

CENTRE COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Article I - Incorporation and Name

The student body of Centre College of Kentucky (“College”) hereby recognizes the Centre College Student Government Association (“SGA”) as the student governance organization.

Article II – Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government Association

The student body of Centre College describes through these constitutional guidelines the responsibilities and powers of the Centre College Student Government Association. Other structures and procedures are outlined in the Bylaws of SGA (“Bylaws”).

Commented [PC1]: Added Bylaws into the Constitution.

Article III - Mission

The purpose of SGA is to enhance the quality of life for all students by providing the services outlined in this Constitution (“Constitution”) and the Bylaws.

Article IV - Elements of the Student Government Association

The Student Government Association shall consist of the SGA Officers, the Student Senate, and the House of Representatives, as further set forth herein and in the Bylaws.

Article V - Duties and Powers of the Student Government Association

SECTION 1 - General

A. The Student Government Association has the authority, subject to the bylaws and policies of Centre College, to recognize, legislate, and set standards for all other student organizations. Student organizations retain the right to set standards for their own internal governance, so long as such standards are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws, legislation passed by SGA, or the rules of conduct of Centre College. Student Government Association legislation shall take precedence over any conflicting rules or practices of any other student organization.

Commented [PC2]: Added in student organization recognition.

B. The Student Government Association shall:

Commented [PC3]: Elaborated upon the duties and powers of SGA.

1. Hold at least ten general sessions per academic year, which, subject to Section 2F of this Article, will be open to the entire student body;
2. Run all general sessions in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order;
3. Serve as a forum of student opinion on academic, social, and extracurricular issues;
4. Make recommendations to and advise the College faculty and administration on behalf of the student body;
5. Enact legislation and take other action in accordance with procedures set forth in Section 2 of this Article;
6. Institute projects for the improvement of the campus community;
7. Appropriate funds for the operation of recognized student organizations, or revoke such funds as SGA deems appropriate, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Constitution and the Bylaws;
8. Set standards for elections of its members and officers.

Commented [PC4]: Gave authority to regulate standards for elections

SECTION 2 –Legislation and other Action

- A. The Student Government Association and each branch or committee of SGA shall require a quorum of at least sixty percent of its members and/or their designated proxies in order to conduct business.
- B. The Student Government Association has the authority to pass legislation or take other action on behalf of the student body.
1. Such legislation or action shall include, but not be limited to, bills, resolutions, the election of officers, funding requests, approvals, and amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.
 2. A majority affirmative vote of members present shall be necessary to enact such legislation or take such action, unless otherwise stated in the Constitution or Bylaws. Likewise, a majority affirmative vote of members present at each branch or committee of SGA shall be necessary for such branch or committee to take action, unless otherwise stated in the Constitution or Bylaws.
- C. Every member and committee of SGA has the power to propose legislation.
1. Legislation should be filed with the SGA President, who shall review it with the Executive Committee.
 2. Legislation proposed by a member or committee of SGA must be placed on the agenda within two general sessions from when it is received by the President.
- D. The student body has the power, by petition, and subject to the bylaws and policies of Centre College, to propose legislation in one of two ways:
1. Student interest groups may apply to SGA for recognition as a new student organization. All application materials shall be filed with the Director of Campus Activities and the SGA President, who will review such materials with the Executive Committee in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Bylaws prior to presenting them to a general session of SGA for approval or rejection.
 - a. A majority affirmative vote of those SGA members present at a general session at which a quorum is present shall be necessary for approval.
 2. Students may propose legislation other than student organization recognition legislation on their own initiative, and directly enact or reject such legislation at a campus-wide election.
 - a. An initiative petition to propose such legislation must contain the signatures of at least fifteen percent of the student body.
 - b. The petition shall be filed with the SGA President, who shall submit the question to the student body within two weeks of such filing for its approval or disapproval.
 - c. A majority affirmative vote of no less than twenty-five percent of the student body shall be necessary to enact such legislation.
- E. The student body has the power to repeal any legislation passed by SGA at a campus-wide election.
1. A referendum petition to repeal any legislation passed by SGA must contain the signatures of at least fifteen percent of the student body.

Commented [PC5]: Added right to funding requests

Commented [PC6]: Clarified need for quorum for SGA and all its subsidiary organizations to conduct any business.

Commented [PC7]: Elaborated on the definition of legislation and how it becomes law.

Commented [PC8]: Wanted to clarify what "legislation" actually means. Thus, student org approval goes through SGA, as do finance requests through the Finance Committee.

Commented [PC9]: Changed from 25% to 15%, consistent with rest of document

2. The petition shall be filed with the SGA President, who shall submit the question to the student body within two weeks of such filing for its approval or disapproval.
3. A majority affirmative vote of no less than twenty-five percent of the student body shall be necessary to repeal such legislation.

F. Members of the student body generally shall have the right to petition SGA and to be present for discussions at all general sessions, subject to Robert’s Rules of Order. However, the right to close meetings to the public and/or the student body is reserved to SGA. Such an action shall require a majority vote of the members of SGA present.

Commented [PC10]: Added the right of students to petition SGA directly and explicit right to attend SGA meetings.

G. Student organizations and members of the student body generally shall have the right to appeal legislation passed by SGA to the Student Judiciary, which, in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, shall determine if such legislation violates the policies and bylaws of Centre College and/or the Constitution and Bylaws.

1. If it determines that such a violation exists, the Student Judiciary has the power to nullify the disputed legislation by an affirmative two-thirds vote of members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present.
2. If the disputed legislation is susceptible of various interpretations and one or more of the reasonable interpretations would not be in violation of the policies and bylaws of Centre College or the Constitution and Bylaws, such a reasonable interpretation shall be given to the disputed legislation by the Student Judiciary.

Commented [PC11]: Added oversight mechanism for the Student Judiciary

Article VI – Structure

SECTION 1 -Student Government Association Membership

- A. The Student Government Association shall consist of the SGA Officers and members of the Student Senate and the House of Representatives, all of whom must be duly elected in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article VII of this Constitution or assume office in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article VIII of this Constitution.
- B. Only members of SGA or their designated proxies shall have the right to vote at SGA general sessions.
- C. Each member of SGA must:
 1. Be in good academic and social standing with the College, defined as not being on academic or disciplinary probation or suspension;
 2. Abide by the procedures and attendance policy of SGA, as outlined by the Constitution and Bylaws.
- D. If a member of SGA does not meet the requirement set forth in Article VI, Section 1C above, s/he may be removed from office through a procedure in accordance with Article VIII of this Constitution.

Commented [PC12]: Defined academic and social standing that was previously undefined.

Commented [PC13]: Added enforcement mechanism if members break policies and requirements.

SECTION 2 - Student Government Association Officers

Officers of SGA include the President, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Vice President of Programming, the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of Administration, the Communications Director, the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, the Chair of the Campus Improvements Committee, and the Chair of the Dining Services Committee, all of whom shall be elected to one-year **terms** and shall be eligible for reelection to a subsequent term or terms.

Commented [PC14]: Removed the Junior at Large, Senior at Large, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate from Exec and changed the IT chair to Communications Director.

A. All SGA Officers shall attend meetings of the Executive Committee and SGA general sessions with voting privileges, subject to Section 2C.5 of this Article.

B. The President shall:

1. Preside over the Student Government Association;
2. Not be **permanently off campus** during the Fall or Spring Term while serving in office;
3. Have served on SGA for **at least two semesters** prior to commencement of her/his term of office;
4. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee;
5. Serve as an ex-officio member of all SGA committees;
6. Have the authority to appoint ad-hoc committees of SGA with the affirmative majority vote of the Executive Committee officers present at a meeting at which a quorum of sixty percent of members are present;
7. Serve as a voting member of the College Council Steering Committee;
8. Represent SGA as a voting member at meetings of the College Council;
9. Nominate students to serve on College Council committees
10. Represent the student body at Board of Trustees meetings to which s/he is invited;
11. Advise the College administration on the business and legislation of SGA.

Commented [PC15]: "abroad" in previous constitution, but now many students conduct internships and study at other institutions in the U.S.

Commented [PC16]: "one year" in previous constitutions, but this was vague as some SGA members only serve for a semester at a time because they are abroad or elected during a replacement election.

Commented [PC17]: Previously, ad-hoc committees were restricted to SGA members only. I removed that restriction.

Commented [P18]: Added quorum requirement

C. The Speaker of the House shall:

1. Serve as Parliamentarian, advising SGA on rules and **procedure**;
2. Not be permanently off campus during the Fall or Spring Term while serving in office;
3. Have served on SGA for at least two semesters prior to commencement of her/his term of office;
4. Preside over general sessions of SGA;
5. Serve as a voting member in general sessions only in the event of a tie;
6. Assume the duties of the President if the President is absent or unable to execute the duties outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws;
7. Serve as a voting member of the College Council Steering Committee;
8. Represent SGA as a voting member at meetings of the College Council.

Commented [PC19]: This role was added, but it seems fitting with the current duties of Speaker of the House.

D. The President of the Senate shall:

1. Preside over meetings of the Student Senate;
2. Not be permanently off campus during the Fall or Spring Term while serving in office;
3. **Have served on SGA for at least two semesters prior to commencement of her/his term of office;**
4. **Be a junior or senior based on her/his intended year of graduation;**
5. **Maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA;**
6. Serve as a voting member of the Student Senate only in the event of a tie;

Commented [PC20]: If the Senate is reduced to six members, it seems too restrictive to limit candidates for Senate President to rising seniors who have served on the Senate, since there will only be three people who meet those qualifications.

Commented [PC21]: Added in GPA requirement

7. Advise the Executive Committee and the House of Representatives on the business of the Student Senate;
8. Assume the duties of the Speaker of the House if the Speaker of the House is absent or unable to execute the duties outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.
9. Represent SGA as a voting member at meetings of the College Council.

Commented [P22]: Added back role on College Council.

E. The Vice President of Programming shall:

1. Serve as the President of the Student Activities Council;
2. Preside over meetings of the Programming Committee;
3. Have served on SAC for at least two semesters prior to commencement of her/his term of office;
4. Serve as a voting member of the Programming Committee;
5. Advise the Executive Committee and SGA on the business of the Programming Committee and the Student Activities Council.

Commented [PC23]: Need to have served on SAC, not SGA.

F. The Secretary of Finance shall:

1. Preside over meetings of the Finance Committee;
2. Not be permanently off campus during the Fall or Spring Term while serving in office;
3. Have served on SGA for at least two semesters prior to commencement of her/his term of office;
4. Serve as a voting member of the Finance Committee only in the event of a tie;
5. Advise the Executive Committee and SGA on the business of the Finance Committee;
6. Keep records of all financial transactions of SGA;
7. Disburse funds when authorized to do so by SGA or the Executive Committee;
8. Report on the financial activities of SGA at each general session.

Commented [PC24]: Previously, was required to be on campus the whole year to conduct an audit in Centreterm; now, no such requirement. Also removed requirement of having served on SGA, to widen the pool of potential candidates.

G. The Secretary of Administration shall:

1. Have served on SGA for at least one semester prior to commencement of her/his term of office;
2. Facilitate the internal communication of SGA;
3. Maintain the minutes, files, and attendance records of SGA;
4. Ensure that the agendas and minutes of all general sessions, as well as copies of all proposed and enacted legislation, are made available to the entire campus community in a timely manner.

Commented [PC26]: Removed restriction that Secretary of Administration can't go abroad for a long term and further elaborated upon the Secretary's role.

H. The Communications Director shall:

1. Preside over meetings of the Communications Committee;
2. Not be permanently off campus during the Fall or Spring Term while serving in office;
3. Have served on SGA for at least one semester prior to commencement of her/his term of office;
4. Serve as a voting member of the Communications Committee;
5. Advise the Executive Committee and SGA on the business of the Communications Committee.

Commented [PC27]: Intentionally left this vague so that it can be expanded on in the Bylaws.

Commented [PC28]: Transformed the IT Committee into the Communications Committee, which seems to suit its current role. IT issues on campus will then fall under the Campus Improvements Committee (see below).

I. The Chair of the Student Affairs Committee shall:

1. Preside over meetings of the Student Affairs Committee;
2. Have served on SGA for at least one semester prior to commencement of her/his term of office;
3. Serve as a voting member of the Student Affairs Committee;
4. Advise the Executive Committee and SGA on the business of the Student Affairs Committee.

J. The Chair of the Campus Improvements Committee shall:

1. Preside over meetings of the Campus Improvements Committee;
2. Have served on SGA for at least one semester prior to commencement of her/his term of office;
3. Serve as a voting member of the Campus Improvements Committee;
4. Advise the Executive Committee and SGA on the business of the Campus Improvements Committee.

K. The Chair of the Dining Services Committee shall:

1. Preside over meetings of the Dining Services Committee;
2. Have served on SGA for at least one semester prior to commencement of her/his term in office;
3. Serve as a voting member of the Dining Services Committee;
4. Advise the Executive Committee and SGA on the business of the Dining Services Committee.

SECTION 3 -The Student Senate

The Student Senate shall be comprised of the President of the Senate and six student senators, including one junior and one senior from each of the three academic divisions, all of whom shall be elected to one-year terms, and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.

A. All senators shall attend meetings of the Student Senate and general sessions of SGA with voting privileges.

B. The Student Senate shall:

1. Consider issues, institute projects, and initiate legislation pertaining to academics;
2. Advise the College faculty and administration on academic issues;
3. Collaborate with student representatives from academic departments to enhance students' academic experiences;
4. Fulfill other responsibilities outlined in the Bylaws or given to it by the Executive Committee.

Commented [PC29]: Reduced the size of the Student Senate, but maintained representation by academic division. Because of this reduction, class representation is equal for all four graduating years. All Senate terms will be just one year to encourage competition and new ideas and to reduce the likelihood of senior apathy.

Commented [PC30]: Duty added to Senate's responsibilities—currently, representatives from academic departments are underutilized.

SECTION 4 – The House of Representatives

The House of Representatives shall be comprised of five representatives from the senior class, five representatives from the junior class, eight representatives from the sophomore class, and eight representatives from the first-year class, all of whom shall be elected to one-year terms.

A. Each representative shall serve on at least one standing committee.

B. All representatives shall attend committee meetings and general sessions of SGA with voting privileges.

Commented [PC31]: Added four more class representatives to compensate for some of the reduction in Senate members.

SECTION 5 -Student Government Association Committees

The Student Government Association shall maintain an Executive Committee and the following six standing committees: Finance Committee, Communications Committee, Programming Committee, Student Affairs Committee, Campus Improvements Committee, and Dining Services Committee.

A. Membership for the six standing committees shall be determined through members' self-nomination with final approval and appointment by the SGA President.

B. The Executive Committee shall:

1. Be comprised of the President, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of Administration, the Communications Director, the Vice President of Programming, the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, the Chair of the Campus Improvements Committee, and the Chair of the Dining Services Committee;
2. Meet within one week before each general session to approve a final agenda;
3. Coordinate projects and responsibilities between the six standing committees and the Student Senate;
4. Serve as a forum for discussion on the internal and external matters of SGA;
5. Serve as an oversight committee for SGA with the power to enforce the policies outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws;

Commented [PC32]: Exec now has ten members, not thirteen.

Commented [PC33]: Exec as a body approves the agenda; nothing is automatically brought to the floor.

Commented [PC34]: Elaborated on the roles of Exec.

C. The Finance Committee shall:

1. Be comprised of an odd number of members, including the Secretary of Finance;
2. Formulate and manage the SGA budget in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Bylaws;
3. Advise SGA and student organizations on the funding guidelines outlined in the Bylaws;
4. Meet when necessary to review funding requests and fiscal policy of SGA;
5. With the approval of the Executive Committee, present all funding requests for approval at a general session of SGA;
6. Allocate funds during the Spring Term for the upcoming academic year to recognized student organizations that request funding and meet the requirements outlined in the Bylaws;
 - a. The final allocation must be approved by a majority vote of those SGA members present at a general session at which a quorum is present.
7. Audit student organizations that receive funds by following procedures outlined in the Bylaws;
8. Communicate financial decisions of SGA to officers of respective student organizations;
9. Enforce financial decisions of SGA through procedures outlined in the Bylaws.

Commented [PC35]: Previously, "the Budget Committee".

Commented [PC36]: All detailed Finance guidelines were removed from the Constitution and will be moved to the Bylaws, where they can be amended by SGA without a vote of the entire student body.

Commented [PC37]: Must go through SGA before approval. Exec has final authority on what is actually brought to the floor, finance committee can't bring requests independently.

D. The Communications Committee shall:

1. Work to enhance communication between SGA and the student body;
2. Inform the campus community of SGA legislation, actions, approvals, initiatives, and events;

Commented [PC38]: Transformed IT Committee into the Communications Committee, which will plan communication and PR strategy.

3. Fulfill other responsibilities outlined in the Bylaws or given to it by the Executive Committee.

E. The Programming Committee shall:

1. Plan and coordinate SGA events;
2. Fulfill other responsibilities outlined in the Bylaws or given to it by the Executive Committee.

Commented [PC39]: Removed requirement to collaborate with SAC...the line between these two organizations was a source of confusion; now, SGA's programming committee focuses solely on SGA events.

F. The Student Affairs Committee shall:

1. Work to enhance the social and extracurricular experiences of Centre College students;
2. Consider issues, institute projects, and initiate legislation pertaining to all areas of student life;
3. Fulfill other responsibilities outlined in the Bylaws or given to it by the Executive Committee.

Commented [PC40]: Student Affairs Committee can focus on issues pertaining to student organizations, Greek Life, Residence Life, Athletics and Recreation, etc.

G. The Campus Improvements Committee shall:

1. Monitor the services and facilities available to Centre College students and make relevant recommendations to the College administration on behalf of the student body;
2. Consider issues, institute projects, and initiate legislation to improve the quality of campus services and facilities;
3. Fulfill other responsibilities outlined in the Bylaws or given to it by the Executive Committee.

Commented [PC41]: Expanded the mission of Campus Improvements Committee to also focus on services, such as IT, facilities management, career services, etc.

There is still some overlap between Student Affairs and Campus Improvements, but this constitution offers a bit more separation than the previous one.

H. The Dining Services Committee shall:

1. Bring forth and consider issues relating to various dining services on campus;
2. Serve as a liaison between the student body and the College's dining service provider;
3. Fulfill other responsibilities outlined in the Bylaws or given to it by the Executive Committee.

Article VII – Elections

SECTION 1 – General

- A. At the start of the Fall Term, the Executive Committee shall elect two SGA Officers from the senior class who will serve on the Election Commission for the remainder of the academic year along with the Chair of the Student Judiciary. These three individuals must remain impartial in all SGA elections and shall regulate and monitor SGA elections in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. The President of SGA shall collaborate with the Director of Campus Activities to set the election calendar before the academic year begins and advertise election dates and procedures.
- C. For the purposes of SGA voting and representation, students will be assigned class membership based on their year of intended graduation according to College records.

Commented [PC42]: Establishes Election Commission in Constitution. Previously, the Senior at Large and President of the Senate were mandated to serve on the Election Commission, but under the new constitution, they will not necessarily be seniors. Having three seniors on the committee ensures that they have less of a stake in who gets elected.

Commented [PC43]: This clarifies whether representation and voting is based on academic credit hours or year of intended graduation. We need to make sure that our voting database is able to handle this change.

SECTION 2 - Spring Term General Election

- A. Every spring, a campus-wide election will be held to elect the President of SGA, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Vice President of Programming, members of the Student Senate, and members of the Student Judiciary.
- B. All students who are currently enrolled in Centre College, whether on campus or away, are eligible to vote in campus-wide elections.
- C. Candidates must follow all policies and guidelines that are outlined in the Student Handbook and the Bylaws.
1. Candidates who violate these policies may be deemed ineligible to run for office by a unanimous vote of the Election Commission.
- D. Candidates for President of SGA, Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, and President of the Student Activities Council shall:
1. Be nominated by no less than fifteen percent of the student body who affix their names to one or more petitions in approval of their candidacy;
 2. Submit a platform that will be shared with the campus community prior to the election;
 3. Have the opportunity to participate in a debate prior to the election;
 4. Be elected if they receive a majority of the votes cast for candidates for such office.
 - a. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote for a particular position, a run-off will be held between the top two candidates for such position.
- E. Candidates for Student Senate shall:
1. Be nominated directly by members of their respective academic division.
 - a. If a candidate is cross-registered in multiple academic divisions, s/he may only run for Student Senate in one academic division of the candidate's choice.
 - b. Only students who are registered with a declared major may nominate a candidate for Student Senate, but all students may vote for one junior and one senior for each academic division, regardless of the voter's own academic standing.
 2. Have a minimum GPA of 3.0;
 - a. Be listed on the ballot by year of intended graduation and academic division; the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes for a position will be declared the winner.
 - i. If there is a tie, a run-off will be held between the tied candidates.
- F. Elections for the Student Senate shall proceed in the following manner:
1. Nominations from the respective academic divisions will be collected by the Director of Campus Activities, acting in coordination with the serving SGA President and President of the Senate.

Commented [PC44]: This was added. Previously, there was not a constitutional mechanism to deem candidates ineligible.

Commented [PC45]: Lowered the percentage from 25 percent. When the previous constitution was drafted, Centre had fewer than 1,000 students, so 250 was the target number. Now that figure has gone up, and we want to lower the percentage to encourage more candidates to run.

Commented [P46]: Senators are elected for one year terms, but wanted to keep mechanism to have each division represented. Any declared major can nominate as many people as they like who meet qualifications.

Commented [P47]: Should be spelled out more clearly in Bylaws. Nominations having been collected from each division, the Director of Campus Activities will operate the election as with the campus-wide elected offices.

- a. The five junior and senior candidates with the most nominations will be placed on the ballot for election to be conducted in accordance with the process outlined in this Section.
2. For only the first year after ratification of this Constitution, the Senate will consist of nine members, with elections held for three new junior Senators in the process outlined above.

Commented [P48]: If many candidates for Senate are nominated, only the top five are on the ballot.

- H. If any open positions remain after the Spring Term General Election, those positions shall be filled in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article VIII of this Constitution.
- I. Candidates for the Student Judiciary shall be nominated and elected in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article IX of this Constitution and in the Bylaws.

SECTION 3 – Electing SGA Officers

- A. After the Spring Term General Election, the President-Elect of SGA shall nominate a slate of candidates for Communications Director, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, Chair of the Campus Improvements Committee, and Chair of the Dining Services Committee.
 1. The President-Elect will present these candidates to SGA at a general session before the end of the academic year.
 2. If the President-Elect wishes to nominate a candidate who will be permanently off campus for the upcoming Fall or Spring Term, s/he must also nominate both a Fall and Spring Term candidate for the respective position.
 - a. At least two of these four positions must be filled by officers who intend to stay on campus for both the Fall and Spring Terms.
 3. The Student Government Association will vote to approve or reject the entire slate of candidates by a majority vote of those SGA members present at a general session at which a quorum is present.
 - a. If the slate is approved, the candidates will be sworn in as SGA officers before the end of the academic year.
 - b. If the slate is rejected, each candidate must be presented to SGA one-by-one for a majority vote of approval of those SGA members present at a general session at which a quorum is present.
 - i. If a candidate fails to be individually approved by such a majority vote, the President-Elect may appoint another nominee. If that nominee also fails to be approved by such a majority vote, SGA may nominate and elect a replacement candidate.
- B. Before the end of the academic year, SGA shall nominate and elect candidates for Secretary of Finance and Secretary of Administration, separately and sequentially.
 1. Any member of SGA may nominate a candidate who meets the requirements for a particular position. A nomination requires a second and must be accepted by the candidate.
 - a. If a candidate is not present to accept a nomination, s/he must give written or electronic notice of her/his acceptance before the nomination is presented.

Commented [PC49]: Equivalent to the same presidential power as before.

Commented [PC50]: Slightly relaxed requirements for officers studying abroad or away. In the previous version, 3 of the 4 candidates had to stay on campus the entire year.

Commented [PC51]: Clarifies two issues that we've had in the past – nominated candidates not meeting the requirements (most commonly, the study abroad requirements) and candidates who are abroad not being able to verify the acceptance of a nomination

2. Candidates for each position shall be given the opportunity to present a platform before SGA.
 - a. If any candidate for Secretary of Administration will be permanently off campus during the upcoming Fall or Spring Term, SGA will elect both a Fall and Spring Term candidate for the respective position.
 - b. In such case, a candidate who will be on campus for the entire year may win for both terms, but s/he must receive a majority of the vote in each separate Term election.
 3. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote for a particular position, a run-off will be held between the top two candidates for such positions.
- C. The term of office of each newly elected officer shall begin before the end of the academic year and shall end upon commencement of the term of office of her/his successor.
1. The members of the Executive Committee shall take the following oath of office: “I do hereby solemnly swear (or affirm) upon my honor that I will, to the best of my ability, faithfully execute and discharge the duties of the office into which I am about to enter.”

Commented [PC52]: This is exactly what we do now, but the language was not included in the constitution

SECTION 4 – Fall Term Representative Elections

- A. Within the first four weeks of the fall semester, a campus-wide election will be held to elect members of the House of Representatives.
- B. Five seniors, five juniors, eight sophomores, and eight first-years shall be elected by and from their respective classes.
- C. Students who are currently enrolled in the College but permanently off campus for the Fall Term are eligible to vote but not to run for office.
- D. Candidates for the House of Representatives shall:
 1. Be nominated by no fewer than 100 members of their graduating class who affix their names to one or more petitions in approval of their candidacy;
 2. Comply with other policies outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- E. The five seniors, five juniors, eight sophomores, and eight first-years who receive the most votes will be elected as class representatives. In the event of a tie, a run-off may be held to determine the winners.
- F. If any open positions remain after the Fall Term Representative Elections, those positions shall be filled in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article VIII of this Constitution.

Commented [P53]: Changed from having to submit a platform, retained option to put it in the bylaws.

Article VIII – Vacancies and Removal

SECTION 1 – Vacancies

- A. If there is a vacancy in the office of President of SGA, the Speaker of the House shall succeed as President.
- B. If there is a vacancy in the office of Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate shall succeed as Speaker of the House.
- C. If there is a vacancy in the office of President of the Senate, a campus-wide election shall be held in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article VII of this Constitution.
- D. If there is a vacancy in any other SGA officer position, a replacement shall be selected in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article VII of this Constitution.
- E. If there is a vacancy in the Student Senate, the President of the Senate shall appoint a student from the proper graduation year and academic division to fill the seat. The nominee must be approved by a majority vote of those SGA members present at a general session at which a quorum is present.
- F. If there is a vacancy in the House of Representatives, a replacement election shall be held to fill the position in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article VII of this Constitution.
 - 1. If a replacement election fails to fill the vacancy, unfilled positions will become available to the entire student body. Any student may run for one of these positions, regardless of expected graduation year, so long as s/he submits one or more petitions containing the signatures of at least 100 students in support of her/his candidacy.

Commented [PC54]: Added a third member of the succession order.

Commented [PC55]: Gives President of Senate discretion over choosing replacement senators.

Commented [PC56]: This was in the previous constitution but we never followed it. Instead of having indefinite replacement elections, seats that are left vacant (usually by upperclassmen) will become available to the student body as a whole and candidates may collect signatures from members of any graduating class.

SECTION 2 – Removal

- A. If any member of SGA falls out of good academic and social standing with Centre College, defined as not being on academic or disciplinary probation or suspension, s/he must resign from office.
 - 1. If the member disputes the academic or disciplinary probation or suspension or feels that the violation does not affect her/his standing in SGA, s/he may appeal to the Executive Committee for permission to stay in office. The Executive Committee may allow the member to stay in office by a two-thirds affirmative vote of those members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present.
- B. If any member of SGA fails to abide by the procedures or attendance policy of SGA, as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws, s/he may be reprimanded and/or removed from office.
 - 1. Two thirds of the Executive Committee, or at least one hundred members of the student body generally who affix their names to one or more petitions, may report a violation of the procedures or attendance policy of SGA to the Secretary of Administration and the Director of Campus Activities.
 - 2. Upon receipt of this report, the Secretary of Administration shall launch an investigation to determine if a violation exists.

Commented [PC57]: This mechanisms has also been added.

Commented [PC58]: Since Secretary is in charge of the attendance policy it makes sense to have this person in charge of the investigation.

3. If a clear violation exists, the Executive Committee may vote to reprimand any member of SGA by the affirmative majority vote of officers present at a meeting at which a quorum is present.
 4. If a member of SGA is reprimanded, SGA retains the option to vote on whether to remove that member from office. A member of SGA who has been reprimanded by the Executive Committee may be removed from office by a two-thirds affirmative vote of SGA members present at a general session at which a quorum is present.
- C. The SGA President, Speaker of the House, Vice President of Programming, and President of the Senate may be recalled by the student body through the following procedure.
1. One or more petitions containing the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of the student body shall be filed with the Director of Campus Activities before the question of whether to recall an officer shall be presented to the student body.
 2. Within one week of the filing of such a petition, the Director of Campus Activities shall submit the question to the student body.
 3. The affirmative vote of a majority of the student body shall be necessary to recall the officer in question.

Commented [P59]: Added quorum requirement.

Article IX – The Student Judiciary

The student body of Centre College of Kentucky hereby recognizes the Centre College Student Judiciary as the appellate authority for students.

Section 1 – General

- A. The Student Judiciary has the authority, subject to the bylaws and policies of Centre College, to review and investigate accusations of student violations of policy, and to recommend appropriate sanctions in such cases where responsibility for violations has been established. It shall also determine the constitutionality of contested Student Government legislation in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article V Section 2G.
- B. The Student Judiciary shall:
1. Hear all cases brought before it by any student, faculty or staff member, or organization, concerning student offenses;
 2. Have the authority to recommend appropriate punishments for students found responsible for violations;
 3. Require a two-thirds majority vote of members present for any determination of responsibility;
 4. Conduct its meetings in private if so requested by the accused;
 5. Conduct its deliberations in private;
 6. Require a quorum of five members to conduct business;

Commented [PC60]: Clarified enforcement mechanism.

Commented [PC61]: Moved quorum requirement to duties

Section 2 – Membership

- A. The Student Judiciary shall consist of five juniors and five seniors by year of graduation, each chosen before his/her junior year for two-year terms.

- B. One member shall be elected by a majority vote of those Student Judiciary members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present to serve as Chair.
 - 1. The Chair of the Student Judiciary shall call and preside over meetings of the Student Judiciary.
- C. One member shall be elected by a majority vote of those Student Judiciary members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present to keep records and to preside in the absence of the Chair.

Commented [PC62]: Clarified need for quorum

Section 3- Elections

- A. Elections for the Student Judiciary shall be held concurrently with the campus-wide elections for SGA officers in the Spring Term.
 - 1. Serving members of the Student Judiciary and the President of the Student Government Association will nominate a slate of candidates for new Student Judiciary members.
 - a. There shall be at least ten nominations for the available positions.
 - 2. Nominees for the Student Judiciary must be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of SGA members present at a general session at which a quorum is present before being placed on the ballot for election.
 - a. Two-thirds vote of SGA members present at a general session at which a quorum is present is required to prevent a nominee from participating in an election.
 - 3. The five confirmed nominees with the greatest number of votes will be elected, with the next two highest vote-getters serving as alternates.

Commented [PC63]: "two times the number of students as there shall be known vacancies" in old version, this simply puts a number on that (five new slots after seniors graduate; thus, ten nominations)

Section 4 – Vacancies

- A. In case of a vacancy, the nominee who received the next-highest number of votes who is from the same class by year of intended graduation as the member who vacated his/her seat shall assume the vacant seat.

Article X - Amendments

SECTION 1 – Amending the Constitution

- A. Proposals may be made for amendments to, or revision of, this Constitution by a majority vote of the Student Government Association membership at a general session at which a quorum is present or by one or more petitions from not less than fifteen percent of the student body.
- B. In order to become effective, all such amendments or revisions shall be ratified by the affirmative vote of a majority of the student body. If so ratified, changes shall take effect upon the approval of the student body, pending Centre College approval.

Commented [PC64]: Previously, two thirds of the entire student body. Now, a simply majority of at least 50% of the student body, making changing the Constitution difficult but not impossible.

SECTION 2- Amending the Bylaws

A. The Bylaws of SGA may be amended by an affirmative two-thirds vote of SGA members present at a general session at which a quorum is present.