

LINDSEY WILSON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The official name of this organization shall be the Lindsey Wilson Student Government Association; hereafter referred to as Lindsey Wilson SGA.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to serve as the supreme representative organization of the student body in order to provide a channel between administration, local community, and the student body for the clear expression of student concerns and opinions; to ensure productive student control over student affairs; to set an example for all Lindsey Wilson students, and to promote the mission of Lindsey Wilson.

ARTICLE 3. AUTHORITY

The Lindsey Wilson SGA Constitution shall be the supreme authority and guiding force for this organization.

ARTICLE 4. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. The power to represent the student body of Lindsey Wilson.

Section 2. The power to allocate SGA funds.

Section 3. The power to choose an advisor(s) for SGA.

Section 4. The power to regulate student body elections.

Section 5. The power to represent the student body on faculty governance committees.

Section 6. The power to sponsor activities as an advising body to clubs/organizations.

Section 7. The responsibility to evaluate faculty, staff, and administration in order to improve the aforementioned.

Section 8. The power to assist clubs/organizations recognized by SGA in fundraising.

ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP OF LINDSEY WILSON SGA

Section 1. The Executive Cabinet.

- A. The Executive Cabinet shall consist of a President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Treasurer, and Director of Campus Outreach.
- B. All Executive Cabinet members must have at least a Sophomore standing according to the guidelines established by the Registrar's Office of

Lindsey Wilson. The Student Government President must have a Junior standing or higher during the term they are elected to serve.

- C. The President and Vice President must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- D. Additional Executive Cabinet members must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75.

Section 2. The Senate.

- A. The Senate shall consist of the Executive Cabinet, twelve (12) Senators-at-Large, five (5) Commuter Representatives, four (4) Class Presidents, and four (4) Class Vice Presidents
- B. All Senate members may only represent one party recognized by SGA.
- C. Each Senate member must be enrolled as a full-time student according to the guidelines as established by the Registrar's Office of LW.
- D. Class Officers must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.70
- E. Remaining Senate members must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5

Section 3. The SGA Advisor(s) shall be defined in Article 12.

ARTICLE 6. EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER DUTIES

Section 1. President of SGA shall:

- A. Be elected head of the student body and represent all students,
- B. Preside over the SGA Senate meetings,
- C. Appoint and have discretionary power over all committees and the Executive Cabinet for his/her academic term,
- D. Be a voting member of the Board of Trustees,
- E. Serve as a member of the Academic Affairs Council,
- F. Supervise organization's finances, records, and programs,
- G. Have line-item veto power over bills passed by the Senate,
- H. Propose an operating budget for the following fiscal year to the Lindsey Wilson Administration,
- I. Preside as Chairperson over the Constitution Committee,
- J. Have the right to dismiss any Executive Cabinet member upon discussion with the Vice President,
- K. Not hold any official position within a club/organization recognized by SGA,
- L. Have power to create, appoint, and dissolve temporary committees,
- M. Uphold the SGA Constitution.

Section 2. Vice President of SGA shall:

- A. Assume the duties of the President in his/her absence or in the event that he/she resigns or is removed,
- B. Preside as Chairperson over the Elections Committee,
- C. See all Lindsey Wilson student concerns are monitored and presented to the Senate,
- D. Communicate directly with the administration and staff to discuss student concerns.

Section 3. Chief of Staff of SGA shall:

- A. Oversee SGA's records, agendas, minutes, and correspond with all relevant parties about meeting details,

- B. Monitor the activities of all SGA clubs/organizations,
- C. Serve as a spokesperson for all clubs/organizations to the SGA President,
- D. Reside on the Appropriations Committee.

Section 4. Treasurer of SGA shall:

- A. Oversee monetary records pertaining to all transactions and assets belonging to SGA,
- B. Preside as Chairperson over the Appropriations Committee,
- C. Present an updated budget report of the SGA accounts at each Senate meeting,
- D. Have power to allocate SGA funds.

Section 5. Director of Campus Outreach shall:

- A. Serve as Chairperson on the Event Committee,
- B. Coordinate social events with the purpose of involving all students in SGA activities,
- C. Inform the institution and surrounding communities of all SGA activities and events through the frequent use of all available media.

ARTICLE 7. SENATORS-AT-LARGE AND COMMUTER REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. Senators-at-Large.

- A. Senators-at-Large shall represent the student body.
- B. In the event of a vacancy, the SGA President shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy with a majority vote of the Senate.

Section 2. Commuter Representatives.

- A. The student body shall elect five (5) Commuter Representatives.
- B. Commuter Representatives shall serve as Senate members to provide a voice for commuter concerns.
- C. A minimum of one Commuter Representative shall serve as member of the Appropriations Committee.
- D. In the event of a vacancy, the SGA President shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy with a majority vote of the Senate.

ARTICLE 8. CLASS PRESIDENTS AND CLASS VICE PRESIDENTS

Section 1a. Each Class President and Class Vice President shall preside for one full scholastic year and shall only serve the class in which he/she has present standing.

Section 1b. If a candidate has more/less hours than class standing, eligibility is determined by the Elections Committee.

Section 2. Class Presidents and Class Vice Presidents each have full voting rights and privileges as part of the Senate.

Section 3. Class Presidents and Class Vice Presidents must sponsor a minimum of one event per semester. This event must be at least extended to the entire represented class.

Section 4. In the event the Class President and Class Vice President fail to sponsor the minimum activity required by the Constitution, the Class President shall be placed on a three week probation period. If the activity is not completed within the Class President's probationary period, the Class President shall be removed from SGA.

ARTICLE 9. CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. In order for any club/organization to be nominated for Club of The Year they must be active and in good standing with SGA.

- A. Good Standing is defined as the club/organization has not been placed on probation during the academic year.
- B. Active is defined as having at minimum one(1) meeting/event per semester and actively participating with campus and/or community.
- C. Clubs must inform the Chief of Staff at least three(3) weeks prior to the event/meeting.
- D. A report must be submitted to the Chief of Staff a week before Winter Graduation. This report shall consist of: how many active members, list of events done in Fall and at least 1 planned event for the Spring.
- E. A report must be submitted to the Chief of Staff a week before Winter Graduation. This report shall consist of: how many active members, list of events done in Spring, and who will be the upcoming President/VP
- F. Failure to apply with the Public Language clause in the Student Handbook's Code of Conduct will result in the club being placed on probation. Further incidents will cause grounds for removal of the club from SGA.
- G. Failure to comply with Article 9, Section 1, D and E shall result in the club being placed on probation.

ARTICLE 10. VOTING

Section 1. All members recognized by the Constitution, with the exception of the SGA President and Advisor(s), shall be allowed to cast one (1) vote. The President shall be allowed to vote only in the event of a tie or in the event he/she wishes to create a tie.

Section 2. In the event of a tie, the issue is considered dead.

Section 3. A Presidential veto can be overturned by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate during a subsequent meeting.

ARTICLE 11. ELECTIONS

Section 1. Election Governance.

- A. Elections will be governed by the Chairperson and members of the Elections Committee.
- B. All candidates seeking elections to an SGA office must submit the official paperwork declaring candidacy to the Chairperson of the Elections Committee.
- C. All candidates seeking an office in SGA must submit a list of tentative Cabinet members to the Chair of the Elections Committee no later than the Friday before voting starts. Students may be listed on multiple slates if they so choose.
- D. The Elections Committee has the power to place voting booths on campus at locations of their choice.
- E. All votes shall be made by secret ballot.
- F. Each voter shall cast only one (1) vote.

- G. Guidelines and restrictions will be set forth by the incumbent cabinet and given to each candidate.
- H. Violation of the aforementioned procedures may result in an invalid election, wherein another election for the contested position(s) may be held with the same slate one week later.

Section 2. Schedules of Elections.

- A. Elections for the SGA President and Vice President, Senior Class Officers, Junior Class Officers, Sophomore Class officers, and half the allocated positions for Senators-At-Large shall be held in the spring semester during the week of spring formal or no later than three (3) weeks prior to graduation.
- B. Half of the allocated positions for Senators-at-Large, Freshman Class Officers, and Commuter Representatives shall be elected no more than three (3) weeks into the fall semester.

Section 3. Contesting Elections.

- A. Any candidate requesting a recount of his/her respective election must notify a member of the Elections Committee within twenty-four (24) hours following the official announcement of the results.
- B. Any student requesting to make a complaint about an election must submit a written complaint to the Elections Committee within forty-eight (48) hours following the official announcement of the results for that election. The Elections Committee then shall determine the validity of the complaint, acting according to Article 11, Section 1, Letter I.

Section 4. Tied Elections.

- A. In the case of a tied election, there will be a Special Election planned within one week of the release of the original results.
- B. Election rules will be dictated by the Election Committee and Election Committee Chair.

ARTICLE 12. ADVISOR(S)

Section 1. Advisor(s) of SGA shall:

- A. Be established at the first Senate meeting of each scholastic year by a two-thirds (2/3) vote,
- B. Be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate at any time a vote is called,
- C. Be required to counsel SGA and serve as spokesperson to the administration, when appropriate.

ARTICLE 13. THE SUPREME COURT

Section 1. Purpose.

- A. The purpose of the Lindsey Wilson Supreme Court is to settle controversies between two or more Senators, between two Clubs or Organizations, between Senators and a Club or Organization, and between Students and Clubs or Organizations. In the event of a petition, The Supreme Court will be enacted and governed according to Article 13, Section 2 through 7 of the constitution.

Section 2. Membership.

- A. The Supreme Court shall consist of six (6) Associate Justices and one (1) Chief Justice.
- B. The SGA President shall nominate capable persons from the student body to serve as Justices on the Supreme Court.
- C. Nominees must have at least a sophomore standing according to the guidelines established by the Registrar.
- D. The Senate must approve the nomination of a Justice by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- E. The Chief Justice is appointed by the SGA President and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote from the Senate.

Section 3. Terms and Qualifications.

- A. Justices must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 and full-time student status according to the guidelines established by the Registrar's Office.
- B. Justices may serve as members or officers of other organizations. A Justice must recuse himself/herself from participation in a case that presents conflict. Membership in a club that has been brought before the Supreme Court presents such a conflict.
- C. Justices may not hold another position in SGA.

Section 4. Petitions.

- A. Petitioning groups must appoint one student as acting attorney for their case.
- B. Attorneys must file the proper forms and briefs with SGA's Chief of Staff, who in turn gives the forms to the Chief Justice.
- C. Upon receiving the proper forms and briefs, the Chief of Staff shall distribute all forms to all affected parties.
- D. The Supreme Court shall review the petitioning documents. A case is only heard if the Supreme Court deems it necessary. The Supreme Court must obtain a majority vote in favor of hearing a case.
- E. Populous vote must be obtained to constitute a valid decision.

Section 5. Hearings.

- A. The time and place of the hearing is held at the discretion of the Chief Justice.
- B. The time and place of the hearing must be publicly announced one (1) week prior to the hearing.
- C. A Supreme Court hearing is open to the public at the discretion of the Justices.
- D. The plaintiff(s) are given fifteen (15) minutes to plead their case before the Supreme Court. At any time a Justice may interject with a question pertaining to the case.
- E. The defendant(s) are given fifteen (15) minutes to plead their case before the Supreme Court. At any time a Justice may interject with a question pertaining to the case.
- F. Each party is given a five (5) minute rebuttal.
- G. The Chief of Staff will function as official timekeeper and record the minutes for the hearing.
- H. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall appoint a capable student as official timekeeper and record the minutes in the absence of the Chief of Staff.
- I. The Justices will then recess for the day and shall deliver their decision in writing to all affected parties when a decision is reached.
- J. A Populous vote must be obtained to constitute a valid decision.

Section 6. Quorums.

- A. Three members of the Supreme Court constitute a quorum.
- B. In the absence of a quorum a Justice may announce that the Court will not meet until there is a quorum.
- C. If a Justice must rescue his/her self from participation in a case due to a conflict of interest, the Chief Justice shall appoint a Senator-at-Large to serve as a substitute Justice.
- D. If all Senators-at-Large possess conflict with the case, as described in Article 13, Section 2, Letter C, the Chief Justice shall appoint a member of the Senate to act as substitute Justice.
- E. If a Chief Justice must rescue his/her self from participation in a case due to a conflict of interest, the Associate Justices shall appoint a temporary Chief Justice.

Section 7. Removal.

- A. The Supreme Court has the right to remove any member of the Senate given a petition is presented calling for removal.
- B. A valid petition calling for removal requires seventy-five (75) percent of the Senate members' signatures.

ARTICLE 14. ATTENDANCE

Section 1. Absences.

- A. All members of SGA are required to attend all Senate meetings.
- B. All SGA Committee members are required to attend all committee meetings. Committee members displaying recurring absences are subject to immediate committee dismissal by the respective committee's Chairperson or the SGA President.
- C. A Senate member is allowed three (3) unexcused absences and two (2) excused absences per academic calendar year.
- D. An absence is defined as excused at the discretion of the Executive Cabinet with at least a twelve (12) hour notice given to an Executive Cabinet member.
- E. Documentation must be submitted to the Chief of Staff at least one week following the absence.
- F. Senate and committee members found in violation of attendance policies will be subject to the process of probation as described in Article 6, Section 2, By-Laws.

ARTICLE 15. INSTALLMENT

Section 1. Senate members shall recite the following oath upon their first Senate meeting:

“I, (state name), do solemnly swear to perform my duties as (state position) to the best of my abilities, and to faithfully follow the guidelines set forth by the Constitution of the Lindsey Wilson Student Government Association.”

Section 2. SGA Officers-elect and Class Officers-elect shall assume office after the last SGA Senate meeting of the year in which they were elected. Freshman Class Officers-elect shall assume office in the fall semester immediately following their recitation of the oath listed in Article 15 Section 1.

Section 3. Senators-at-Large-elect, and Commuter Representatives-elect, shall assume office immediately following their recitation of the oath listed in Article 15, Section 1.

ARTICLE 16. RESIGNATION/REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 1. An SGA member is subject to the process of probation as described in Article 6, Section 2, By-Laws, and therefore susceptible to possible dismissal for the following events:

- A. Not abiding by the policies of attendance as found in Article 14, Section 1.
- B. Evidence of neglect, as described in Article 16 Section 2, is found by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate,
- C. GPA falls below the requirements as stated in Article 5, Section 2, Letter D, and pertaining to all executive cabinet members including SGA President and Vice President as stated in Article 5, Section 1, Letters C and D. Executive Cabinet members must remain in good standing according to Academic Affairs standards and are in compliance with the student code of conduct.
- D. In the event full-time status of an SGA member should drop below the required standard as stated in Article 5 Section 2 Letter C, that member shall appear before the Supreme Court for review of circumstance.

Section 2. Neglect shall be defined as:

- A. Improper conduct by any Senate member as defined by the Student Handbook,
- B. Failure to fulfill duties.

Section 3. Resignation.

- A. If any Senate member decides to resign, he/she must submit a written letter of resignation including cause for resignation to the Chief of Staff.
- B. The letter shall be reviewed in private by the SGA President and Vice President.
- C. The SGA President and Vice President shall attempt to rectify any grievances in the resignation letter.

Section 4. Removal from office.

- A. In the event that serious offenses have occurred the Senate has the authority to not place a member on Probation but Remove the Senate member for serious causes which include:
 - a. Misappropriation of Student Government Association funds
 - b. Conduct unbecoming of a Student Government Member
 - c. Complete disregard for respective roles and responsibilities

ARTICLE 17. SUCCESSION TO OFFICE

Section 1. In the event of resignation or removal of a Class President, the respective Vice President will be promoted immediately. Upon promotion, the SGA President has the obligation to appoint a new Class Vice President.

Section 2. Order of Executive Cabinet Succession.

- A. In the event of resignation/removal of the SGA President, the Vice President will be promoted immediately.
- B. In the event of resignation/removal of an Executive Cabinet member, the SGA President shall appoint a new Cabinet member.

ARTICLE 18. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Appropriations Committee.

- A. The Appropriations Committee shall consist of three (3) elected Senators-at Large, one (1) elected Commuter Representative, the Chief of Staff, and the Treasurer as acting Chairperson.
- B. The Appropriations Committee will make recommendations regarding the allocation of funds from the Clubs/Organizations portion of the SGA budget.
- C. The allocation process shall be defined by the Treasurer and executed by the Appropriations Committee.
- D. Members of the Appropriations Committee must rescue themselves in the event of a conflict of interest. Membership in the club/organization constitutes a conflict of interest.
- E. The recommendation for allocation from the Appropriations Committee shall be called for a vote before the Senate at the next Senate meeting.
- F. The recommendation shall be either approved or rejected by a majority vote of the Senate. If not approved, the application for funds shall be sent back to the Appropriations Committee for further recommendation.
- G. All receipts from allocated funds must be submitted for review by the Treasurer.
- H. Any impropriety of the aforementioned allocated funds results in review by the Appropriations Committee.
- I. If the Appropriations Committee establishes misuse of funds, the club/organization is subject to probation as stated in Article 6, Section 2 By-laws.

Section 2. Elections Committee:

- A. Shall consist of four (4) Senators and the Vice President as the acting Chairperson,
- B. Shall adhere to all regulations as defined in Article 11, Section 1,
- C. Shall consider all grievances filed as defined in Article 11, Section 5,
- D. Has the right to submit a recommendation of disqualification to the Senate, requiring a two-thirds (2/3) vote to be approved.

Section 3. The Constitution Committee:

- A. Shall consist of the four (4) Class Presidents, One (1) Senator at Large and the SGA President as acting Chairperson,
- B. Shall propose amendments to the Constitution to the Senate for a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Section 4. The Events Committee:

- A. Shall consist of the four (4) Vice Presidents, and four (four) senators.
- B. Shall propose event ideas to the Director of Campus Outreach and help plan and execute these events.

Section 5. All standing committees have the right to appoint a Vice-Chairperson.

- A. The role of the Vice-Chairperson is to represent the committee whenever issues from the committee are to be presented to the Senate for confirmation.
- B. Vice-Chairpersons shall be selected from committee members themselves by a vote within the committee. Excluding the Appropriations Committee.
- C. The Appropriations Committee shall appoint the most senior Senator-At-Large or Commuter Representative to fill the Vice-Chairmanship position.

ARTICLE 19. FACULTY GOVERNANCE

Section 1. SGA has the right and responsibility to ensure student involvement on the following committees of Lindsey Wilson:

- A. Academic Affairs Council,
- B. Student Affairs Council,
- C. Judicial Board,
- D. Cultural Affairs Committee,
- E. Academic Effectiveness Committee,
- F. Academic Long Range Committee.

Section 2. SGA shall nominate student members to any new Faculty Governance Committee with the consensus of the Provost of Academic Affairs and Vice President for Student Affairs.

ARTICLE 20. LIMITATIONS

All minutes and reports from each Senate and/or Executive Cabinet meeting shall be available upon request to the Lindsey Wilson student body and administration.

ARTICLE 21. INTERPRETATIONS

Any question as to the interpretation of the Constitution shall be determined by the Supreme Court.

ARTICLE 22. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. All amendments must arise as proposals from the Constitution Committee.

Section 2. The Constitution shall be amended upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

ARTICLE 23. RATIFICATION

The Constitution, ever-changing in constant pursuit of meeting the needs of Lindsey Wilson students, shall become effective on July 1, 2025 by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate and the approval of the Vice President of Student Affairs and the President of the institution. Upon ratification and adoption of the Constitution of the LW SGA, all previous constitutions are therein null and void.

Last revised: April 2025

LINDSEY WILSON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1. ELECTIONS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1. SGA President and Vice President of the Executive Cabinet shall be elected by a populous vote of the student body and shall run on the same slate.

Section 2. The elected SGA President and Vice President shall appoint the Executive Cabinet.

ARTICLE 2. CHAIRPERSON RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. Chairpersons shall be responsible for pursuing the agenda determined by themselves and the Executive Cabinet.

Section 2. Chairpersons shall submit record notation of their respective committee meeting to the Chief of Staff.

ARTICLE 4. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Section 1. Procedure of meetings shall be held by the same standard of the Lindsey Wilson Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 5. FORMATION OF CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. To be recognized as an official club/organization, the following must be submitted for record to the SGA Executive Cabinet:

- A. Signatures of at least ten (10) persons interested in and committed to the purpose of the proposed club/organization,
- B. Signature of proposed advisor(s),
- C. Constitution unique to the petitioning club/organization which states an article of purpose which is consistent with the mission of Lindsey Wilson.

Section 2. Club/Organization Recognition.

- A. Upon meeting the requirements in Article 5, Section 2, By-laws it shall then appear for a vote of recognition at the next Senate meeting.
- B. Upon a majority vote of the Senate, the club/organization will be granted membership as described in Article 6, Section 1 By-laws.

ARTICLE 6. STATUS AND PROBATION

Section 1. Clubs/Organizations having membership are considered eligible for all rights and privileges including use of campus facilities, representation at all Senate meetings and activities, and shall assume all responsibilities provided in the Constitution.

Section 2. Probation.

- A. Any club/organization, Senator, or Executive Cabinet member is subject to probation as stated in Articles 7, 8, 9, and 18.
- B. Probation requires a majority vote of the senate.
- C. Probationary status includes the following:
 - a. No eligibility for funding from the SGA; funding previously granted for purposes yet to be performed may be revoked,

- b. Length of probation shall be two (2) weeks or as time left in the full scholastic year permits, with the approval of the Senate by a majority vote and be reviewed by the Senate at the end of the probationary period. When extending the probationary period, a probationary period of less than two (2) weeks may be ordered by a majority vote of the Senate,
- c. If at time of review the club/organization and/or Senate member in question has not complied with their probationary status, they will immediately be subject for dismissal,
- d. If at time of review the club/organization and/or Senate member has complied with their probationary status, their probation can be lifted with a majority vote.

ARTICLE 7. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to the By-Laws shall be proposed to the Senate by the Constitution Committee.

Section 2. Amendments to the By-Laws shall be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

ARTICLE 8. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Student Government Association cannot discriminate against members or potential members based on race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, or age.

- A. There must be proof of discrimination.
- B. Issues which arise must be dealt with by the Supreme Court as defined by Article 13 in the Constitution.
- C. Students must report the incident to an SGA advisor by the end of the following semester of when the incident occurred.

Section 2. Student Government Association member clubs cannot discriminate against members or potential members based on race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, or age.

- A. There must be proof of discrimination.
- B. Issues which arise must be dealt with by the Supreme Court as defined by Article 13 in the Constitution.
- C. Students must report the incident to SGA by the end of the following semester of when the incident occurred.
- D. In order for the incident to be taken to the Supreme Court level, discrimination must come from 1/3 of the club. If discrimination occurs by less than 1/3 of the club, it will be sent to the administration.

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