

A Bill to Revise the SGA Constitution In Order to Facilitate Better Understanding of Said Document

PURPOSE: To amend the SGA Constitution to include an additional article regarding officer elections; to erase the article concerning checks and balances and replace it with an article concerning impeachment; and to reformat said Constitution to facilitate a better understanding of the document.

INTRODUCED BY: Senator Hamilton Wan

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SENATE:

SECTION 1:

The first desired change is to insert an additional article in the SGA constitution regarding officer elections. The current SGA constitution is convoluted and redundant in its descriptions of the election processes. Further, the explanation of the election processes takes up seven sections of Article I. The complexity and sheer number of these sections may warrant the addition of a new article regarding officer elections, which will clarify and facilitate understanding of the election processes. The original sections regarding officer elections can be found on pages 5 to 7 of this bill. Further section 10 of the original article was deleted because the information stated in that section had already been stated elsewhere. The information concerning campaigning was moved to its respective section in the new article. The new article regarding officer elections can be found on 27 to 29 of this bill.

The second desired change is to erase the article concerning checks and balances and move the sections under said article under other articles; then, this article will be replaced by an article concerning impeachment. Currently, the first several sections of the checks and balances article specify checks and balances procedures for specific branches of the SGA. These sections appear to be isolated from their respective articles and should be placed under those respective articles for clarity. Furthermore, the impeachment section is extremely complex and deserves its own article to facilitate an easier understanding of said process. The original article concerning checks and balances can be found on pages 19 to 21 of this bill. Section 2 of the original article was moved to the article concerning the executive branch. Section 3 was moved to the article concerning the legislative branch. Section 4 was moved to the article concerning the judicial branch. Section 7 was moved to the article concerning elections. Section 5 shall form the new article concerning impeachment, which can be found on pages 40 to 41 of this bill.

The third desired change is to reformat the entire constitution as a whole. Currently, the SGA constitution fails to convey a clear message because of its complex formatting. Simplifying the formatting in the document will help improve readers' understanding of the document.

Specifically, fonts and color scheme were changed, and section headings were added to improve understanding of the following section. The newly formatted constitution will be depicted on pages 23 to 42 of this bill.

SECTION 2 (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

Depicted on the next page is the original constitution.

The revised constitution is depicted as an image after the original constitution. Any revisions made to the revised constitution will be noted in a Word document that has been sent to Secretary Abu-Salah.

Constitution of the Student Government Association of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science

4-11-2015

We, the students of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, in order to achieve for ourselves academic excellence, to foster our social and intellectual growth, to provide a forum for the free and open expression of student ideas and opinions, to ensure and maintain for ourselves a representative and orderly government, and to uphold the ideals of scholarship, service, creativity, and community, do hereby establish this Constitution for the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science student body.

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Article I- Organization

Section 1.

The ultimate responsibility for all operations of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science is vested in the State Board of Education. Since the Executive Director serves as the Board's agent in all school affairs and relations, the Student Government shall assume only those powers properly delegated to it by the Executive Director and provided by this Student Government Association Constitution.

Section 2.

All powers of the Student Government shall be vested in the Student Government Association, herein to be referred to as the SGA. For the sake of brevity, the official school name, the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, shall be herein referred to as MSMS.

Section 3.

A member of the MSMS faculty and/or administration will serve as SGA Advisor(s) to attend and monitor SGA activities.

Section 4.

The SGA shall be composed of three branches: an Executive Branch, a Legislative Branch, and a Judiciary Branch.

Section 5.

All MSMS SGA elections other than Senate elections shall follow this standard procedure after obtaining a petition with twenty-five signatures, two teacher recommendations and a certification from the Director for Academic Affairs that the student has no Level III violations and a sufficient GPA: 1) those persons nominated enter an election using the Borda Count Method; 2) voters will rank the nominees in order of preference; 3) a first-place vote will be equal to the number of nominees and a second-place vote will be equal to the number of nominees minus one. If there are more than two nominees, the process of subtracting one point for each place vote will continue until a final-place vote is equal to one point; 4) if a tie occurs for the most points, the tied nominees will enter a secondary election that shall occur using the same process; 5) if at any point during the election process one candidate has the most points,

that candidate will summarily be declared the winner and will be considered the officer-elect for that position.

Section 6.

The process for electing Senators shall be as follows: 1) All candidates wishing to run must obtain a petition with twenty-five (25) signatures as well as two (2) teacher recommendations and a certification from the Director for Academic Affairs that the student has sufficient grades and no Level III violations. They will obtain these by means of filling out forms distributed by the SGA Officers. 2) Each Residence Hall Floor will hold its own election; 3) only those on the Residence Hall Floor will have the right to vote on the Senator for his or her floor; 4) the voting system used will be the same as described in Section 5 except the two junior and senior candidates with the most points shall become the Senator-elects; 5) In the case of a tie for the second-most points, a runoff election shall be held between the candidates using the same process and the candidate with the most points shall become the Senator-elect.

Section 7.

In all MSMS SGA elections, the SGA shall prohibit the removal or defacement of any campaign materials by any person other than the candidate who appears on the material. If repeated occurrences of removal or defacement occur, the SGA shall call upon the Director for Student Affairs to discipline those students defacing or removing the campaign materials.

Section 8.

All MSMS SGA elections must take place during defined election periods. For the Executive Branch, the election periods shall be: no more than four weeks after the week containing the second Friday in April for the SGA Officers, no more than four weeks after the week containing the third Friday in April for the Senior Class Officers. The Cabinet nomination periods shall be: the week containing the fourth Friday in April for Seniors. For the Legislative Branch, the election period shall be the week containing the third Friday of the school year in which the position is to be filled. Senators and Senate Officials shall serve until the completion of the school year during which they were elected. For the Judiciary Branch, the election week shall be no more than four weeks after the week containing the fourth Friday of the school year in which the position is to be filled.

Section 9.

To hold an elected or nominated position, all SGA candidates and members must satisfy and maintain the following requirements:

1. Any student seeking an elected or nominated position must have a numerical grade average equal to or greater than 85.0 (three significant figures). The Academic

Counselors or the Director for Academic Affairs shall be responsible for the calculation of these averages. The numeric average shall be determined by taking the sum of the numeric grades as provided by the Faculty to the Academic Counselors and the Director for Academic Affairs, and then dividing this sum by the number of classes a student is taking. Only MSMS classes listed on report cards and evaluated with numeric grades shall be considered. This average shall be cumulative from the student's Junior year.

2. At the end of each nine weeks, if the numeric grade average of any SGA member does not fulfill the requirements set forth in this Section, then that person shall be forced to relinquish their position and the vacant position shall be filled according to the appropriate guidelines.
3. No SGA candidate or member may have one (1) or more Level III violations according to the rules set in the MSMS Handbook.
4. If an SGA member does not meet the disciplinary requirements set forth in this Section, then that person shall be forced to immediately relinquish their position and the vacant position shall be filled according to the appropriate guidelines.
5. At the end of each semester, all Senators will be given the opportunity to relinquish their position in the Senate should they feel less obligated to participate. The SGA officers are also responsible for respectfully advising senators to withdraw should they notice them not actively contributing to or disrupting Senate meetings.

Section 10.

1. All candidates for SGA Offices must complete a petition of nomination and submit two teacher recommendations. This petition must be signed by twenty-five (25) MSMS students of the candidate's class. As an extension of the petition, each candidate shall select two teachers to complete the SGA Candidate Teacher Recommendation Form. The petition must be presented to the SGA Secretary or left in the location indicated on the petition by the time and date specified on the petition.
2. All candidates for Class Offices must complete a petition of nomination. This petition must be signed by twenty-five (25) MSMS students of the candidate's class, as well as two MSMS teachers. The petition must be presented to the SGA Secretary or left in the location indicated on the petition by the time and date specified on the petition.
3. Candidates for SGA Office and Class Office are limited to twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) of expenditure for their campaign. These funds shall not be provided by the SGA.

Section 11.

All candidates seeking an elected or appointed office for their Senior year must be a Senior for the duration of their term. All candidates seeking an elected or appointed office for their Junior year must be a Junior for the duration of their term.

Section 12.

All decisions of the MSMS SGA are subject to review by the MSMS Executive Director.

Article II – The Executive Branch

Section 1.

The executive powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Executive Branch, which shall consist of the following: the SGA Officers, the Cabinet, and the Class Officers. The purpose of the Executive Branch is to enforce the Constitution of the SGA and to represent the wishes of the student body to school administration.

Section 2.

1. The SGA Officers shall be the SGA President, the SGA Vice-President, and the SGA Secretary. The SGA Officers must be Seniors for the duration of their term, which shall begin on the last day of school of the SGA Officer elects' Junior year.
2. The Executive Branch shall be headed by the SGA President. The SGA President shall be elected by all provisions of Article I that are applicable to the Executive Branch. The powers vested in the SGA President include:
 - A. Presiding over the SGA
 - B. Presiding over the Executive Branch
 - C. Nominating a group of advisors, the Cabinet, to assist in the execution of the President's duties
 - D. Presiding over all Cabinet meetings
 - E. Removing Cabinet members should it become necessary
 - F. Serving as the representative of the entire Student Body at all public and school events as is deemed necessary by the Executive Director
 - G. Calling special sessions of any and all SGA bodies should the President deem it necessary
3. To assist the SGA President, a SGA Vice-President shall be elected. The SGA Vice-President shall be elected by all provisions of Article I that are applicable to the Executive Branch. The powers vested in the SGA Vice-President include:
 - A. Presiding over all meetings of the Senate
 - B. Serving as the SGA President's assistant
 - C. Taking responsibility for all Senate projects
 - D. In case of temporary extended absence of the SGA President, the SGA Vice-President shall fulfill the duties of the SGA President.
 - E. Ensuring that the Director for Academic Affairs checks that all Senators have maintained necessary grade and disciplinary requirements at the end of each nine (9) weeks
4. To keep the SGA under proper organization, an SGA Secretary shall be elected. The SGA Secretary shall be elected by all provisions of Article I that are applicable to the Executive Branch. The powers vested in the SGA Secretary include:
 - A. Emailing a monthly update of the happenings of Senate to the MSMS student body. The report will consist of a synopsis of each Senate meeting of that month and will be made public in an online folder as well as massed to the school. This report will first be emailed to the Senators within 24 hours of the meeting who may submit corrections within 24 hours from when the email is

sent. All corrections are subject to the discretion of the Secretary. The report would consist of the following:

- a. An overview of the bills discussed
 - b. The actions the Senate took on the bills (passed, rejected, tabled, etc.)
 - c. Updates on previous bills' adoption or rejection from the Administration
 - d. Upcoming events sponsored by or affiliated with the SGA
- B. Writing all SGA correspondence with proper authorization
 - C. Checking and recording all Senate meeting attendances
 - D. Posting a chart listing all members of the SGA and their positions in a publicly accessible place

Section 3.

1. To assist the SGA President in the execution of his/her duties, an SGA Presidential Cabinet shall be appointed.
 - A. After the election of the SGA President-Elect pursuant to all provisions of Article I applicable to the Executive Branch, the SGA President-Elect shall nominate Secretaries his/her Cabinet according to the provisions and timetables applicable to Cabinet nominations in Article I.
 - B. The Cabinet shall consist of one, or in some instances where the SGA President deems necessary, two Secretaries for each position
 - C. Secretaries shall be Seniors for the duration of their term
 - D. The President is not limited in his/her choices for nominees except by their status as Seniors and the disciplinary and grade-point average requirements applicable to all members of SGA
 - E. It is required that the Cabinet shall consist of the following Secretarial Positions: Alumni Affairs, Elections, Student Body Communication, and Special Assistant to Senior Class Historian.
 - F. The Cabinet shall not be limited to these Positions; however, these are the permanent Positions which will be filled by appointment every year. The SGA President will have the power to add new Cabinet positions as he/she sees fit, provided that the appointments to that Committee are duly made. Should the President wish to permanently create or remove a Cabinet Position, he/she may propose an amendment to the Senate.
 - G. Approval of these Cabinet nominations by the Senate according to Article V, Section 3 will be considered an appointment.
2. The Cabinet Members shall perform, but not be limited to, the following duties:
 - A. The Alumni Affairs Secretaries will be responsible for arranging a Senior Tribute performance, dance, and other related activities
 - B. The Election Secretary will be responsible for certifying all elections in their validity and vote counts. The Secretary of Elections shall also be known as the Election Commissioner, and will be the final judge in all matters concerning SGA elections. The Elections Secretary will also be responsible

for making sure that all provisions of Article I that concern elections are followed in full.

- C. The Student Body Communication Committee will keep the student body aware of all SGA activities, especially those of the Junior and Senior Class Officers, by means of a monthly update to the student body.
- D. The Special Assistant to the Senior Class Historian is a position only necessary if the Senior Class Historian requires an assistant to oversee the production of the school yearbook.
- E. Additional Positions added by the SGA President should receive specific guidelines for their duties directly from the President.

Section 4.

1. In order to organize specific Class activities, Class Officers shall be elected. The Class Officers will be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.
2. All Class Officers shall be elected by all provisions of Article I that are applicable to the Executive Branch. Only those members of the Class for which the Class Officer elections are held may have the right to nominate candidates and vote for them.
3. The Senior Class Officers will take office on the last day of school during their Junior year and will hold office for one (1) year, or until the last day of the school year after which they took office. All Senior Class Officers shall be responsible for running a community service project and assisting in Orientation activities, graduation activities, class reunions, and all Class activities.
4. Junior Class Officers will take office as soon as the final vote counts are tabulated and will hold office until the last day of school of their Junior Year. All Junior Class Officers shall be responsible for assisting in graduation activities, all Junior Class activities, and they shall be responsible for fundraising for the Prom.
5. The powers vested in the Senior Class President are such that he/she must:
 - A. Be in charge of social activities of the Senior Class
 - B. Be in charge of all Class Reunions
 - C. Call Senior Class Officer meetings when necessary
 - D. Preside over all Senior Class Officer meetings
 - E. Examine all transactions proposed by the Senior Class treasurer for approval by the Class Advisor
 - F. Present to the MSMS students a plan for the community service project (or projects) of the year by the last week in October
6. The powers vested in the Junior Class President are such that he/she must:
 - A. Be in charge of social activities of the Junior Class
 - B. Call Junior Class Officer meetings when necessary
 - C. Preside over all Junior Class Officer meetings
 - D. Examine all transactions proposed by the Junior Class treasurer for approval by the Class Advisor
7. The powers vested in both the Junior and Senior Class Vice-Presidents are such that they must:

- A. Serve as assistant to the Class President
 - B. Assist all other Class Officers when necessary
- 8. The powers vested in both the Junior and Senior Class Secretaries are such that they must:
 - A. Keep accurate minutes of all Class Officer meetings
 - B. Assist all other Class Officers when necessary
 - C. Perform various duties assigned by the Class President
- 9. The powers vested in both the Junior and Senior Class Treasurers are such that they must:
 - A. Keep accurate record of all funds collected or spent by the Class
 - B. Be able to present accurate records of the Class's financial standing at any point in time
 - C. Present at each Class Officer meeting a list of all new transactions and the current balance of the Class Treasury
 - D. Ensure that all records are open to the SGA President and the SGA Advisor(s)
- 10. The powers vested in the Senior Class Historian are such that he/she must:
 - A. Be in charge of keeping accurate record of any and all activities of the Senior Class, and provide the SGA President with a copy of this record by the end of the school year
 - B. Make a Class scrapbook to remain at MSMS as a memorial of the Class
 - C. Compile an accurate list of names, email addresses, and home addresses of all the Senior Class students for the purpose of Class reunions
- 11. The powers vested in the Junior Class Historian are such that he/she must:
 - A. Be in charge of keeping accurate record of any and all activities of the Class, and provide the SGA President with a copy of this record by the end of the school year
- 12. It is the responsibility of the Senior Class Officers to inform their respective class of the activities concerning them once a month at the end of each month. This notification should be given in a publicly accessible form.

Section 5

- 1. Throughout the course of the school year, it is likely that one or more members of the Executive Branch shall be unable to perform his/her duties for an extended period of time. The following system shall be implemented to have members of the SGA temporarily succeed other members. All temporary successions shall occur after the member has been absent from school for ten consecutive days of class, or on the first day of a planned absence which will undoubtedly last ten days or more.
 - A. For the SGA Officers, the SGA President shall be succeeded by the SGA Vice-President, the SGA Vice-President by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the SGA Secretary by a member of the Senate duly appointed by the President.
 - B. For the Class Officers, the Class President shall be succeeded by the Class Vice-President, and the Class Vice-President by a member of the Class Officers duly appointed by the President. No other successions need be made.

2. Temporary successions will occur when the SGA Secretary becomes aware of the extended absence of an individual. When the individual's absence reaches ten consecutive days of class, or the SGA Secretary becomes aware of a future absence, the SGA Secretary will present the Executive Director with a form for the temporary succession, which shall clearly state the office to be succeeded, the name of the person to make the temporary succession, and the date on which the succession begins. When the Executive Director signs the form, the temporary succession becomes valid.
3. Temporary successions will only be valid during the absence of the member being succeeded. When the member being temporarily succeeded returns from his/her absence, the succession is invalidated, and the members regain their positions.
4. If in the act of temporary succession another position becomes vacant, a temporary succession for the vacated position shall occur immediately.

Section 6.

In the event that a member of the Executive Branch resigns their position or is no longer eligible to hold their position, that member will be replaced through implementation of a nominations process as described below. Once the nomination has been made by the appropriate procedure, the Senate will vote on the nominee(s). A majority vote of the Senate shall be required for a replacement. The Senate's decision shall be binding.

1. The SGA President: In the event that the SGA Vice-President declines to assume the Presidency, nominations will be accepted as outlined in Article I, Section 10 from any eligible Senior who wishes to run for SGA President.
2. The SGA Vice-President: In the event that the President Pro Tempore of the Senate declines to assume the Vice-Presidency, nominations will be accepted from any eligible Senior who wishes to run for SGA Vice-President, provided that the nominees submit a petition for nomination as outlined in Article I, Section 10.
3. The SGA Secretary: In the event that the Secretary of the Cabinet declines to assume the office of Secretary, nominations will be accepted from any eligible Senior who wishes to run for SGA Secretary, provided that the nominees submit a petition for nomination as outlined in Article I, Section 10.
4. A Cabinet Secretary: The SGA President shall nominate a member of the student body to fill the vacancy, with Secretaries being replaced by Seniors. The nomination will then be confirmed by a vote of the Senate.
5. The Class President: In the event that the Class Vice-President declines to assume the Presidency, nominations will be accepted from any eligible member of the class who wishes to run for Class President, provided that the nominees submit a petition for nomination as outlined in Article I, Section 10.
6. A Class Officer other than the Class President: The Class Vice-President shall be succeeded by a member of the Class Officers duly nominated by the President, and approved by a majority vote of the Senate. For all other officers, and in the event that a succeeding Class Officer declines office presented to them, nominations will be accepted from any eligible member of the class wishing to run for the position, provided that the nominees submit a petition for nomination as outlined in Article I, Section 10.

Article III – The Legislative Branch

Section 1.

The legislative powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Legislative Branch, which shall consist of the Senate.

Section 2.

1. Each Residence Hall Floor shall have four elected Senators, two Juniors and two Seniors, unless no Junior or Senior is eligible or amenable to accept nomination. They shall elect these Senators by all provisions of Article I that are applicable to the Senate. Each Senator shall serve from the time of their election until the last day of school for the year in which the Senator is elected unless they choose to withdraw or are impeached.
2. Each Senator shall have one (1) vote in matters before the Senate. The powers vested in each Senator include:
 - A. The right to vote or abstain on the matter before the Senate
 - B. The passage of the bill would be based solely upon the population that voted for or against the issue. This vote remains a simple majority.
 - C. The right to introduce a Resolution or Bill to be voted on by the Senate
3. Any Resolutions and/or Bills to be considered by the SGA Senate must be properly submitted by an SGA Senator. To submit a Resolution or a Bill for the consideration of the Senate, a Senator must submit the legislation to the SGA Vice President or SGA Secretary before the end of the school day on the Friday prior to a Senate meeting (unless stated otherwise by an SGA Officer). The legislation shall then be circulated among the Senators to allow for study and preparation, and will be presented and voted on at the next gathering of the Senate.
4. A Senator shall be removed from office when three (3) unexcused absences per semester are accumulated by that Senator, or he/she violates the requirements set forth in Article I, Section 9. Three (3) tardies for any reason shall be counted as one (1) unexcused absence, and any tardy over 15 minutes late shall be counted as one (1) unexcused absence. The SGA Secretary must warn a Senator when he/she has accumulated two (2) unexcused absences. Homework shall not be considered a valid reason for an excused absence unless the Senator has been absent and missed. An absence may be excused for the following reasons:
 - A. Out of town visitors
 - B. Illness
 - C. Being out of town
 - D. Actively participating in a sporting event as a player (practice doesn't count)
 - E. Actively participating in any MSMS sanctioned event
 - F. Any situation submitted to the SGA President, SGA Vice-President or SGA Secretary and approved at least two (2) hours prior to the Senate meeting
5. A resolution is defined as a formal expression of opinion or intention to the SGA and the administration of MSMS which states the opinion of the majority of the SGA Senate. A Bill is defined as a form or draft of a proposed statute to be presented to

the Executive Director for ratification, and accepted as an MSMS law. A Constitutional Amendment is defined as a Bill which modifies or appends to the MSMS Constitution.

Section 3.

At the first regular meeting of the Senate, a Senator shall be elected by his/her peers to serve as President Pro Tempore of the senate by a majority vote. In the absence of the Vice President, the President Pro Tempore shall assume all duties and powers necessary to preside over the Senate. A Senator will also be appointed to serve as Sergeant at Arms. The Sergeant at Arms shall have the responsibility of preparing all aspects of the Senate chamber in advance, as well as assuring dress code policy is enforced. In addition, if any Senators become unruly or unwilling to abide by the rules provided for in this document, the Sergeant at Arms shall escort the Senator from the chamber at the discretion of the Vice President. These elections shall be administered through secret ballot, and the Senator receiving simple majority shall obtain the position.

Section 4.

Should a Senator resign or be impeached, a replacement Senator of the same gender and standing as junior or senior shall be elected. The replacement election shall take place as follows: 1) A mass email shall be sent to the class in which there is an opening; 2) Each candidate shall obtain the two (2) Teacher Recommendations as well as the certification from the Director for Academic Affairs that the candidate meets that grade point average requirements and has no Level III violations; 3) If only one candidate applies for the position, that candidate will automatically become the Senator; 4) If more than one candidate applies, the voting shall be throughout the same-gender members of the candidate's class and the candidate with a simple plurality will win. Note: the "mass election" of replacements that may take place after the resignation opportunity in December should be conducted in the manner of the beginning-of-the-year Senate elections.

Section 5.

All Senate meetings will be conducted in a formal manner. To this end, the following rules shall be held at all times:

1. Dress Code: for males, khakis or suit pants (or nice "Sunday" pants) and polo or dress shirt; for females, the aforementioned or a dress or a skirt with complementary blouse. It will not be tolerated for any member of the Senate to have shorts, facial piercings, revealing clothing, or other unprofessional attire while in session. Failure to comply to this dress code will result in the noncompliant senator being asked to change immediately and the individual will be issued an unexcused tardy (and if the individual fails to return in acceptable clothing, the individual will be issued another unexcused absence).

- A. If a Senator is unable to adhere to dress code due to any justifiable reason, he/she may request an exemption from dress code at the discretion of the Sergeant at Arms or the Vice President.
- 2. Rules of Order: The Senate shall adhere to the Senate's Rules of Order as written in 2015, which may be amended by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote by the Senate
- 3. A quorum (defined as two-thirds of the total number of Senators) must be present at any meeting of the Senate for any matters on the docket to be considered.

Article IV – The Judiciary Branch

Section 1.

The judiciary powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Judiciary Branch, which shall consist of the Honor Court.

Section 2.

The purpose of the Judiciary Branch shall be to ensure that the rules of conduct of the MSMS community are upheld, the consequences of breaking these rules are appropriate, and the discipline process is followed fairly and accurately.

Section 3:

The Judicial courts shall operate consistent with the procedure outlined in the Student Handbook.

Section 4.

All student Justices will be subject the eligibility requirements set forth in Article I, Section 9.

Article V – Checks and Balances

Section 1.

In order that no branch of the SGA may dominate any other branch, a system of checks and balances shall ensure the equality of all the branches.

Section 2.

The following powers shall be vested in the Executive Branch:

1. The SGA President shall have the power to veto any resolution or amendment that is approved by the Senate. The SGA President's veto may be overruled if the Senate's vote is a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority.
2. The SGA President shall serve as the presiding officer of the Honor Court. He/she shall cast a vote only if there is a 3-3 vote amongst the other Justices.

Section 3.

The following powers shall be vested in the Legislative Branch:

1. The Senate shall have the power to approve or reject nominations made by the SGA President to the Cabinet. Approval by the Senate will be considered an appointment. A simple majority vote of the Senate must approve the nominations. Nominations to the Cabinet will be voted by voice vote unless a motion to divide is made.
2. The Senate shall have the power to approve or reject the Cabinet's budget. A simple majority vote of the Senate will approve the budget.
3. The Senate shall have the power to override the Presidential veto outlined in clause A of Section 2. A two-thirds majority vote of the Senate must approve the motion to override.

Section 4.

The following powers shall be vested in the Judicial Branch:

1. The Honor Court shall have the power to review both the legislations of the Senate and the actions of the Executive Branch in regards to their constitutionality. To declare an action unconstitutional, two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the Honor Court Justices must vote to declare it unconstitutional.

Section 5.

Should a circumstance become severe enough to require such an act, the SGA should adhere to the following guidelines for impeachment:

1. The Senate shall have the power to impeach any member of the SGA for the following reasons:
 - A. Failure to execute the duties assigned to the member by this Constitution
 - B. Improper conduct by the member
 - C. Violations of the Honor Code by the member
 - D. A Level III Violation accrued by the member

2. Impeachment charges shall be brought by a motion raised by any member of the Senate. This Senator shall present his/her arguments for impeachment, and the Senate shall summarily debate the issue of approving the motion to impeach. To approve the motion to impeach, a two-thirds majority vote by secret ballot is required.
3. The Honor Court shall hold all impeachment trials of SGA members, unless the member who has been charged is the SGA President or a member of the Honor Court. Impeachment trials held by the Honor Court shall follow this general procedure: Within twenty-four hours of the approval of the motion to impeach, the SGA President must inform the member that they have been charged. The SGA President shall call a special session of the Honor Court to order no less than one week after the motion to impeach has been approved. The trial will follow Honor Court procedures. The Senator who moved to impeach shall be declared the plaintiff, and the SGA member who has been charged shall be declared the defendant. A two-thirds majority vote is required to impeach the defendant.
4. If the member charged is a member of the Honor Court, the Disciplinary Court shall hold the trial. Impeachment trials held by the Disciplinary Court shall follow this general procedure: Within twenty-four hours of the approval of the motion to impeach, the SGA President must inform the Honor Court Justice that they have been charged. The SGA President shall call a special session of the Disciplinary Court to order no less than one week after the motion to impeach has been approved. The trial will follow the procedures of the Disciplinary Court. The Senator who moved to impeach shall be declared the plaintiff, and the Honor Court Justice who has been charged shall be declared the defendant. A two-thirds majority vote is required to impeach the Honor Court Justice.
5. If the member charged is the SGA President, a special session of the Senate shall be called to hold the trial. Impeachment trials held by the Senate shall follow this general procedure: Within twenty-four hours of the approval of the motion to impeach, the SGA Vice-President must inform the SGA President that they have been charged. The SGA Vice-President shall call a special session of the Senate to order no less than one week after the motion to impeach has been approved in order to begin the trial. The trial will follow the procedures of the Honor Court, except for the fact that the Senate as a whole shall be able to vote. The Senator who moved to impeach shall be declared the plaintiff, and the SGA President shall be declared the defendant. A two-thirds majority vote by secret ballot of the Senate is required to impeach the SGA President.

Section 7.

No member of the SGA may hold more than one position in the SGA unless there are not enough eligible applicants to fill a body's position(s). In this circumstance, the SGA Officers shall compile a list of students who wish to apply for the unfilled position(s). Provided that the candidates meet all other requirements, such as conduct and grades, they will be added to the ballot to be considered for the unfilled position(s). SGA Officers, Cabinet Secretaries, and Senate Officials shall be expressly prohibited from consideration for unfilled positions to maintain a balance of power.

Article VI – Maintenance of the Constitution

Section 1.

The SGA Constitution being a document that is internal to SGA, the SGA Senate may amend the Constitution by presenting a Bill that is passed with a 2/3 majority vote. These amendments need not be approved by the administration before taking effect.

Section 2.

Should a Senator propose an amendment to the Constitution that conflicts with a practice outlined in the MSMS Student Handbook, the Senator must author a Bill that amends both the Handbook and the Constitution. The Bill being passed by a 2/3 majority, the administration must approve of the Bill before either document can be changed.

Section 3.

The SGA Officers shall have the privilege of making a yearly revision of the Constitution as they see fit in order to reflect any changes in MSMS policy. This revision should be conducted with the approval of the Director for Academic Affairs or the Faculty Advisor to the Senate, and it must be confirmed by the Senate with a 2/3 majority vote.

Section 4.

The Executive Director remains the absolute authority over SGA. Even though amendments to the Constitution need not be directly approved by the Executive Director before going into effect, the Executive Director has the power to investigate and halt any such amendments.

Depicted on the next page is a jpeg file of the revised Constitution. As aforementioned, any revisions or amendments made to this bill will be noted in a Word document that has been emailed to Secretary Abu-Salah.

Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science



Student Government Association
Constitution

Adopted April 2015

First revision April 11, 2015
Second revision October 17, 2017

Preamble

We, the students of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, in order to achieve for ourselves academic excellence, to foster our social and intellectual growth, to provide a forum for the free and open expression of student ideas and opinions, to ensure and maintain for ourselves a representative and orderly government, and to uphold the ideals of scholarship, service, creativity, and community, do hereby establish this Constitution for the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science student body.

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Article I - Organization

Section 1 Authority

The ultimate responsibility for all operations of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science is vested in the State Board of Education. Since the Executive Director serves as the Board's agent in all school affairs and relations, the Student Government shall assume only those powers properly delegated to it by the Executive Director and provided by this Student Government Association Constitution.

Section 2 Appellation

All powers of the Student Government shall be vested in the Student Government Association, herein to be referred to as the SGA. For the sake of brevity, the official school name, the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, shall be herein referred to as MSMS.

Section 3 Advisors

A member of the MSMS faculty and/or administration will serve as SGA Advisor(s) to attend and monitor SGA activities.

Section 4 Delegation of Powers within the SGA

The SGA shall be composed of three branches: an Executive Branch, a Legislative Branch, and a Judiciary Branch.

Section 5 Review

All decisions of the MSMS SGA are subject to review by the MSMS Executive Director.

Article II – Officer Elections

Section 1 Senatorial Elections

The process for electing Senators shall be as follows:

- 1) All candidates wishing to run must obtain a petition with twenty-five (25) signatures as well as two (2) teacher recommendations and a certification from the Director for Academic Affairs that the student has sufficient grades and no Level III violations. They will obtain these by means of filling out forms distributed by the SGA Officers.
- 2) Each Residence Hall Floor will hold its own election.
- 3) only those on the Residence Hall Floor will have the right to vote on the Senator for his or her floor.
- 4) Those persons nominated enter an election using the Borda Count Method.
- 5) Voters will rank the nominees in order of preference.
- 6) A first-place vote will be equal to the number of nominees and a second-place vote will be equal to the number of nominees minus one. If there are more than two nominees, the process of subtracting one point for each place vote will continue until a final-place vote is equal to one point.
- 7) The two junior and senior candidates with the most points shall become the Senator-elects.
- 8) In the case of a tie for the second-most points, a runoff election shall be held between the candidates using the same process and the candidate with the most points shall become the Senator-elect.

Section 2 Other Officer Elections

All MSMS SGA elections other than Senate elections shall follow this standard procedure after obtaining a petition with twenty-five signatures, two teacher recommendations and a certification from the Director for Academic Affairs that the student has no Level III violations and a sufficient GPA:

- 1) If a tie occurs for the most points, the tied nominees will enter a secondary election that shall occur using the same process.
- 2) The voting system used will be the same as described in Section 1.
- 3) If at any point during the election process one candidate has the most points, that candidate will summarily be declared the winner and will be considered the officer-elect for that position.

Section 3 Campaigning

All MSMS officer elections shall be subject to the following rules concerning campaigning

- 1) Candidates for SGA Office and Class Office are limited to twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) of expenditure for their campaign. These funds shall not be provided by the SGA.
- 2) In all MSMS SGA elections, the SGA shall prohibit the removal or defacement of any campaign materials by any person other than the candidate who appears on the material. If repeated occurrences of removal or

defacement occur, the SGA shall call upon the Director for Student Affairs to discipline those students defacing or removing the campaign materials.

Section 4 Election Periods

All MSMS SGA elections must take place during defined election periods.

- 1) For the Executive Branch, the election periods shall be: no more than four weeks after the week containing the second Friday in April for the SGA Officers, no more than four weeks after the week containing the third Friday in April for the Senior Class Officers.
- 2) The Cabinet nomination periods shall be: the week containing the fourth Friday in April for Seniors.
- 3) For the Legislative Branch, the election period shall be the week containing the third Friday of the school year in which the position is to be filled. Senators and Senate Officials shall serve until the completion of the school year during which they were elected.
- 4) For the Judiciary Branch, the election week shall be no more than four weeks after the week containing the fourth Friday of the school year in which the position is to be filled.

Section 5 Requirements

To hold an elected or nominated position, all SGA candidates and members must satisfy and maintain the following requirements:

- 1) Any student seeking an elected or nominated position must have a numerical grade average equal to or greater than 85.0 (three significant figures). The Academic Counselors or the Director for Academic Affairs shall be responsible for the calculation of these averages. The numeric average shall be determined by taking the sum of the numeric grades as provided by the Faculty to the Academic Counselors and the Director for Academic Affairs, and then dividing this sum by the number of classes a student is taking. Only MSMS classes listed on report cards and evaluated with numeric grades shall be considered. This average shall be cumulative from the student's Junior year.
- 2) At the end of each nine weeks, if the numeric grade average of any SGA member does not fulfill the requirements set forth in this Section, then that person shall be forced to relinquish their position and the vacant position shall be filled according to the appropriate guidelines.
- 3) No SGA candidate or member may have one (1) or more Level III violations according to the rules set in the MSMS Handbook.
- 4) If an SGA member does not meet the disciplinary requirements set forth in this Section, then that person shall be forced to immediately relinquish their position and the vacant position shall be filled according to the appropriate guidelines.
- 5) At the end of each semester, all Senators will be given the opportunity to relinquish their position in the Senate should they feel less obligated to participate. The SGA officers are also responsible for respectfully advising

senators to withdraw should they notice them not actively contributing to or disrupting Senate meetings.

- 6) All candidates seeking an elected or appointed office for their Senior year must be a Senior for the duration of their term. All candidates seeking an elected or appointed office for their Junior year must be a Junior for the duration of their term.

Section 6

Position Titles

No member of the SGA may hold more than one position in the SGA unless there are not enough eligible applicants to fill a body's position(s). In this circumstance, the SGA Officers shall compile a list of students who wish to apply for the unfilled position(s). Provided that the candidates meet all other requirements, such as conduct and grades, they will be added to the ballot to be considered for the unfilled position(s). SGA Officers, Cabinet Secretaries, and Senate Officials shall be expressly prohibited from consideration for unfilled positions to maintain a balance of power.

Article III – The Executive Branch

Section 1 Definitions

The executive powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Executive Branch, which shall consist of the following: the SGA Officers, the Cabinet, and the Class Officers. The purpose of the Executive Branch is to enforce the Constitution of the SGA and to represent the wishes of the student body to school administration.

Section 2 SGA Officers

The SGA Officers shall be the SGA President, the SGA Vice-President, and the SGA Secretary. The SGA Officers must be Seniors for the duration of their term, which shall begin on the last day of school of the SGA Officer elects' Junior year.

- 1) The Executive Branch shall be headed by the SGA President. The SGA President shall be elected by all provisions of Article I that are applicable to the Executive Branch. The powers vested in the SGA President include:
 - A. Presiding over the SGA
 - B. Presiding over the Executive Branch
 - C. Nominating a group of advisors, the Cabinet, to assist in the execution of the President's duties
 - D. Presiding over all Cabinet meetings
 - E. Removing Cabinet members should it become necessary
 - F. Serving as the representative of the entire Student Body at all public and school events as is deemed necessary by the Executive Director
 - G. Calling special sessions of any and all SGA bodies should the President deem it necessary
- 2) To assist the SGA President, a SGA Vice-President shall be elected. The SGA Vice-President shall be elected by all provisions of Article I that are applicable to the Executive Branch. The powers vested in the SGA Vice-President include:
 - A. Presiding over all meetings of the Senate
 - B. Serving as the SGA President's assistant
 - C. Taking responsibility for all Senate projects
 - D. In case of temporary extended absence of the SGA President, the SGA Vice-President shall fulfill the duties of the SGA President.
 - E. Ensuring that the Director for Academic Affairs checks that all Senators have maintained necessary grade and disciplinary requirements at the end of each nine (9) weeks
- 3) To keep the SGA under proper organization, an SGA Secretary shall be elected. The SGA Secretary shall be elected by all provisions of Article I that are applicable to the Executive Branch. The powers vested in the SGA Secretary include:
 - A. Emailing a monthly update of the happenings of Senate to the MSMS student body. The report will consist of a synopsis of each Senate meeting of that month and will be made public in an online folder as well as massed to the school. This report will first be emailed to the Senators within 24 hours of the meeting who may submit corrections

within 24 hours from when the email is sent. All corrections are subject to the discretion of the Secretary. The report would consist of the following:

- a. An overview of the bills discussed
 - b. The actions the Senate took on the bills (passed, rejected, tabled, etc.)
 - c. Updates on previous bills' adoption or rejection from the Administration
 - d. Upcoming events sponsored by or affiliated with the SGA
- B. Writing all SGA correspondence with proper authorization
 - C. Checking and recording all Senate meeting attendances
 - D. Posting a chart listing all members of the SGA and their positions in a publicly accessible place

Section 3 SGA Presidential Cabinet

1. To assist the SGA President in the execution of his/her duties, an SGA Presidential Cabinet shall be appointed.
 - A. After the election of the SGA President-Elect pursuant to all provisions of Article I applicable to the Executive Branch, the SGA President-Elect shall nominate Secretaries his/her Cabinet according to the provisions and timetables applicable to Cabinet nominations in Article I.
 - B. The Cabinet shall consist of one, or in some instances where the SGA President deems necessary, two Secretaries for each position
 - C. Secretaries shall be Seniors for the duration of their term
 - D. The President is not limited in his/her choices for nominees except by their status as Seniors and the disciplinary and grade-point average requirements applicable to all members of SGA
 - E. It is required that the Cabinet shall consist of the following Secretarial Positions: Alumni Affairs, Elections, Student Body Communication, and Special Assistant to Senior Class Historian.
 - F. The Cabinet shall not be limited to these Positions; however, these are the permanent Positions which will be filled by appointment every year. The SGA President will have the power to add new Cabinet positions as he/she sees fit, provided that the appointments to that Committee are duly made. Should the President wish to permanently create or remove a Cabinet Position, he/she may propose an amendment to the Senate.
 - G. Approval of these Cabinet nominations by the Senate according to Article V, Section 3 will be considered an appointment.
2. The Cabinet Members shall perform, but not be limited to, the following duties:
 - A. The Alumni Affairs Secretaries will be responsible for arranging a Senior Tribute performance, dance, and other related activities
 - B. The Election Secretary will be responsible for certifying all elections in their validity and vote counts. The Secretary of Elections shall also

be known as the Election Commissioner, and will be the final judge in all matters concerning SGA elections. The Elections Secretary will also be responsible for making sure that all provisions of Article I that concern elections are followed in full.

- C. The Student Body Communication Committee will keep the student body aware of all SGA activities, especially those of the Junior and Senior Class Officers, by means of a monthly update to the student body.
- D. The Special Assistant to the Senior Class Historian is a position only necessary if the Senior Class Historian requires an assistant to oversee the production of the school yearbook.
- E. Additional Positions added by the SGA President should receive specific guidelines for their duties directly from the President.

Section 4 Class Officers

- 1. In order to organize specific Class activities, Class Officers shall be elected. The Class Officers will be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.
- 2. All Class Officers shall be elected by all provisions of Article I that are applicable to the Executive Branch. Only those members of the Class for which the Class Officer elections are held may have the right to nominate candidates and vote for them.
- 3. The Senior Class Officers will take office on the last day of school during their Junior year and will hold office for one (1) year, or until the last day of the school year after which they took office. All Senior Class Officers shall be responsible for running a community service project and assisting in Orientation activities, graduation activities, class reunions, and all Class activities.
- 4. Junior Class Officers will take office as soon as the final vote counts are tabulated and will hold office until the last day of school of their Junior Year. All Junior Class Officers shall be responsible for assisting in graduation activities, all Junior Class activities, and they shall be responsible for fundraising for the Prom.
- 5. The powers vested in the Senior Class President are such that he/she must:
 - A. Be in charge of social activities of the Senior Class
 - B. Be in charge of all Class Reunions
 - C. Call Senior Class Officer meetings when necessary
 - D. Preside over all Senior Class Officer meetings
 - E. Examine all transactions proposed by the Senior Class treasurer for approval by the Class Advisor
 - F. Present to the MSMS students a plan for the community service project (or projects) of the year by the last week in October
- 6. The powers vested in the Junior Class President are such that he/she must:
 - A. Be in charge of social activities of the Junior Class
 - B. Call Junior Class Officer meetings when necessary
 - C. Preside over all Junior Class Officer meetings

- D. Examine all transactions proposed by the Junior Class treasurer for approval by the Class Advisor
- 7. The powers vested in both the Junior and Senior Class Vice-Presidents are such that they must:
 - A. Serve as assistant to the Class President
 - B. Assist all other Class Officers when necessary
- 8. The powers vested in both the Junior and Senior Class Secretaries are such that they must:
 - A. Keep accurate minutes of all Class Officer meetings
 - B. Assist all other Class Officers when necessary
 - C. Perform various duties assigned by the Class President
- 9. The powers vested in both the Junior and Senior Class Treasurers are such that they must:
 - A. Keep accurate record of all funds collected or spent by the Class
 - B. Be able to present accurate records of the Class's financial standing at any point in time
 - C. Present at each Class Officer meeting a list of all new transactions and the current balance of the Class Treasury
 - D. Ensure that all records are open to the SGA President and the SGA Advisor(s)
- 10. The powers vested in the Senior Class Historian are such that he/she must:
 - A. Be in charge of keeping accurate record of any and all activities of the Senior Class, and provide the SGA President with a copy of this record by the end of the school year
 - B. Make a Class scrapbook to remain at MSMS as a memorial of the Class
 - C. Compile an accurate list of names, email addresses, and home addresses of all the Senior Class students for the purpose of Class reunions
- 11. The powers vested in the Junior Class Historian are such that he/she must:
 - A. Be in charge of keeping accurate record of any and all activities of the Class, and provide the SGA President with a copy of this record by the end of the school year
- 12. It is the responsibility of the Senior Class Officers to inform their respective class of the activities concerning them once a month at the end of each month. This notification should be given in a publicly accessible form.

Section 5 Succession

- 1) Throughout the course of the school year, it is likely that one or more members of the Executive Branch shall be unable to perform his/her duties for an extended period of time. The following system shall be implemented to have members of the SGA temporarily succeed other members. All temporary successions shall occur after the member has been absent from school for ten consecutive days of class, or on the first day of a planned absence which will undoubtedly last ten days or more.

- A. For the SGA Officers, the SGA President shall be succeeded by the SGA Vice-President, the SGA Vice-President by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the SGA Secretary by a member of the Senate duly appointed by the President.
 - B. For the Class Officers, the Class President shall be succeeded by the Class Vice-President, and the Class Vice-President by a member of the Class Officers duly appointed by the President. No other successions need be made.
- 2) Temporary successions will occur when the SGA Secretary becomes aware of the extended absence of an individual. When the individual's absence reaches ten consecutive days of class, or the SGA Secretary becomes aware of a future absence, the SGA Secretary will present the Executive Director with a form for the temporary succession, which shall clearly state the office to be succeeded, the name of the person to make the temporary succession, and the date on which the succession begins. When the Executive Director signs the form, the temporary succession becomes valid.
 - 3) Temporary successions will only be valid during the absence of the member being succeeded. When the member being temporarily succeeded returns from his/her absence, the succession is invalidated, and the members regain their positions.
 - 4) If in the act of temporary succession another position becomes vacant, a temporary succession for the vacated position shall occur immediately.

Section 6 Resignation

In the event that a member of the Executive Branch resigns their position or is no longer eligible to hold their position, that member will be replaced through implementation of a nominations process as described below. Once the nomination has been made by the appropriate procedure, the Senate will vote on the nominee(s). A majority vote of the Senate shall be required for a replacement. The Senate's decision shall be binding.

- 1) The SGA President: In the event that the SGA Vice-President declines to assume the Presidency.
- 2) The SGA Vice-President: In the event that the President Pro Tempore of the Senate declines to assume the Vice-Presidency, nominations will be accepted from any eligible Senior who wishes to run for SGA Vice-President.
- 3) The SGA Secretary: In the event that the Secretary of the Cabinet declines to assume the office of Secretary, nominations will be accepted from any eligible Senior who wishes to run for SGA Secretary.
- 4) A Cabinet Secretary: The SGA President shall nominate a member of the student body to fill the vacancy, with Secretaries being replaced by Seniors. The nomination will then be confirmed by a vote of the Senate.
- 5) The Class President: In the event that the Class Vice-President declines to assume the Presidency, nominations will be accepted from any eligible member of the class who wishes to run for Class President.
- 6) A Class Officer other than the Class President: The Class Vice-President shall be succeeded by a member of the Class Officers duly nominated by the

President, and approved by a majority vote of the Senate. For all other officers, and in the event that a succeeding Class Officer declines office presented to them, nominations will be accepted from any eligible member of the class wishing to run for the position.

Section 7 Checks and balances

The following powers shall be vested in the Executive Branch:

- 1) The SGA President shall have the power to veto any resolution or amendment that is approved by the Senate. The SGA President's veto may be overruled if the Senate's vote is a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority.
- 2) The SGA President shall serve as the presiding officer of the Honor Court. He/she shall cast a vote only if there is a 3-3 vote amongst the other Justices.

Article IV – The Legislative Branch

Section 1 Legislative powers

The legislative powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Legislative Branch, which shall consist of the Senate.

Section 2 Senators

Each Residence Hall Floor shall have four elected Senators, two Juniors and two Seniors, unless no Junior or Senior is eligible or amenable to accept nomination. They shall elect these Senators by all provisions of Article II that are applicable to the Senate. Each Senator shall serve from the time of their election until the last day of school for the year in which the Senator is elected unless they choose to withdraw or are impeached.

1. Each Senator shall have one (1) vote in matters before the Senate. The powers vested in each Senator include:
 - A. The right to vote or abstain on the matter before the Senate
 - B. The passage of the bill would be based solely upon the population that voted for or against the issue. This vote remains a simple majority.
 - C. The right to introduce a Resolution or Bill to be voted on by the Senate
2. Any Resolutions and/or Bills to be considered by the SGA Senate must be properly submitted by an SGA Senator. To submit a Resolution or a Bill for the consideration of the Senate, a Senator must submit the legislation to the SGA Vice President or SGA Secretary before the end of the school day on the Friday prior to a Senate meeting (unless stated otherwise by an SGA Officer). The legislation shall then be circulated among the Senators to allow for study and preparation, and will be presented and voted on at the next gathering of the Senate.
3. A Senator shall be removed from office when three (3) unexcused absences per semester are accumulated by that Senator, or he/she violates the requirements set forth in Article I, Section 9. Three (3) tardies for any reason shall be counted as one (1) unexcused absence, and any tardy over 15 minutes late shall be counted as one (1) unexcused absence. The SGA Secretary must warn a Senator when he/she has accumulated two (2) unexcused absences. Homework shall not be considered a valid reason for an excused absence unless the Senator has been absent and missed. An absence may be excused for the following reasons:
 - A. Out of town visitors
 - B. Illness
 - C. Being out of town
 - D. Actively participating in a sporting event as a player (practice doesn't count)
 - E. Actively participating in any MSMS sanctioned event

- F. Any situation submitted to the SGA President, SGA Vice-President or SGA Secretary and approved at least two (2) hours prior to the Senate meeting
- 4. A resolution is defined as a formal expression of opinion or intention to the SGA and the administration of MSMS which states the opinion of the majority of the SGA Senate. A Bill is defined as a form or draft of a proposed statute to be presented to the Executive Director for ratification, and accepted as an MSMS law. A Constitutional Amendment is defined as a Bill which modifies or appends to the MSMS Constitution.

Section 3 Senatorial Officers

At the first regular meeting of the Senate, a Senator shall be elected by his/her peers to serve as President Pro Tempore of the senate by a majority vote. In the absence of the Vice President, the President Pro Tempore shall assume all duties and powers necessary to preside over the Senate. A Senator will also be appointed to serve as Sergeant at Arms. The Sergeant at Arms shall have the responsibility of preparing all aspects of the Senate chamber in advance, as well as assuring dress code policy is enforced. In addition, if any Senators become unruly or unwilling to abide by the rules provided for in this document, the Sergeant at Arms shall escort the Senator from the chamber at the discretion of the Vice President. These elections shall be administered through secret ballot, and the Senator receiving simple majority shall obtain the position.

Section 4 Resignation

Should a Senator resign or be impeached, a replacement Senator of the same gender and standing as junior or senior shall be elected. The replacement election shall take place as follows:

- 1) A mass email shall be sent to the class in which there is an opening.
- 2) Each candidate shall obtain the two (2) Teacher Recommendations as well as the certification from the Director for Academic Affairs that the candidate meets that grade point average requirements and has no Level III violations.
- 3) If only one candidate applies for the position, that candidate will automatically become the Senator.
- 4) If more than one candidate applies, the voting shall be throughout the same-gender members of the candidate's class and the candidate with a simple plurality will win.

Note: the "mass election" of replacements that may take place after the resignation opportunity in December should be conducted in the manner of the beginning-of-the-year Senate elections.

Section 5 Decorum

All Senate meetings will be conducted in a formal manner. To this end, the following rules shall be held at all times:

- 1) Dress Code: for males, khakis or suit pants (or nice “Sunday” pants) and polo or dress shirt; for females, the aforementioned or a dress or a skirt with complementary blouse. It will not be tolerated for any member of the Senate to have shorts, facial piercings, revealing clothing, or other unprofessional attire while in session. Failure to comply to this dress code will result in the noncompliant senator being asked to change immediately and the individual will be issued an unexcused tardy (and if the individual fails to return in acceptable clothing, the individual will be issued another unexcused absence).
 - A. If a Senator is unable to adhere to dress code due to any justifiable reason, he/she may request an exemption from dress code at the discretion of the Sergeant at Arms or the Vice President.
- 2) Rules of Order: The Senate shall adhere to the Senate’s Rules of Order as written in 2015, which may be amended by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote by the Senate
- 3) A quorum (defined as two-thirds of the total number of Senators) must be present at any meeting of the Senate for any matters on the docket to be considered.

Section 6 Checks and Balances

The following powers shall be vested in the Legislative Branch:

- 1) The Senate shall have the power to approve or reject nominations made by the SGA President to the Cabinet. Approval by the Senate will be considered an appointment. A simple majority vote of the Senate must approve the nominations. Nominations to the Cabinet will be voted by voice vote unless a motion to divide is made.
- 2) The Senate shall have the power to approve or reject the Cabinet’s budget. A simple majority vote of the Senate will approve the budget.
- 3) The Senate shall have the power to override the Presidential veto outlined in clause A of Section 2. A two-thirds majority vote of the Senate must approve the motion to override.

Article V – The Judiciary Branch

Section 1 Judiciary Powers

The judiciary powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Judiciary Branch, which shall consist of the Honor Court.

Section 2 Purpose

The purpose of the Judiciary Branch shall be to ensure that the rules of conduct of the MSMS community are upheld, the consequences of breaking these rules are appropriate, and the discipline process is followed fairly and accurately.

Section 3 Procedure

The Judicial courts shall operate consistent with the procedure outlined in the Student Handbook.

Section 4 Eligibility

All student Justices will be subject the eligibility requirements set forth in Article II, Section 5.

Section 5 Checks and Balances

The Honor Court shall have the power to review both the legislations of the Senate and the actions of the Executive Branch in regards to their constitutionality. To declare an action unconstitutional, two-thirds (2/3) of the Honor Court Justices must vote to declare it unconstitutional.

Article V – Impeachment

Should a circumstance become severe enough to require such an act, the SGA should adhere to the following guidelines for impeachment:

Section 1 Motion to Impeach

- 1) The Senate shall have the power to impeach any member of the SGA for the following reasons:
 - A. Failure to execute the duties assigned to the member by this Constitution
 - B. Improper conduct by the member
 - C. Violations of the Honor Code by the member
 - D. A Level III Violation accrued by the member
- 2) Impeachment charges shall be brought by a motion raised by any member of the Senate. This Senator shall present his/her arguments for impeachment, and the Senate shall summarily debate the issue of approving the motion to impeach. To approve the motion to impeach, a two-thirds majority vote by secret ballot is require.

Section 2 Impeachment of Honor Court Members

If the member charged is a member of the Honor Court, the Disciplinary Court shall hold the trial. Impeachment trials held by the Disciplinary Court shall follow this general procedure:

- 1) Within twenty-four hours of the approval of the motion to impeach, the SGA President must inform the Honor Court Justice that they have been charged.
- 2) The SGA President shall call a special session of the Disciplinary Court to order no less than one week after the motion to impeach has been approved. The trial will follow the procedures of the Disciplinary Court. The Senator who moved to impeach shall be declared the plaintiff, and the Honor Court Justice who has been charged shall be declared the defendant. A two-thirds majority vote is required to impeach the Honor Court Justice.

Section 3 Impeachment of the SGA President

If the member charged is the SGA President, a special session of the Senate shall be called to hold the trial. Impeachment trials held by the Senate shall follow this general procedure:

- 1) Within twenty-four hours of the approval of the motion to impeach, the SGA Vice-President must inform the SGA President that they have been charged.
- 2) The SGA Vice-President shall call a special session of the Senate to order no less than one week after the motion to impeach has been approved in order to begin the trial.
- 3) The trial will follow the procedures of the Honor Court, except for the fact that the Senate as a whole shall be able to vote. The Senator who moved to

impeach shall be declared the plaintiff, and the SGA President shall be declared the defendant. A two-thirds majority vote by secret ballot of the Senate is required to impeach the SGA President.

Section 4 Impeachment of All Other SGA Officers

The Honor Court shall hold all impeachment trials of SGA members, unless the member who has been charged is the SGA President or a member of the Honor Court. Impeachment trials held by the Honor Court shall follow this general procedure:

- 1) Within twenty-four hours of the approval of the motion to impeach, the SGA President must inform the member that they have been charged.
- 2) The SGA President shall call a special session of the Honor Court to order no less than one week after the motion to impeach has been approved.
- 3) The trial will follow Honor Court procedures. The Senator who moved to impeach shall be declared the plaintiff, and the SGA member who has been charged shall be declared the defendant. A two-thirds majority vote is required to impeach the defendant.

Article VI – Maintenance of the Constitution

Section 1 Amendments

The SGA Constitution being a document that is internal to SGA, the SGA Senate may amend the Constitution by presenting a Bill that is passed with a 2/3 majority vote. These amendments need not be approved by the administration before taking effect.

Section 2 Conflicts with the Student Handbook

Should a Senator propose an amendment to the Constitution that conflicts with a practice outlined in the MSMS Student Handbook, the Senator must author a Bill that amends both the Handbook and the Constitution. The Bill being passed by a 2/3 majority, the administration must approve of the Bill before either document can be changed.

Section 3 Yearly Revision

The SGA Officers shall have the privilege of making a yearly revision of the Constitution as they see fit in order to reflect any changes in MSMS policy. This revision should be conducted with the approval of the Director for Academic Affairs or the Faculty Advisor to the Senate, and it must be confirmed by the Senate with a 2/3 majority vote.

Section 4 Authority

The Executive Director remains the absolute authority over SGA. Even though amendments to the Constitution need not be directly approved by the Executive Director before going into effect, the Executive Director has the power to investigate and halt any such amendments.