

Constitution
Schreiner University
Student Government Association

Free inquiry, expression, and the responsible use thereof, are essential attributes of the community of scholars. As members of that community, students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community. Students should endeavor to exercise their freedom with maturity and responsibility.

The responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn is shared by all members of the academic community. Schreiner University has a duty to develop policies and procedures, which provide and safeguard the freedom to learn. Such policies and procedures should be developed with the broadest possible participation of the members of the academic community based on the aims and objectives of the institution, and the general standards herein defined.

We, the students of Schreiner University, in order to assume the privileges and responsibilities of self-government and to promote the welfare of the student body, do hereby adopt and establish this constitution.

Article I: Name

The name of this organization will be the Student Government Association (SGA) of Schreiner University. The organization will serve as the primary governing body for the students of Schreiner University.

Article II: Membership

The Student Government Association offers two types of membership: elected and appointed. Within SGA there are three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

Article III: Executive Branch

Section 1 - Officers

- A. The Officers of the Executive branch will be:
 - Student Body President
 - Student Body Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
- B. All executive powers of the Student Government Association of Schreiner University will be vested in the executive branch as outlined in the by-laws.

Section 2 - Requirements

- A. Each elected and appointed member of the Executive Branch must:
 - 1. Have at least a 2.75 GPA at the time of election and maintain that GPA throughout their term.
 - 2. Not be on disciplinary probation.

3. Be enrolled for a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours, nine (9) if a graduate student.
- B. The Student Body President and Vice President must have attended SU as a full-time student for three (3) consecutive long semesters immediately preceding election to office, including the semester in which the election is held.

Section 3 - Election and term of office

- A. Officers will be elected at-large by a majority of the full-time registered students of the university voting in the spring semester general elections.
- B. Officers serve terms of one year beginning immediately following their swearing in and will relinquish office following the regular Spring elections and installation of the newly elected officers.
- C. Officers must maintain regular office hours during each long semester in office.

Section 4 - Removal of Executive Officers:

- A. Officers may only be removed from office through the process of impeachment.
- B. Any officer removed from office will be responsible for repayment of monetary compensation received in accordance with their contract.

Section 5 - The Filling of Vacant Offices:

- A. In the event that no person shall seek the office of President or Vice-President, thus rendering that office vacant, the Senate shall have the power to appoint and approve by two-thirds (2/3) majority any student who meets the requirements for that office.
- B. If at any time the presidential seat becomes vacant, the Vice-President will fill the seat left vacant. The new President will appoint a new Vice-President with the approval of a 2/3 vote from the senate.
- C. If the Vice-President seat becomes vacant, the current President will appoint a new Vice-President with the approval of a 2/3 vote from the Senate.
- D. If the President and Vice-Presidential seats become vacant at any other time besides elections, the Speaker will become President. The new President will appoint a new Vice-President. The Senate will appoint a new Speaker by a 2/3 vote.
- E. If the Treasurer or Secretary position becomes vacant or is unfilled the vacant position will be appointed by the President with the approval of a 2/3 vote from the Senate.
- F. Officers elected in special elections or appointed to office will serve until the next regularly scheduled election or appointment for their respective office.

Article IV: Legislative Branch

Section 1 - Officers of the Senate:

The Officers of the Senate will be

1. Speaker of the Senate
 2. Senate Secretary
- A. All legislative powers of the Student Government Association will be vested in the legislative branch as outlined in the by-laws.

Section 2 - Requirements for Senators:

- A. Each member and officer of the senate must:
1. Be a registered student of SU,
 2. Be enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours or nine (9) hours for graduate students,
 3. Not be on disciplinary probation, and
 4. Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or higher.
 5. Senators must be members of the class they represent at the time of election.
- B. Only the current Speaker and senators are eligible to run for the office of Speaker

Section 3 - Representation within the Senate:

- A. Each class will be represented by one senator per 100 registered students and will be rounded up. Each class is guaranteed at least one seat. The number of class senators will be set biennially as determined by the Dean of Students according to the above rule.
- B. In addition to the class representatives there will be two (2) at-large senatorial seats and one (1) senator designated to represent each academic college

Section 4 - Election and Term of Office:

- A. The Senate Speaker will be elected by a majority vote of the Senate body at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring semester, assume office immediately upon election, and serve a one-year term.
- B. The Senate Secretary will be appointed by the Speaker with the approval of a majority vote from the Senate.
- C. Sophomore, junior, senior and graduate and college senators will be elected in the general election of the Spring semester.
- D. Freshmen and At-large senators will be elected in the general election of the Fall semester.
- E. Senators will serve one-year terms following their swearing in.
- F. Officers and senators elected in special elections or appointed to office will serve until the next regularly scheduled election or appointment for their respective office.

Section 5 - Removal of Senators and Senate Officers:

- A. The Speaker and Senators may only be removed from office through the process of impeachment.
- B. Any officer removed from office will be responsible for repayment of monetary compensation received in accordance with their contract.

- C. The Senate Secretary may be removed from office either by impeachment or Speaker recall.

Section 6 - Filling Vacant Offices:

- A. Should the office of Speaker become vacant, the Vice President will serve until the Senate elects another speaker.
- B. Should a senate seat become vacant, the Speaker will appoint a new senator with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the senate.

Article V: The Judicial Branch

Section 1 – Judicial Board Members:

There will one (1) Chief Justice and eight (8) Justices.

Section 2 - Judiciary Powers:

All judiciary powers of the Student Government Association will be vested in the judicial branch as outlined in the By-Laws

Section 3 - Appointment of Members:

The SGA President will have the power to appoint any vacant Justices position. Prospective Justices must be approved by a majority of current Judicial Board members, then two-thirds (2/3) of the senate. Final approval must be obtained by the university Judicial Officer before any member can be sworn in.

Section 4 - Requirements:

- A. The Chief and Justices must be
 1. registered students of SU,
 2. carry a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours nine (9) hours for graduate students,
 3. not be on academic or disciplinary probation,
 4. maintain at least a 2.5 GPA during their term of office.
- B. Justices may not hold any other SGA office concurrently with their justiceship.
- C. Justices must excuse themselves from sitting in all cases in which they have a personal stake or any other conflict of interest.
- E. No Justices may be party to a complaint before the Court. Any conflicts involving members must be decided by the Dean of Students.

Section 5 - Terms of Office:

- A. The Chief will be elected by a majority vote of the current Judicial Board at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring semester, assume office immediately upon election, and serve a one-year term. The Judicial Officer must approve of the selection before the Chair can be sworn in.
- B. Justices can serve no more than eight (8) long semesters.

Section 6 - Jurisdiction:

- A. The board has jurisdiction over all conflicts brought before the Court, between students, between students and student organizations, and between student organizations.
- B. Acting as an advisory body in disciplinary cases at the request of the Dean of Students and/or the Judicial Officer.
- C. The Dean of Students will have appellate jurisdiction over decisions of the Judicial Board.

Section 7 - Removal of Justices:

- A. Justices may be removed from office either by impeachment or by Judicial Officer recall.
- B. The Chair if removed from office will be responsible for repayment of monetary compensation in accordance with their contract.

Article VI: Board of Officers

The members of the Executive Branch along with the Speaker of the Senate and Chief Justice will serve as the Board of Officers charged with the overall leadership of SGA.

Article VII: General Constitutional Provisions

Section 1 - Quorum:

- A. A quorum will be defined as a majority of the membership in each SGA body.
- B. No SGA body will conduct any business without a quorum present.

Section 2 - Recall of Appointed Positions:

- A. In each case where a person is appointed to an office within this Constitution, the appointing officer retains the power to recall the person from office. Justices are exempt from the recall process.
- B. Recall of an appointed member may only take place in cases in which the appointed member is negligent in performing his/her duties.
- C. A recalled member must be officially notified of his/her removal. Official notification will consist of a letter of notification containing a list of grievances and charges against the member. The letter must be signed by the appointing Officer and by the Student Body President or Senate Speaker as a witness to the offense.

Section 3 - Impeachment:

- A. Any senator in the Student Government Association may call for the impeachment of any officer, chair, senator, or justice by placing a motion on the floor and by providing evidence of the negligence of said member in conducting his/her duties. This motion must be seconded.
- B. The senate may vote to remove an officer, chair, senator, or justice by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the senate.

Section 4 – Constitutional Supremacy

In any case, where the Election Code and By-Laws conflict with this Constitution, precedence will be given to the Constitution.

Article VIII: Constitutional Amendments

Section 1 - The Amendment Process:

- A. This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the SGA senate at the second reading of the proposed amendments before the senate body.
- B. The Election Code and By-Laws of this Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the SGA Senate at the first reading of the proposed amendment before the Senate body.

Section 2 - The Ratification Process:

This Constitution will be enacted and enforced upon approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the SGA senate.

Section 3 - Previously Elected Officials:

All officers elected under the previous Constitution will continue to serve until the expiration of their term as prescribed in the previous Constitution.