

# Constitution of the Regis University Student Government Association

Adopted April 2nd, 2001 | Amended March 11th, 2002 | Amended April 19th, 2004 | Amended April 2nd, 2007 | Amended April 21st, 2008 | Amended December 8th, 2008 | Amended April 12th, 2010 | Amended April 12th, 2017 | Amended February 28th, 2018 | Amended February 25, 2019 | Amended March 18, 2019 | Amended Spring 2020 | Amended Spring 2024 | Amended Fall 2024

**Constitutional Revision Committee Chaired by the Student Body President.  
Revised by RUSGA Executive Branch. Amended by RUSGA Legislative Branch.**



## **Preamble**

We, as the undergraduate students of Regis University, have the inherent right to establish an association that ensures the expression and protection of student rights, interests, concerns, and opinions. Our organization shall represent all members of the undergraduate student population. We aim to provide a communication network within the Regis community, engender cooperation between all student groups and organizations, act as a liaison between administration, faculty, staff, and the student body, and serve a significant role in the formation, implementation, and application of institutional policy. Therefore, we hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the Student Government Association of Regis University.

## **Mission Statement**

The Regis University Student Government Association seeks to represent, empower, and advocate for the diverse needs of all students and community members by promoting inclusion, student leadership, transparency, and well-being. By ensuring equal access to students, RUSGA strives to build a successful and involved student body that is at the forefront of social justice and dialogue. Through collaborative action, our organization is dedicated towards the fulfillment of the University policy and intersectionality of student experiences, proving rewarding pursuits in community strength.

## **Article I: Organization Name & Structure**

Section 1: This organization shall be known as the Regis University Student Government Association (RUSGA).

Section 2: The Student Government shall be divided into two branches, the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch.

Section 3: Membership is accessible to all full-time and part-time undergraduate students enrolled at Regis University.

Section 4: RUSGA is funded by a student activity fee levied on student accounts each semester.

## **Article II: Executive Branch**

The Executive Officers of RUSGA shall be the President, Vice President of Representation, Vice President of Social Justice & Diversity, Vice President of Involvement, and Vice President of Academic Life. The Extended Officers of RUSGA's Executive Cabinet shall be the Chief of Staff, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Marketing, Director of Information and Technology Support, and Director of Sustainability.

### Section 1: The President shall:

1. Be responsible for the overall leadership of the Regis University Student Government Association;
2. Represent RUSGA, speak on students' behalf, and develop a working relationship with key members of the university;
3. Ensure Student Government accountability to the Constitution of the Regis University Student Government Association, and to policies and procedures of Regis University;
4. Organizing and chairing weekly Executive Cabinet meetings;
5. Supervising all procedural aspects of implementing the overall RUSGA budget;
6. Review all bills, amendments, and other bylaws passed by the Senate to ensure they are in the best interest of the Student Body and University as a whole; if deemed otherwise, the Executive may exercise the right of Presidential veto;
7. Appoint a Chief of Staff, a Director of Marketing, a Director of Information and Technology Support, a Chief Financial Officer, and a Director of Sustainability.

### Section 2: The Vice President of Representation shall:

1. Be responsible and serve as chair for the overall leadership of the Regis University Student Senate and ensure that the meetings follow procedure and that Senators are accountable to the constitution of Regis University Student Government Association (RUSGA) and to the policies and procedures of Regis University;
2. Assist Senators in drafting legislation in preparation for its presentation to the legislative body of the Student Senate;
3. Strive to develop collaborative partnerships within the Regis University Community;
4. Chair the RUSGA *Cura Personalis* Period Committee to assist in all matters and capacities related to the proper execution of the duties listed in subsection FR-1 in this Constitution;

5. Assist in developing, in collaboration with the RUSGA President, RUSGA Chief Financial Officer, and advisor, an annual budget for the Student Government Association to be presented to the Senate for approval;
6. Assist in the funding of Senate initiatives.

Section 3: The Vice President of Involvement shall:

1. Be responsible for the overall leadership of all matters of involvement on campus and off campus, including the greater Regis-Berkeley-Sunnyside community;
2. Cultivate a culture of inclusion, school spirit, and pride in the institution through overseeing applicable events, networking, and policy efforts both on and off campus to advance greater involvement and engagement;
3. Chair the RUSGA Committee on Student Experience consisting of committee members to assist in all matters and capacities related to the proper execution of the duties listed above and all other duties that arise. The number of individuals on the Committee and involvement of non-Senate members on the Committee is subject to the discretion of the Chair of the Committee.

Section 4: The Vice President of Social Justice & Diversity shall:

1. Oversee projects and policies that promote Social Justice & Diversity, providing leadership in areas of diversity, inclusion, and social justice;
2. Work in conjunction with the Community of Belonging and Equity Office and associated student organizations to integrate principles of Social Justice and Inclusion through events, education and training, and policy implementation;
3. Enhance the Regis Community's awareness of social justice and diversity;
4. Chair the RUSGA Committee on Social Justice & Diversity, consisting of committee members to assist in all matters and capacities related to the proper execution of the duties listed above and all other duties that arise. The number of individuals on the Committee and involvement of non-Senate members on the Committee is subject to the discretion of the Chair of the Committee.

Section 5: The Vice President of Academic Life shall:

1. Oversee projects that relate to promoting the welfare of students' academic life;
2. Serve as liaison between the student body and academic administration;
3. Advocate from the student perspective on issues that affect the quality of student life, including education quality, academics, student life, mental health, and campus issues;

4. Chair the RUSGA Committee on Academic Life to help in all matters and capacities related to the proper execution of the duties listed above and all other duties that arise. The number of individuals on the Committee and involvement of non-Senate members on the Committee is subject to the discretion of the Chair of the Committee.

Section 6: The Chief of Staff shall:

1. Serve as an Extended officer on RUSGA's Executive Cabinet and will not have voting rights in the Student Senate;
2. Work in conjunction with the Student Body President and the entire Executive Cabinet to assist in managing projects, schedules, and communications;
  - a. The Chief of Staff performs other responsibilities as assigned by the Student Body President;
3. Take and distribute minutes in weekly Executive Cabinet leadership meetings and Senate meetings;
  - a. In the absence of the Student Body President, the Chief of Staff shall lead Executive Cabinet meetings;
4. Ensure that members of the Executive Cabinet and Student Senate are accountable to the RUSGA Constitution, and to the policies and procedures of Regis University.

Section 7: The Chief Financial Officer shall:

1. Serve as an Executive Officer on RUSGA's Executive Cabinet and will not have voting rights in the Student Senate;
2. Work in conjunction with the Executive Cabinet and RUSGA Advisors to maintain a true and accurate budget, consistent with RUSGA spending;
3. Manage financial policies for the RUSGA Executive Cabinet, Student Senate, and Regis Clubs & Organizations for the duration of the academic year;
4. Appoint and chair the RUSGA Committee on Appropriations to help in all matters and capacities related to the proper execution of the duties listed above.

Section 8: The Director of Marketing shall:

1. Serve as an Extended Officer on RUSGA's Executive Cabinet and will not have voting rights in the Student Senate;
2. Work in conjunction with the entire Executive Cabinet to manage the marketing needs of RUSGA;
  - a. Promote RUSGA and RUSGA-sponsored organizations through various forms of media;

- b. Manage RUSGA's overall presence and branding through various forms of media.

Section 9: The Director of Information and Technology Support shall:

1. Serve as an Extended Officer on RUSGA's Executive Cabinet and will not have voting rights in the Student Senate;
2. Manage and continuously update the official RUSGA website;
  - a. Promote RUSGA and RUSGA sponsored organizations through the RUSGA website;
3. Support all IT issues that RUSGA may be presented with;
4. Assist in the general archiving of RUSGA's history.

Section 10: The Director of Sustainability shall:

1. Serve as an Extended Officer on RUSGA's Executive Cabinet and will not have voting rights in the Student Senate;
2. Work in conjunction with the entirety of the Executive Cabinet to promote RUSGA's commitment to sustainability and the University's goal of being a *Laudato si'* Campus;
3. Manage a budget of allocated funds for sustainability policies and projects;
4. Appoint and chair the RUSGA Committee on Sustainability to help in all matters and capacities related to the proper execution of the duties listed above and all other duties that may arise. The number of individuals on the Committee and involvement of non-Senate members on the Committee is subject to the discretion of the Chair of the Committee;

Section 11: All members of the executive cabinet shall:

1. Serve a one-year term from April to April;
2. Strive to develop collaborative partnerships within Student Government, with the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership (SEAL), and with the broader University community and administration;
3. Ensure that the Student Senate is accountable to the constitution of the Regis University Student Government Association (RUSGA) and to the policies and procedures of Regis University;
4. Attend weekly meetings of the Executive Cabinet leadership team and regular meetings of the RUSGA Senate;
5. Be and remain a student in good standing with the university. Good standing for these purposes includes being in favorable standing financially, without Community Standards sanctions of probation or higher, and of academic standing possessing at least a 3.0 GPA.

Section 12: Extended Officer's Appointment Process

1. Cabinet appointments shall occur after the election of the Executive Cabinet in the Spring Semester;
2. Appointments of cabinet members shall be open to all students that have completed at least 30 credit hours through an application process;
  - a. Applications for appointed cabinet members positions shall be made public to the student body for at least 10 days before applications close;
  - b. Once applications for the appointed cabinet positions have closed, the newly elected Student Body President shall share information on potential candidates for appointed cabinet with the rest of the newly elected Executive Cabinet;
  - c. In every available scenario, the Student Body President elect shall have at least one additional member of the newly elected Executive Cabinet sit in on interviews for candidates for appointed Cabinet;
  - d. After conducting interviews with every applicant, the Student Body President elect shall conduct a meeting with the newly elected Executive Cabinet and the RUSGA advisor to discuss which applicants will be best suited for the role as a team.
3. The Student Body President reserves the right to appoint each Extended Cabinet position after conducting the process as described above.

### Section 13: Good Faith Clause

1. In the time before Senate is in session, the Executive branch will act as the Senate when approaching appointments and appropriations. Any appointments made must be approved by the Senate once they are in session, but if the Cabinet approves the nomination, the appointee may start the role, operating under good faith that they will be appointed by the Senate. In these instances, Cabinet must do everything in their power to vote as the Senate would vote. Senate and Cabinet operate under the same governing documents, and the votes should reflect the somewhat objective nature of such documents.

## **Article III: Legislative Branch**

Section 1: The Legislative Branch, hereafter called the “Senate,” is the primary governing body of the Student Government.

Section 2: The Senate shall be comprised of the following voting members:

1. Academic Life Populations (3):
  - a. Anderson College of Business/College of Computer & Informational Sciences

- b. Regis College
  - c. Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professionals
2. Academic Class/Designated Status Populations (9):
- a. First Year
  - b. Second Year
  - c. Third Year
  - d. Fourth Year
  - e. Transfer
  - f. Commuter
  - g. First Generation
  - h. Student Athlete
  - i. Student Employment
3. Residence Life Populations (5):
- a. Desmet Hall
  - b. O'Connell Hall
  - c. West Hall
  - d. Residence Village
4. Social Justice & Diversity Populations (11):
- a. Black/ African Diaspora
  - b. Disability Justice and Equity
  - c. Latine
  - d. Queer Students
  - e. Indigenous
  - f. Intersectional Diversity
  - g. Women's Identities
  - h. International
  - i. Interfaith
  - j. Military/Veteran
  - k. Asian and Pacific Islander
5. Mission & General Representation (3):
- a. Sustainability
  - b. At-Large 1
  - c. At-Large 2

Members of the Executive Cabinet are non-voting members within the Student Senate.

### Section 3: Standing Committees, Ad Hoc Committees, and Task Forces

- a. The RUSGA Committee on Academic Life
  - b. The RUSGA Committee on Cura Personalis Period
  - c. The RUSGA Election Committee
    - i. The RUSGA Election Committee shall be comprised of RUSGA Representatives who are not active candidates for that election;
    - ii. A representative from the Regis Highlander shall be a non-voting member on the election committee for Executive Cabinet elections.
  - d. The RUSGA Committee on Appropriations
  - e. The RUSGA Committee on Social Justice and Diversity
  - f. The RUSGA Committee on Student Experience
  - g. The RUSGA Committee on Sustainability
  - h. The RUSGA Committee of Senators
2. The RUSGA President will have the power to appoint special Ad-hoc Committees and Task Forces with limited scope and duration to carry forward the goals, priorities, and work of RUSGA as directed by the Executive Board or the Senate.
3. The Vice President of Representation will have the power to create Ad Hoc Committees as deemed necessary for the structuring and advancement of Senate.
4. All past Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces will be reflected in the by-laws

## **Article IV: Senate Meetings**

Section 1: All Senate meetings will proceed in a professional and organized manner at the discretion of the Vice President of Representation and shall operate consistent with the rules and requirements outlined in this Constitution.

Section 2: Senate Meetings are open to all members of the student body and the Regis University Community.

Section 3: Senate shall convene no less than seven times per academic semester, university calendar allowing.

1. Fall Senate Summit may count.

Section 4: The Senate shall meet at the standard time of 7:00PM MST on Mondays. Emergency Sessions may be convened outside of the standard Senate time as deemed necessary by the Vice President of Representation or by a simple majority vote of Senators.

Section 5: Senate Procedures should be overseen and governed by the Vice President of Representation.

Section 6: Senate Procedures should adhere to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th edition.

Section 7: Senate Procedures are considered valid and legitimate when the Senate is operating at Quorum. Senate Quorum is met when the Senate Body consists of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of elected voting members. No official business of the Senate can be completed if Quorum is not met.

Section 8: All matters not explicitly governed by separate rules outlined in this document or subsequent governing documents shall be passed by a vote of simple majority. In the case of a conflict between two governing policies, the policy from the higher level of governance shall prevail.

Section 9: When a tie is met in tallying Senate Votes, the tie is broken by vote of the Vice President of Representation.

Section 10: The following legislative act require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote to pass:

1. Overriding a Presidential Veto.

## **Article V: Legislation**

Any member of the Student Body may propose legislation, but only a member of the Senate may introduce legislation to the Student Senate floor for debate.

Section 1: Any bill brought forward by the student body must be sponsored by at least one senate member and seconded by another voting member to be considered. A bill must be introduced to the Senate as a committee of the whole and prior to the presentation of the bi-weekly Student Senate meeting, Senators will be notified of all proposals and approval. All proposals must be introduced at least one day prior to being voted on by the entirety of the student senate.

Section 2: A resolution must be sponsored by at least one member of the Senate. Each resolution should be considered a statement of viewpoint or perspective that reflects a commonly held view of the RUSGA Senate. It is not a governing law or policy of the Student Government. A resolution must be introduced for a first reading within a session of the student senate at quorum, where the resolution shall be discussed at length. Those who sponsored the resolution must be present at the discussion.

Section 3: An amendment to the Constitution must be sponsored by at least one Senator and must be introduced to the Student Senate. A three-fourths majority vote of the Senate is required to pass any amendments.

Section 4: The office of the Student Body President has the power to veto any bill, amendment, or other by-law. The window for Presidential veto expires after 96 hours, starting at the end of the legislative session that produced the item in question. If there is a presidential veto, the legislation, amendment, or repeal will then go back to the Senate, and can be passed following a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the Senate. Presidential vetoes must be presented to the Senate by the next regularly scheduled meeting.

## **Article VI: Vacancies, Resignations, and Removals**

Section 1: A vacancy of any office of RUSGA shall be deemed to exist on the occurrence of any of the following:

1. The death, resignation, or removal of an officer;
2. One of the positions is not filled through the duly held election process.

Section 2: Vacancies, Resignations, Removals of Executive Cabinet Officials:

1. Any RUSGA officer that resigns shall do so by submitting a formal written notice to both the President of RUSGA and the advisor. The resignation may be effective immediately, or the resigning officer may be able to work up to two weeks after the resignation is submitted;
2. In the event of a vacancy, resignation, or removal during an Officer's term, the RUSGA President shall appoint a nominee that will then be subject to a Senate hearing requiring a 2/3rd majority vote by the Student Senate in order to be confirmed;
3. Executive officials may be removed by majority vote in the Senate after 5 unexcused absences from Senate and/or two unexcused absences from Cabinet meetings for the academic year;
4. Unexcused absences are absences where an Executive or Appointed Cabinet member fails to provide documentation and excuse for absence to the Vice President of Representation or

Student Body President 24 hours before or after the missed Senate or Executive Cabinet meeting;

- a. Excused absences are defined as an absence that is because of illness, emergencies, family events, or other related life events;
  - b. Unexcused absences are defined as missing a regular meeting without an excuse.
5. A RUSGA Executive Official can be removed by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the RUSGA Senate.

### Section 3: Vacancies, Resignations, Removals of Senators:

1. Open Senate seats will be appointed by the VPR and confirmed with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the Senate;
2. Senators may be removed from office at the discretion of the Vice President of Representation with a simple majority vote of the Senate if they have more than two unexcused absences for the academic year;
3. Unexcused absences are absences where a Senator fails to provide documentation and excuse for absence to the Vice President of Representation 24 hours before or after the missed Senate meeting;
  - a. Excused absences are defined as an absence that is because of illness, emergencies, family events, or other related life events;
  - b. Unexcused absences are defined as missing a regular meeting without an excuse;
4. Senators maintain good standing by remaining free of sanction with the University Code of Conduct and Academic Standards of Satisfactory Performance.

### Section 4: Vacancies, Resignations, Removals of Appointed Cabinet Members

1. Appointed cabinet members can be removed by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the executive cabinet;
2. Appointed cabinet members can be removed by the Student Senate with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote.

## **Article VII: Elections**

### Section 1: GPA Requirements

1. The duly elected Executive Officers, including appointed cabinet, of RUSGA shall maintain a 3.0 overall GPA;
2. Senators shall maintain a 2.5 overall GPA.

### Section 2: Credit Hour Requirements

1. Cabinet officers must have completed 30 credit hours at Regis University before running for office;

2. Senators have no hour completion requirements.

### Section 3: Party Grievance

1. A party involved may file a grievance on the following grounds: The election process has functioned with bias, fraud, or a violation of specific rules and laws;
2. The party will submit a formal written statement and present their argument(s) at a hearing with the Election Committee;
3. An additional hearing will be held so that the accused and their supporting parties may present their arguments;
4. If the Election Committee finds in favor of the grieving party, a runoff election will be held between the concerned parties, and no additional parties will be permitted to enter the race;
5. Either party may make an appeal of the Election Committee's decision to the Dean of Students.

### Section 4: Referendum

1. Any undergraduate Regis student can petition the Student Senate to schedule an all-campus vote on an issue;
2. This petition must be seconded by a voting member of the Student Senate and passed by a simple majority of those voting in the Student Senate;
3. The RUSGA President will schedule an all-campus general vote on this issue no less than two weeks after and no more than four weeks after the Student Senate vote (University Calendar Allowing);
4. The Election Committee will monitor the vote and procedures of the vote.

## **Article VIII: Passed Bills**

All bills brought before the Student Senate shall be classified as one of the following:

- a) A - Amendments: Bills affecting the Constitution of the Student Government.
- b) APT - Appointments: Bills for the appointment of a student to any official position.
- c) ECB - Elections Code By-Laws: Bills affecting the Elections Code of the Student Government.
- d) FR- Financial Recommendations: Bills of recommendation to the Student Government Senate to create and/or amend the annual Student Government budgets.
- e) GB - General by-laws: Bills affecting the General by-laws of the Student Government.
- f) HD- Historical Documentation: Bills documenting the Historic Initiatives led by RUSGA.
- g) REC - Recommendations: Bills making suggestions to the university administration or faculty.

- h) RES - Resolutions: Bills containing statement of principle (reflecting the opinions of the student body, and especially designed to influence public opinion).
- i) SR - Special Resolutions: Bills of commendation, censure, or honorary membership to the Student Government.
- j) BPD - Basic Policy Declaration: Bills not included in any of the aforementioned subsections.