

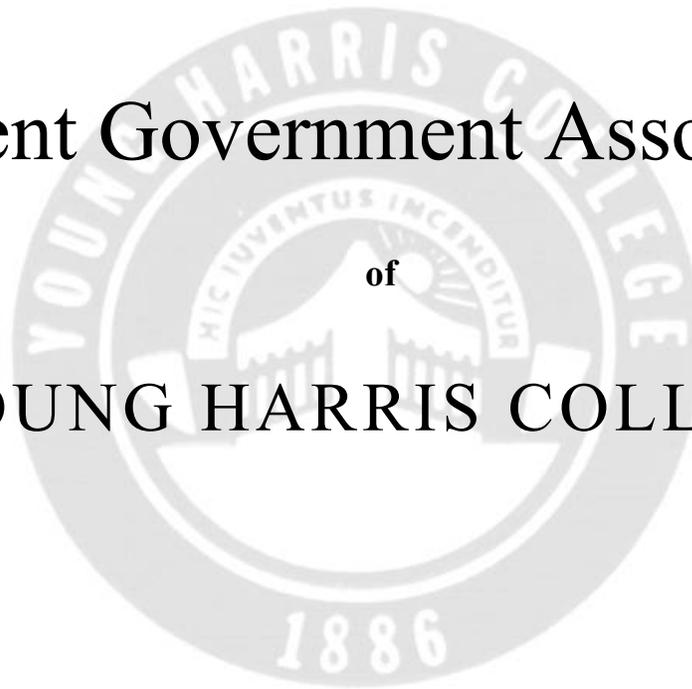
Constitution

of the

Student Government Association

of

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE



We the students of Young Harris College, with the belief that it is proper for students to establish a system of government, do ordain and establish this Constitution, not only to protect the intrinsic powers and rights of the student body, but to ensure the basic freedoms necessary in an academic environment conducive to promoting and furthering the ideals of Young Harris College.

Article I Name and Purpose

Section 1 Name

The official name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Young Harris College.

Section 2 Emblem

The official emblem of this organization shall be the seal of Young Harris College.

Section 3 Purpose and Procedure

- A. The purpose of this organization shall be:
 - 1. To develop principles of democratic self-government
 - 2. To hear and express the concerns and interests of the student body
 - 3. To facilitate communication between administration, faculty, and students
 - 4. To encourage student involvement in all facets of campus life
- B. To conduct official business, a two-thirds quorum of Senators or Executives must be present.
- C. To achieve its purpose, this organization shall, at the discretion of the President, follow *Robert's Rules of Order* for parliamentary procedure.
- D. A copy of the Constitution and Official Code will be provided to each member.

Article II Legislative Branch

Section 1 Organization and Membership

The legislative body of this organization shall be called the Senate.

- A. The Senate shall be composed of no less than three available seats per class. There shall be twenty-five seats total available in the Senate. *See Official Code
- B. There shall be one official Advisor to the Student Government Association appointed by the Vice-President for Student Development.
- C. There shall be one Faculty Liaison appointed by the Vice President of Academic Affairs.
- D. Regular meetings shall be held at such time and place appointed by the President and shall occur not less than once every two weeks. Any changes to the regular meeting schedule must be approved by the Executive Council.

E. All regular meetings and committee meetings of the Senate shall be open to attendance by all students, faculty, administration, and specially invited guests, unless the Senate or President shall declare a closed meeting. Anyone in attendance may participate in discussion; however only members may make motions and vote.

Section 2 Powers and Duties

All legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in the Senate:

- A. To propose and approve general business
- B. To enact legislation by simple majority vote, enforce the provisions of this Constitution, and provide for the publication of such legislation so that the student body may be informed
- C. To monitor the funds in the treasury
- D. To assemble itself into committees
- E. To ratify all appointments made by the President by a simple majority of votes cast
- F. To hold hearings of any impeachment brought forth by the Executive Council by a two-thirds majority of votes cast
- G. To override, if necessary, the veto of the President by a two-thirds majority of votes cast
- H. To provide jurisdiction for all campus-wide elections on grounds affecting the student body
- I. To perform any other action deemed necessary by the membership

Section 3 Qualifications of Members

- A. A Senator shall hold a 2.5 cumulative GPA at the time of elections and shall maintain a 2.5 throughout the term of office.
- B. A Senator shall be a student in good standing with the college.
- C. A Senator shall demonstrate intent to remain a student at Young Harris College for the full term of office.
- D. A Senator shall be a full-time student.

Article III Executive Branch

Section 1 Organization and Membership

- A. The executive body of this organization shall be called the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall be composed of the officers of the Student Government Association which shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms.
- B. The Executive Council shall be chaired by the President.
- C. Regular meetings of the Executive Council shall be held at such time and place determined by the President and shall occur not less than once every two weeks.

D. All meetings of the Executive Council shall be open to attendance by all students, faculty, administration, and specially invited guests, unless the President declares a closed meeting. Anyone in attendance may participate in discussion, however only members may make motions and vote.

Section 2 Powers and Duties

The Executive Council shall manage the operations of the Senate and shall be vested with certain powers and duties:

- A. To propose and approve executive business relative to the duties of each member
- B. To oversee the operations of the Senate
- C. To ensure that each member's responsibilities within the Senate are being carried out
- D. To impeach, by a simple majority of votes cast, any member of the Student Government Association for wrongdoing, violation of oath, or otherwise abuse of authority
- E. To perform any other action deemed necessary by the Executive Council, with the consent of the Senate

Section 3 President

All executive powers of this organization shall be vested in the President:

- A. To preside over all meetings of the Senate
- B. To serve as an ex officio member of all committees
- C. To vote in the case of a tie in the Senate
- D. To chair the Executive Council
- E. Serve as an Ex-Officio member of the YHC Board of Trustees
- F. To call special meetings of the Senate and Executive Council
- G. To sign or veto any legislation, proposal, or letters of support passed by the Senate
- H. To appoint replacements to fill vacancies in the Senate or Executive Council.
- I. To co-sign payment request forms with the Treasurer

Section 4 Vice-President

Certain powers shall be vested in the Vice-President:

- A. To preside over the Senate in the absence of the President
- B. To chair the Executive Council in the absence of the President
- C. To succeed the President, should the office become vacant for any reason
- D. To serve as cabinet chair over all committees and be a liaison between the Executive Council and committees
- E. To assist in the counting and tabulation of votes cast following the closing of the polls in any election or referendum held by the Student Government Association
- F. To fulfill such duties as assigned by the President

Section 5 Secretary

The Secretary shall assist the President and shall be vested with certain powers and duties:

- A. To record and distribute records and minutes of Senate meetings to all members
- B. To post records and minutes in an accessible place for all interested students
- C. To be responsible for all correspondence of the Student Government Association
- D. To maintain the Student Government Association's e-mail account and social media groups
- E. To call roll at each meeting of the Senate and Executive Council, to keep a record of attendance, and to accept or reject excuses for absences and tardiness
- F. To be in charge of external communication and serve as a media liaison

Section 6 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall maintain the treasury and shall be vested with certain powers and duties:

- A. To maintain the Student Government Association's financial accounts and keep a permanent record of all financial transactions
- B. To present a financial report, either verbal or written, at all meetings of the Senate and Executive Council
- C. To submit a written financial report to the Senate at the end of each semester
- D. To co-sign payment request forms with the President

Section 7 Sergeant-at-Arms

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain order and shall be vested with certain powers and duties:

- A. To maintain order at all meetings of the Senate and Executive Council
- B. To serve as Elections Coordinator, whose responsibilities include collecting letters of intent, ensuring candidates' eligibility, and the supervision of all balloting
- C. To assist in the collection and tabulation of votes cast following the closing of the polls in any election or referendum held by the Student Government Association
- D. To advise the President on parliamentary procedure
- E. To enforce the Student Government Association's Constitution and Official Code

Section 8 Qualifications of Members

- A. Members of the Executive Council shall hold a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the time of election and shall maintain a 2.75 GPA throughout the term of office.
- B. Members shall not be on academic probation.
- C. Members shall be full-time students in accordance with Young Harris College regulations.
- D. Each member shall demonstrate intent to remain a student at Young Harris College for the full term of office by signing a letter of intent.

*See Official Code

Article IV Committees

The Student Government Association shall have the power to assemble itself into committees. Each committee shall have the power to investigate matters placed before it and to formulate proposals and motions for recommendation to the Senate.

*See Official Code

Article V Elections and Referenda

The Student Government Association shall have the power to set and hold elections for membership, referenda on amendments, and for other business as it may be necessary to bring before the student body as a whole.

*See Official Code

Article VI Vacancies in Office

Section 1 Vacancies in the Office of the President

- A. Should the President be removed, resign, or be unable to fulfill his duties for any reason, the Vice-President shall immediately assume the office of the President.
- B. Should the President and Vice-President be unable to fulfill his duties, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall immediately assume the office of President.

Section 2 Vacancies in the Executive Council

Should an executive office become vacant for any reason:

- A. The President shall appoint a replacement within one week of the vacancy that meets the qualifications of office.
- B. The Senate shall, by a simple majority of votes cast, ratify the appointment during the following regular meeting.

Section 3 Vacancies in the Senate

Should a Senate seat become vacant for any reason:

- A. The President shall appoint a replacement that meets the qualifications of office.
- B. The Senate shall, by a simple majority of votes cast, ratify the appointment during the following regular meeting.
- C. The President may only appoint a replacement candidate from the appropriate class.

Section 4 Removal from Office

- A. The Student Government Association may dismiss any member who is placed on academic probation, or who fails to maintain the GPA qualification of the office held.

B. The Senate shall have the power to remove any member by a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

The Student Government Association shall have the power to remove any member for wrongdoing, violation of oath, or otherwise abuse of authority.

1. Charges shall be brought by the Executive Council, who shall, by a simple majority of votes cast, impeach any member.
2. The Senate shall hold a hearing of any impeachment, if the Senate wishes to dismiss any members it must be done by a two-thirds majority vote.
3. The President shall preside over such a hearing, and the Executive Council shall act as accuser. If the President is up for impeachment the Vice President will preside over the hearing.
4. No person who has been impeached and removed from office in the Student Government Association shall hold any office within the Student Government Association thereafter.

Section 5 Terms of Office

- A. Those elected during the General Elections held in the spring semester shall assemble a new Senate and Executive Council which shall be seated three weeks prior to the termination of the spring semester. All seats in the Senate and Executive Council shall be turned over and the Senior, Junior, and Sophomore seats shall be filled at this time.
- B. Freshman Senators shall serve from the time of their election in the fall semester until a new Senate has been assembled in the spring semester.

Article VII Amendments and Bylaws

Section 1 Amendments

- A. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any member of the Student Government Association.
- B. Following the proposal of an amendment, there shall be a two-week period for debate and consideration of any amendment after which time the Senate may, by a two-thirds majority of votes cast, approve such amendments.
- C. Amendments approved by the Senate shall be presented to the student body and publicized for a period of at least one week.
- D. After the publication of the proposed amendment for at least one week, the student body shall ratify such amendments either by referendum or by a campus-wide ratifying convention. The method for ratification of such amendments shall be determined by the Senate.

1. A Constitutional Referendum shall be held in which the student body shall, by a three-fourths majority of votes cast, ratify such amendments.
2. A Ratifying Convention shall be held at such time and place determined by the Senate. The Convention shall follow the format of an open forum and shall be open to attendance by all students, faculty, administration, and specially invited guests. Amendments shall be presented to the Convention by the Senate at which time they shall be discussed. Anyone in attendance may participate in discussion, however only students may vote. Votes shall be cast by secret ballot. The student body shall, by a three-fourths majority of votes cast in convention, ratify such amendments.

E. Amendments shall take effect immediately after ratification.

Section 2 Official Code

- A. The Student Government Association shall have the power to enact bylaws to govern itself. Such bylaws shall be passed by a simple majority of votes cast in the Senate and shall be collected in a volume titled *The Official Code of the Student Government Association*.
- B. The Student Government Association shall pass no bylaw which violates any provision set forth in this Constitution.

So say we, the students of Young Harris College, in accordance with all rules and regulations of this institution, and in unity of heart we pray the blessings of Almighty God upon this organization, those whom it serves, and all future generations who take up its cause.

Revised February 2012