

The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science



Student Government Association Constitution

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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 referred to as the SGA. 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 by the MSMS SGA are subject to review by the MSMS Executive Director. All resolutions that the MSMS SGA pass will be sent directly to the director of the corresponding department or relevant for consideration and further action. All resolutions relating to student affairs will go to the Director of Student Affairs and all resolutions relating to academic affairs will go to the Director of Academic Affairs. While the resolutions will be sent to the aforementioned directors, the Executive Director can intervene at any time and review the resolutions if needed.

Article II – Officer Elections

Section 1 **Senatorial Elections**

The process for electing Senators shall be as follows:

- 1) All candidates wishing to run must receive approval from the SGA advisor that the student has satisfactory grades and no Level III violations. Candidates will submit their names to the SGA Secretary for referral to the SGA advisor.
- 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) It is suggested that the Borda Count Method will be used to determine the new Senators for each floor, where voters will rank the nominees in order of preference. 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.
- 5) The two junior and senior candidates with the most points shall become the Senator-elects.
- 6) 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.
- 7) The election process is determined by the SGA officers and must be accepted by the SGA advisor prior to the election. Once accepted by the advisor, the process must be announced to the student body.

Section 2 **Other Officer Elections**

All MSMS SGA elections other than Senate elections shall follow this standard procedure after approval by the Director for Academic Affairs. Candidates will submit their names and desired position to the SGA Secretary for referral to the Director for Academic Affairs.

- 1) The candidates who receive the simple majority of the votes will be declared the winners of the election. If a simple majority is not reached, a runoff election will be held between the top two candidates.
- 2) The winner from the runoff election will also be determined by the candidate who reaches the simple majority of the votes.

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 of expenditure for their campaign. These funds shall not be provided by the SGA.
- 2) In all MSMS SGA elections, the SGA prohibits 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 occur, the SGA shall call upon the Director for Student Affairs.

Section 4 Election Periods

All election periods are decided upon by the SGA officers and must be announced one week in advance. All MSMS SGA elections, including replacement elections, are recommended to take place during the following election periods.

- 1) For the Executive Branch, the election period shall be no more than four weeks after the week containing the second Friday in April for the SGA Officers and no more than four weeks after the week containing the third Friday in April for the Senior Class Officers.
- 2) The Cabinet nomination period shall be the week containing the fourth Friday in April.
- 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 period 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 (rounded to three significant figures). The Academic Counselors or the Director for Academic Affairs shall be responsible for the calculation of these averages. The numeric average will 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) A SGA candidate or member cannot have any Level III violations.
- 4) If an SGA member does not meet the disciplinary requirements set forth in this Section, then that person must 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 resign from the Senate.
- 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.

7.) Candidates for SGA Vice President must have been a Senator for four Senate meetings

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 are 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 be necessary
 - F. Serving as the representative of the entire Student Body at all public and school events as deemed necessary by the Executive Director
 - G. Calling special sessions of any SGA bodies whenever necessary
 - H. Leading over one Senate committee as chairperson and ensuring the committee runs as intended
- 2) To preside over the Senate, 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. Fulfilling the duties of the SGA President, should the President take a temporary extended absence.
 - 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 weeks
 - F. Leading over one Senate committee as chairperson and ensuring the committee runs as intended
- 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. Receiving and organizing bills from Senators before each Senate meeting
- B. Corresponding with MSMS administrators
- C. Recording attendance for all Senate meetings
- D. Emailing a monthly update of the happenings of Senate to the MSMS student body. The update would consist of the following:
 - a. An overview of bills recently 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
- E. Posting a chart listing all members of the SGA and their positions in a publicly accessible place
- F. Leading over one Senate committee as chairperson and ensuring the committee runs as intended

Section 3 SGA Presidential Cabinet

- 1) To assist the SGA President in the execution of his or 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 to his or her Cabinet as he or she sees fit, with approval from the Director for Academic Affairs
 - B. The Cabinet shall consist of as many Secretaries for each position as the President deems necessary.
 - C. Secretaries must 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 for the duration of their term and the disciplinary and grade-point average requirements applicable to all members of SGA.
 - E. It is strongly recommended that the Cabinet consist of the following Secretarial Positions: Alumni Affairs and Elections Commissioner.
 - 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 shall have the power to add new Cabinet positions as he or she sees fit, provided that the appointments to that Committee are duly made.
- 2) The Cabinet Members shall perform, but not be limited to, the following duties:
 - A. The Alumni Affairs Secretaries will be responsible for organizing the Senior Tribute performance and related activities. The Elections Commissioner will be responsible for certifying all elections in their validity and vote counts and will be the final judge in all matters concerning SGA elections. The

Elections Commissioner will also be responsible for making sure that all provisions of Article I that concern elections are followed in full.

- C. 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 Class events and 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 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 all Junior Class activities and fundraising for the Prom.
- 5) The powers vested in the Senior Class President include:
 - A. Being in charge of social activities of the Senior Class
 - B. Being in charge of all Class Reunions
 - C. Calling Senior Class Officer meetings when necessary
 - D. Presiding over all Senior Class Officer meetings
 - E. Examining all transactions proposed by the Senior Class treasurer for approval by the Class Advisor
 - F. Presenting to the MSMS students a plan for the community service project (or projects) of the year by the last week in October
 - G. Requesting a graduation speaker
- 6) The powers vested in the Junior Class President include:
 - A. Being in charge of social activities of the Junior Class
 - B. Calling Junior Class Officer meetings when necessary
 - C. Presiding over all Junior Class Officer meetings
 - D. Examining 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 include:
 - A. Serving as assistant to the Class President
 - B. Assisting all other Class Officers when necessary
- 8) The powers vested in both the Junior and Senior Class Secretaries include:
 - A. Keeping accurate minutes of all Class Officer meetings

- B. Assisting all other Class Officers when necessary
- C. Performing various duties assigned by the Class President
- 9) The powers vested in both the Junior and Senior Class Treasurers include:
 - A. Keeping accurate record of all funds collected or spent by the Class
 - B. Being able to present accurate records of the Class's financial standing at any point in time
 - C. Presenting at each Class Officer meeting a list of all new transactions and the current balance of the Class Treasury
 - D. Ensuring that all records are open to the SGA President and the SGA Advisor(s)
- 10) The powers vested in the Senior Class Historian include:
 - A. Keeping accurate record of any and all activities of the Senior Class
 - B. Making a Class slideshow that reflects upon the Class's experiences at MSMS.
- 11) The powers vested in the Junior Class Historian include:
 - A. Keeping accurate record of any and all activities of the Class
- 12) The Senior Class Officers shall inform their respective class of the activities concerning them at the end of each month.

Section 5 Succession

- 1) Throughout the school year, it is possible one or more members of the Executive Branch may 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 inform the Director for Academic Affairs of the office to be succeeded and the intended successor. Temporary successions will only be valid during the absence of the member being succeeded. When the member temporarily succeeded returns, he or she resumes the position., .
- 3) 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. 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 bill 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 majority.

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. Each floor shall elect these Senators by all provisions of Article II applicable to the Senate. Each Senator shall serve from the time of their election until the last day of school for that school year unless they resign or are impeached.

- 1) Each Senator shall have one vote in matters before the Senate. The powers vested in each Senator include:
 - A. Voting or abstaining on any motion presented before the Senate
 - B. Writing bills, which may be either a proposed change to the Student Handbook or an expression of opinion that does not necessarily affect the Student Handbook.
 - C. Writing constitutional amendments, which propose a modification to the SGA Constitution,
 - D. Introducing a bill to be voted on by the Senate
- 2) Any bills to be considered by the SGA Senate must be properly submitted by an SGA Senator. To submit a bill for the consideration of the Senate, a Senator must submit the legislation to the SGA Vice-President or SGA Secretary before study hours on the Sunday prior to a Senate meeting (unless stated otherwise by an SGA Officer). If a Senator fails to meet this deadline after being assigned to write a bill for the following meeting, they shall receive a tardy on their senatorial record. The legislation shall then be sent to the Senators by the SGA Secretary 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 unexcused absences per semester are accumulated by that Senator, or he or she violates the requirements set forth in Article I, Section 9. Three tardies for any reason shall be counted as one unexcused absence, and any tardy over fifteen minutes late shall be counted as one unexcused absence. The SGA Secretary must warn a Senator when he or she has accumulated two unexcused absences. Homework shall not be considered a valid reason for an excused absence unless the Senator has been absent from class. A Senate absence may be excused for the following reasons:

- A. Out of town visitors
- B. Illness
- C. Being out of town
- D. Playing in a sporting event (does not include practices)
- 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 hours prior to the Senate meeting

If a Senate absence is excused under these terms but an absent Senator's bill and/or resolution is presented, the absent Senator has the option to prepare a present Senator to present their bill and/or resolution on their behalf. If a Senator misses two consecutive meetings, they must prepare another Senator to present their bill and/or resolution.

Section 3 Senatorial Officers

The Senate shall contain the following offices to be assumed by Senators:

1) A President Pro Tempore to be elected by their peers.

The powers vested in the President Pro Tempore include:

- A. Assuming all duties and powers necessary to preside over the Senate in the absence of the Vice-President

2) A Sergeant at Arms to be elected by their peers. The powers and responsibilities vested in the Sergeant at Arms include:

- A. Preparing all aspects of the Senate chamber in advance
- B. Ensuring dress code policy is enforced
- C. Escort unruly Senators out of the chamber at discretion of the Vice-President

3) A Senate Ambassador to be elected by their peers. The powers and responsibilities vested in the Senate Ambassador include

- A. Scheduling meetings with the Executive Director monthly to discuss the passed bills and the reasonings behind them.
- B. To bring the Executive Director's opinions into Senate meetings when discussing future bills.

4) Committees regarding residential life, mental health, and academics, respectively, shall consist of one SGA officer serving as chairperson and two Senators serving as members to be elected by their peers. A Senator may only serve on one Committee. The powers vested in the Committee include:

- a. Working towards a goal, doing so by gathering information through means such as polling the student body and communicating with MSMS administration
- b. Being knowledgeable about the student body in their assigned committee's oversight
- c. Holding meetings as they fit, with at least one meeting required per month to discuss bill ideas and results from polling the student body
- d. Presenting monthly Senate reports to inform Senators of progress toward goals, such as disclosing polling data
- e. Committees may be dismantled for the remainder of the school year if the Senate deems it necessary through a three-fourths majority vote.

5) Elections shall be administered through secret ballot, and the Senator receiving simple majority shall obtain the position. Committee members shall be elected every quarter.

Section 4 Resignation

Should a Senator resign or be impeached, a replacement Senator representing the same residence hall and holding the same 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 approval from the Director for Academic Affairs.
- 3) If only one candidate applies for the position, that candidate will automatically become the Senator.
- 4) If more than one candidate applies, each candidate shall give an up to two minute speech on their merits as a Senator during the same Senate meeting takes place. The voting shall be throughout members of the standing Senate.

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 an orderly manner. To this end, the following rules shall be held at all times:

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 the Cabinet’s budget. A simple majority vote of the Senate will approve the budget.
- 2)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 7 Emergency Legislative Procedure

1)In the case of emergency or unusual circumstances after Senators have been elected that halt Senate meetings, including, but not limited to, over breaks and amidst sudden changes in the school year, the Senate shall have the power to vote on legislation outside of meetings. Voting shall be done through an electronic form. Bills must be approved by the SGA advisor before being sent to the Senate. The criteria to pass a piece of legislation shall remain the same as during Senate meetings.

2)In the case of emergency or unusual circumstances before Senators have been elected, the student body shall vote on legislation that is submitted to the SGA Secretary from a student. Voting shall be done through an electronic form. A simple 2/3

majority among voters 72 hours after the form has been sent must be met and the SGA advisor must approve in order to pass a bill.

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. The Honor Court consists of six students, four senior justices (two males and two females) and two junior justices (one male and one female). Two juniors (one male and one female) will be elected to serve as alternate and fill empty positions when needed. The two junior justices and two junior alternates become the four senior justices the following school year. The Director for Students Affairs shall serve as the Honor Court Supervisor. If a justice has conflicts of interests with a person who appeals a write-up he or she shall be temporarily removed from the court for that specific case and replaced with an alternate. If any director becomes aware that the name of a justice is known by the student body, that justice is removed from the 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 of the Honor Court Justices must vote to declare it unconstitutional.

Article VI – 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 required.

Section 2 Impeachment of Honor Court Members

If the member charged is a member of the Honor Court, the MSMS Administration shall hold the trial. Impeachment trials held by the MSMS Administration 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 Honor Court to order no less than one week after the motion to impeach has been approved. The trial will follow the procedures of the Honor 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 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:

- a) Within twenty-four hours of the approval of the motion to impeach, the SGA President must inform the member that they have been charged.
- b) 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.
- c) 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 VII – 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 two-thirds 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 two-thirds majority, the administration must approve of the Bill before either document can be changed.

Section 3 Yearly Officerial Revision

The SGA Officers shall have the privilege of making yearly revisions 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 two-thirds 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.

