

**Constitution  
of the  
Student Government  
Association  
of the  
University of Maryland,  
Baltimore County**

## **Preamble**

We, the undergraduate students of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, are dedicated to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and equitable campus community where all students can thrive. Grounded in the spirit of co-creation and respect for our peers' diverse and multifaceted backgrounds, we seek to build an environment in which all students possess the capacity and opportunity to be meaningfully involved in the change-making processes that shape the academic, co-curricular, and social fabric of our campus.

In pursuit of these principles, we hereby establish this Constitution as the guiding document for the collective vision of a dynamic, student-centered higher education experience at UMBC.

## **Article 1.**

### **MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

#### **1.1**

#### **Name**

The name of the Association shall be the University of Maryland Baltimore County Student Government Association; hereinafter referred to as "UMBC SGA".

#### **1.2**

#### **General Membership**

SGA's general membership shall consist of all UMBC undergraduate students enrolled in at least one credit hour.

#### **1.3**

#### **Officers**

SGA shall be governed by officers elected or appointed as outlined in this Constitution. No person shall hold more than one SGA office at a time.

#### **1.4**

#### **Guiding Documents and Policies**

- A. This Constitution in addition to Guiding Documents and Policies shall align with the laws of the State of Maryland, as well as the rules and regulations of UMBC and the University System of Maryland.
- B. The SGA is required to maintain and authorized to create, amend, and enforce Bylaws, a Budgetary Policy, an Election Policy, and any other policies deemed necessary and consistent with this Constitution to govern its operations.
- C. The Senate and Finance Board possess discretionary authority to create specific policies regarding the legislative rules of procedure of each body.
  - a. Such policies may be adopted by a simple majority vote of the members present at the respective body.
- D. Ratification of the SGA Bylaws, SGA Budgetary Policy, Election Policy, and any other SGA policy, requires a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of both the Senate and Finance Board.
- E. Legislation establishing or amending Guiding Documents and Policies shall not be subject to veto.

## **Article 2.**

### **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

#### **2.1.**

#### **Structure**

The legislative power of this organization shall be vested in two legislative bodies: a Senate and a Finance Board.

**2.2. Finance Board**

**2.2.1. Composition**

- A. The Finance Board shall be composed of nine (9) voting officers. Seven (7) of these voting officers will have the title "Representative," and will be elected by the entire undergraduate student body.
- B. The Vice President of Student Organizations and the Treasurer shall serve as voting members of the Finance Board.
- C. Vacancies will be filled in accordance with the SGA Bylaws.

**2.2.2. Powers**

- A. To approve, reject, or amend the SGA fiscal year budget in accordance with the Budgetary Policy
- B. Allocate funds to student organizations.
- C. Approve allocations to the Student Organization Support Team from funds reserved in SGA's budget for those purposes.
- D. Override an SGA President's veto as outlined in the SGA Bylaws.
- E. Amend the SGA Bylaws.
- F. Propose amendments to the SGA Constitution subject to a referendum of the student body.

**2.2.3. Officers and Staff Assistants**

- A. The officers of the Finance Board shall be the Chair and the Vice Chair elected the the full membership of the Finance Board.
- B. The Chair of the Finance Board may hire staff assistants to assist in the operations of the Finance Board, with the advice and consent of the Finance Board.

**2.2.4. Committees**

- A. The Finance Board may create and disband committees as outlined in the Bylaws.

**2.3. Senate**

**2.3.1. Composition**

- A. The Senate shall be composed of **13** voting officers with the title of "Senator," who shall be elected by the entire undergraduate student body in accordance with the Election Policy.

**2.3.2. Powers**

- A. Adopt legislation and initiate action relating to any matter, including: the policies and practices of UMBC, the University System of Maryland, the state of Maryland relating to curriculum, academic requirements, financial aid, facilities, student and residential life, student conduct, campus services, budgets, tuition and fees, and any other matter affecting UMBC undergraduates; and relationships between any SGA member(s) and UMBC's faculty and staff.
- B. The Senate also shall have the power to approve, reject, or amend the SGA fiscal year budget
- C. Allocate and approve certain SGA funds in accordance with the Budgetary Policy;
- D. Approve ~~certain~~ Executive Branch appointments;
- E. Override an SGA President's veto in accordance with the SGA Bylaws.

**2.3.3.**

**Officers and Staff Assistants**

- A. The officers of the Senate shall be the Speaker and the Assistant Speaker elected by the full membership of the Senate.
- B. The Speaker of the Senate may hire staff assistants to assist in the operations of the Senate, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

**2.3.4.**

**-- Committees**

The Senate may create and disband committees as outlined in the Bylaws.

**Article 3.**

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**3.1.**

**Structure**

- A. SGA's Executive Branch shall consist of a President, an Executive Vice President, a Vice President for Student Organizations, a Treasurer, and staff officers.

**3.2.**

**President**

- A. The President shall have the power to represent the SGA and its members in any forum;
- B. Create Cabinet positions;
- C. Appoint students to serve as SGA officers and representatives in accordance with the Guiding Documents
- D. Veto any Finance Board, Senate or joint legislation, except legislation establishing or amending Guiding Documents or initiating impeachment, subject to override as explained in the SGA Bylaws;
- E. Initiate and implement programs, services and advocacy campaigns for the benefit of UMBC undergraduates.
- F. The President shall be a non-voting member of the Finance Board, the Senate, and their respective committees.

**3.3.**

**Executive Vice President**

- A. The Executive Vice President will assume the office of President if for any

reason the President cannot fulfill their duties.

- B. The Executive Vice President shall be a non-voting member of the Finance Board, the Senate and their respective committees.

### **3.4. Vice President for Student Organizations**

- A. The Vice President for Student Organizations will have the power to promote and support UMBC's student organizations through programs, services and work with campus partners.
- B. The Vice President for Student Organizations shall serve as a member of the Finance Board.

### **3.5. Treasurer**

- A. The Treasurer will have the power and responsibility to manage SGA's funds and financial processes in a manner consistent with SGA's Guiding Documents and the best interests of the undergraduate student body.
- B. The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Finance Board.

### **3.6. Cabinet**

- A. The Cabinet shall be chaired by the President and composed of appointed staff officers assisting in supporting the UMBC undergraduate student body by actively creating, planning, and managing programs and services that uphold the values of UMBC and SGA.

### **3.7 Steering Committee**

- A. Facilitate effective communication and coordination among the various branches and committees of the SGA.
- B. Act as a preliminary review body for proposed legislation or policy changes.
- C. Address urgent, confidential matters that require immediate attention from SGA.
- D. Monitor and evaluate the progress of the organization's strategic plan and initiatives.
- E. Membership shall consist of:
  - a. President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Student Organizations, Treasurer, Speaker of the Senate, Assistant Speaker of the Senate, Chair of the Finance Board, Vice Chair of the Finance Board, and the SGA Advisor or their designee.

### **3.8. Staff Officers**

- A. The President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Student Organizations, and Treasurer may appoint and hire staff to assist in operations and initiatives of the Executive Branch.
- B. Each staff officer will have powers and duties as determined by the appointing Cabinet officer outlined with their hire letter, and consistent with this Constitution, SGA Bylaws, and appropriate policies.

## **Article 4. JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**4.1. Structure**

- A. The Judicial Branch shall consist of the Appeals Board and the Election Board.

**4.2. The Appeals Board**

- A. The Appeals Board shall consist of five voting members: three students from the Student Conduct Office and two students from the SGA.
- B. Appeals Board members from the Student Conduct Office shall be determined by an internal selection process.
- C. Appeals Board members from the SGA will be nominated by the Nominating Committee and confirmed with joint legislation.
- D. The Appeals Board determines all cases where an SGA officer is accused of violating any material provision or principle of an SGA Guiding Document, where a candidate for elected SGA office alleges that they have been wrongly disqualified by the Election Board, or other matters as stated in the SGA Bylaws.

**4.2.1. Powers**

- A. The Appeals Board has all powers necessary to adjudicate to resolution the following, as more specifically provided in the SGA Bylaws:
  - a. Reject or uphold candidate disqualification decisions of the Election Board;
  - b. Determine the final stipend if an SGA officer appeals the stipend awarded;
  - c. Resolve accusations that an SGA officer has violated a material provision or principle of the SGA Guiding Documents.

**4.2.2. The Convener**

- A. The Convener shall be an ex-officio member of the Appeals Board, and is a UMBC staff and/or faculty person.
- B. The Convener will be selected by the Assistant Director for Leadership and Governance or their designee by October 1st of the current academic year.
- C. They will serve as the Convener until at least September 30th the following year, and until a new Convener has been determined by the Assistant Director for Leadership and Governance or their designee.
- D. The Assistant Director for Leadership and Governance or their designee shall promptly fill any vacancy of the position of Convener.

**4.2.3. Judicial Appeal**

- A. The Appeals Board shall handle all cases with fundamental fairness.
- B. Decisions made by the Appeals Board are final and not subject to appeal.

**4.3. The Election Board**

- A. The Election Board shall consist of an Election Board Chair, Vice Chair, and five ~~six~~ or more additional members, all subject to approval by both legislative bodies.
- B. All Election Board members, including the Chair, shall be nominated for Senate

and Finance Board confirmation by the Nominating Committee, as described in the SGA Bylaws.

C. The Election Board shall administer all SGA elections.

#### **4.3.1. Powers**

A. The Election Board may disqualify or impose campaign restrictions on any candidate, ticket, or group of candidates for an elected SGA office or related SGA election.

#### **4.3.2. Election Appeal**

Decisions of candidate disqualification by the Election Board are only subject to review by the Appeals Board. This Appeals Board process is specified in the SGA Bylaws.

### **Article 5. OFFICER SELECTION AND REMOVAL**

#### **5.1. General Elections**

All Representatives, Senators, the President and the Executive Vice President, the Vice President for Student Organizations, and the Treasurer will be elected annually during the spring semester as outlined in the Election Policy. The President and Executive Vice President shall be elected as a ticket; all other officials shall be elected individually.

#### **5.2. Appointments**

- A. Executive staff officers shall be appointed by the President, subject to Senate approval.
- B. In the event of a mid-term vacancy in any elected or appointed office, the President shall appoint a replacement, subject to the following approvals: Presidential appointments to fill vacancies in the offices of Executive Vice President, Vice President for Student Organizations, and Treasurer will be subject to approval by the Senate and Finance Board as specified in the SGA Bylaws. Presidential appointments to fill vacancies in other elected or appointed offices will be subject to approval by the Senate as specified in the SGA Bylaws.

SGA staff officers may be appointed at any time by the officer for whom they will work. The Finance Board and Senate shall appoint their staff in accordance with their respective bodies' procedural rules.

#### **5.3. Eligibility Requirements**

In order to be eligible to seek or hold the position of Senator or Finance Board Representative or an appointed SGA office for which a stipend is provided by the

Student Activity fee, an individual must meet all the following criteria:

1. Be a UMBC undergraduate student enrolled in at least 13 credits at UMBC;
2. Have at least a cumulative 2.25 GPA;
3. Maintain at least a semesterly 2.25 GPA during both the Fall and Spring semester while in office; and;
4. Neither be on academic probation nor under disciplinary suspension (whether in effect, imposed for a future time period, or held in abeyance).

In order to be eligible to seek or hold the offices of President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Student Organizations, and Treasurer, an individual must meet all the criteria listed above and the following criteria:

1. Have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPA;
2. Maintain at least a semesterly 2.5 GPA during both the Fall and Spring semester while in office; and
3. Have completed 24 total credits, and have completed at least 12 of those credits at UMBC.

Additionally, all Senators and Finance Board Representatives must adhere to the attendance requirements determined by their respective legislative body as outlined in each respective body's procedural rules to maintain eligibility.

If an officer fails to meet any of the above requirements as stated, the officer shall be removed from their office effective immediately, and shall not be eligible to seek or hold office the subsequent Fall or Spring semester.

#### **5.4. Terms of Office**

- A. The terms of SGA officers elected shall commence at 6:00 p.m. local time on May 15th in the year of their election.
- B. The terms of all appointed SGA officers shall commence immediately upon approval of their appointments by the appropriate legislative body as specified in the SGA Bylaws.
- C. All SGA officers' terms shall end at 6:00 p.m. local time each May 15th.

#### **5.5. Oath of Office**

- A. All elected or appointed SGA officers must take the following oath before taking office:
  - a. "I do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the office of {title} of the UMBC Student Government Association, and will, to the best of my ability, promote and defend the interests and well-being of UMBC's undergraduate students."
- B. The Senate Speaker, Finance Board Chair, SGA President, SGA Advisor, UMBC President, or any designees thereof may administer this oath.

#### **5.6. Removal**



**5.6.1. Ineligibility**

- A. The SGA Advisor or their designee shall periodically check university records to verify SGA officers' academic and disciplinary eligibility.
- B. Any officer who ceases to meet the eligibility requirements set forth above shall be considered to have vacated their office upon being informed of their ineligibility in writing by the SGA Advisor.
- C. An officer found to be ineligible may appeal the SGA Advisor's determination to the Appeals Board within 48 hours of their notification by the SGA Advisor.
  - a. During those 48 hours, and while an appeal is pending, no permanent replacement may be appointed to the vacated position
- D. If the Appeals Board decides that the SGA Advisor's determination of ineligibility was in error, the officer shall be considered to have been reinstated to their position.

**5.6.2. Permanent Incapacity**

- A. Any office shall become vacant in the event of the incumbent's death.
- B. Any officer unable to serve the remainder of their term due to serious injury or illness may be removed from office through legislation adopted by the Senate.
  - a. The vote necessary to pass such legislation in each body shall be 2/3 of the members present at a meeting.

**5.6.3. Resignation**

- A. Any officer may remove themselves from office by submitting a signed letter of resignation to the SGA President and SGA advisor or their designee.
- B. Senators, Finance Board Representatives and Election Board members may remove themselves from office by submitting a signed letter of resignation to the Senate Speaker, Finance Board Chair or Election Board Chair, and SGA advisor or their designee.

**5.6.4. Termination**

- A. Officers serving in appointed Executive Branch offices may be removed from office at any time, with or without cause, in the following manner: Staff Officers may be removed by the officer they work for.
- B. The staff officers of the Finance Board and Senate may be removed by the Chair and Speaker, respectively, or a majority vote of the body for which they work;
- C. Election Board members may be removed by the Election Board Chair, with a simple majority vote of the Senate.
- D. No officer shall be terminated because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, gender, pregnancy, ancestry, age, gender identity or expression, national origin, veterans status, marital status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or genetic information.
- E. All terminations shall be effective upon signature of a Notice of Termination by any officer with the constitutional authority to remove the addressee from office or issuance of a Court Order declaring termination. Upon termination, all rights, privileges and access of the forfeited office shall be denied the former officer. Any continued use of the above benefits by the terminated officer shall subject the removed officer to charges of violating the UMBC Student Code of Conduct.

- F. Notices of Termination shall be any document stating the date and time of cancellation of an SGA officer's access to the responsibilities and benefits of their office before the completion of the office's natural term. A Notice of Termination is valid only when completed by an officer with the authority to remove the addressed officer from their office.

#### **5.6.5. Impeachment**

- A. Any SGA officer may be removed from office through impeachment and conviction on the following grounds:
  - a. failure to exercise the powers of their office in a manner reasonably calculated to advance objectives identified in the Preamble to this Constitution;
  - b. intentional or reckless conduct in violation of SGA's Guiding Documents, or of any applicable law or UMBC policy;
  - c. intentional or reckless misrepresentation of SGA legislation, policy or officers' views;
  - d. intentional or reckless behavior that brings dishonor or disgrace upon SGA and/or harm to UMBC undergraduates.'
- B. An impeachment may be initiated by:
  - a. either legislative body by a vote of 2/3 of its members present at a meeting; in which case the non-initiating legislative body shall conduct a hearing of the accused, and can remove the accused by a vote of 2/3 of members present at a meeting; or
  - b. a petition for impeachment signed by at least 5% of all UMBC undergraduates; in which case the Senate shall conduct a hearing of the accused, and can remove the accused by a 2/3 vote of Senators present at a meeting.
- C. In impeachment hearings, votes of abstention are prohibited. An officer against whom an impeachment has been initiated is entitled to be notified within five (5) business days of the passage of the charges and disclosure of the evidence supporting impeachment, as well as at least ten (10) business days after passage of the charges in which to prepare a defense before trial.

#### **5.7. Presidential Succession**

- A. In the event of the President's removal by any method outlined in this Constitution, the holder of the lowest-numbered non-vacant office on the following list shall become President:
  - a. 1. Executive Vice President;
  - b. 2. Vice President for Student Organizations;
  - c. 3. Speaker of the Senate;
  - d. 4. Chair of the Finance Board
- B. In the event that all of the listed offices are vacant, an interim President shall be elected by a majority vote of the Senate and Finance Board, and a special election shall be held within 30 days (excluding summer and winter semesters) to elect a new President.

**Article 6. MEMBER RIGHTS**

**6.1. Right to Participate**

- A. All UMBC undergraduates shall have the right to vote in all campus-wide SGA elections and to run or apply for any SGA office for which they are eligible.

**6.2. Right to Petition**

- A. All UMBC undergraduates shall have the right to initiate and sign petitions requesting that SGA take any or all of the following actions:
  - a. impeach any of its officers;
  - b. formally consider any legislation or resolution;
  - c. place yes-or-no questions on the ballot in the next Election, except when the election is scheduled to take place less than 21 days from the petitioner's submission.
- B. The SGA shall take the requested action in response to any petition signed by 5% of all UMBC undergraduates, provided that the petition's content and the process of its submission do not violate any provision of SGA's Guiding Documents.

**6.3. Right to Reconsideration**

- A. All UMBC undergraduates shall have the right to submit complaints before any elected or appointed SGA officer, SGA advisor, or appropriate designee.

**6.4. Right against Discrimination**

- A. No UMBC undergraduate shall be excluded from any SGA forum or activity, or be granted or denied any benefit, on account of race, creed, color, religion, sex, gender, pregnancy, ancestry, age, gender identity or expression, national origin, veterans status, marital status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or genetic information.

**6.5. Right to Majority Rule**

- A. No SGA policy shall provide for adoption of any legislation or resolution by less than a majority of the officers casting votes at a meeting of either the Finance Board or the Senate.

**Article 7. RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENT**

- A. Ratification of this Constitution, and amendments thereto, require a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the Senate and the Finance Board, or the proper submission of a petition signed by 5% of UMBC undergraduates.
- B. All such proposals shall go to a referendum of the UMBC undergraduates, requiring more votes cast for than votes cast against for passage. Actions to ratify or amend this Constitution are not subject to veto.
- C. Amendments shall go into effect immediately after passage and certification from the Election Board.