



The Student Government Association Constitution

Preamble

We, the students of Bergen Community College, in order to form a more perfect governing body, improve academic and social life, enrich the campus community, enhance the growth of intellect and individualism, ensure and uphold justice, and secure the liberties of our fellow students, do ordain and establish this Constitution for Bergen Community College. This Constitution shall be the Law under which the Student Government Association abides.

As a democracy, the Student Government Association represents the power and legitimacy of the student voice and shall therefore be governed, operated, and exercised solely through representatives of the student body, utilizing every available resource to mandate the completion and continuation of each preceding objective.

Article I: Organization

Section 1.1: Title

1. This governing body shall be known as Bergen Community College Student Government Association. The organization shall also be referred to as Student Government in official documents.

Section 1.2: Entities Of Government

1. The Student Government Association shall consist of the Executive Board, Senate, Judiciary, and Student Activities Board.
2. Members of SGA can only belong to one entity at any given time.

Section 1.3: Purpose

1. The purpose of this organization shall be:

- a. To function as a governing representative democracy on behalf of the student body.
- b. To cooperate with the Executive Leadership Team, College Council, Board of Trustees, Staff Senate, and Faculty Senate in the shared governance of the college.
- c. To provide the means for members of the student body to express themselves sufficiently in the programs of the college which directly affect their intellectual, social, economic, physical, and cultural welfare.
- d. To promote involvement within the student body for creating a better, more educated, and involved college community.
- e. To promote responsibility and civic engagement among students.
- f. To promote philanthropic activities through volunteer efforts to advance community cohesion and personal development.
- g. To coordinate and regulate the activities of student organizations within Bergen Community College and to ensure that activities and events are in the best interest of the entire college community.
- h. To participate in representative, fair, and democratic process for all students.
- i. To oversee budgeting of student organizations and play an active role in the college's budgeting process.
- j. To maintain the autonomy of this governing body in order to effectively advocate on behalf of Bergen Community College students.
- k. To represent Bergen Community College in external constituencies.

Article II. Governing Branches

Section 2.1: Executive Board

1. The Executive Board shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chief Justice, and Executive Secretary. The President oversees the Executive Board, the Vice President oversees the Senate, the Chief Justice oversees the Judiciary, the Treasurer advises the Student Activities Board, and the Executive Secretary assists all members of the Executive Board.

Section 2.2: Senate

1. The Senate is a unicameral body that proposes, deliberates, votes on, and implements bills and resolutions that affect the student body.

Section 2.3: Judiciary

1. The Judiciary is a unicameral body which participates as the representative student voice in the student conduct and public safety processes of the college.

Section 2.4: Student Activities Board (SAB)

1. The Student Activities Board is a unicameral body tasked with cultivating fellowship and school spirit through events and/or activities that engage the campus community.

Article III: Elections, Applications, and Eligibility

Section 3.1: Executive Board Officer Eligibility

1. All registered students of Bergen Community College are eligible to be members of the Student Government Association Executive Board. Applicants must be willing to abide by the Constitution and intend on maintaining participating within the Student Government Association by maintaining *good* academic and social standing.
2. The Executive Board officers shall maintain a minimum of a 3.0 Grade Point Average and good social standing in accordance with College's standards. The GPA will be rounded to the nearest tenth of a point.
3. There will be three GPA checks and three conduct checks per academic year. If GPA falls below a 3.0 GPA, or an Executive Board member is found to have committed a conduction violation, that position shall be relinquished.

Section 3.2: Executive Board Officer Elections

1. Student Government Association elections shall be the responsibility of the Election Committee, held in the spring of each year no later than the last week in April, and run in accordance with the Bylaws passed by the Senate.
2. The Elections Committee will be chaired by the Chief Justice and consist of two Student Government Senators, two non-senator members of the student body, and one advisor.
3. The elected positions shall consist of President, Vice President, Chief Justice, Treasurer, and Executive Secretary. Their offices must be filled for a term of one full academic year.

Section 3.3: Senator Eligibility

1. In order for a student to be eligible for appointment to the Senate, that student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.2, and be in good social standing. The GPA will be rounded to the nearest tenth of a point.

2. If a Senator's GPA, at any point during their term, falls below 2.2, then the Senator must immediately relinquish that position.

Section 3.4: Senator Appointment

1. Senators may serve more than one term.
2. Senators seeking reappointment after their initial term has expired must undergo the same process required of a new senator.

Section 3.5: Justice Eligibility

1. Any student seeking appointment to the Judiciary must maintain a minimum 2.2 GPA and be in good academic and social standing. The GPA will be rounded to the nearest tenth of a point.
2. If a Justice's GPA, at any point during their term, falls below 2.2, then the Justice must immediately relinquish that position.

Section 3.6: Justice Appointment

1. Justices may serve more than one term.
2. Justices seeking reappointment after their initial term has expired must undergo the same process required of a new justice.

Section 3.7: Student Activities Board Member Eligibility

1. All students are eligible for appointment to the Student Activities Board, as long as the SAB member is in good academic and social standing.

Section 3.8: Student Activities Board Member Appointment

1. SAB members may serve more than one term.
2. SAB members seeking reappointment after their initial term has expired must undergo the same process required of a new SAB member.

Article IV: Oath

Section 4.1: The Oath

1. The members of Student Government Association shall be sworn by oath to follow and support this Constitution and its Bylaws. This oath shall be administered as follows:

President: Is it your firm desire to be (Position) of the Student Government Association of Bergen Community College?

Candidate: Yes, It is my desire.

President: Please, repeat after me.

Candidate: I, (Candidate Name), pledge my honor to observe the laws of this governing body and to comply with all the rules and regulations for the government thereof; to faithfully perform the duties of the office to the best of my ability and skill. I shall represent the interests of the Student Body of Bergen Community College, and I shall uphold and preserve the Student Government Association Constitution.

President: Congratulations are in order to (Position/Candidate name).

Article V: Meetings

Section 5.1: Scheduling

1. The Student Government Executive Board shall designate a time and place for weekly SGA meetings.
2. The Student Government Executive Board and Advisors shall also meet at their discretion weekly.
3. The Student Government Executive Board shall meet independently of the advisors at its discretion weekly.
4. All SGA meetings held by the Student Government are open to the public unless addressed in a previous Senate meeting.
5. All meetings and legislative action of The Student Government shall be governed by the parliamentary procedure. Parliamentary procedure may be suspended by a simple majority vote.

Article VI: Non-Reserved Powers

Section 6.1: Non-Reserved Powers

1. All non-reserved and unspecified powers or actions will be brought to the Senate floor by the Executive Board for discussion.
2. All non-reserved and unspecified powers or actions will be decided upon through legislative action.

Article VII: Constitutional Amendments and Ratification

Section 7.1: Amendments

1. Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Student Government Association.
2. In the event that the Constitution in its current form does not meet the needs of the organization. The Student Government Association may form an ad-hoc Constitution and By-Laws Committee to review governing documents and propose amendments as necessary.

Section 7.2: Ratification

1. Constitutional amendments shall be ratified by 2/3rds majority of the Senate.

Article VIII: Advisors

Section 8.1: The Role of Advisors

1. Advisors shall act solely in an advisory capacity to this organization by being reasonably available to members for consultation. Advisors shall attend all SGA, Board of Trustees, and Executive Board Meetings unless otherwise requested.

Section 8.2: Advisor Eligibility

1. Advisors must be a faculty and/or staff member in good standing with the institution.
2. If the SGA Executive Board wishes to propose an additional new advisor, it must first present a bill to be voted on in an SGA meeting to be ratified by 2/3rds majority of the SGA.