

# Constitution of the Student Government Association of Williams Baptist College

## Statement of Purpose

It is the primary purpose of the Student Government of Williams Baptist College, hereafter known as the Student Government Association or SGA, to represent the Student Body, and provide a unified voice in the student dealings with individuals and agencies outside of that Body. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Representing those ideals, goals, and programs which are of general interest to the Student Body, to the administration, and other groups within and outside the college structure.
2. Serving as a forum for the presentation of student interests and desires, determining which of those represents the opinions of a majority of the Student Body, and then acting as an agency to further the accomplishment of these goals.
3. Working with the administration and faculty by providing student opinion to ensure that adequate programs are provided to meet the students' needs.
4. To serve as the appeals committee for parking violations as stipulated in the SGA Bylaws of Williams Baptist College.

## ARTICLE I Student Government Association

### Subarticle A

#### Section 1. Composition

1. At this undergraduate level, the executive office of the SGA shall include a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Senate shall consist of 3 male representatives and 3 female representatives. The senate or executive positions may be held regardless of being residential or commuter students.
2. The advisor(s) to the SGA shall be nonvoting member(s) of the Senate.

#### Section 2. Selection of Members

1. The 4 Executive and 6 Senate positions of the SGA shall be chosen by an at-large election in the Spring of each year by the Student Body. Concurrent holding of the executive offices, or any of executive offices and the office of senator, shall not be allowed. These positions are chosen according to the SGA Bylaws and Election Code of Williams Baptist College.
2. The advisor(s) shall be a member(s) of Williams Baptist College Faculty and/or Administrative Staff.

### **Section 3. Term of Office**

1. The term of office for the executive and senator positions shall be from the first day after Spring Break until Election Day in the Spring of the Following year
2. Vacancies occurring in the SGA shall be filled in accordance with Article IV of this Constitution, and their term shall be from the first day after Spring Break to the next Election Day in the Spring of the following academic year.

### **Subarticle B**

#### **Section 1. Presiding Officer**

The President of the SGA shall preside over all meetings of the SGA. The SGA Vice President shall preside over all meetings and/or portions of meetings in the absence of the President and shall exercise all duties given to the president upon his or her absence.

#### **Section 2. Voting**

Six of the ten members of the SGA must be present at the meeting in order to conduct a final decision, whereas a vote is deemed necessary. For specificity, see the SGA Bylaws of Williams Baptist College.

#### **Section 3. Meetings**

The SGA shall hold a regularly scheduled weekly meeting, unless otherwise prescribed at the discretion of the SGA. The regularly scheduled meetings will not number below twice per month. In addition, a meeting will be held with an administration official once a month to inform any requests or other pertinent information.

## **ARTICLE II. Functions and Powers**

### **Subarticle A**

#### **Section 1. Legislative power**

The legislative power of the Student Body shall be vested in the SGA and its officers and shall be the highest level of elected Student Government of Williams Baptist College.

#### **Section 2. Powers and Responsibilities of the Student Government Association**

The Student Government Association shall have the power and responsibility to:

1. Be the official representative of the Student Body.
2. Express its opinion concerning any topic that is of interest to the Student Body and discuss questions or matters within the scope of this Constitution.

3. Recommend and enact legislation.
4. In the event of a needed arbitrator, all appointments must be approved by a majority of the SGA.
5. Ensure the right of the Student Body members to address issues during the course of all meetings, unless the SGA enters into executive session.
6. Form special subcommittees to investigate and recommend solutions to situations deserving special attention.
7. Fulfill other such duties as may be specified in the Bylaws of the SGA of Williams Baptist College.

### **Section 3. Voting by Proxy**

Voting by proxy on matters before the SGA or other bodies set forth in this Constitution shall not be allowed.

### **Section 4. Parliamentary Authority**

Unless otherwise prescribed in this Constitution of the SGA of Williams Baptist College, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall serve as the official rules of procedure.

#### **Subarticle B**

##### **Section 1. Powers and Responsibilities of the President**

The executive powers shall be vested in a President. The President shall have the power and responsibility to:

1. Preside at all meetings of the SGA.
2. Unless otherwise prescribed in this Constitution, set the agenda for all SGA meetings.
3. Exercise the right to draw up legislation and shall vote only if there is a tie.
4. Fulfill other such duties as may be specified in the Bylaws of the SGA of Williams Baptist College.

##### **Section 2. Powers and Responsibilities of the Vice President**

The Vice President shall have the power and responsibility to:

1. Assist the President in the execution of his/her duties.
2. Perform the duties of the President in the case of his/her absence.
3. Exercise the right to draw up legislation and to vote on all matters brought before the Senate.
4. Become President, if the office of President should become vacant, for the remainder of the term of office in accordance with Article IV of this Constitution.
5. Fulfill other such duties as may be specified in the Bylaws of the SGA of Williams Baptist College.

##### **Section 3. Powers and Responsibilities of the Secretary**

The Secretary shall have the power and responsibility to:

1. Be an elected member by the student body.
2. Maintain a record of all proceedings of the SGA.
3. Assist the President and Vice President in the execution of their duties.
4. Exercise the right to draw up legislation and to vote on all matters brought before the Senate.
5. Oversee, under the direction of the Student Association President, all Senate Correspondence.
6. Fulfill other such duties as may be specified in the Bylaws of the SGA of Williams Baptist College.

**Section 4. Powers and Responsibilities of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall have the power and responsibility to:

1. Assist the President and Vice President in the execution of their duties.
2. Present a budget to the senate each semester.
3. Keep track of the SGA account.
4. Sign and approve each monetary transaction that takes place through the SGA.
5. Exercise the right to draw up legislation and vote on all matters brought before the Senate.
6. Fulfill other such duties as may be specified in the Bylaws of the SGA of Williams Baptist College.

**Section 5. Powers and Responsibilities of the Senators**

The Senators shall have the power and responsibility to:

1. Assist the Executive positions in the execution of their duties.
2. Accurately represent the student body.
3. Exercise the right to draw up legislation and vote on all matters brought before the Senate.
4. Fulfill other such duties as may be specified in the Bylaws of the SGA of Williams Baptist College.

**ARTICLE III. Qualifications and Elections**

**Section 1. General Qualifications**

No person shall be a candidate or hold office under the authority of this Constitution unless he/she shall:

1. Be regularly enrolled at Williams Baptist College for at least a minimum of twelve (12) hours each semester.
2. Hold a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 and not be on disciplinary probation, scholastic or otherwise.

3. To be elected to the office of President or Vice president, the candidate must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours at Williams Baptist College the previous fall semester and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours at Williams Baptist College during the current spring semester

## **Section 2. Voting**

Voting and voting eligibility regarding the 10 candidates, comprised of the 4 Executive positions and 6 representatives, will be conducted according to the Bylaws and Election Code of the SGA.

## **Section 3. Elections**

1. The specially created Elections Committee shall administer all elections provided for in this Constitution each spring, as specified in the Bylaws of the SGA. The outcome shall be decided by a plurality of the votes cast, provided that in the event of a tie vote, a runoff election shall be held.
2. To be elected President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer of the SGA, a candidate must receive a majority and/or the most votes cast for that office in a general SGA election. If there is a tie, there will be a runoff between the tying candidates.
3. Special elections may be called by the SGA by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership of the SGA.

## **ARTICLE IV. Vacating an Office**

### **Section 1. Removal from Office**

1. Any person serving under the provisions of this Constitution may, upon petition by two members of the SGA, be removed from office with the agreement of at least five SGA members. This provides at least two-thirds (2/3), as specified in the Bylaws of the SGA.
2. If at any time a person serving under the provisions of this Constitution can no longer meet the minimum requirements outlined for the office of this Constitution, that office automatically becomes vacant.

### **Section 2. Succession**

If for reason the Office of President should become vacant, the Vice President shall become President. If the office of Vice President should become vacant, it shall be filled from among the current membership of the Senate in a method to be prescribed in the Bylaws of the SGA of Williams Baptist College.

### **Section 3. Vacant Senate Seats**

1. On completion of the Spring elections, if there are any seats vacant, the rest of the elected SGA shall appoint a qualified representative of the respective gender by a simple majority vote.
2. Upon a vacancy occurring in any executive office, a special election may be held to fill that vacancy at the discretion of the voting membership of the SGA. Persons elected in special elections shall serve until the next regularly scheduled election for that office.

#### **Section 4. Recall Elections**

Any elected person serving under the provisions of this Constitution shall be subject to an automatic recall election upon presentation of a petition bearing 30 signatures of the appropriate constituency specified in the Bylaws of the SGA of Williams Baptist College.

1. The petition must be submitted to the SGA President, or if the office of President is in question, to any member of the Executive Committee.
2. After receipt of the petition by the appropriate official, a recall election must be held in a timely manner.
3. The election shall be conducted by recounting the ballots as if it were a regular post-election procedure for that office. The member in question shall be a candidate by right, and shall continue until the election results are certified by the Elections Committee.

### **ARTICLE V. Ratification and Amendment**

#### **Section 1. Student Government Association Initiated Amendments**

Any member of the SGA may propose amendments to this Constitution. The proposed amendment will then be voted on by the SGA. If two-thirds (2/3) of the total voting membership of the SGA favor the amendment, it must be submitted to the Students for approval or disapproval at this same meeting. This does not mean an election will be held; but making an open forum procedure for ratification. A vote will be taken at this forum involving any present students and the decision found here will be enforced.

#### **Section 2. Permanent Copy**

Such amendments shall be attached to the permanent copy of this Constitution preserved in the records of the SGA.

#### **Section 3. Deletion and Substitution**

Amendments by deletion and substitution are allowed.