

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

**Constitutional Revision Committee Chaired by the Vice President of
Representation & the Vice President of Academic Life**

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 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 on 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 of Regis University.

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

Article II: Executive Officers

The Executive Officers of RUSGA shall be the President, Vice President of Representation, Vice President of Social Justice and Diversity, Vice President of Involvement and Vice President of Academic Life.

Section 1: The President shall:

1. Be responsible for the overall leadership of the Regis University Student Government Association.
2. Represent RUSGA and develop a working relationship with key members of the University's committees, including the Board of Trustees Committee on Mission, Academic and Student Affairs, and will speak on students' behalf.
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 to organize efforts to accomplish the RUSGA agenda.
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 within 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 Chief Marketing Officer, and Director of Information Technology Support, a Chief Financial Officer, and Director of Sustainability. These positions will be ex-officio members of the executive board and will not have voting rights in the Student Body Senate.
8. Attending weekly meetings of the Executive Cabinet leadership team and regular meetings of the RUSGA Senate.

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 the drafting of legislation in preparation for its presentation to the legislative body.
3. Strive to develop collaborative partnerships within the Regis University Community.
4. Assist in developing, in collaboration with the RUSGA President, and advisor, an annual budget for the Student Government Association to be presented to the Senate for approval.
5. Develop and supervise the implementation of an annual budget for the Student Senate, and oversee the appropriation of funds to all Senate Committees and clubs and organizations.
6. Attending weekly meetings of the Executive Cabinet leadership team and chair regular meetings of the RUSGA Senate.

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. Hire a staff of no more than five individuals to help in all matters and capacities related to the proper execution of the duties listed above and other duties that arise.
4. Attending weekly meetings of the Executive Cabinet leadership team and regular meetings of the RUSGA Senate.
5. Chair the Senate Committee on Student Life.

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

1. Oversee projects and policy that promotes Social Justice & Diversity, providing leadership in areas of diversity, inclusion, and social justice
2. Work in conjunction with the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusive Excellence & associated student organizations to integrate principles of Social Justice and Inclusion through events, education and training, and policy implementation.
3. Enhance the Regis Communities awareness of social justice and diversity.

4. Appoint and chair a Council of no more than seven individuals (RUSGA Council on Social Justice & Diversity) to help in all matters and capacities related to the proper execution of the duties listed above and other duties that arise.
5. Attend weekly meetings of the Executive Cabinet leadership team and regular meetings of the RUSGA Senate.

Section 5: The Vice President of Academic Life shall:

1. Oversee projects that relate to promoting the welfare of student's academic life
2. Serve as liaison between the student body and academic administration
3. Advocate the student perspective on issues that affect the quality of student life, including but not limited to the quality of education, academics, student life, and campus issues.
4. Chair the Senate Committee on Academic Life
5. Attend weekly meetings of the Executive Cabinet leadership team and regular meetings of the RUSGA Senate.

Section 6: 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 SEAL, and with the broader University community and administration
3. Ensure that 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.

Article III: Legislative Branch

Section 1: The Legislative Branch, hereafter called "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. Post Traditional
 - f. Transfer
 - g. Commuter
 - h. First Generation
 - i. Student Athlete
 - j. Student Employment
3. Residence Life Populations (5):
 - a. Desmet Hall
 - b. O'Connell Hall
 - c. West Hall
 - d. Residence Village
 - e. Boryla Apartments
4. Social Justice & Diversity Populations (9):
 - a. Black/ African Diaspora
 - b. Disability Justice and Equity
 - c. Latinx
 - d. LGBTQIA+
 - e. Indigenous
 - f. Women's Identities
 - g. International
 - h. Interfaith
 - i. Military/Veteran
 - j. Asian Identifying
5. Mission & General Representation (3):
 - a. Sustainability
 - b. At-Large 1

- c. At-Large 2

Members of the Executive Cabinet are non-voting members of the legislative.

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
 - d. The RUSGA Committee on Finance
 - e. The RUSGA Committee on Social Justice and Diversity
 - f. The RUSGA Committee on Student Experience
 - g. The RUSGA Committee on Sustainability
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.

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.

Section 4: The Senate shall meet at the standard time of 7:00PM MST on Monday's. Emergency Sessions may be convened outside of the standard Senate time as deemed necessary by the Vice President of Representation or 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 in order 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 by the committee of the whole.

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 of the Committee of the Whole 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 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. This resignation shall be effective upon the submission of this notice.
2. In the event of a vacancy, resignation, or removal, the RUSGA President shall appoint a nominee that will then be subject to a Senate hearing requiring a $\frac{2}{3}$ rd 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.
4. A RUSGA Officer 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.
3. Unexcused absences are those absences where a Senator fails to provide documentation and excuse for absence to the Vice President of Representation within 24 hours of the missed Senate meeting.

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 also be removed first by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the executive cabinet.

Article VII: Elections

Section 1: GPA Requirements

1. The duly elected Executive Officers of RUSGA shall maintain a 3.0 overall GPA
2. Senators shall maintain a 2.5 overall GPA.

Section 2: Requirements

1. The officers of the Executive Cabinet must have completed 30 hours at Regis University prior to 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) in 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 Committees decision to the Dean of Students.

Section 4: Referendum

1. Any undergraduate Regis students 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) REC - Recommendations: Bills making suggestions to the university administration or faculty
- g) RES - Resolutions: Bills containing statement of principle (reflecting the opinions of the student body, and especially designed to influence public opinion)
- h) SR - Special Resolutions: Bills of commendation, censure, or honorary membership to the Student Government
- i) BPD - Basic Policy Declaration: Bills not included in any of the aforementioned subsections

FR-1

A Bill to pledge in providing menstrual products to students in women and gender-neutral bathrooms on campus.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Regis University Student Government Association (RUSGA) Period Bill Committee pledges to refill menstrual products in the designated bathroom bins.

SECTION 2. RUSGA's Period Bill Committee pledges to refill the bins in DeSmet Hall, O'Connell Hall, West Hall, Coors Life Directions Center, Field House, Claver Hall, St. John Francis Regis Chapel, Main Hall, Student Center, Dayton Memorial Library, Clarke Hall, Carroll Hall, Loyola Hall and Felix Pomponio Science Center. The Period Bill Committee will meet once per week in a consistent manner to refill the bins in the designated bathrooms. In the instance where RUSGA's Period Bill Committee becomes dissolved, it is the responsibility of the Vice President of Representation and the Women's Identities senator to refill the menstrual products. The Vice President of Representation reserves the right to create their own committee to assist in the refilling of the menstrual products. When RUSGA's yearly budget is proposed to Senate, a reasonable and appropriate budget will be allocated for period product restocking based on annual demand.

SECTION 3. This Bill shall be overseen by the Vice President of Representation in conjunction with Student Affairs.

SECTION 4. This Bill shall be effective immediately.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Legislative Purposes by Period Bill Committee of Spring 2023

Passed April 3, 2023