no more than five (5) members of the FMU study body, led by the Attorney General.
- E. Before an impeachment proceeding occurs within the SGA Senate, the Judiciary committee must vote to carry on with the proceeding by a majority vote.

SECTION 4: THE JUDICIAL PROCESS

- A. The University has delegated to the SGA and its Judicial Council the authority to hear cases of alleged violations of the constitution, the SGA code laws, as well as misappropriation of SGA funds. The Attorney General shall receive one vote.
- B. Cases may be heard by the Judiciary Committee at the discretion of the Attorney General. No vote of the Senate shall occur without a majority vote of the committee. All decisions must be made by majority vote.

SECTION 5: POWERS AND DUTIES

- A. The Judiciary Committee shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide all matters pertaining to the interpretation of this Constitution and all other laws, resolutions or regulations, passed and adopted by either the Legislative or Executive branches of the SGA. Their decisions on such matters are final and shall be made by majority vote.
- B. The Judiciary Committee may override any action of the SGA in which a violation of this Constitution has occurred. Such a vote shall require a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the committee members.
- C. In cases of alleged violations of this Constitution, the Judiciary Committee shall, by a majority vote, determine if the case falls within the jurisdiction of the Judicial Council. If

the case does not fall within the jurisdiction of this Constitution, the case shall not be presented to the SGA Senate.

- D. Records of all proceedings of the Judicial Council shall be maintained by the Secretary of the SGA.

SECTION 6: VACANCIES

- A. If, at any time, the Attorney General shall vacate his/her seat due to resignation, impeachment, death, or inability to perform his/her duties and powers as may be determined by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the Senate, the President of the SGA shall appoint an Attorney General to fill the unexpired term, with the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

SECTION 7: OATH OF OFFICE

- A. Before he/she shall enter into the office of Attorney General on the Judiciary Committee, the President of the SGA shall administer the following affirmation: "I do solemnly swear that I will uphold my responsibilities and duties as the Attorney General of the Student Government Association of Francis Marion University, and shall to the very best of my ability in all my actions, deliberations, and decisions as a member of this most high body preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the Student Government and its principles in my deliberations, and interpretations of such."

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE PROPOSED IN TWO WAYS

- A. An amendment may be proposed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate.
- B. An amendment may be proposed by submission of a petition signed by one-fifth (1/5) of the student body. This number shall consist of a number, as determined by the Registrar of the University, which is one-fifth (1/5) of the full-time equivalent students registered during a fall or spring term.

SECTION 2: RATIFICATIONS OF AMENDMENTS MAY BE MADE IN THREE WAYS

- A. Amendments which are proposed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote may be ratified by:
1. A four-fifths (4/5) majority vote of the Senate. The amendment shall become effective upon approval of both the President of the SGA and the President of the University.
 2. A unanimous vote of the Senate. The amendment shall become effective upon approval by the President of the University.