

**THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**PREAMBLE**

**WE THE STUDENTS** of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in order to lead and cultivate opportunities for the fullest development of the individual, advocate for our peers as a representative governing body, and serve a culture of tradition and pride for ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Student Government of Louisiana State University.

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**ARTICLE I. THE LEGISLATURE**

**§ 1. Legislative powers**

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in the Student Senate of Louisiana State University.

**§ 2. The Senate**

<sup>1</sup>The Senate shall be composed of at least two Senators per Academic Area, regardless of enrollment numbers, chosen each Fall and Spring by the Students of their respective Academic Areas; and each Senator shall have one vote. Students are defined as such by the regulations of Louisiana State University and are members of the Student Body entitled to representation of their interests through the Student Government.

<sup>2</sup>The Senators of each Academic Area shall be divided as equally as may be into two classes. The seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the Fall Semester and of the second class at the expiration of the Spring Semester. Each Senator shall serve a term of one year. In the event of an odd number of Senators in an Academic Area, there shall be one more seat available in the Spring Election than the Fall Election. If vacancies happen by resignation or otherwise, the College Council delegation of the Academic Area to which the vacant seat belongs shall, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Senate present and voting, make temporary appointments until the next Election, which shall then fill such vacancies. The Senate shall provide, by enactment, for cases in which the College Council delegation is unable or unwilling to make such appointments. Any

Senator elected in an Election following a temporary appointment shall occupy their seat until the expiration of the original term.

<sup>3</sup>By the twenty-fifth class day of each Fall Semester, the number of Senators shall be adjusted so that each Academic Area shall have an additional Senator for every five hundred students enrolled without rounding.

<sup>4</sup>Apportionment shall be based on the official University full-time and part-time enrollment figures for that particular Fall Semester. This apportionment shall be performed by the Speaker of the Senate and must be approved by a vote of two thirds of the Senate present and voting. This apportionment shall be effective for the Election held that Fall Semester.

<sup>5</sup>Reapportionment or the discontinuation of any Academic Area shall not affect the term of office of any duly elected and installed Senator.

<sup>6</sup>Failure to continue to be enrolled in the Academic Area represented by a Senator shall result in the termination of office at the end of the semester. However, no such termination shall result if such failure results from the admission of a Senator from the University Center for Freshman Year or the University Center for Advising and Counseling to another Academic Area.

<sup>7</sup>The Speaker of the Senate shall preside over the Senate and shall be required to vote when votes on business be equally divided. The Senate shall elect their Speaker from among themselves by a simple majority of those present and voting. The Speaker's term shall last for one academic year, concurrent with the term of the class of Senators elected in the Spring Semester, subsequent to election.

<sup>8</sup>The Senate shall also choose among themselves by a majority of those present and voting a Speaker pro tempore, to serve as Speaker in the absence of the Speaker.

<sup>9</sup>The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments of Student Government officials. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. The Chief Justice or the Vice President in the instance of the Chief Justice as the officer under impeachment shall preside, and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two thirds of the Senators present and voting.

<sup>10</sup>Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the Student Government.

### **§ 3. Elections**

<sup>1</sup>The times, places, and manner of holding Elections for Senators shall be prescribed by the enactments of the Senate and facilitated by the Election Commission.

<sup>2</sup>The Senate shall assemble at least once each Fall and Spring Semester.

### **§ 4. Quorum**

<sup>1</sup>A majority of Senators shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from week to week. The Senate may be authorized to

compel the attendance of absent Senators, in such manner, and under such penalties as the body may provide.

<sup>2</sup>The Senate may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its Senators for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two thirds present and voting, expel a Senator.

<sup>3</sup>The Senate shall keep a record of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting matters decided by silent ballot or in executive session; and the Ayes and Nays of the Senators on any question shall be entered on the record.

### **§ 5. Restriction of office**

<sup>1</sup>No legislative officer shall, during the time for which they serve, be elected or appointed to an executive or judicial office under the authority of Student Government.

<sup>2</sup>No person holding any executive or judicial office under the authority of Student Government shall be a legislative officer during their continuance in office.

### **§ 6. Legislation**

<sup>1</sup>Every Bill which shall have passed the Senate, shall, before it become enacted, be presented to the Student Body President. If the President approves, they shall sign it, but if not, the President shall return it, with their objections to the Senate, who shall enter the objections at large on their record and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two thirds of the Senate present and voting shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be enacted. But in all such cases, the votes of the Senate shall be determined by Ayes and Nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the record respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within four class days after it shall have been presented to them, the same shall be enacted, in like manner as if they had signed it.

<sup>2</sup>Every Order, Resolution, or Vote on which the Senate concurs shall be presented to the President; and before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by them, or being disapproved by them, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate present and voting according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a Bill.

### **§ 7. Limited authority**

<sup>1</sup>The Senate shall have power to approve judicial and executive appointments by two thirds present and voting;

<sup>2</sup>To approve legislative appointments, including officers of the Senate, by majority present and voting;

<sup>3</sup>To make appropriations and approve the Student Government Budget by majority present and voting;

<sup>4</sup>To express opinion on behalf of the Student Body in all areas of student life by majority present and voting;

<sup>5</sup>To recommend action on behalf of the Student Body in all areas of student life by majority present and voting;

<sup>6</sup>To amend and suspend the rules of the procedure of the Senate by two thirds present and voting;

<sup>7</sup>To create special committees of Student Government by majority present and voting; and

<sup>8</sup>To make all enactments which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution for the Student Government, or in any department or officer thereof.

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## ARTICLE II. THE EXECUTIVE

### § 1. Executive power

<sup>1</sup>The executive Power shall be vested in a Student Body President. The President and Vice President shall hold their office during the same term of one year, and they shall be elected together by the Student Body during the Spring Semester.

<sup>2</sup>No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, for more than one Spring or Fall Semester of a term of which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once.

<sup>3</sup>In case of the removal of the President from office or of their death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

<sup>4</sup>Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by two thirds of the Senate present and voting.

<sup>5</sup>In case of the removal of both the President and Vice President from office or of their death or resignation, the Speaker of the Senate shall become President, and the Senate shall proceed to elect a new Speaker. The Senate shall, by standing enactment, establish who shall become President in the case of a simultaneous vacancy of the offices of President, Vice President, and Speaker.

<sup>6</sup>Whenever the President transmits to the Speaker of the Senate their written declaration that they are unable to discharge the powers and duties of their office, and until the President transmits to the Speaker a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

<sup>7</sup>Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as the Senate may by enactment provide, transmit to the Speaker of the Senate their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of their office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President. Thereafter, when the President transmits to the Speaker of the Senate their written declaration that no inability exists, they shall resume the powers and

duties of office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as the Senate may by enactment provide, transmit within four class days to the Speaker of the Senate their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of their office. Thereupon the Senate shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose. If the Senate determines by two thirds present and voting that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of their office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of their office.

<sup>8</sup>Before they enter on the execution of their office, the President shall take the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the Louisiana State University Student Government, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the interests of the students of Louisiana State University."

<sup>9</sup>Before they enter on the execution of their office, the Vice President shall take the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of Vice President of the Louisiana State University Student Government, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the interests of the students of Louisiana State University."

## **§ 2. Executive structure**

<sup>1</sup>The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Student Government.

<sup>2</sup>A standing Executive Charter shall enumerate the executive departments, their respective principal officers, and the staffs of the President and Vice President. Such enumerated departments and positions shall be established and amended by two thirds of the Senate present and voting. The officers filling those positions shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of two thirds of the Senate present and voting.

<sup>3</sup>The President may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices. The President along with the principal officers of each of the executive departments shall form the Executive Cabinet.

<sup>4</sup>The President shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint justices of the University Court, judges of any inferior court, and all other officers of the Student Government, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by enactment; but the Senate may by enactment vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts, or in the heads of departments.

<sup>5</sup>The Vice President shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Student Government.

<sup>6</sup>The Vice President shall keep records of the line item balances in the general appropriations Bill, provide financial reports to the President and Senate,

calculate and make public all required fees and Student Government expenses, issue the Student Government Financial Report every fiscal year, and delegate respective executive appropriations as necessary.

<sup>7</sup>Each Academic Area shall have College Council representatives, serving to represent the interests of the Student Body. College Council shall consist of the Vice President serving as Chair and three Councilmembers, from each Academic Area, elected by the Student Body. The Senate shall, by two thirds present and voting, create and amend standing enactments relating to the powers, duties, and subdivisions of each Academic Area's delegation of representatives; provided that no such enactment may abridge or abolish a subdivision to which a representative has already been elected.

### **§ 3. Executive responsibility**

<sup>1</sup>The President shall from time to time give to the Senate information on the state of the University and recommend to their consideration such measures as judged necessary and expedient.

<sup>2</sup>The President shall take care that the enactments of the Senate be faithfully executed and shall commission all of the executive officers of the Student Government.

### **§ 4. Removal**

The President, the Vice President, and all officers of the Student Government shall be removed from office on impeachment.

### **§ 5. Restriction of office**

<sup>1</sup>No executive officer shall, during the time for which they serve, be elected or appointed to a legislative or judicial office under the authority of Student Government.

<sup>2</sup>No person holding any legislative or judicial office under the authority of Student Government shall be an executive officer during their continuance in office.

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## **ARTICLE III. THE JUDICIARY**

### **§ 1. Judicial power**

<sup>1</sup>The judicial Power of the Student Government shall be vested in one University Court, and in such inferior courts as the Senate may ordain and establish. The nine justices of the University Court and the judges of any inferior court shall hold their offices during good behavior while enrolled at the University.

<sup>2</sup>The Chief Justice shall preside over the University Court. The University Court shall elect their Chief Justice from among themselves by a simple majority present and voting.

<sup>3</sup>The University Court shall also choose from among themselves by majority present and voting a Deputy Chief Justice, to serve as Chief Justice in the absence of the Chief Justice.

## **§ 2. Jurisdiction**

<sup>1</sup>The judicial Power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the enactments of the Student Government, and all rules derived therefrom;

<sup>2</sup>To all authority to interpret and to give meaning to any Constitutional provision and all provisions derived therefrom;

<sup>3</sup>To all cases, controversies, and appeals arising under Election procedures and Elections held by the Election Commission;

<sup>4</sup>To issue injunctions and to compel any member of the Student Government to appear before the University Court or any inferior court;

<sup>5</sup>To hear and to rule upon all cases referred either to the University Court or any inferior court by any facet of the University Administration.

## **§ 3. Procedure**

<sup>1</sup>Judgments issued from the University Court shall be final, but subject to review by the Dean of Students, only if the judgment includes a violation of University regulation.

<sup>2</sup>The University Court and inferior courts may determine the rules of their own proceedings, provided that such rules are consistent with this Constitution and any standing enactments made by the Senate.

## **§ 4. Restriction of office**

<sup>1</sup>No judicial officer shall, during the time for which they serve, be elected or appointed to a legislative or executive office under the authority of Student Government.

<sup>2</sup>No person holding any legislative or executive office under the authority of Student Government shall be a judicial officer during their continuance in office.

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# **ARTICLE IV. THE ELECTION COMMISSION**

## **§ 1. Election Commission**

<sup>1</sup>The Elections of all Student Government officers shall be administered by the Election Commission. The Commission shall be a regulatory body existing and operating independently from the executive, legislature, and judiciary.

<sup>2</sup>The Commission shall be composed of one University Administrator, ex officio and without the right to vote, and five Commissioners appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the two thirds of the Senate present and voting.

<sup>3</sup>Commissioners shall serve for a term of one year, concurrent with the term of the President. A Commissioner may serve on the Commission after the expiration of their term until their successor has taken office as a Commissioner. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring other than by the expiration of a term of office shall be appointed only for the unexpired term of the member they succeed. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as in the case of the original appointment.

<sup>4</sup>No person holding office as a Commissioner shall serve as or run for candidacy as an executive, legislative, or judicial officer during their continuance in office.

<sup>5</sup>The Commission shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from among its members, other than the University Administrator, for a term of one year. The Vice Chair shall act as Chair in the absence of the Chair or in the event of a vacancy in such office.

## **§ 2. Powers of the Commission**

The powers of the Commission shall extend to implement the effective administration of each Student Government Election. The Commission shall have the power to receive and review all campaign finance documents. The Commission shall also have any and all powers as shall be defined by standing enactments of the Senate; such enactments shall be created or amended by two thirds of that body present and voting.

## **§ 3. Quorum**

<sup>1</sup>All decisions of the Commission with respect to the exercise of its duties and powers shall be made by a majority vote of the Commissioners present and voting.

<sup>2</sup>A Commissioner may not delegate to any person their vote or any decision-making authority or duty vested in the Commission.

## **§ 4. Procedure**

<sup>1</sup>The Commission shall meet at least twice each month and also at the call of any member.

<sup>2</sup>The Commission shall prepare written rules for the conduct of its activities, provided that such rules are consistent with this Constitution and the standing enactments made by the Senate.

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# **ARTICLE V. OFFICES**

## **§ 1. Voting administration**

<sup>1</sup>In Student Government offices with one seat to be elected, the officer must be elected by ranked choice majority, also known as instant runoff voting.

<sup>2</sup>In Student Government offices with multiple seats to be elected, the officer must be elected by candidate based, ranked choice proportional representation, also known as the single transferable vote.

### **§ 2. Term of office**

The term of office of any Student Government officer shall be terminated upon the installation of their duly chosen successor, upon the acceptance of their resignation, or upon failure to meet all University mandated requirements of officers of recognized campus organizations. No Student Government officer may resign from a position and remain eligible to be appointed to the same position in the same Semester.

### **§ 3. Impeachment**

<sup>1</sup>The term of office of any Student Government officer may be terminated by impeachment.

<sup>2</sup>Impeachment shall be initiated by a Bill filed by twenty percent of the voting members of the Senate with a minimum of ten Senators.

<sup>3</sup>The termination of office by impeachment occurs by an affirmative vote for conviction by two thirds of Senators present and voting by silent ballot.

### **§ 4. Recall**

<sup>1</sup>The term of office of any Student Government officer may be terminated by recall.

<sup>2</sup>A recall shall be initiated by a petition to the Election Commission signed by fifteen percent of the electorate of the office concerned.

<sup>3</sup>The Election Commission shall set provisions for a recall election within ten class days from the submission of the petition.

<sup>4</sup>The termination of office by recall occurs by a majority of those voting in the recall election expressing their desire to recall the incumbent.

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## **ARTICLE VI. FINANCES**

### **§ 1. Per capita assessment**

<sup>1</sup>Operational funds for the Student Government shall come from a per capita assessment of the Student Body.

<sup>2</sup>The amount of this per capita assessment shall be in accordance with the official University Student Fee Schedule.

### **§ 2. Finances**

<sup>1</sup>Operational funds for the Student Government shall be deposited by the University in a Restricted Fund Account by the Office of the Bursar.

<sup>2</sup>These funds may not be expanded in a fiscal year until the Student Government Budget for that fiscal year has been adopted.

<sup>3</sup>A University Administrator shall oversee and maintain the operational funds for the Student Government.

**§ 3. Student self-assessment by the Senate**

<sup>1</sup>The Senate shall propose to levy, amend, repeal, or otherwise regulate any student self-assessment which affects the entire Student Body by two thirds present and voting whenever it deems necessary.

<sup>2</sup>Such proposals must be further ratified by majority of the Student Body voting on the specific proposal in any reasonably forthcoming campus-wide Election.

**§ 4. Student self-assessment by the Student Body**

<sup>1</sup>The Student Body shall propose to levy, amend, repeal, or otherwise regulate any student self-assessment which affects the entire Student Body with petition presented to the President and signed by one tenth of its members.

<sup>2</sup>Such proposals must be further ratified by majority of the Student Body voting on the specific proposal in any reasonably forthcoming campus-wide Election.

**§ 5. Permanent Memorandum Twenty-Nine**

Proposals to levy, amend, repeal, or otherwise regulate any student self-assessment which affects the entire Student Body must comply with all the provisions established by Louisiana State University Permanent Memorandum Twenty-Nine.

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**ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS**

**§ 1. Amendments by the Senate**

<sup>1</sup>The Senate shall propose Amendments to this Constitution ratified by two thirds present and voting whenever it deems necessary. Five class days must pass between the initial proposal of an amendment and such a vote.

<sup>2</sup>Such Amendments must be further ratified by majority of the Student Body voting on the specific Amendment in any reasonably forthcoming campus-wide Election.

**§ 2. Amendments by the Student Body**

<sup>1</sup>The Student Body shall propose Amendments to this Constitution with petition presented to the President and signed by one tenth of its members.

<sup>2</sup>Such Amendments must be further ratified by majority of the Student Body voting on the specific Amendment in any reasonably forthcoming campus-wide Election.

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**ARTICLE VIII. SUPREMACY**

### **§ 1. Supremacy clause**

<sup>1</sup>This Constitution and the enactments of the Student Government which shall be made in pursuance thereof shall be the supreme authority of the Student Government; and the justices of the University Court and the judges of any inferior court shall be bound thereby, anything in any provisions and rules therefrom this Constitution to the contrary notwithstanding.

<sup>2</sup>The enumeration in this Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the Student Body.

### **§ 2. Oath and equal protection clause**

<sup>1</sup>All officers of the Student Government shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this Constitution.

<sup>2</sup>All Students, without regard to race, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, disability, pregnancy, or veteran's status are afforded equal protection under the Powers of this Constitution.

### **§ 3. Limitations to supremacy**

No provision of this Constitution shall be deemed to supersede the power and authority of the official rules and regulations of the Louisiana State University Policy Statements and Permanent Memoranda, the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Louisiana Board of Regents, the laws of the State of Louisiana, or the laws of the United States.

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## **ARTICLE IX. RATIFICATION**

The ratification by majority of the Student Body voting on such ratification shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution. The provisions of this Constitution shall go into effect immediately upon ratification. All current officers of the Student Government and all officers elected in the Spring Election of the year two thousand and twenty-one shall be allowed to serve out their regular terms. All authoritative documents of the Student Government existing at the time of ratification shall remain in effect up to the following Spring Election, one full calendar year following the ratification of this Constitution, or when amended or repealed by the Senate, whichever comes first.

**DONE** in review by the consent of the Fifty-Third Senate present the twenty-fourth day of February in the year two thousand and twenty-one in witness thereof we have hereunto subscribed our names:



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**STONE B. COX**  
President



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**MARINA A. COLE**  
Speaker



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**NICHOLAS A. FOSTER**  
Chief Justice



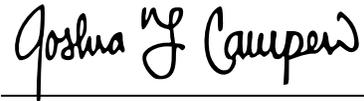
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**HANNAH E. BARRIOS**  
Vice President



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**ALEXANDRA R. BASSE**  
Speaker pro tempore



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**JOSHUA T. CAMPESI**  
Deputy Chief Justice