

Student Association of Covenant College

Constitution



Fall 2018

SACC Constitution

Constitution of the Student Association of Covenant College,

Lookout Mountain, Georgia

Preamble - We the Student Association of Covenant College, in order to ensure activity which is congruent with the mission of the College, to facilitate the success of SACC organizations, and to perpetuate the correct processes by which SACC and its members operate, establish this Constitution as a guiding and binding document for the leaders and members of the Association.

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Association of Covenant College.

Article II – Membership

All full-time students, and part-time students paying the student activity fee, enrolled in the traditional, on-campus education program of Covenant College, are members of this Association and have full voting privileges.

Article III – Government of the Student Association

Section 1: Government

Government of the Association shall be fulfilled by the Student Senate.

Section 2: Authority

The Student Senate derives its governing authority from, and is accountable to, the Board of Trustees of Covenant College, and is therefore also responsible to the appointed administrators of the Board of Trustees.

As elected officials, each senator derives his or her representative authority from, and is responsible to, the Student Association.

The Student Association derives its authority of election, petition, and impeachment from the Board of Trustees.

Article IV – Student Senate

Section 1: Purpose

To ensure that students have an active voice in campus issues, problems, and student rights. The Senate shall provide leadership and direction in the planning and implementation of

activities which promote spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth. In all of its functions, Student Senate will strive to recognize Christ's preeminence.

Section 2: Composition

The Senate shall consist of the following 14 members: president, vice-president, communications director, treasurer, the director of the Campus Activities Board, one representative from each of the four classes, one representative from each of the residence halls, and one representative from the student apartments.

Section 3: Advisors

The Dean of Students, or a representative appointed by the Dean of Students, and one faculty member appointed by the Student Senate shall function as advisors to the Senate.

Section 4: Meetings

All official meetings of the Senate will be open to members of the Student Association and College faculty and administration.

The time, place, and agenda of all official Senate meetings will be posted on the Senate bulletin board at least twenty-four hours in advance of meetings.

Article V – Qualifications for Holding Office

- A. Each candidate for a Senate position will be a full-time student when petitioning for office, and will remain a full-time student throughout his or her term of office.
- B. Candidates for every position except Freshman Class President will have completed at least fifteen credit hours at Covenant College at the time of petitioning.
- C. No person petitioning for or holding office shall be on academic probation or under formal discipline.
- D. Each candidate for a class president position will be a member of the class he or she represents.
- E. Each candidate for a residence hall president position will be a member of the residence he or she represents.

Article VI – Impeachment of Senators

Section 1: Grounds for Impeachment

Any Senator may be impeached for gross negligence in the performance of his or her duties.

Section 2: Initiation of Impeachment Proceedings

Impeachment proceedings may be initiated by submitting to the Senate a petition stating specific complaints and bearing the signatures of 15% of the members of the Student Association. The Senate will hold a public hearing on these charges within five working days of receipt of the petition.

Section 3: Procedure for Impeachment Trial

The trial will be held by the Student Senate within ten working days of receipt of petition. The meeting will be recorded and the file entrusted to the Dean of Students until the end of the academic year at which time it will be destroyed. A time limitation will be set by the president or the vice-president if the president is under impeachment, for each side to present its evidence. At the conclusion of arguments and discussion, a conviction vote will be taken. Conviction requires a 2/3 vote of the Senate. All trial proceedings will be closed, with the exception of trial participants and the Dean of Students or his or her designee.

Section 4: Reversal of Impeachment Conviction

The dismissed senators may be reinstated by a 2/3 vote of the Senate.

Article VII – Student Association Bylaws

Section 1: Purpose of Bylaws

The Student Association Bylaws exist separately from the Student Association Constitution as an operational manual for the Senate.

Section 2: Procedures for Amendments

Changes to the Student Association Bylaws may be initiated by any member of the Student Senate. To be enacted, the change shall require a minimum of 2/3 vote of all members of the Student Senate.

Section 3: Procedures for Suspension

Bylaws may be temporarily suspended in the event of extenuating circumstances. To be enacted, this temporary change requires a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate.

Article VIII – Amendments of Articles

Section 1: Procedures for Initiation

Amendments of these articles may be initiated by any member of the Covenant College Student Association, to be presented to the Senate as official business.

Section 2: Procedures for Proposal

To become a proposed amendment, the initiated amendment shall require a 2/3 vote of all members of the Senate or 15% of the Student Association.

Section 3: Procedures for Voting

A proposed amendment must be submitted to the Student Senate for placement on a referendum ballot or on the ballot of the next regular election. To be enacted, the proposal must receive a simple majority of the valid votes cast by no less than one-half of the Association's membership.

Section 4: Non-substantive changes

The articles may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the Student Senate only if the changes are non-substantive in nature (i.e. they do not alter the ethos of these guidelines). Such amendments may include changes such as updating language to reflect current technology or practices.

Article IX – Ratification

This constitution shall go into effect immediately following its approval by a majority of those students voting at the appointed election.

Ratified: March 22nd, 2018