

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Student Government Association
Constitution

May 4, 2020

Preamble

We, the students of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, in order to represent the needs of the student body, and provide for the democratic process on our campus, do hereby ordain this document as the Constitution of the Student Government Association.

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the Student Government Association shall be to provide a legitimate voice for all student concerns relative to matters pertaining to the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, herein referred to as MCLA. The Student Government Association shall also supervise the proper allocation of the Student Activities Fee.

Article III: Membership

Any matriculated student who pays the Student Activities Fee shall be considered a member of the Student Government Association. Any member of the Student Government Association shall be allowed to seek and hold office so long as they are in compliance with the guidelines set forth in the By-Laws. The Student Government Association shall provide all student members an equal opportunity of expression and participation in accordance with MCLA's policy of nondiscrimination.

Article IV: Structure

The Student Government Association shall be composed of three branches: The Class Councils, the Legislative Branch and the Executive Cabinet. The Legislative Branch shall herein be referred to as the Student Senate. Refer to Article VIII for all Judiciary matters. Student Government Association shall also contain the following committees or more as deemed necessary: Constitution Committee, Budget Finance Committee, and Elections Committee.

Article V: Class Councils

Each graduating class shall have a Class Council. The Class Council shall be the elected representatives of the student body that is empowered with class unity, fundraising, and other duties as deemed necessary by the Student Government Advisor and Executive Vice President. Membership shall consist of one (1) President, one (1) Vice President, one (1) Treasurer, and one (1) Secretary. Officers of the Class Council shall be required to serve on one (1) SGA recognized committee, unless otherwise determined by the Executive Vice President. The Class Council shall be elected through an SGA facilitated election by the student population, with the incoming freshman Class Council being elected in fall of their entry year. **All members of the Class Council must maintain a minimum of a 2.3 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA).**

Article VI: Legislative Branch

The Student Senate shall be the elected representatives of the student body that is empowered with all legislative duties of the SGA. Its membership shall consist of two (2) senators from each class, nine (9) at-large senators, one (1) representative seat for student athletes, one (1) representative seat for commuter students, one (1) representative seat for the Greek community, one, and one (1) representative seat for resident students, for a total of twenty-one (21) senators. All Student Senate seats shall be elected through the Student Government facilitated election by the student population with the exception of: Two (2) freshman class seats and two (2) at-large senators which shall be elected during the Fall Elections. **All members of the Student Senate must maintain a minimum of a 2.3 cumulative GPA.**

Article VII: Executive Cabinet

The Executive Cabinet shall be the elected cabinet of the student body that is empowered with all executive duties of the Student Government Association. The Cabinet shall consist of a President, Executive Vice-President, and Coordinating Vice-President elected through a SGA facilitated election by the student population. The appointed Cabinet shall consist of a Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Public Relations Chairperson. In addition, the Senate Chairperson and Senate Secretary will be elected by the Student Senate. The Senate Chairperson will serve as a nonvoting, ex-officio member of the E-Board; the Senate Secretary, a voting member of the senate.

The order of succession shall be as follows: President, Executive Vice President, Coordinating Vice President, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Public Relations (PR) Chairperson, and Senate Chairperson. **All members of the Executive Cabinet must maintain a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA.**

Article VIII: Judiciary Matters

In the absence of a Judiciary Branch, all matters of constitutionality shall be referred to the Constitution Committee for interpretation. Any member of the Student Government Association may bring up a matter of constitutionality at any time during a meeting of the Student Senate or directly to the Parliamentarian. The matter will then be referred to the Constitution Committee for interpretation and recommendation. The recommendation(s) of the Constitution Committee shall go before the Student Senate for ratification by a majority vote.

Article IX: Student Trustee

A Student Trustee shall be elected through a Student Government Association facilitated election by the student population of MCLA. The Student Trustee cannot be a member of the Student Senate or the Student Government Executive Cabinet but is required to attend meetings of the Student Senate and Executive Cabinet unless otherwise requested by the President. The Student Trustee shall act as the liaison between the MCLA Board of Trustees, the Student Government Association, and the student population. **The Student Trustee must maintain a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA.**

Article X: Clubs and Organizations

All clubs and organizations seeking recognition from the Student Senate must submit and have approved a constitution and other required documentation as deemed necessary by the Coordinating Vice President or the Office Manager. With Student Senate appropriations, the Student Government Association will have the discretion to fund all clubs and organizations who have achieved the status of official Student Government recognition. The Student Government Association, as a means of courtesy, shall assist an outside organization as the Student Senate deems necessary. All officially recognized clubs and organizations shall in no way deny membership or limit participation to any student paying the Student Activities Fee. The Student Senate reserves the right to suspend or revoke a club's or organization's funding or recognition if the club or organization has been found in violation of any policy or procedure, as defined in this Constitution, its By-laws, and the MCLA Student Handbook.

Article XI: Conflicts of Interest

All Student Government Association members must avoid the following conflicts of interest or be subject to disciplinary actions as determined by the Student Senate.

- A. Executive Cabinet members will not be voting members of the Student Senate, with the exception of the Senate Secretary.
- B. Executive Cabinet members excluding the Senate Chairperson, Senate Secretary, and PR Chair shall not hold office in any SGA recognized club or organization.

C. The Student Government Association Budget Finance Committee members shall not hold office in any Student Government Association recognized club or organization.

D. Any senator who is a member of any Student Government Association recognized club or organization's executive board shall abstain from voting on all matters pertaining to those groups.

E. In the case of loss of quorum due to conflict of interest and abstentions, quorum will be comprised of those Senators able to vote.

Article XII: Removal of Officers

If any office holder in the Student Government Association or in any Student Government Association recognized club or organization is determined to be derelict in their duties, they may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the standing membership of the Student Senate. The commonly accepted rules of due process are guaranteed, including, but not limited to, advanced notification of charges and the right to be present at all hearings. For more information reference Article VIII of the By-laws: Relinquishment of Duties.

Article XIII: Amendments

All amendments to this constitution will proceed as follows:

A. Any member of the Student Senate or Executive Cabinet may propose an amendment to the Constitution at any time during the course of a meeting.

B. The proposed amendments submitted will require a majority vote by the Student Senate in favor of it being further considered, unless originating in Constitution Committee.

C. If a vote of consideration is granted by the Student Senate, the proposed amendment shall proceed to the Constitution Committee for evaluation and recommendation.

D. The Constitution Committee shall make a final recommendation to the Student Senate to be considered.

E. The Student Senate shall evaluate the Constitution Committee's recommendation and vote on the final version of the amendment.

F. The amendment of the constitution is effective immediately upon its passage by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of quorum of the Senate and Executive Cabinet.