

The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science



Student Government Association Constitution

Adopted: April 2015
First Revision: April 11, 2015
Second Revision: October 17, 2017
Third Revision: May 7, 2019
Fourth Revision: January 16, 2022
Fifth Revision: September 10, 2025
Sixth Revision: November 29, 2025

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 Government Association.

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Kommentiert [JH1]: Holding off on updating this until y'all take a look.

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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 legislation that the MSMS SGA passes will be sent directly to the director of the corresponding or relevant department for consideration and further action. All legislation relating to student affairs will go to the Director of Student Affairs and all legislation relating to academic affairs will go to the Director of Academic Affairs. While the legislation 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 ~~Director of Academic Affairs~~SGA advisor that the student has satisfactory grades, ~~no more than two Level II violations, 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 shall hold its own election.
3. Only those on the residence hall floor will have the right to vote on the Senator for their floor.
4. ~~It is suggested that~~ the Borda Count Method ~~shall~~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 two Senior candidates with the most points shall become the Senator-elects.
6. If a floor does not have enough residents eligible for or amendable to accept nomination to get ~~four~~ two Senior and two Junior candidates, the floor shall elect all the candidates in each class they can. The newly elected Senate shall then hold a special election to fill the vacant Senate position(s). The special election shall happen no later than the second Senate meeting of the year. The replacement Senator(s) shall represent the same residence hall and hold the same standing as junior or senior, if possible. The special election shall take place as follows:
 - A. A mass email shall be sent to the class(es) and residence hall(s) and floor(s) in which there is an opening.
 - B. Each candidate shall obtain approval from the Director of Academic Affairs.
 - C. Each candidate shall give an up to two minute speech to the standing Senate. The standing Senators shall then vote through the Borda Count method, and the newly elected Senator(s)'s term shall start at the very next Senate meeting.
 - D. If only one person runs for the vacant position, their term as Senator shall start at the meeting of their election.
7. 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.
8. 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.

Kommentiert [JH2]: Moved here from a different section because it makes more sense

Section 2 Other Officer Elections

Kommentiert [JH3]: small changes here to better reflect what we do today

All MSMS SGA elections other than Senate elections shall follow this standard procedure:

1. Candidates will submit their names and desired position to the SGA Secretary for referral to the Director for Academic Affairs.
2. The candidates who receive the majority of the points by the Borda Count Method will be declared the winners of the election. If a majority is not reached, a runoff election will be held between the tied candidates.
3. The winner from the runoff election will 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 thirty-five dollars of expenditure for their campaign. These funds shall not be provided by the SGA. Candidates should make campaign purchases separate from any other purchases and keep their receipts in the case the SGA Officers and/or Elections Commissioner requests to see them. If the candidate does not have receipts when requested, the Elections Commissioner shall decide if they have gone over the limit by estimating and determine the appropriate amount of campaign materials to take down to make up for the over-spending.
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 instances of removal occur, the SGA shall call upon the Director for Student Affairs.
3. Cross campaigning is prohibited. Candidates should run for their position independent of any other candidate and/or any other position.
4. Campaign materials shall be kept out of any classrooms.
5. Candidates wishing to place campaign materials in the Residence Halls must obtain Hall Director approval first.
- ~~2-6.~~ Candidates are limited to ten posters/flyers per MSMS building.

Kommentiert [JH4]: increased from 25 per a constitutional amendment from senator albright

Section 4 Election Periods

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

1. The SGA Officer and Senior Class Officer election period shall be no more than four weeks after the week containing the second Friday in April. The elections shall be held on the same day.
2. The Junior Class Officer election period shall be held no later than the end of the third week after the first quarter of the school year.
3. The Cabinet nomination period shall begin and end with the new SGA President's term.

Kommentiert [JH5]: Small changes here to better reflect what we do today

4. For the Senate, the election period shall be the final week of August. For Senate Officials, the election period shall be no later than the second Senate meeting of the school year.
5. For the Judiciary Branch, the application period shall be no later than two weeks after the Junior Class Officer elections.

Kommentiert [JH6]: New bc honor court, lines up with best possible timeline

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 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 to 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 all final grades and current grades.
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. An SGA candidate or member cannot have any more than two Level II violations or 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 ~~quartersemester~~, all Senators and Representatives 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 officer 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 or Representative for at least four Senate meetings.
8. Candidates for SGA Secretary must have been a Senator, Representative, Junior Class Officer, Honor Court justice, or otherwise held an ~~elected~~ SGA office before running.
9. The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Honor Court must have been an Honor Court justice the previous year.

Kommentiert [JH7]: New honor court positions, requested by holmes

Section 6 Oaths of Office and Swearing-In Ceremonies

The elected SGA officers — SGA President, Vice-President, and Secretary — shall be required to take an oath of office upon being elected. The oath shall

Kommentiert [JH8]: Added per a CA from senator heister... he sounds handsome

be held before the student body immediately following the SGA Officer elections. The previous SGA officer shall swear in the newly elected SGA officer. The newly elected officers shall raise their right hand and have their left hand on a physical copy of the SGA Constitution. Students with no arm/hands may be exempted from this part of the oath. The oaths shall be as follows:

1. For SGA President: "I, [first and last name], affirm to uphold the values of the SGA Constitution, serve as an exemplary representative of the student body, and reflect the four ideals of MSMS: Scholarship, Creativity, Service, and Community."
2. For SGA Vice-President: "I, [first and last name], affirm to uphold the values of the SGA Constitution, fairly and orderly preside over the Senate by enforcing proper rules of order and decorum, and reflect the four ideals of MSMS: Scholarship, Creativity, Service, and Community."
3. For SGA Secretary: "I, [first and last name], affirm to uphold the values of the SGA Constitution, organize Senate legislation prior to meetings, and reflect the four ideals of MSMS: Scholarship, Creativity, Service, and Community."

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 their Junior year. The SGA Officer-elects

shall assume their roles as laid out below for the final Senate meeting of that year. and the current SGA Officers shall assume the role of Senators.

1. The Executive Branch shall be headed by the SGA President. The SGA President shall be elected by all provisions of Article II 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.
 - ~~E.F.~~ Writing and passing Executive Orders
 - ~~F.G.~~ Serving as the representative of the entire Student Body at all public and school events as deemed necessary by the Executive Director.
 - ~~G.H.~~ Calling special sessions of any SGA bodies whenever necessary.
 - ~~H.I.~~ Leading over one Senate committee as Chairperson and ensuring the committee runs as intended.
2. To preside over the Senate, an SGA Vice-President shall be elected. The SGA Vice-President shall be elected by all provisions of Article II 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. Maintaining the SGA Constitution.
 - E. Fulfilling the duties of the SGA President, should the President take an absence.
 - F. Ensuring that the Director for Academic Affairs checks that all ~~SGA members~~ senators have maintained necessary grade and disciplinary requirements at the end of each nine weeks.
 - G. 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 II that are applicable to the Executive Branch. The powers vested in the SGA Secretary include:
 - A. Receiving and organizing ~~bills from Senators~~ Senate legislation before each Senate meeting.
 - B. Corresponding with MSMS administrators.
 - ~~C.~~ Recording attendance for all Senate meetings.
 - ~~D.~~ Tracking attendance for Representative candidates.
 - ~~D.E.~~ Keeping a record of all election results in full.
 - ~~E.F.~~ Assisting the SGA President's Cabinet in the execution of their duties, if needed.
 - ~~F.G.~~ Leading over one Senate committee as Chairperson and

Kommentiert [JH9]: This is a long standing tradition that deserves to be enshrined in the constitution. Originally proposed by senator anderson from the 21-22 senate

hat formatiert: Schriftart: Fett, Schriftfarbe: Akzent 1

Kommentiert [JH10]: Im lowk doing this so im adding it. Its an important job that has been ignored in the past

Kommentiert [JH11]: Some powers here were moved to the press secretary position because they don't really align well here

hat formatiert: Schriftfarbe: Automatisch

Kommentiert [JH12]: Important to our goal of transparency with elections

ensuring the committee runs as intended.

Section 3 **SGA Presidential Cabinet**

1. To assist the SGA President in the execution of their duties, an SGA Presidential Cabinet shall be appointed.
 - A. After the election of the SGA President-Elect pursuant to all provisions of Article II applicable to the Executive Branch, the SGA President-Elect shall nominate Secretaries to their Cabinet as they see fit.
 - B. The Cabinet shall consist of as many Secretaries 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. The cabinet shall consist of the following Secretarial Positions: Elections Commissioner, SGA Officers - Senior Class Officers Liaison, and Press Secretary.
 - 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 they see fit, provided that the appointments to that position are duly made.
2. The Cabinet Secretaries shall perform, but not be limited to, the following duties:
 - A. The Elections Commissioner shall 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 shall also be responsible for ensuring that all provisions of Article II that concern elections are followed in full.
 - B. The SGA Officers – ~~Senior~~ Class Officers Liaison shall be responsible for organizing MSMS traditions such as the Senior Tribute performance and more. The Liaison shall accomplish this through faculty and student testimonials of past traditions, approval from the Senate, and coordination with the SGA Officers and ~~Senior~~ Class Officers. The SGA Officers – ~~Senior~~ Class Officers Liaison shall be responsible for any other event co-sponsored by the SGA Officers and Senior Class Officers. The SGA Officers – Class Officers Liaison is given power to introduce the plans for traditions as resolutions to the Senate. When the Liaison is presenting these resolutions, they are given all powers of a Senator. The Liaison is given permission to attend Junior and Senior Class Officer meetings, mainly for the purpose of planning promoting whatever tradition the Liaison has passed through the Senate and administration. ~~The SGA Officers – Senior Class Officers Liaison is required to attend all Senate meetings with the same attendance requirements and repercussions laid out for Senators in Article IV, Section 2.~~

Kommentiert [JH13]: Some big changes here, but they're for the best and better reflect what the sga does now

- C. The Press Secretary shall be responsible for meeting with the school newspaper or other journalism organization monthly to report the Senate happenings to the Student Body. This report shall include, but not be limited to, an overview of all Senate legislation presented that month, the action the Senate took on said legislation, and updates on decisions from the Administration regarding past months' legislation. The Press Secretary shall also be responsible for posting a chart listing all members of the SGA and their positions in a publicly accessible place. The Press Secretary shall also maintain an active social media presence representing the SGA. The Press Secretary shall notify the Student Body of any SGA and SGA/SCO/ICO co-sponsored events. The Press Secretary is required to attend all Senate meetings with the same attendance requirements and repercussions laid out for Senators in Article IV, Section 2.
- D. Additional Secretarial Positions added by the SGA President shall 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 shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.
2. All Class Officers shall be elected by all provisions of Article II that are applicable to the Executive Branch. Only those members of the Class for which the Class Officers elections are held may have the right for run and vote for those positions.
3. The Senior Class Officers shall 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.
4. 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.
5. Junior Class Officers shall 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.
6. All Junior Class Officers shall be responsible for all Junior Class activities and planning the Prom.
7. The Class Officers shall inform their respective Class of the activities concerning them.
8. 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(s) for the year by the last week of October.

Kommentiert [JH14]: Waiting for feedback from class officers

Kommentiert [JH15]: I'm hesitant to cut this because it actually seems like a pretty cool idea.

- G. Requesting a graduation speaker.
- 9. 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.
- 10. The powers vested in both the Senior and Junior Class Vice-Presidents include:
 - A. Serving as assistant to the Class President.
 - B. Assisting all other Class Officers when necessary.
- 11. The powers vested in both the Senior and Junior Class Secretaries include:
 - A. Keeping accurate minutes of all Class Officer meetings.
 - B. Assisting all other Class Officers when necessary.
 - C. Performing various duties as assigned by the Class President.
- 12. The powers vested in both the Junior and Senior Class Treasurers include:
 - A. Keeping accurate records of all funds collected or spent by the Class.
 - B. Being able to present accurate records of the Class's financial standings 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 all records are open to the SGA President and the SGA Advisor(s).
- 13. The powers vested in the Senior Class Historian include:
 - A. Keeping accurate records of any and all activities of the Senior Class.
 - B. Making a Class slideshow that reflects upon the Class's experiences at MSMS.
- 14. The powers vested in the Junior Class Historian include:
 - A. Keeping accurate records of any and all activities of the Junior Class.

Section 5 Honor Court Officers

The Honor Court Officers are the Chief Justice and two Associate Justices. The Honor Court Officers shall be selected by the Director for Student Affairs from the pool of judges. The Honor Court Officers must be seniors for the duration of their term, which shall start on the day they are notified of their selection by the Director for Student Affairs.

- 1. The Honor Court shall be headed by the Honor Court Chief Justice. The powers vested in the Honor Court Chief Justice include:
 - A. Redesigning the Honor Court application and interview process with the Director for Student Affairs.
 - B. Reviewing Honor Court applications.
 - C. Serving as an interviewer for Honor Court applicants.
 - D. Serving on and writing the decision rationale for any Honor Court case the Director for Student Affairs requests them for.

Kommentiert [JH16]: All new, at holmes request

- E. Recording all Honor Court cases, their rulings, and the decision rationales to create precedence for future cases.
 - ~~E.F.~~ Reviewing acts of the SGA Officers, Class Officers, and the Senate to determine their constitutionality.
 - ~~F.G.~~ Serving as assistant to the Director for Student Affairs in all Honor Court related matters.
2. To assist the Honor Court Chief Justice, two Associate Justices shall be appointed. The powers vested in the Associate Justices include:
 - A. Reviewing Honor Court applications.
 - B. Serving as an interviewer for Honor Court applicants.
 - C. Ensuring all Honor Court applicants meet the grade and disciplinary requirements.
 - D. Serving on and writing the decision rationale for any Honor Court case the Director for Student Affairs requests them for.
 - ~~D.E.~~ Reviewing acts of the SGA Officers, Class Officers, and the Senate to determine their constitutionality.
 - ~~E.E.~~ Serving as assistant to the Honor Court Chief Justice in all Honor Court related matters.

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Section 6 Temporary 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 Cabinet Secretary duly appointed by the President.
 - B. For the Class Officers, the Class President shall be succeeded by the Class Vice-President. No other successions need be made.
 - C. If in the act of temporary succession another position becomes vacant, a temporary succession for the vacated position shall occur immediately at the discretion of the SGA President.
 - D. For the Honor Court Officers, the Chief Justice shall be succeeded by one of the Associate Justices chosen by the Director for Student Affairs.
2. Temporary successions will only be valid during the absence of the member being succeeded. When the member temporarily succeeded returns, they shall resume the position.

Kommentiert [JH17]: edited this from succession to temporary succession and resignation (section 7) to permanent succession to be more general. I also added some succession pathways because there were possibilities overlooked

Section 7 Permanent Succession

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.

1. The SGA President shall be replaced by the SGA Vice-President. In

Kommentiert [JH18]: Some big changes in this section, but I think theyre for the best.

the event that the SGA Vice-President declines or cannot accept the presidency, a Class election shall be held for a new SGA President.

2. The SGA Vice-President shall be replaced by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. In the event that the President Pro Tempore of the Senate declines or cannot accept the vice-presidency, the SGA President shall select a new SGA Vice-President. The new SGA Vice-President shall require a majority confirmation vote by the Senate.
3. The SGA Secretary shall be replaced by a Cabinet Secretary appointed by the SGA President. In the event that no Cabinet Secretary accepts the position, the SGA President shall appoint a Senior Senator to replace the SGA Secretary. This appointment need not be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.
4. Cabinet Secretaries shall be replaced by any eligible member of the Student Body as chosen by the SGA President. These appointments need not be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.
5. The Class President shall be replaced the Class Vice-President. In the event that the Class Vice-President declines or cannot accept the presidency, a Class election shall be held for a new Class President.
6. All other Class Officers shall be replaced by any Class Officer selected by the Class President. In the event that no Class Officer accepts the vacant position, a Class election shall be held for the vacant position. In the event that a Class Officer accepts the vacant position, a Class election shall be held to fill the position left vacant by the Class Officer who took on the previously vacant position.
7. The Honor Court Chief Justice shall be replaced by one of the Associate Justices chosen by the Director for Student Affairs. The Associate Justice shall not refuse this appointment. The vacant Associate Justice position shall be filled by a senior Honor Court Judge chosen by the Director for Student Affairs.

Section 8 Checks and Balances

The SGA President shall have the power to veto any legislation passed by the Senate. The SGA President's veto may be overruled by a 2/3 vote of the Senate.

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

1. Each Senator shall have one vote in matters before the Senate. The powers vested in each Senator include:
 - A. Voting on any motion presented before the Senate.
 - B. Writing Bills, Resolutions, and Constitutional Amendments, which will be referred to collectively as Legislation.
 - C. Introducing Legislation to be voted on by the Senate.
2. Any legislation bills to be considered by the SGA Senate must be properly submitted by an SGA Senator. To submit a piece of legislation bill for the

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Kommentiert [JH19]: Removed abstaining bc they did not let us abstain last year

consideration of the Senate, a Senator must submit the legislation to the SGA Secretary before study hours two days prior to a Senate meeting unless stated otherwise by an SGA Officer. 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. 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.

Kommentiert [JH20]: Removed vp from this because its better to have that go to one person always

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 II, Section 5. 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 sport event (does not include practices).
 - E. Any situation submitted to the SGA Officers at least two hours prior to the Senate meeting.
 - E.F. Any situation approved by the SGA Officers, regardless of time of notice.
4. If a Senator has an excused absence but was scheduled to present Legislation for the meeting they are absent for, the Senator has the option of getting another Senator to present on their behalf.

Kommentiert [JH21]: Wording change

Section 3 Representatives

1. For students not elected to Senate but who still desire to contribute, the Representative position is available. There are only four open Representative positions. The powers vested in each Representative include:
 - A. Writing and introducing legislation to the Senate
 - B. Introducing motions to the Senate
2. To run for the Representative position, students attend at least three meetings within a quarter. Meeting attendance will not carry over into following quarters. Candidates must make their intent to run for a Representative position known to the SGA Secretary so they can track their attendance for the quarter.
3. Representative elections shall take place at the beginning of the second, third, and fourth quarter. Eligible candidates must give an up to two-minute speech on why they should be elected to the Senate. The Senate shall vote on the Representatives, but the election is different from most in that it does not demand a winner. Instead of the Borda Count method,

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the Senate shall vote "Accept" or "Reject" for each candidate following the speeches. Representative candidates must receive a three-fourths majority vote in the affirmative to receive the position. Senators are encouraged to keep in my mind there are only four Representative spots, and there is no need for all, or even any, of them to be filled.

4. Representatives are subject to the same legislation and attendance requirements for Senators as laid out in Article IV, Section 2, Points 2 and 3, respectively.

5. In the case of a vacant Senate seat after Representatives have been elected, Representatives are allowed to resign from their Representative position to run for the Senate seat. If they do so, however, they will not be granted their Representative position back if they lose the special Senate election.

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Kommentiert [JH22]: Don't know how I feel about this.
Let me know what y'all think.

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Kommentiert [JH23]: Completely new, necessary to
establish the requirements for legislation to pass which
gives senators the chance to change that if they want

Section 4 Legislation

1. Senators shall have the power to present, debate, and vote on three types of Legislation. Representatives shall only have the power to present and debate on Legislation. The types of Legislation are as follows:

- A. Bills are pieces of Legislation that propose direct changes to the Student Handbook. Bills must be passed through the Senate with a 3/5 supermajority. Bills will then be taken to the administration for ratification.
- B. Resolutions are pieces of Legislation that propose an opinion or course of action that doesn't necessarily change or relate to the Student Handbook. Resolutions must be passed through the Senate with a 3/5 supermajority. Resolutions will then be taken to the administration for implementation.
- C. Constitutional Amendments are pieces of Legislation that propose direct changes to the SGA Constitution. Constitutional Amendments must pass through the Senate with a 3/4 supermajority. Constitutional Amendments will then be reviewed by the SGA Officers for ratification.

2. Senators and Representatives have the power to amend Legislation. The types of amendments to Legislation are as follows:

- A. Critical Amendments are amendments that change the purpose or approach of a piece of Legislation. Critical Amendments must pass through the Senate with a simple majority 2/3 supermajority.
- B. Friendly Amendments are amendments that correct technical errors without changing the meaning of a piece of Legislation. Friendly Amendments require the consent of the Senator or Representative presenting to be implemented. Friendly Amendments denied by the Senator or Representative presenting can be introduced as Critical Amendments.

3. The SGA President has the power to unilaterally write and pass Executive Orders. The Senate Ambassador shall include all Executive Orders signed by the SGA President in their monthly legislation report to the administration. Executive Orders are the same as Resolutions, and they are limited to only Resolutions. Honor Court officers are responsible for

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reviewing Executive Orders to determine their constitutionality as a Resolution prior to the Senate Ambassador's monthly legislation report. If the Honor Court officers fail to determine their constitutionality, they shall be considered constitutional.

hat formatiert: Schriftart: Cambria

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:

Kommentiert [JH24]: This section used to just stop right here lol. Everything after it is copied from the rules of order pdf

1. All motions and debates must be addressed to the Presiding Officer.
2. Senators and Representatives are expected to raise their hand and be recognized by the chair before making a motion with the exception of the interrupting motions.
3. Senators and Representatives are free to converse when the floor is open.
4. No movements outside of those listed are acceptable in MSMS Senate meetings. All movements are subject to the discretion of the chair. The chair may ask the Senator or Representative questions to interpret the intentions of the Senator or Representative, so as to not continue with a misinterpreted motion.
5. Senators and Representatives may speak freely when granted the floor. Motions and points are still limited to those allowed by the Rules of Order, but general speech pertaining to the topic at hand is permitted.
6. If a Senator or Representative feels as though the individual is taking too long or not getting to a point, they may use a point of order to ask the individual to yield the floor.

Kommentiert [JH25]: Wording change

Below is a non-comprehensive chart of the Senate Rules of Order.

PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT	2ND	DEBATE	AMEND	VOTE
Poll the Senate	I motion to poll the Senate	No	No	No	No	No
Close Meeting	I motion to adjourn	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Register Complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	No
Enforce Rules	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	No
Parliamentary Law Question	Parliamentary Inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	No
Request for More Information	Point of Inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	No
Clarify a Rule or Point	Point of Clarification	Yes	No	No	No	No

Kommentiert [JH26]: This table is important here so senators can alter our rules of debate. Some things were taken out because we don't use them and I don't know what they do because of that

Lay Aside to Next Meeting	I motion to table	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Lay Aside Indefinitely	I motion to table indefinitely	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Close Current Period of Debate and Move to Next Step	I motion to move to the previous question	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2/3
Limit/Extend Debate	I motion to limit/extend the debate by [time]	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Amend Legislation (Friendly/Critical)	I move to propose a friendly/critical amendment	No	No/Yes	No/Yes	No/Yes	No/Majority
Cancel Previous Action	I move to rescind [action]	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2/3
Suspend Rules	I motion to begin an unmoderated caucus	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Personal Privilege	Point of personal privilege	Yes	No	No	No	No
Rescind Vote	I move to amend the ballot	Yes	No	No	No	No
Ask someone x number of questions	Does _ yield to a series of x possible questions	No	No	No	No	No
Overrule an objection	I motion to overrule the objection	Yes	Yes	No	No	3/4
Demand a tallied vote	Division	Yes	No	No	No	No

Kommentiert [JH27]: New but necessary to avoid stalling of legislation

Section 6 Senatorial Officers

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

1. The first office is that of the President Pro Tempore. 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 SGA Vice President.

- B. Assuming the full role of the SGA Vice President should the SGA Vice President be indisposed for a prolonged period of time.
2. The second office is that of the Sergeant at Arms. The powers vested in the Sergeant at Arms include:
 - A. Preparing aspects of the Senate Chamber in advance.
 - B. Escorting unruly Senators out of the Senate chambers at the discretion of the SGA Vice President.
3. The third office is that of the Senate Ambassador. The powers vested in the Senate Ambassador include:
 - A. Scheduling meetings with the administration at least once a month, but more if need be, to introduce passed legislation and their reasonings.
 - B. Bringing the administration's opinions into Senate debate.
 - C. Providing Senators and the Press Secretary with updates of the action the administration took on their legislation.
4. Committees regarding residential life, mental health, and academics shall consist of one SGA Officer serving as chairperson and two Senators serving as members to be elected by the Senate. A Senator may only serve on one Committee. The powers vested in the Committee include:
 - A. Working toward a large-scale change by gathering information from the student body about the student body and meeting with the administration.
 - B. Holding meetings as they see fit, with at least one meeting required per month.
 - C. Presenting monthly Senate reports to inform Senators of progress.
 - D. Presenting a joint piece of legislation once a semester that aligns with their committee's specialty. This does not count for the committee members' individual legislation requirement.
 - E. If Committee members do not fulfill their Committee requirements, the SGA Officers shall determine if the members need to be replaced with a special election by the Senate.

Kommentiert [JH28]: In my mind assuming the position as the presiding officer of the senate and assuming the FULL role of vp are different, so I added this part

Kommentiert [JH29]: Removed the dress code clause because we don't do that anymore

Kommentiert [JH30]: We need to take a hard look at this position. With a role so important, it really shouldn't be an election thing. While it's true you can have some years where the perfect person is elected, the possibility of an incapable person being elected means there's a possibility the entire purpose of Senate gets undermined in some years. We could put the power into the President – or all three officers – but that runs the same risk of elections not producing capable people. The chances are less since it's SGA elections, not Senate, and the chances become even smaller if we make it an all three SGA officers thing. We could also make it a cabinet position that the SGA officers choose someone from the Senate to fill, but I'm worried about the optics of that plus the possibility of a spoils system. I think putting the power into the officers is the best plan I have at the moment, but mainly because I would trust us to do that. I can't say the same for next year's – or especially five years in the future's – officers. It's hard to make big changes when you don't know how the people who will take your roles next will lead.

Kommentiert [JH31R30]: Making it a cabinet position also sounds very similar to the argument someone's constitutional amendment from last year made about only the Senate voting on the SGA Vice President position. "Y'all can pick these, but this one's important so we'll handle it." That argument wasn't very popular with Senators, so I don't see them supporting making it a cabinet position.

Kommentiert [JH32]: Added per a CA from someone like three years ago idk I lost the document but I remember what it said

Kommentiert [JH33]: Added because it didn't happen last year...

Kommentiert [JH34]: I had something I wanted to change this committee too, but I can't remember what. Mental Health is just really specific and therefore limited, while Academics and Residence Life are very broad and more direct to student life.

Kommentiert [JH35R34]: Mental Health is also just a very hard subject from a student viewpoint. It's always going to be arguing for relaxation on students, which never flies over well with administration. There are already faculty Senate committees dedicated to mental health. There can be a joint effort there – and there really should be because the two Senates could probably get a lot more...

Kommentiert [JH36]: New but necessary to ensure the activity of committees

Kommentiert [JH37]: moved what used to be here to article ii, section 1, point 7

Kommentiert [JH38]: wording change

Section 7 Replacement

Should a Senator resign or be impeached, they shall be replaced following the same procedure outlined in Article II, Section 1, Point 7

Section 8 Checks and Balances

1. The Senate shall have the power to call any member of the SGA Presidential Cabinet to the Senate for an approval hearing. A Cabinet Secretary must get 2/3 vote in the negative for them to be removed from their position.

2. The Senate shall have the power to override the Presidential veto with a 2/3 vote.

Section 9 Emergency Legislative Procedure

1. In the case of emergency of unusual circumstances after Senators have been elected that halt Senate meetings, including, but not limited to, over-breaks and sudden changes in the school year, the Senate shall have the power to vote on Legislation outside of the chambers. Legislation and voting forms shall be sent out to all Senators. The criteria for Legislation to pass remains the same.
2. In the case of emergency of unusual circumstances before Senators have been elected, the student body shall vote on Legislation sent to them from the SGA Secretary. Any Legislation voted on via this route must receive approval from the SGA Advisor prior to it being sent out. Any Legislation voted on by the student body needs only a 2/3 majority to pass.

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 15 justices, 7 seniors and 8 juniors. The justices are chosen through an application and interview process overseen and created by the Director of Student Affairs, Chief Justice, and Associate Justices. The Director of Student Affairs shall serve as the Honor Court Supervisor. Cases brought to the Honor Court are handled by a panel of five randomly selected Justices, with at least one of the Honor Court Officers serving on a panel at all times. Justices with a conflict of interest are not to be selected for a case. If a Justice leaks information about a case, they shall be removed from 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 by ruling on student appeals of disciplinary infractions and/or punishments.

Section 3 Procedure

Kommentiert [JH39]: I lowk stopped annotating stuff that changed because there's so much but as you can imagine this whole article is different now

The Honor Court shall convene when a student makes a disciplinary appeal. The Honor Court Officers will randomly select four Justices and one Honor Court Officer to be part of the panel of Justices who hear and rule on the appeal. Once a ruling has been made, the Honor Court Officer on the panel must write a decision rationale, which shall be sent to the appealing student and Chief Justice for records.

Section 4 **Eligibility**

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

Section 5 **Checks and Balances**

The Honor Court shall have the power to review the actions of the Executive Branch and Legislative 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

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 this member by the Constitution.
 - B. Improper conduct.
 - C. Violations of the Student Handbook.
2. Impeachment charges shall be brought by a motion raised by any member of the Senate. This Senator shall present their 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 Senators and Representatives**

If the member charged is a member of the Senate, the SGA Officers and other members of the Senate shall be the deciding bodies. Impeachment processes for senators shall follow this general procedure:

1. The impeachment process begins with a motion to impeach. The motion to impeach a Senator is a direct motion, meaning it shall not be debated on or objected to. The motion to impeach a Senator

Kommentiert [JH40]: Added via a CA from senators heister and smith

- or Representative requires a second to be voted on and a 2/3 supermajority to pass.
2. Within four days of the passing of the motion to impeachment, the Senator or Representative who introduced the motion and the Senator or Representative who is being impeached must submit written arguments to the SGA Secretary.
 3. The SGA Officers shall review the written arguments as unbiased judges. After reviewing each argument, the SGA Officers shall decide if the motion to impeach has merit. If an Officer is romantically involved with, related to, or living with the impeached Senator or Representative or the Senator or Representative who introduced the motion, they must excuse themselves from evaluating the written arguments. An Officer may excuse themselves if they do not meet these criteria but still believe they will be biased. In such a case, the remaining two Officers consider the written arguments. If more than one Officer must excuse themselves or if the remaining two Officers tie, the President Pro Tempore shall be called in to be the deciding vote. If the President Pro Tempore has a conflict of interest, they shall be excused and the next elected officer in the line of succession shall be called in until an unbiased voter is found.
 4. If the SGA Officers decide the motion has merit, a special session of the Senate shall be called. Senators shall debate the impeachment, then motion to move to the previous question to vote on impeaching the Senator. Impeachment requires a 3/4 supermajority ~~by secret ballot.~~
 5. The Senator or Representative being impeached is not allowed to object to the motion to move to the previous question on the matter of their impeachment. If another Senator or Representative objects to the motion to move to the previous question, a Senator or Representative may respond with a motion to overrule the objection. The motion to overrule the objection is a direct motion as well. It requires a second to be voted on and a 3/4 supermajority to pass. If the motion to overrule the objection passes, the Senate will immediately move to the previous question and vote on the matter of impeachment.
 6. Impeached ~~Senators~~ or Representatives cannot run to be a Senator or Representative~~for reelection to the Senate.~~

Section 3 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 but with the Executive Director, Director for Academic Affairs, and Director of Student Affairs serving as the panel of justices.

3. 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 of the panel is required to impeach the Honor Court Justice.

Section 4 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 for the SGA President 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 ~~more~~less than one week after the motion to impeach has been approved in order to begin the trial.
3. The trial shall 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 2/3 supermajority vote of the Senate ~~by secret ballot~~ is required to impeach the SGA President.

Kommentiert [JH41]: Some wording changes

Section 5 Impeachment of all other SGA members

The Honor Court shall hold all impeachment trials of SGA members, unless the member who has been charged is a Senator, 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 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 Officers' Revision

The SGA Officers shall have the privilege of making ~~yearly~~ revisions ~~to~~ 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 ~~3/42/3~~ majority vote. SGA Officers must keep an accessible record of previous versions of the SGA Constitution if they implement any changes.

Section 4 Authority

Kommentiert [JH42]: added because prob important.
Wouldve been nice to see old versions of the constitution
amid rewriting it

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.

