

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION
OF ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY



TRADITION. INNOVATION. EXCELLENCE.

By the Students of Rogers State University.

This Constitution is dedicated to the students, past, present, and future, of Rogers State University.
We leave our future into your hands.

We give our thanks to Katie Anderson, Jeana Rae Conn, and John Carle in RSU Student Affairs for helping the RSU SGA Executive Committee of 2023 draft this Constitution, as well as Jake Brillhart for the inspiration he gave us in our writing and artwork.

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We also thank the SGA Executive Committee of 2024, with Brysen Morgan, Tristan Kersker, Tyler Shelby, and Kelly Coleman finishing their work.

Fiat iūstitia ruat cælum
Let justice be done though the heavens fall.

This version of the Constitution is best read on computer or through Print View on mobile devices.
An accessible version of this Constitution is available through RSU Student Affairs or by contacting the RSU Student Government Association.

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NOT RATIFIED (X - DRAFT)

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Rogers State University, hereby establish the Rogers State University Student Government Association in order

- (1) to form a better college campus environment at Rogers State University,
- (2) to provide representation for the entire student body of Rogers State University, including undergraduate students, students that take classes in Bartlesville and Pryor, RSU Online students, concurrent students, and graduate students,
- (3) to provide a network of communication among and between the students, student organizations, faculty, and administration throughout RSU,
- (4) to serve as the body responsible for the coordination of student action on campus issues that affect RSUs student body,
- (5) to foster the recognition of the rights and responsibilities of the student to the school, the community, and humanity,
- (6) to maintain academic freedom, academic responsibility, and student rights,
- (7) to improve student cultural, social and physical welfare,
- (8) to promote the improvement of better educational standards, facilities and teaching methods, and
- (9) to serve as a platform and to provide a voice for the expression of student views and interests...

hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the Rogers State University Student Government Association.

ARTICLE I: Name, Membership, and Status

SECTION 1: The name of this organization shall be called the Rogers State University Student Government Association (hereinafter "SGA").

SECTION 2: Every enrolled student at Rogers State University is a member of the SGA.

- (1) Students classified as undergraduate students may participate in all levels of government except where explicitly stated otherwise in this Constitution.
- (2) Students classified as graduate students may participate in all levels of government except where explicitly stated otherwise in this Constitution.

(3) Students classified as auditors or concurrent students may participate in all levels of government except where explicitly stated otherwise in this Constitution.

SECTION 3: No person shall, on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, status as veteran of the military, or such other factors that cannot be considered lawfully to the extent specified by federal or state law, be excluded from participation in the organization, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination by it under any program or activity within the SGA.

ARTICLE II: Legislative Branch

SECTION 1: All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Student Senate and House of Representatives of the Rogers State University SGA.

SECTION 2: The Student Senate shall have the power

1. To draft and act upon legislation of Senate committees or members;
2. To discuss and debate matters of concern to the Rogers State University community and to issue statements of student opinions on those matters;
3. To hear and act upon any student grievances;
4. To amend the Senate Bylaws to this Constitution by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate;
5. To, by process of law, establish or abolish committees to be administered under the direction of the SGA Executive Branch;
6. To, by process of law, establish or abolish any SGA positions not specifically defined by this Constitution;
7. To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution of the SGA.

SECTION 3: The Student Senate shall

1. Hold open meetings as needed, which shall be at least once every full month of classes during the Fall and Spring semesters;
2. Be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of the Senate shall constitute a quorum to conduct business;
3. Establish those rules for itself that are necessary for its proper and orderly conduct of its business;
4. Direct and supervise all SGA elections;
5. Establish a set of Bylaws of the Senate to this Constitution each school year by a two-thirds vote of the Senate;
6. Elect a Speaker of the Student Senate each school year to chair the Legislative Branch and its meetings.

SECTION 4: Composition of the Student Senate

- A. The Student Senate shall be composed of:
 - 1. Up to two (2) senators from each Academic Department or School under the College of Arts & Sciences, and the College of Professional Studies at Rogers State University, and
 - 2. Up to two (2) senators from the Pryor and Bartlesville campuses, and
 - 3. Up to two (2) senators representing both Undecided majors and Freshman students, and
 - 4. Up to five (5) at-large senator seats that can be granted at the discretion of the Student Senate, one of which is held by the Speaker of the Senate.
- B. A student must be a student of the Department, School, major, or campus they are representing in the Student Senate, unless prior approval is given by the Department, School, major, or campus they wish to represent.
- C. When vacancies happen in the Student Senate, the Executive Branch may appoint interim senators to fill these vacancies for a one semester term, unless the Student Senate votes to reject the interim appointee.
- D. At no time shall any member of the SGA Executive Branch be considered a Senator, except for the Speaker of the Student Senate, who fills an at-large senator seat if they do not already hold one.

SECTION 5: Officers of the Senate

- A. The chair of the Student Senate and its meetings shall be the Speaker of the Student Senate, who is elected by the Student Senate for a term of one (1) academic year at the beginning of each academic year.
- B. The Speaker of the Student Senate shall be in charge of
 - 1. Serving as the chair of the meetings of the Senate;
 - 2. Making and sending out the agenda of the Senate for every meeting at least 48 hours in advance;
 - 3. Making any announcements concerning actions taken or recommendations proposed by the university administration pertaining to legislation.
 - 4. Maintaining the sign-in sheet for non-Senators in attendance of Senate meetings.
- C. The Student Senate may create and appoint any other officer positions of the Senate not defined in this Constitution.

- SECTION 6: The House of Representatives shall have the power
- A. To review any and all bills and funds request to do with funding its members;
 - B. To amend the House Bylaws to this Constitution by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate;
 - C. To aid and/or assist any campus organizations and/or programs;
 - D. To review disciplinary problems of its members and of campus organizations, and to invoke proper disciplinary actions or policies thereto related;

- SECTION 7: The House of Representatives shall
- A. Hold open meetings as needed, which shall be at least once every full month of classes during the Fall and Spring semesters;
 - B. Be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of the House shall constitute a quorum to conduct business;
 - C. Establish those rules for itself that are necessary for its proper and orderly conduct of its business;
 - D. Establish a set of Bylaws of the House to this Constitution each school year by a two-thirds vote of the Senate;

- SECTION 8: Composition of the House of Representatives
- A. The House of Representatives shall be composed of up to two (2) representatives representing each active, registered student organization (RSO) with the Student Government Association.
 - B. Members of the Senate or the Executive Branch shall not be considered members of the House of Representatives.

- SECTION 9: Officers of the House
- A. The House of Representatives may create and appoint any other officer positions of the House not defined in this Constitution.
 - B. The chair of the House of Representatives and its meetings shall be assigned in the Bylaws of the House.

- SECTION 10: Congress Sessions and Legislation
- A. Any student, Registered Student Organization, Senator, member of the Executive Branch, or Staff or Faculty member at Rogers State University may present resolutions or legislation before the Student Senate or the House of Representatives.

- B. Resolutions, funds requests, and legislation must be inspected by a Committee assigned by the Executive Branch before appearing before the House of Representatives or the Student Senate. The Student Senate and House of Representatives may decide what decisions or recommendations the Executive Committee can make and its effect on the legislation in its Bylaws. An author may appeal the recommendation or decision of the Committee, whereupon it shall be submitted to Rogers State University's Department of Student Affairs, who shall either maintain the recommendation or veto it, treating it as no recommendation.
- C. All meetings of the Student Senate and Executive Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Any deviations from these rules must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE III: Executive Branch

SECTION 1: The Executive Committee

- A. The executive power of the Rogers State University SGA shall be vested in an Executive Committee (henceforth EC), consisting of
 1. a President, who chairs the Executive Committee and leads the administrative functions of the SGA; and
 2. a Vice President, who assists the President in the execution of their duties, and serves in the absence of the President in any and all administrative functions; and
 3. a Community Liaison, who shall be responsible for reminding the student body about SGA events and meetings, as well as advertising for SGA events and student organizations; and
 4. an Executive Assistant, who shall be responsible for assisting the Executive Committee and its President in their duties; and
 5. the chair of the House of Representatives if they are not already a member of the Executive Committee; and
 6. and the Speaker of the Student Senate.
- B. The EC shall convene for weekly meetings throughout the academic year, or more frequently if it is deemed necessary by the EC.
- C. Members of the EC must attend eighty-five percent of all EC meetings and Senate meetings, and shall not miss more than two (2) consecutive meetings of the EC or the Senate, or their office shall be forfeited, unless their absence is excused by the SGA President.

SECTION 2: Special Committees

- A. The EC shall have the authority to establish special committees as needed to address specific issues, initiatives, or needs within the SGA.
- B. Special committees created by the EC shall operate under guidelines established by the EC, including the scope of their authority, duration, and membership criteria.
- C. The EC reserves the right to dissolve any Executive Branch special committee at any time.

SECTION 3:

The President of the SGA EC shall:

- 1. Preside over all meetings of the Executive Branch, and exercise the power to call meetings; and
- 2. Oversee the execution of the statutes enacted by the Student Senate; and
- 3. Recommend for removal, to the Student Senate, any person they have the power to appoint; the person shall be removed with a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate; and
- 4. Be a non-voting, ex-officio member of all boards, councils, committees, and commissions of the Student Government Association; and
- 5. Have the power to create ad hoc committees provided that they notify the Student Senate and the Speaker of the Student Senate of their formation; and
- 6. Have veto power for all legislation passed through the Student Senate with less than two thirds approval from the Student Senate.

SECTION 4:

The Vice President of the SGA EC shall be responsible for assisting the President in the execution of their duties, and be able to serve in the absence of the President in any and all administrative functions. In the case of the absence of the President, the Vice President will assume all the responsibilities of the Presidency. In the case of a vacancy in the position of the Presidency, the Vice President shall assume the position.

ARTICLE IV: Elections

SECTION 1:

Election Procedures of the SGA

- A. The Executive Branch's election of the SGA President, Vice President, Executive Assistant, and Community Liaison shall take place five (5) weeks prior to Finals Week in the Spring semester of each school year.

- B. Elections shall be open for four (4) consecutive academic days (Monday through Thursday) online, and notification of the start of the election period shall be given by the Office of Student Affairs via student email.
- C. In the event of a tie in any election, a runoff election shall be held between the tied candidates within one week of the initial election. If the tie persists, the Student Congress shall convene to decide the winner by a majority vote.
- D. Should a position within the SGA Executive Branch or Legislative Branch become vacant, the Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint an interim officer or senator. This appointment must be confirmed by a simple majority vote of the Student Senate in the next meeting of the Student Senate. If the appointment is not confirmed, a special election shall be held within one month to fill the vacancy.

SECTION 2: Campaign Materials

- A. Any and all campaign materials and their distribution must comply with the policies and procedures that are set by the Student Organization Handbook of Rogers State University. They will be considered the responsibility of the candidate whom they endorse, and should be removed by the candidate after the closing of the campaigning period.
- B. Any candidate who alters, destroys, or otherwise defaces the campaign materials of another candidate shall be subject to a referral to the Rogers State University Vice President of Student Affairs or a representative appointed by the Vice President. The Vice President of Student Affairs may disqualify the candidate or provide other forms of mediation at their discretion.

SECTION 3: Campaigning Rights

- A. This title shall not be construed as restricting the rights of students or individuals under 70 O.S. § 2120.
- B. Persons not under the direction of a candidate may still engage in “any lawful verbal, written, audio-visual or electronic means by which individuals may communicate ideas to one another, including all forms of peaceful assembly, protests, speeches and guest speakers, distribution of literature, carrying signs and circulating petitions.” This shall occur in “the outdoor areas of campus” which are considered “public forums for the campus community.”

- C. This shall not prevent Rogers State University, its employees, officers, or volunteers from enforcing reasonable time, place and manner restrictions as duly established by the institution or its governing board.
- D. In support of the legislative intent 70 O.S. § 2120, the Rogers State University SGA supports the Chicago Statement, prepared by the University of Chicago Committee on Freedom of Expression, as it relates to student expressive activity and behavior.

ARTICLE V: Recall & Initiative Petitions

SECTION 1: Recall Petitions

- A. The Rogers State University student body shall have the power to recall any elected officer serving under this Constitution. The petition to recall shall not be valid unless it is signed by a number of students equal to over fifty (50) percent of the number of votes cast for that office.
- B. After receiving the number of signatures required to become a valid petition, the petition shall be delivered to the Rogers State University Department of Student Affairs. The officer or senator named in the petition shall be notified, and an impartial third party as designated by Rogers State University Student Affairs or the President's Cabinet shall declare the petition valid or invalid based upon the validity of the signatures contained in the petition and the validity of the charges against the officer.
- C. Should the petition be declared valid, the officer or senator declared in the petition shall be suspended from their active office. An emergency election shall then be declared, with applications for office remaining open for a minimum of 7 (seven) days before ballots are opened.

SECTION 3: Initiative Petitions

- A. The Rogers State University student body shall have the right to initiate any act within the power of the Legislative and Executive Branches, and to amend the SGA Constitution, through a valid petition.
- B. An initiative petition shall not be valid unless it contains the signatures of at least thirty-five (35) students enrolled at Rogers State University. The Speaker of the Student Senate shall determine the validity of the petition, and shall have the authority to consult the Registrar's Office for verification of the enrollment status of students listed on the petition. Appeal of the Speaker's decision can be made to Rogers State University Student Affairs.

- C. The SGA shall schedule a public vote on the issue in not less than five (5) or more than fifteen (15) days after the Speaker of the Student Senate has determined the validity of the petition. Public notice of such a vote shall be given to the student body not less than four (4) days before it shall take place.

Article VI: Registered Students Organizations

SECTION 1: Registered Student Organizations

- A. Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) are student organizations registered with the Department of Student Affairs. Any and all RSOs wishing to be recognized by and to become voting members of the SGA shall submit any required forms to the Office of Student Affairs, and shall be heard by the Student Senate for a vote on acceptance.
- B. To be recognized as a RSO affiliated with the Student Senate, the RSO must be inspected by the Executive Committee to confirm they meet approval guidelines, be accepted by the Student Senate, and must have a minimum of five (5) members. All members of a recognized RSO must be a Rogers State University student.
- C. It is the responsibility of the RSO that they provide their organizations contact information to the SGA in a timely manner each academic year in order to remain registered, as well as when this contact information changes (i.e. new President, new Advisor, new Officers). It is also the responsibility of the RSO to ensure that they meet the requirements to remain an active RSO as determined by the SGA Constitution, the SGA Statutes & Bylaws, and Rogers State University Student Affairs.
- D. Any RSO that is deemed to be in unfavorable status shall be prohibited from requesting any discretionary funds or participating in SGA business. In order to restore favorable status, a representative of the RSO must resolve whatever issue has placed them in unfavorable status and have a resolution approved (or other means if deemed permissible by the Statutes & Bylaws) by the Student Senate that places them back into good standing with the SGA.

ARTICLE VII: Constitutional Adoption & Amendments

SECTION 1: Upon adoption of this document by the Rogers State University SGA Student

Congress, it shall be presented to the full student body for its approval. The procedure shall be as follows:

- A. The document shall be made available to the student body for inspection and study.
- B. Announcements shall be made allowing the student body to know of the updates to the Constitution.
- C. On a set date with student body notification prior, an election shall commence for the ratification of the proposed Constitution.

SECTION 2: Once the proposal receives a simple majority vote of approval from the student body votes cast in the election on which the proposed Constitutional change is balloted, it shall be considered law seven (7) days after the results have been certified and sealed. Furthermore, upon passage and approval of this document any and all previous constitutions shall be considered null and void.

SECTION 3: The office holders of any Executive positions that are removed by the adoption of this constitution or any subsequent amendments to this constitution shall be given at-large Senate seats that will last the duration of the term they are currently serving.

SECTION 4: Any Constitutional Amendments proposed by the SGA shall take the form of a bill, as defined in the Rogers State University SGA Statutes and Bylaws. Bills regarding Constitutional Amendments shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of approval from Student Senate, the House of Representatives, and a simple majority of ballots cast by the student body in a ballot election as described in the SGA Statutes and Bylaws.

SECTION 5: Constitutional Amendments taking place by petition of the student body that is approved through public election shall be considered a proper amendment of the constitution and should be submitted in full to the SGA to be put into this constitution.

SECTION 6: Typographical, grammatical, and formatting errors in the SGA Constitution shall be amended through amendments to the SGA Constitution or Statutes & Bylaws passed by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate, and shall be considered ratified and valid to all intents and purposes upon enactment of the legislation, provided that these corrections do not alter the substantive meaning or intent of the Constitution's wording.



RSU Student Government Association
1701 West Will Rogers Boulevard
Claremore, OK 74017
www.rsu.edu/sga

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